

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

SEPTEMBER 2012 | VOL. 63 NO. 1



*A wise man will hear, and
will increase learning...*

Proverbs 1:5a

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mission: POSSIBLE

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—Brandon & Rachel



ON THE TABLE

The reason we are here

by Keith Bassham | Editor

Drought, fires, and violence have fueled news headlines this past month. All we need is a swarm of locusts to make our day near-apocalyptic, and the political noise may be a reasonable substitute for locusts in my way of thinking.

Weather, thankfully, can change, and fires can be extinguished, and elections will come later in the fall, but the continuing brokenness in the hearts of the children of Adam ensures that the violence, be it in the form of terror, war, or revenge, whether random and senseless, or carefully targeted and committed in the name of a deity, will not cease on its own.

*Do ye indeed speak righteousness, O congregation?
do ye judge uprightly, O ye sons of men?
Yea, in heart ye work wickedness;
ye weigh the violence of your hands in the earth.
The wicked are estranged from the womb:
they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.*
(Psalm 58:1-3)

The whole idea of salvation is deliverance. Deliverance from what, you may ask? That would depend. For a drowning person, deliverance would be a matter of getting back on something firm and breathing air. For a person unjustly accused and imprisoned, deliverance would be freedom and getting a good name back. For one who is being held at gunpoint, deliverance would be a rescue and restoration of peace and safety.

These are all fairly good metaphors for salvation in the biblical sense, but texts such as the Psalm above also indicate we need deliverance from ourselves, and our wicked hearts, and our sin, our tendency to “go astray as soon as they be born.” The deliverance is available in the gospel of course, and as our Articles of Faith declare,

... being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Savior.

(Article XII)

The Baptist Bible Fellowship has been and continues to be committed to reaching, rescuing, and delivering all we can with the gospel. That is the reason for the Fellowship, for our churches, for our missionaries, for our colleges, for our church planting ministries, and for the *Tribune*. We know the only power on earth that can overcome the violence of our hearts and deliver us from ourselves is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Reports from and about our missionaries are included in each issue of the *Tribune*, but annually we devote nearly an entire issue to missions. This year, we have expanded *Global Partners* a bit with some give and take about churches and the missionaries they send. In the BBF, missionaries are not denominational employees, but members of churches sent out deliberately and prayerfully by those churches. Here we get a closer look at the mechanics.

Keith Bassham

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

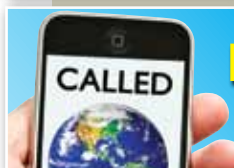
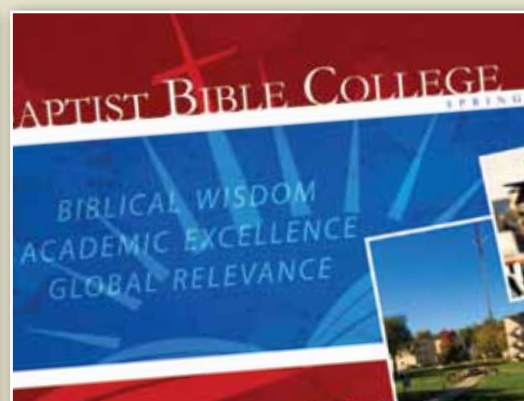
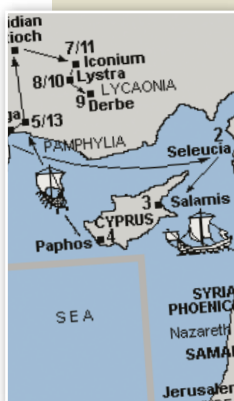
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An interview with Mark Milioni, new president of BBC

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What does it mean to be a sending church?



**BBFI NATIONAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2012**

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PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

Perspective



by Linzy Slayden | President | BBFI

I read something the other day that was surprising. You blink 25 times every minute. Each blink takes one-fifth of a second. So if you take a 10-hour automobile trip, averaging 40 miles per hour, you'll drive 33 miles with your eyes closed!

I know a fact far more surprising. Thousands of people go through life with their eyes closed. They look, but they don't see. They have sight but not insight. On journeys, they notice roads but miss the majestic scenery. In museums, they see paintings but overlook the genius in the brushstrokes. They observe surfaces but omit the underneath. Sure, vision is present, but perception? Absent.

The same thing can happen when we read the Bible. Sometimes when we read God's Word we miss much of what we should see. It can happen to the work of God, too. Many of our church members do not realize the wonderful ministry the Lord has given them to enjoy each Sunday. We have some of the greatest churches in existence today led by some of the greatest servants of God and some folks do not appreciate the work of the Lord in their midst.

And, it can happen with the BBFI. Too many do not see the great things that are happening. Are there challenges? Certainly! Are there great things happening? Yes!

The BBFI is the premier independent Baptist foreign mission organization in the world. The BBFI is also known for its church planting emphasis as churches send church planters out to reach cities stateside. The *Baptist Bible Tribune* is a great asset to our Fellowship as it tells the story of the Fellowship and it should not be taken for granted. Our educational institutions are growing stronger. All are worth your financial support.

I am thankful for your confidence by electing me to a second term as BBFI president and I want to build on the good things that are happening. My original focus remains the same. Let's glorify God by winning people to Christ. I have asked our Fellowship to designate September as "Saved to Share" month. I am asking each pastor to make personal evangelism a strong focus and each state fellowship to encourage fellow pastors in the area of evangelism.

Missions should always be a priority. When our churches are involved in mission trips it increases the excitement. We must continue to work with our younger pastors and encourage them to take interest in and understand the importance of our Fellowship.

We are setting the stage for many good things on the horizon of our Fellowship. Our Mission Possible Bible distribution program is approaching 250,000! The Gateway Project is developing as we reach and include minorities in our Fellowship. A BBFI cruise and a trip to the Holy Land are going to be available soon. We are developing a better structure to improve communication on a national level.

I am excited about the great future of the BBFI, but it depends on all of us working together. I hope you will be a part of this great work of God.

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

Why are fewer going?



by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director | BBFI

This month concludes the series on why I believe fewer young people surrender to full-time ministry, especially foreign missions.

11. Short-term missions. Many feel a first-hand, short-term experience on the mission field has a positive impact on a person's view of missions. It challenges many to consider God's call to serve as career missionaries. At the least, many become great advocates for the cause of missions in their local church. However, we need to be mindful of the focal purpose of mission trips — to assist missionaries, evangelize, and impact those going on the field. I am afraid some trips have become more of a "spiritual vacation" than a true, hands-on mission experience. In the last few years, reports do not show that these short-term trips are resulting in more long-term mission commitments. We are encouraged with the positive response of the BBFI TEAM Missions program as a majority return seeking approval to serve as career missionaries.

12. Spiritual warfare. There is a war for souls and Satan does not want to see people obey the call of God to become missionaries. Satan brings obstacles before them to prevent them from ever going and since this is actual warfare, some will choose not to participate. We must be upfront with our young people concerning this warfare and the difficult tasks ahead, spiritually prepare them to overcome these obstacles, and stand beside them to help along the way.

13. Emerging two-thirds world. There is the concept that believers from other parts of the world can be better missionaries than westerners. It is stated, "All we need to do from the United States is supply finances." Admittedly, there are places those from other regions can enter countries when we cannot, adapting to the cultural variances and language differences easier. However, we are not to be just the financiers for other countries. National churches must assume the same responsibility we do in giving so they can send their own. We can help, but we must take heed to ensure that there is a level of accountability in place when we do. Just because our world is changing doesn't mean our responsibility to the Great Commission is diminished. Perhaps our methods for some regions will change with secular training being added to our witnessing and church-planting priority. We cannot relinquish our responsibilities to other countries. I believe this is why God has blessed America — so we can be a blessing to the world by taking the gospel to the villages, jungles, islands, towns, and cities around the world.

In conclusion, remember that we must all do our part to encourage the younger generation as they consider serving God as a missionary, taking the gospel to places where most people won't have a chance to hear of Jesus unless someone goes to them.

Joplin church benefits from BBF cooperation



by Wayne Guinn | Director | NCPO

On my way to a consulting appointment in Tulsa with a church in financial distress, I stopped by Joplin, MO, to visit the worksite of the BBF Builders and NCPO Construction Consultation Team. Let me share a report from Craig Miller, job coordinator.

I can testify to what the Lord is doing through the cooperative efforts of our NCPO Construction Consultation Team and the BBF Builder missionary teams. The Lord is using our combined efforts to make a tremendous impact in the lives of the people of Faith Baptist Church who lost their church facilities in the 2011 Joplin tornado. This church has been faithfully sharing the good news of the gospel with the community of Joplin for over 55 years.

After enduring the devastation, they were faced with the daunting task of rebuilding. Although insurance did its job, the cost of rebuilding their facilities in today's construction market created a tremendous void in financing. Through the direction of our NCPO pre-job consultation and the hands-on construction ministry of our BBF Builders, God has shown Faith Baptist Church that He can accomplish great things through the faithfulness of His people.

The BBF Builders missionaries have been incorporating their full-time missionaries with a strong base of volunteer mission teams. This concept is being implemented on

the Faith Baptist rebuild. The BBF Builders volunteer network for this project includes mission teams from four different states! The Lord has sent over 50 volunteers from Faith Baptist Church in Mentone, IN, Friendship Baptist Church in Owasso, OK, and Bethel Baptist Church in Uniontown, PA, and they will be joined by seven to ten more volunteers from Mid-Way Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC. All these men and women dedicated a week of vacation to join hands with fellow believers to rebuild the walls of Faith Baptist Church.

Our onsite BBF Builders organized the initial phase of construction by coordinating subcontractors for concrete work and site excavation. Once the slab work was complete they immediately began to prepare for the volunteer mission teams. In just a couple short weeks the

builders had all materials for wood framing cut, labeled and ready for installation. This 10,000-square-foot facility went from slab to wood frame completion in just ten working days! Many of the local contractors and residents were amazed to see that 50 volunteers, with little construction experience, were able to complete such a tremendous task, in so little time. To God be the glory!

Although this project is still underway, the Lord has used our BBF Builders and these faithful volunteers to encourage the believers at Faith Baptist Church, and also to save them over \$55,000 in labor! Together we have shown the community that God's people can work together and accomplish great things for Him!

Craig Miller



If you would like to be involved personally or if you would like to organize and bring a volunteer group from your church, contact the NCPO at office@bbfincpo.com or (419) 961-7500 and we will assist you in making arrangements.

Called to Witness



BBFI NATIONAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2012



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DR. MIKE & RACHEL FRAZIER

Dear Friends,

We invite you to Canton, Ohio, for the September Meeting of the Baptist Bible Fellowship!

Our church family has been praying, working and planning for a great meeting in September!

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We hope to see you in September!

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MINISTRY TRAINING IS WHY I AM HERE

An interview with Mark Milioni, new president of Baptist Bible College

By Keith Bassham

Most of our Fellowship does not know Mark Milioni. I have come to know Mark largely through our common work with the BBFI National Church Planting Office church planters' schools. I found him engaging, thoughtful, and competent as a lecturer, and with the drive and humility in the right proportions to make him a role model for students and a leader for our Fellowship as a whole. The summer has been busy for the new president, but we have been able to have a few conversations, and this interview is typical.



Mark Milioni

help me become not only a better pastor, but also a stronger believer in many ways.

I think at some point everyone has a time when they realize "I can't do this on my own." Back then, I was sure I could do anything. Then, God reminds me how much I need Him. There are still times when

I feel the effect of my surgeries, and I am reminded that I am only here by God's grace and without Him I can do nothing.

and it has been heartbreaking to leave it. But now, BBC is my heart and passion. So look out!

Tribune: You have a son in the military, and you are raising prospective college students. How has that family experience shaped your thinking about what should happen at BBC?

Milioni: Having children of college age does help. It helps me know how they live in a very personal way and even how I wish they would

Tribune: When we met in April before your selection as president, I recalled you had shown an interest in the position several years before, and I asked, "What is different now?" You replied, "Me. I'm different." Can you elaborate on that a little?

Milioni: Five years ago, I was younger and had experienced some ministry success. I thought I could do anything and was interested and excited about the possibility. When it didn't happen I just dug into my current ministry.

Then in the fall of 2007, I was young, healthy and doing great, when out of the blue comes cancer. I had a couple of surgeries, and all of the cancer was removed, but then I had some infection and a very serious condition. I was really bad and ended up in worse shape than before. It took months but I got better and stronger, and God really used that to

... I was young, healthy and doing great, when out of the blue comes cancer. ... There are still times when I feel the effect of my surgeries, and I am reminded that I am only here by God's grace and without Him I can do nothing.

So I very humbly come to this job willingly admitting I cannot do this. I readily acknowledge that if we are going to make it, that if I am going to lead this college, I need God's help every minute of the day. I have been humbled, I have been weak, I have been discouraged — I truly understand what many of my fellow pastors and members have gone through now like I hadn't before. So when this opportunity came, I believed that if this was what God wanted, it would happen. And it did. I didn't campaign, call, encourage — if anything I tried to discourage the trustees along the way. I love my ministry in Medina

live. When we dropped Emily off at BBC a few years ago, Barb and I had a terrible time emotionally, leaving her hundreds of miles away. But I just kept telling myself, "Billions of other people have done this, I can do this."

As a parent, and now as a president, I want to make the experience here at BBC very positive, exciting, and life changing. Think about it — we have on this campus the potential future of our movement — that might be scary but it is a reality. Who is going to be the future *Tribune* editor? You never know who might be a president someday.

We are going to challenge the students to



have a very thankful attitude toward the Baptist Bible Fellowship. Every student is blessed by the sacrifice of the pastors and churches, and we must always remember that.

And most of all, we must constantly evaluate what we are doing to prepare them for ministry in the 21st century. Being a pastor in very tough economic climates has been challenging, but God has blessed, and I have been privileged to see growth every year in my 25 years of pastoral ministry. But it takes constant evaluation, constant oversight, and aggressive reaching into our community. With the same mindset, we need to understand the college-age students of our day and seek to reach them and find those that fit who we are and what we are doing.

Tribune: *Education comes in many forms other than the classroom. What do you want to expose our students to, and how do you plan to do that?*

Milioni: Let's make sure everyone understands what our purpose is — ministry training. That is why I am here, that is what I know, and that is our focus. The tough thing about ministry is that so much of it is learned in real life, and not just in a classroom setting. So, ministry students are going to learn from some seasoned, successful, and wise people who have been out there and have a lot to share. I am very excited about some things we are working on and hope to have some details in place by the time school starts.

We will also work to engage the students in ministry right here in Springfield and in ministries around the world. I remember hearing chapel speakers say, "If you aren't

I remember hearing chapel speakers say, "If you aren't doing it here, you won't do it there." ... They were right — ministry training happens here right now alongside the coursework.

doing it here, you won't do it there." They were right — ministry training happens here right now alongside the coursework. So we will be working with local churches to involve students in ministry right now.

Tribune: *It is not realistic nor necessarily wise to mass merchandize BBC across a general spectrum — BBC has a specific agenda, but it's not just for theological eggheads or fire-breathing evangelists. Who would be a good prospective student for the college these days?*

Milioni: A good prospective student for BBC is one who senses God's leading to use his or her life in any kind of ministry. We are not for everybody and should not try to mass market ourselves. BBC was created and is designed to teach ministry. So we of course have a major for pastors and missionaries and worship leaders, but even those in our business or education programs are going to use their lives to make a difference for Christ. We have students right out of high school who want this, and we also

have students who are a little older whom God has brought here to learn ministry.

Barb and I were like that when we came. I was a police officer, but when I was 22 years old we moved to BBC. Ministry was what God put on our hearts, but we didn't know all that meant. So we came, worked hard, studied hard, and followed God's leading year after year.

BBC has programs that can help anyone in any context of life. We have online programs, and we have master's options for those who may already have undergraduate degrees. If someone has any interest at all, we would love to talk to them about what BBC has to offer.

Tribune: *In your dream of dreams, what does a BBC graduate look like in terms of worldview, commitment, and competence?*

Milioni: Great question, I would like to think that a BBC graduate today is similar to those in the past. We are known for our great

(Continued on page 31)

...they sent them

By James G. Smith • BBFI Associate Mission Director

"As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."

Every church should aspire to send out missionaries, following the example of the church at Antioch in Acts 13. It doesn't happen coincidentally. A church must be actively teaching God's plan for the nations. When fulfilling the Great Commission is understood as the ultimate goal, sending "one of our own" will come as a natural result.

Once missionaries have confirmed their call to serve the Lord, and have completed their preparation academically, practically, and financially, the sending church has the joyful responsibility of commissioning them to the country and people to whom God is leading them.

A sending church generally supports their own missionary at a substantially higher rate than other supported missionaries. The church keeps their names and faces before the congregation on a regular basis and encourages them with frequent communication. The church honors them when they return on furlough. People from the church visit them in their country of ministry.

We asked the pastors of the sending churches of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International to tell us how sending a missionary had impacted the church and to identify areas of possible improvement in the relationship.

At the same time, we asked missionaries sent by churches affiliated with the BBFI about their relationships with those churches. Thinking it would only be fair, we asked them what they thought could be improved as well.

The response from both pastors and missionaries was great. We have done far more editing than usual, trying to get everything to fit into this issue. However, not everything could be included in these pages, so readers can check out participating pastors' and missionaries' replies in their entirety on our website.

It is exciting to be involved in doing missionary work, following the example of the church at Antioch. It is comforting to know the system works.

We at the BBFI World Mission Service Center stand ready to help in any way we can so that our churches can send our missionaries with the gospel to the whole world.

KEVIN KOLB

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH,
SAINT CHARLES, MO

For most churches, sending missionaries is too frequently the neglected aspect of the Great Commission. We do many innovative community programs with the intention of reaching people and building our churches. However, while we should reach our "Jerusalem," it is just as important for local churches to strive to reach the "uttermost part" as well. Our experience has taught us that serving as a sending church is a biblical, and thus rewarding, endeavor. Let me share some benefits a local church may experience when they send out a missionary.

BIBLICALLY – A sending church will be encouraged by the fact that they obeyed the Lord and acted in faith. Churches sacrifice quality people, a great deal of money, key workers, and close friendships when they

SENDING CHURCH Q&A

JEFF MCCASKILL

MILLINGTON STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
WINFIELD, KS

Positive results of being a sending church:

- A heightened awareness of the missionaries' personal needs.
- A personal connection with the ministry.
- Our prayer life is enhanced and more directed towards missions.
- God has enriched our church spiritually, physically, and monetarily.

2,594 NUMBER OF BBFI AFFILIATED CHURCHES

464 NUMBER OF BBFI MISSIONARY UNITS (MARRIED COUPLES COUNT AS ONE)

272 NUMBER OF CHURCHES THAT SERVE AS SENDING CHURCH TO AT LEAST ONE BBFI MISSIONARY

send their members to the nations. That kind of sacrifice is never easy, but true joy always accompanies obedience to God and His Word.

FINANCIALLY – Does it pay to send missionaries? Well there is nothing in the Scriptures that says God is going to increase your mission budget if you send a missionary. He does say he will supply all your needs. But an increase was one of the pleasant surprises we experienced. When we sent out our first homegrown missionary our people became burdened for missions like never before. Members who had never given to missions before started giving. Our mission giving that year went up 30 percent (almost \$30,000) and has never gone back down. Most recently we stepped out in faith to take on an intern who spiritually grew up at our church. Our men understood that it wasn't in the budget, yet most all of them encouraged me to trust God and start the internship. We moved forward

and God has blessed. He provided funds in a number of ways; the result is that our church is financially better off today than we were two years ago when the decision was made.

RELATIONALLY - Sending your own church members puts a face on global missions. The task can seem so big. I mean, how are we really supposed to pray for missionaries? But when you send a young family or single person from your own church, you are praying for real people — people who were saved and baptized in your own church, people you prayed for in your accountability group or Bible study. You are praying for missionary children who once sat in your Sunday school class or AWANA club. You know their quirks, personalities, fears, needs, and desires. You realize that missionaries are “normal” people who have simply made themselves available to the Lord. The task can still seem overwhelming, but when you realize that God uses “normal” people, it strengthens

your conviction that God can use you.

PASTORALLY – Fathers take real joy in their sons' successes; the same is true for a pastor (3 John 4). When he pours himself into a man and then sends him to the field to train others, we see 2 Timothy 2:2 lived out. This simple blueprint has given me a biblical passion for training people for ministry. It encourages me to stay faithful in my church. I pray God allows me to lay hands on a person in a missionary-sending service on which I previously laid hands in a baby dedication service.

METHODOLOGY – Most missionaries utilize very creative means to arrive on the field and begin making connections with specific people groups. This example has challenged our church to consider the diverse groups in our own community. Since working through this process with our missionaries, we are now more comfortable using creative ways of making those first connections with minorities we are trying to reach in our own town.

Even if there were no tangible positive rewards, we should still serve as senders (Romans 10:15). Serving as a missionary's sending church may be one of those things for which the true reward is most visible when we gather in heaven, assembled from every nation, tribe, and tongue.

WE ASKED SENDING PASTORS TO GIVE US SOME INSIGHT AS TO HOW BEING A SENDING CHURCH HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR MINISTRIES

BILLY HAMM

MOUNTAIN STATES BAPTIST CHURCH
EASTLAKE, CO

WE PRAY BETTER...

Having missionaries from our church on foreign fields produces a personal interest when our members give to missions. Knowing they are sitting where our missionaries once sat to worship gives our folks an identity of responsibility to prayerfully support the work our missionaries are doing.

WE SERVE BETTER...

Though we lend to the support of many others, our members and leaders consider our role as a sending church to be one of honor and godly responsibility. Currently, we have two

missionary families out of our church: Larry and Dawn Nelson in Australia as well as David and Regina Etter in Asia. In the past we have served as the home church to six other missionary families in Europe, Africa, Asia, and Oceania. It became our identity years ago.

WE GIVE BETTER...

The privilege God has given us as a local church to be so involved in missions has produced a Great Commission atmosphere in our services and activities. We realize that missionaries need our financial participation in their ministries and they count on us. In fact, faith promise mission giving allows us to depend on God to multiply our offerings and stay involved in our role as a mission funding local church.

MARK CARTER

CAPITOL CITY BAPTIST CHURCH
DES MOINES, IA

A local church's passion for lost souls around the world explodes when missions becomes personal! Missions can't just be a list of names and countries in a bulletin or year-old letters in a hallway. Missions needs to be seen, felt, and hopefully experienced. Becoming a sending church has been a wonderful and effective way to help make missions touchable and real for people. The church family grew to truly love Dwayne and Tammy Wright (missionaries to Ethiopia) and their heart and vision for God. When it came time for them to leave for deputation, the church was fully behind them prayerfully and financially. We look forward to a long-term partnership with them in building a great church in Ethiopia!

DAVID KLASS FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH MONTANA CITY, MT

Our church has always regarded missionaries as the choicest of God's servants as they are involved in one of the most challenging of all callings, cross-cultural ministry. Every cross-cultural servant that makes up Friendship's missionary family is treasured and we strive to be the best supporting church possible. But there is something unique about the relationship our church has with the young man our church had the privilege of interning and sending out, Rich Moeller. For years we waited on the Lord for this opportunity and the experience has been even more rewarding than we had hoped for. In a real way we have sensed that special bond that Paul knew with the Philippian church.

The rewards have been numerous:

• We have spiritually reproduced ourselves in Rich's life and are an integral part of his ministry.

Our whole missionary prayer ministry has been intensified.

Knowing he is counting on us has increased the awareness of our personal responsibilities to him (i.e., everyday needs, financial, prayer, special needs).

Though several checks and balances are in place, we feel he has a unique accountability to Friendship.

We sense the rewards of "fruit that may abound to (our) account."

There is a deep joy and satisfaction in knowing our church is personally fulfilling the biblical mandate of world missions.

Statistically, the Lord honored our investment in Rich's life and our step of faith to be his sending church. The year we sent Rich

out and set aside a substantial start-up fund, our faith promise giving increased by \$30,000, even in the midst of an economic slowdown.

The privilege of being the sending church of a BBFI missionary has been both a rewarding and memorable experience. It is one we would encourage every church to participate in. I know we greatly anticipate our next opportunity!

TERRY WIESE CROSSBRIDGE CHURCH WESTBURY, NY

For our church, George and Luisa Dimakos continue to make missions real to our people. Our church family loves the Dimakos family. They are the face of missions here. Our people know that when they give to missions they are supporting not only the Dimakos family but the

SENDING CHURCH

Q&A

WE ASKED MISSIONARIES TO TELL US ABOUT THEIR SENDING CHURCHES

DANIEL & LAURA DUKE, PERU

One of the most positive experiences we have had with our sending church is their frequency of visits to Peru to encourage and help us in our endeavors to reach the people. We are in our fourth year on the field, and Lighthouse has already been here three times. Presently, four of our five interns are from Lighthouse. We are viewed by our sending church not only as missionaries, but as a church planter just a little farther away!

TIM ADRIAN WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH HUTCHINSON, KS

At the end of a special Sunday morning service I asked Jordan and Nikki Nisly to come to the front of our auditorium. The broad smiles on their faces told our church a story — two years of arranging appointments, road trips, fund raising, meeting pastors, motel rooms, and fast food coffee were behind them. Saying good-bye wouldn't be easy but the promise of missionary ministry was now just days ahead ... and thus the broad smiles.

Before the formal ceremony of a church wide commissioning prayer, I asked Jordan's family to stand with him. Nikki's parents, visiting from Kansas City, also came to the front. Then I asked those who had taught Jordan in Sunday school to come forward. Next came AWANA workers and a team of youth

group workers. A couple of mentors and prayer partners also made their way to the front as did those who had worked in our church alongside Jordan. Eventually, about 40 people huddled around this young couple as the entire church prayed for God's hand of blessing upon their lives and ministry. This prayer service actually became an object lesson of the involvement and investment our church has had with a young missionary couple. It became quite obvious ... the Nisly family is one of us.

I have no doubt the people of our church will pray for the Nisly family ... and for several other families that we claim as our own. Giving to these families for personal or ministry needs usually comes in at a much higher level because ... they are one of us.

NATHAN BURCH AURORA BAPTIST TEMPLE AURORA, MO

One positive result of being a sending church is the unity and harmony the church experiences behind one of our own. For example, our missionaries Matt and Ericka Moeller were in need of a vehicle and a member of the church took him to lunch and bought him a brand new van. Another positive has been the increase in our faith promise this year. The church committed to \$116,000 in February at our mission conference. Through June the church is on pace to give \$148,000. God has truly blessed our church because we stepped out on faith this year as a sending church.

WANT MORE?

We had such a great response from our pastors and missionaries that we could not fit all their comments into print!
GO TO WWW.BBFIMMISSIONS.COM TO READ MORE OF THE FEEDBACK WE RECEIVED.

other missionary families CrossBridge supports.

However, outside of the normal blessings of being a sending church, it has helped us in touching the lives of one of our young families in our church. George and Luisa were recently in our church when I introduced them to Peter, who is Greek. Peter invited the Dimakos family and our pastoral staff to his restaurant for lunch after the church service. We had a wonderful time of fellowship and delicious Greek food. While we were there, Peter and George began conversing in Greek to each other. Then they began to share in English how they came to Christ and the difficulties that it brought to their families. There's no separation of nationality and religion. If you're Greek ... you're Greek Orthodox. So resentment, anger, and sometimes being disowned by their family are the results when that person comes to Christ and leaves the Greek Orthodox church.

During their conversation, George asked Peter where he was from. Peter told him his family is from a small town and that he wouldn't know it. So, George said, no, please tell me where you're from. He told him, "I'm from a small village outside of Sparta called Skoura Varvitsa." Well, George was overwhelmed, as it is the same village he is from. After a few phone calls to brothers and sisters, they realized their families knew each other and were somehow related to each other. As we were leaving, Peter asked George if he would pray for him and his family in Greek. George began to pray and Peter began to cry. He told me he's never heard such a wonderful prayer in all his life. It's amazing how God could take two men from the same village and bring them together in a new country for His glory! Missions is personal at CrossBridge and being a sending church made that happen!

KEN MCCORMICK

TRI-CITY BAPTIST TEMPLE GLADSTONE, OR

Tri-City Baptist Temple has been privileged to serve as the sending church for three families. Each of these families has helped keep our hearts sensitive to the needs of our missionaries. When one family had to leave the field due to severe health problems, they returned to TCBT and helped start our mission team. Knowing how easily missionaries can begin to feel discouraged, disconnected, and exhausted when on the field, they now send hundreds of cards to offer encouragement and to recognize birthdays, anniversaries, and other special days. The response has been overwhelming! Many of our missionaries have contacted us, thankful for the thoughtfulness and encouragement.

RON & KATHY REASONER, RUSSIA

The Lord sent my family to Hillsboro, OR, in 1987 to start Corridor Baptist Church. After six years, the Lord called us to Russia and Corridor became our sending church. This has given us an unusually close relationship with our sending church that has been nothing but a blessing over the past 20 years. Many of the core families were there when I pastored the church. The church has grown with us and our ministry in Russia. They provide us with an apartment when we are stateside.

JAMES & LORI BRADLEY, MEXICO

A good experience we have had with our sending church was our commissioning and send-off service. They made the service a very special time and we truly felt that our sending church was a part of what we were going to do on the field. We felt like they were part of our team!

DWAYNE & TAMMY WRIGHT, ETHIOPIA

Though there are many things our sending church has done for us, the one thing that stands above the rest is how our pastor prepared the church to send us out. He preached one whole service on what it meant to be a sending church — that it was more than just sending monthly support, but that we were a branch of their ministry and that the church must be ready to pray, support, and go to help us in all areas of need and encouragement.

RUSSELL JOHNSON

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH MIAMI, FL

The most positive result of being a sending church has been the continued influence of our missionaries' lives on the people in our pews today. We differentiate between them and the rest of our missionary families by calling them our sent ones and keep them before our people constantly. We have had entire mission conferences with just our sent ones.

When they are present we always say: "This family sat in the same chairs you sit in today and built the ministries that you are now benefitting from; they simply went out and are continuing to be used by God in ____." This connection motivates our people to greater ministry here and gives them a vision for what God could do through them elsewhere.

The second positive result is the relationship we share with the churches they

start. We have churches that are our spiritual children and grandchildren in the ministry. We try to maintain genuine connections with many of the pastors and their congregations and, in return, that creates a sense of multiplication in every aspect of ministry.

HERB HUBBARD

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH SAVANNAH, GA

One of the great privileges of a church and pastor is to have God call missionaries from our midst. They become a great source of encouragement to the people. They become an example of sacrifice and remind us of our need to give and serve so they may continue to share the gospel. And they become a reminder that God loves people of all nationalities. The church that has the privilege of being a sending church is blessed.

SCOTT CARLSON

PALM SPRINGS DRIVE BAPTIST CHURCH ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FL

Being a sending church lets us literally send our church into the world. Just like our children, they've come from us and although we can be sad as they go, we are excited about what they will accomplish for the Lord.

R. D. WADE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MEADOWVIEW MESQUITE, TX

Of the 275 missionaries we support, 42 are sent out from our church. I think the blessing of being a sending church is the personal and intimate relationship we have with them; especially those who have grown up in our church! I think our people feel more of an ownership of their ministry because they truly are "our" missionaries!

LAMAR FERRELL BERACHAH BAPTIST CHURCH MIDDLETOWN, OH

Over the history of Berachah Baptist Church, three missionary families and one single lady have been sent out. What has been significant and serves as a positive result is that each missionary has roots that are deeply sunk into the ministry of our church. Each one was involved and committed to the ministry of this local church prior to their call as missionaries, for their surrender to the Lord was already in place. Interestingly, each missionary had family members who were actively serving in their sending church.

The missionary relationship with the local church and the church relationship with the missionaries never wavered. The missionaries while on the field knew their sending church was fully committed to them as unto the Lord.

This local church family has continued to be faithful in making phone calls, sending emails, mailing packages along with their faithful financial support. As the missionaries have returned for furloughs or short visits, the church has had the joy of renewing and strengthening the relationships with their missionaries. That has been a positive result for those sent-out servants of the Lord.

KEITH GILLMING LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH ST. LOUIS, MO

We are proud to be the sending church for the Dukes in Peru. I suppose one of the coolest things about our relationship is that we are great friends and since the world is so accessible, we are able to get into Cusco several times a year.

BRUCE HUMBERT SAUK TRAIL BAPTIST TEMPLE RICHTON PARK, IL

The positive results of being a sending church for STBT can be summarized in a single word ... friends. We love all our missionaries, but we are able to get a little closer to those for whom we are the sending church. They stay in touch with our church as much as we do theirs. They know about our "family" like we do theirs. They pray for our needs, like we do theirs. They send us personal notes like we do them. They know us by name, as we know them and their children, and their birthdays, and their anniversaries. They are like church staff.

LES & DONNA GARNER, MEXICO

Our sending church has been very good to us. Southwest Baptist of Amarillo adopted us in 1980 and sent us to Chihuahua at the conclusion of our second furlough.

Over the years, Southwest Baptist and Arden Road Baptist of Amarillo, the church I was saved and baptized in, have both been very special blessings for Donna and me. When we celebrated our 40th year of missionary service, our pastor, Bradley Speer, contacted our supporting churches to ask them to send a love offering to be given for us. Friends and loved ones from both churches responded to the request and also met together for a special service to show their love for us. We thank God for the relationship we have with our churches who give to our ministry and pray for us.

RUTH KING, JAPAN

Before I went to Japan, God gave me some very special friends and partners in my sending church. We served in the church together. When I return on furlough, I am overwhelmed with appreciation to those who faithfully continue to serve. The youth of the past are now deacons, teachers, and leaders in the church and community. They keep the church growing and faithful to the mission. The church has grown and accordingly must undergo transition. They are my partners and heroes. Because they are faithful, I can continue to serve God in Japan.

DAVID PERDUE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MILFORD, DE

Being the sending church for missionaries allows our church to personally know these special missionaries. It also allows us to know and minister to their children when they are in the States. This summer, one of our MKs is serving in our children's program, singing in the choir, and is actively involved in our church as he prepares to enter Bible college soon.

Even though we have 12-15 missionaries in our services each year, being the home church of a missionary seems to give our church a stronger connection to our missionaries ... and a greater vision for all missions. I believe being a sending church and/or having mission interns is very helpful in developing a church with a heart for missions. Our faith promise missions giving has tripled since we became a sending church.

IVAL ROBINSON SOUTHEAST BAPTIST CHURCH TULSA, OK

Some of the most blessed times in my ministry have been serving with our missionaries. Being a sending church is almost like taking the whole church to the mission field. The missionaries actually take the spirit and the excitement of the church with them to the field, and the church receives back the spirit and the excitement of the field our missionary is on. I look back through the years and still see the close ties between our church and those who have gone out. The morning sun brings a daily reminder that those we serve with in other parts of the world are serving our Savior in a very special way in a distant land.

We get excited hearing of those saved and lives changed in some of the most difficult places. One thing we always look forward to is our missionary coming home and spending

time with us, it is a bond that many families would like to have.

When our people have visited the field they are forever changed. One of our men who was very tight with his money went with me on a mission trip. I know his life was changed because as we were leaving he took out his billfold and pulled all the money from it and handed it to the missionary. His life and his priorities had just changed forever.

CHARLES RAY LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH MURFREESBORO, TN

Our faith promise offering increased by more than \$500 a week while our interns were with us. Our church family gave to their needs better than anything we had done in the past. Having an intern contributed to an energized excitement for missions.

STEVE PARKS
BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH
SAINT CHARLES, MO

It has been my privilege in the two churches I have pastored to lead them in sending out their first missionary couples. In both cases, it has brought a greater awareness of the dedication and determination required to get missionaries to the field God has called them to! The connection of the church to world missions is intensified and personalized.

It has also made me, as a pastor, more sensitive to the feelings of missionaries who call seeking bookings and support. I know the frustration our missionaries have experienced in not hearing back from pastors with whom they have left messages, so I endeavor to respond to missionary calls — even if we are not in a place to help them at the time. I know that it helps just to acknowledge their efforts.

JAMES GOODWIN
BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH
NASHVILLE, TN

To be the sending church of Mike and Cindy Burgett is an indescribable delight. I know of no other couple sweeter or more dedicated to winning the lost than they are. The members of Beacon love them and we love to have them home with us, but more than that we are honored to be a part of their ministry in Japan.

HOWARD BRAYMER
OPEN DOOR BAPTIST CHURCH
HARRISON, AR

We were running \$700 a week towards faith promise when Ricky Freeman became a BBFI missionary. He began the process and we went before the Fellowship to get him approved as a BBFI missionary. At our next mission conference

we were able to see our faith promise commitments jump up to around \$900 a week. As we were a small church, these were very exciting times for us. It has definitely made our church a more missions-hearted church.

ARCHIE EMERSON
OCEAN STATE BAPTIST CHURCH
SMITHFIELD, RI

Being the sending church of a missionary causes our congregation to feel a closer bond and connection to the missionary, and I think the missionary feels he/she has a direct lifeline to our congregation. As a church, we feel our commitment is deeper to our missionary who served among us and went out from us. Missionaries need to know they have a personal “American Embassy” ready to help in time of need.

CODY & DANNIELLE WILBANKS, ITALY

One Sunday night we Skyped with our sending church to give an update and share a devotion. When we appeared on screen everyone started cheering and some even made signs for us. Needless to say we felt loved and special to them. Between that, the many Facebook messages, packages, and emails, our sending church has been very good at letting us know we are loved and thought of.

BRUCE & PAM O'NEAL, MANNA

I've always felt that my pastor, Mike Haley, at Hallmark Baptist Church has been a great resource for me when I need to seek advice. He tends to look at the big picture. When God directed me to start MANNA Worldwide I went to my pastor seeking his advice. After talking with me extensively he sensed that this was of the Lord. He was a great encouragement at the time.

OLE & RENEE KONNERUP, KENYA

The monthly support from our sending church has always been more than they support other missionaries. Every time we have a special need or particular project, they help us with the need. When we are on furlough we are always brought before the church to either testify or preach, thus, keeping us before the church, reminding them to keep us in their prayers. Our sending pastor expects us to communicate with him more than just through our prayer letters. It is always good to hear from our pastor in reply.

PHILLIP HOUSLEY
PARK CREST BAPTIST CHURCH
SPRINGFIELD, MO

I know a church that experiences the process of becoming a sending church will increase their mission budget immediately. We have seen this happen in our mission budget year after year. Becoming so involved in the lives of individual families who are relying on God for their daily provision encourages people to be generous ... with their finances and their prayers.

We currently have eight families we have sent. It has been our desire to make our church family so familiar with our missionaries that they are affected instantly when needs are expressed. It is exciting to see the Scripture fulfilled here as we “weep with those that weep and rejoice with those who rejoice!” There are times when our missionaries experience deep need and that is a call for us

to respond ... there are also times of great rejoicing that we can celebrate lives changed and accomplishments on the field.

Last and certainly not least, we have endeavored to visit our missionaries with annual mission trips. This, we hope, is not only encouraging to our missionaries, but is a tool by which God can speak to the hearts of those participating. Many times our people have returned filled with greater love and respect for the works and some have even surrendered themselves to do the work of the Lord.

NATHAN BEAL
IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
NIXA, MO

The main benefit of being a sending church is that it provides a more immediate, personal, and passionate connection between our local

congregation and our overseas missionaries. We are a small, country church, but our membership understands exchange rates, housing situations, cultural difficulties, etc. As a pastor, I want our sent missionaries to understand that they are still a vital part of our local congregation. I invite them to send updates on our church Facebook page between their prayer letters. We also like to communicate about events, praises, and prayer requests. My biggest concern as a sending pastor is to keep the relationship strong by treating the missionary like a member of our church staff by offering regular prayer, encouragement, and counsel while soliciting the same from our missionary. A missionary should be a spiritually mature and gifted member.

TRACY ROBY**OVERLAND PARK BAPTIST TEMPLE
OVERLAND PARK, KS**

Being a sending church is a tremendous blessing and provides numerous benefits for the cause of world evangelism. The personal touch, because the missionary is one of our own, ignites the church's passion for missions. When the missionary is already someone you love, it adds a personal attachment and responsibility to what is happening on the field. When the heart is captured for missions, partnering with the missionary is a natural response.

Preparing the missionary becomes a first-hand lesson on missions. The church is acquainted with the call, the approval, deputation, and sending of the missionary. The sending service provides the church opportunity to celebrate the fulfillment of New Testament missions. Becoming a sending church is the greatest overall boost to the missions program.

RICHARD EDWARDS**FIRST COAST BAPTIST CHURCH
JACKSONVILLE, FL**

What a blessing it has been to be the sending church for the Shadle family to Ethiopia. Our church family really fell in love with this family during their mission internship here and they established many close relationships that have benefited them now that they are on the field. We are a strong, mission-minded church, and being a sending church just brings it that much closer to home. Many of our people are able to keep in touch with our missionaries regularly through the technology available today. Having served on the mission field, I know the encouragement it is to hear from family and friends back home, and to know that you have a church family behind you at all times.

I have been able to visit the Shadles on two different occasions since their arrival on the field and was able to witness first hand what

the Lord is doing through them for His glory and honor. What a blessing to bring those good reports back to our church family, allowing them to see the investment we are making in the lives of this family. We have been able to meet many needs for them — through the church and individual families here — and we have a great partnership.

JOHN WATERLOO**CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
PONCA CITY, OK**

The level of awareness concerning a missionary's needs is raised as a sending church. We take seriously the responsibility to pray for and provide needs for any couple we send out of our church. Although we partner with other churches, the main responsibility is in our hands. This has helped our members and leadership to realize the cost of sending and

WADE & DONNA RASMUSSEN, ZAMBIA

As we prepared to return to the U.S. after two years as TEAM missionaries, we were uncertain about where to settle while we made the transition to career status. We were surprised when our sending church's new pastor let us know they were preparing a house near the church for us. He expressed concern that the church had not done enough to support us. We never felt that way, but were encouraged by his sensitivity to a common missionary need — a place to live on furlough.

We were blown away when we arrived at the house. Our church family had pulled together to paint, clean, and furnish the house for us. They even put family photos on the walls to make it feel more like home. We love to travel and present our ministry in new churches, but it will be very nice to have a place to crash near our sending church when we are not on the road.

PHIL & MELODY STEPHENS, ZAMBIA

The first thing I would mention directly relates to our sending church; it is also our home church. This is an advantage as the people know us very personally and the pastor has a vested interest beyond finances, prayer, and coordination in the mission and missionary work. He is personally responsible for us and with us before the most high God. He is our pastor! As having pastoral oversight, he is in a position scripturally to care, consider, encourage, and correct.

JOHN HADLEY**MARSH LANE BAPTIST CHURCH
DALLAS, TX**

Marsh Lane Baptist Church is the sending church for Scott and Norma Edwards, missionaries to Portugal. Our whole missions family is very important to us, but Scott and Norma are especially close because Scott was raised here, surrendered here, left for Bible college from here, and was sent to the field from here. The fact that he is one of us makes our relationship that much sweeter.

We just made a trip to Portugal to visit the Edwards and the Smiths. I took along with me two families from our church who have known Scott for decades. It was a very enjoyable and informative time seeing what our prayers and

support have helped accomplish through them. It connected our families with the work there at a much deeper level, and those who went have become really invested in that work.

As a sending church, it is easier for members to understand the obstacles all missionaries face. A sending church understands the responsibility they have to the missionary and the missionary's responsibility to the church. Being a sending church gives the church an opportunity to be involved in missions at more than just a financial level.

Every church can and should be a sending church. There is a financial cost, of course, but it is not so much as to prevent any church from doing it. Being a sending church benefits your church's mission program by putting a real, personal face on missions.

LINZY SLAYDEN**FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
OWASSO, OK**

We have seen the benefits of being a sending church to include a settled obedience to the Word of God, which gives us peace and focus. It gives us an interest and connection to the country where we are sending our missionary. It makes our people ask the question, "Does God want me to be a missionary?" It gives us an opportunity to visit that country on a personal or church mission trip. It gives us a better understanding of how New Testament missions works in the area of preparation, deputation, commissioning, and support.

On another note, we are impressed with the responsibility to pray for our missionaries.

maintaining a missionary family on the field.

The interaction with missionaries out of our church has also raised the awareness of the need for more missionaries around the world. I can think of no negatives when it comes to being a sending church for a missionary! It is and has been one of the greatest endeavors of our church family!

LYNN TURNBOW

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH EARLY, TX

The church really gets to know the missionary family because of the extra time spent with us in between visits to other churches. I have noticed that several of our members have developed a strong relationship with the missionaries sent out from our church. They are always excited to hear they are coming and often invite them to meals, etc. in their homes

while they are here.

There is a much better response to voiced needs from "our" missionaries than there are to other requests for help. The church knows it has a responsibility to help whenever possible. Some of our members have accompanied us on trips to Nicaragua and have been able to see personally what their mission dollars can accomplish in another country. These become especially faithful and generous with their mission giving.

MIKE MARCELLUS

FIRST INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH AUSTIN, TX

We have six missionary families currently serving the Lord out of our church. We strongly believe that their ongoing interaction with others in our church helps us cultivate more individuals, couples, and families to surrender

to the ministry. We believe this because we average two and a half people a year going to Bible college to prepare for ministry.

One young man just graduated from the graduate school in Springfield and is on staff at High Street in Springfield. We already have two others at Boston Baptist College and we have eight more that will head to Boston Baptist this year. We also have around 15 others who have surrendered their lives to full-time service and will go to Bible college somewhere in the next three to five years. We have seen 92 who have made it all the way through the preparation process and are in or have served in ministry.

It is a joint effort, and without the BBFI, the Mission Office, and those associated with it, and the opportunity to affiliate with them to assist in getting missionaries trained, approved, and sent, we would not be able to do this. Then for them to be able to come in and teach others about missions and ministry is priceless.

ROSALIE HOOGE, MEXICO

When my husband was very ill, my sending pastor, Eddie Lyons, came to visit with Marv and had a very good, informative visit. When Marv went to be with the Lord, Pastor Eddie was there again and was a great help during a very difficult time. Since that time he has been accessible to help me make some important decisions and has been a great help. I don't know what I would have done without his emotional and spiritual support.

JONATHAN & JOANNA LIGGETT, ITALY

Our sending church has been behind us every step of the way and is always eager to meet our needs. Over the past couple of months, we have begun to raise our set-up costs. Our sending church was the first church to be involved and gave above and beyond what we were requesting! We are greatly encouraged and invigorated by their willingness to do whatever it takes to get us to the field.

BILL & BARBARA NEEL, JAPAN

One of the greatest things I can say for my sending church, which is also my home church, is their faithfulness to these missionaries, their missionaries to Japan.

Our sending church, Central Baptist Church, Lewisville, TX, has faithfully, without missing a month, supported us for 48 years! Therefore we praise God for a loving, gracious, and faithful sending church.

DAVID & TONYA LILES, PERU

Our church sent a team of 45 well-trained, well-prepared short-termers to significantly aid in the local church and mission ministry here. Additionally, they helped us with a home during our last furlough. We receive comments and prayer requests from them on a pretty consistent basis. They communicate that they truly care.

It also reminds us of our responsibility to give to missions. It affords us an opportunity to be a blessing with special gifts, etc. It gives us a positive spiritual element that we are involved in world evangelism in a biblical way. It impacts our church overall in prayer, giving, caring, and going. Our mission trips have taken on a more personal and serious element. It brings the spiritual need of the world to us in a real way. It increased our mission giving by 15-20 percent and it has helped our mission involvement both at home and around the world.

LEWIS MCCLENDON

VENTURA BAPTIST CHURCH VENTURA, CA

The positive results for our missionaries is

having a pastor and church that knows each member of the missionary family, knows where they minister, and knows the problems and challenges the missionary family faces. Because the missionary has spent time at our church, and the sending church pastor and members have visited our missionary on the field, the church is emotionally attached to "our" missionary. They feel each circumstance the missionary family goes through and weep with them when they weep and rejoice with them when they rejoice. In our case, our missionary's son married one of the girls who grew up in our church, and they have become another one of our sent missionaries.

On a pastoral level, our sent missionaries and I communicate regularly by email and

phone. I am a sounding board and a place to vent when needed. Every struggle they have is communicated to me so that I can pray and advise. I recognize that the solution I give may not apply, but the conversation we have can still be helpful to our missionary.

The positive result for our church is an added awareness of every missionary we support. Because our members know the missionaries we send, they want to know more about our mission program and other missionaries we support. Missionaries become real people just like them who need prayer and encouragement. Many people in our church read missionary letters as a result of knowing more about our mission program and missionaries.

WE ASKED OUR MISSIONARIES,

"WHAT IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE MADE IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR SENDING CHURCH OR PASTOR?"

We have listed their suggestions in random order.

I think a visit from the sending pastor to the field would be encouraging for both. If the sending church is able, it would also be good for a group from the church to visit their own missionaries.

While working on staff, we developed a love for our sending church and her members. **I would suggest more contact** as to what is specifically happening back home. We not only desire specific prayer on our behalf, but also desire to pray more specifically for our sending church and her successes and difficulties.

Communicate with us! We pay for a VOIP phone line to call the States and to allow people in the States to call us on the field. It would be nice to have people, and especially our sending church, take advantage of it.

I sometimes wonder if my sending church knows that we exist.

There does still seem to be a breach of communication between our pastor and us. **Rarely does he call us just to see how we are doing.** Usually we are calling him and more often than not, it is because we need something. We would be humbled if he initiated the call.

Through the years, the biggest issue between the missionary and sending church/pastor has been communication. **The missionary is expected to produce a letter every couple of months but rarely receives communication from the sending church/pastor.** This can produce miscommunication. It can also be discouraging to the missionary.

If there is one thing **I would like improved in our relationship with our sending pastor it is to have better communication.** To be honest, we never hear from him. Even when I email him to check in he rarely replies.

MAX & DEBBIE HARMON, PERU

When first approved, our small sending church in Perryton, TX, paid all our expenses to go and stay for Fellowship Week and the next week of candidate school. Then they paid our plane tickets (five family members at the time) to Peru after language school.

During our first furlough, when we arrived stateside, they had rented a house, furnished it, and filled the pantry with food and even provided a used car. All of these things helped us stay out of debt. They also helped us with airfare to come stateside for our parents' health issues and later for funeral services.

ERIC & SARAH LANTRIP, AUSTRIA

When Sarah was sick and we didn't know what to do, we sought the Lord and sought the Lord's people in our sending church. He definitely provided. Our sending church (Bethany Baptist in Melbourne, FL) specifically helped in many ways. First, they provided us with a place to live. Second, they helped our teenage children transition by showing them overwhelming love and support through the youth ministry and Brevard Christian School. Third, Pastor Branch gave us ministry opportunities in areas where God had given us spiritual gifts such as teaching an adult Sunday school class. This helped us know that we were of value to that local ministry. He also listened as we shared our struggles. All of these things were exactly what we needed at the time. God brought us home to our sending church for healing. He didn't leave us there though. He helped our entire family through the people of our sending church and then sent us back out. We don't know where we would be without God's grace that came through the people of our sending church.

KEVIN & SARAH PINE, ENGLAND

To list all the positive experiences we have with our sending church would take a very long time. We had the privilege of serving at Flat Creek Baptist Church in Cape Fair, MO for six and a half years before being TEAM missionaries and now career missionaries.

They are family to us. We know they are behind us both in prayer and financially. They are a constant encouragement via emails and letters, and when we are in the area in person. It's so encouraging to get a note from one of the members or to call and talk with someone and hear how the church is doing.

If there is ever anything we need or whatever is going on with us they always want to know about it. Half of the congregation was willing to drive an hour to see our approval as BBFI missionaries. We have a great sending church!

WE ASKED OUR SENDING PASTORS,

"WHAT IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE MADE IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MISSIONARIES AND THEIR SENDING CHURCH OR PASTOR?"

We have listed their suggestions in random order.

A short, regular email sharing a struggle and or joy of daily life — **a point we can connect with and pray for.**

It is very special for me to receive a call just asking me to pray for a need, individual, or a witnessing opportunity because I am their pastor and we are their church. **It is important**

that our missionaries know that if there is a need, concern, or heartache, their pastor and their church want to know first.

Some could send letters more often; after all, we send them a letter every month in the form of a support check

Sending churches ought to be taught how to

take care of a missionary as much if not more than the missionaries are taught how to be a missionary.

The **missionaries need to be very clear and honest in their communication with sending pastors and churches.** When they are on furlough, and in their hometown, they need to go on visitation and do things expected of regular church members whenever possible.

Our sending church has not been interested in being our sending church. **The church was a very faithful supporter for 45 years. They have changed their name and have another pastor whom I do not know.** They have also dropped our support due to our age. We are looking for another sending church.

My relationship with my sending church was good under the former pastor, but, except for monthly support, there is almost no contact now.

When the out-of-sight-out-of-mind dilemma reaches global distances in a world where communication has hit instantaneous levels, **it is easy for a family on the field to feel forgotten.**

The only improvement we can voice would be **more contact with our sending church.** We want to know what the prayer concerns are, get a copy of the prayer list, and be kept updated on the happenings of our home. Sometimes we feel so isolated and out of touch with them. We spent years serving at that church before the Lord called us to the field — but part of our hearts remain at home. They truly are our church family, and families stay in touch.

Our church has been wonderful to us but to hear from the people and specifically the leadership and staff would be nice.

I've been a missionary for 40+ years and my sending pastors have changed about six times. **Not one of those pastors has made any effort to get to know my family and me.**

A phone call every once in a while just touching base would help us feel more connected and part of the church family. Every time we come stateside we know fewer people in the church and less of what is going on. **More personal contact initiated from the church is a must.**

The only thing I can think of is I wish our new pastor would communicate more with me. But he doesn't do computers or email.

CONTINUED ➤

CHRISTINA FULMER, KENYA

A few years ago, when I was in the States, my mother's Alzheimer's condition reached the obvious stage. Life in her and her husband's home became quite difficult for me. I spoke with my pastor about it and immediately the folks at Twin City Baptist Church began a daunting task of remodeling the mission apartment for me. Many of these great folks find it difficult to climb stairs — but they did not let that stop them in this labor of love.

That apartment has become a haven for me when I am in Indiana. During my mother's husband's stay in a nursing home, his subsequent death, selling their home, and moving my mother into a nursing home, the love and kindness of my church family has made all the difference in my heart. Because I had a "place to be," I was better able to make the difficult decisions and cope with the stress that resulted from these changes.

While in Indiana in May, my pastor asked if it would be okay with me for the church to let some other folks use the apartment in my absence. To my reply of, "Of course, the apartment belongs to the church," he kindly replied, "Oh no it does not, that is your apartment, it was made for you." Now, that makes a gal feel loved!!!

TONY & JOY ANZALONE, ECUADOR

Early in our missionary service our sending church, Great Lakes Baptist Temple, and pastor (then Ted Wille) were great benefits. The church maintained our staff salary for several months during the beginning of deputation. The pastor gave us a strong recommendation, contacting pastors in our state and his pastor friends around the country.

Our church is known for being missions minded and this was also a benefit to us on deputation. Our sending pastor was very interested in our work once we were on the field. We had good communication. The church was always involved in helping with unexpected needs, and gave offerings for special projects whenever possible. When we returned to the church after our first term on the field, the church welcomed us and helped us get ready for furlough by supplying a van for our travels. All of these things encouraged us to be faithful in our ministry because of their faithfulness as our sending church.

Twenty-four years since our missionary ministry began, our sending church and pastor (now Pastor David Chittenden) continue to bless us with faithful support, communication, counsel, and prayers for our ministry and personal needs. In spite of very difficult financial times for the church, they still treat us as a special part of their missionary team by giving very generous monthly support.

If there is a work day or special conference, and **they are in town, they need to participate.**

I think the missionaries need to stay in better contact with their sending church. Seems like some **never even take into consideration that their actions may reflect on their home church.**

Just like any relationship . . . give of yourself. Give what you appreciate receiving. When you are overwhelmed with your personal needs/ desires, **it is easy to forget that the very people you are asking to help are often in deeper need than yourself.**

You can't say enough about communication. We want to help, support, pray, and be emotionally attached. We simply can't do that if we don't know what is going on. **Stay connected!**

It's hard for me to help you raise money with partial information. I'll be asked questions and if I answer, "I don't know," more than once the opportunity is probably lost.

Communication is always an important key to successful relationships. **Some of our missionaries send out weekly updates of**

their services and I have found those to be a blessing! That little bit of information also reminds me to pray for those missionaries more.

One need in the local church is for more **transparency in the area of financial support the missionaries receive** and how it is allocated and used on the field. Some gray areas exist, whether it be in retirement accounts, real estate, or travel, that could be more openly shared with the sending church and sending pastor.

CONTINUED ➤

Our sending church changed pastors while we were on the field. **While we don't know our new pastor well, I believe that open, honest communication has helped us begin to build a good relationship.** In addition to this, I believe that our working relationship will grow, in a way it never would otherwise, when he visits us on the field and observes and participates firsthand in our ministry.

The weak link in our experience has been communication after a change of pastor. Although there was much trust and freedom in the past, it is easy to allow doubts and fears of rejection to cloud the lines of communication.

I suggest that the sending church arrange for a new pastor to visit the missionaries commissioned by the congregation during

the first year of his ministry. This may allow the pastor and missionaries to get to know one another better and will provide first-hand knowledge to the pastor of the field and ministry.

It would be great if our church could send a monthly or quarterly update to all its missionaries that it supports that details what's going on in the church. **Many times we feel we are out of the loop and are the last to know if something major is going on.** We would like to know specifically how we could pray for our church.

It would be **nice to have our church respond to a prayer letter or update.**

Better communication and visits to the field to see ministry.

Not one person from our sending church communicates with us on a regular basis.

I believe they love us and pray for us. Over the years, we have invested much in my sending church, and they have invested much in us. But right now, we feel very disconnected from them.

WANT MORE?

We had such a great response from our pastors and missionaries that we could not fit all their comments into print! **GO TO WWW.BBFIMMISSIONS.COM TO READ MORE OF THE FEEDBACK WE RECEIVED.**

JORDAN & NIKKI NISLY, PHILIPPINES

It is hard to recall just one story that best sums up our relationship with Pastor Tim Adrian and Westside Baptist Church. I have been truly blessed to have spent my entire life at Westside. My parents were married at Westside; I was raised and dedicated there; I grew up in Sunday school and AWANA and accepted Christ through the church. I committed my life to missions through the influence of my pastor and my youth pastor, Gary Ridge. Pastor Tim's son, Matt Adrian, has been my best friend since high school and was my college roommate.

When I returned years later as a young married man, the church embraced my wife Nikki and made her feel at home right away as if she had always been there.

ERIC & AMANDA SHADLE, ETHIOPIA

First Coast Baptist Church understands the role of a sending church. We arrived in Ethiopia in August 2009. Our pastor, Richard Edwards, has already come to Ethiopia twice to visit us in the last three years. It is not uncommon for our family to talk with our pastor by email or Skype at least every other week. We frequently receive packages from our church. Our sending church is involved in all our projects, from renting a church building, vehicle repairs, and other unexpected needs. Video updates from the work here in Ethiopia have been shown at First Coast to keep the church aware of the progress. Our sending church is a source of spiritual accountability, personal encouragement, and financial backing as we do the work here in Ethiopia.

TARL & ADRIENNE REEVES, ENGLAND

We've had many positive experiences with our sending church. It is always great to know they are in our corner, they care about us, and they are praying for us continually. Since we are new to the field, most of our experiences center around our transition from stateside ministry to work on the mission field. Orlando Baptist trained us, ordained us, and sent us off.

We had an incredible time at our mission conference where we felt loved and appreciated for the journey ahead. We were given wisdom in handling situations while on deputation and on the field from our pastor. We fully understood that no matter what happened to us, our church would be behind us every step of the way. We had an amazing time at our send-off service where friends, churchgoers, and family gathered around us to pray for us and wish us well.

The missionary can contribute to improving the relationship they have with the church by staying in regular contact with that church through monthly letters, sharing needs and prayer requests, making a call or Skype with the sending pastor to talk about various things, no matter how insignificant it may be. **Knowing they are accountable to you for the investment you are making in their lives goes a long way** in improving the relationship between the missionary and the sending church.

Communication with the pastor and church family. If we know what's going on we are more likely to be personally involved with regular prayer and support.

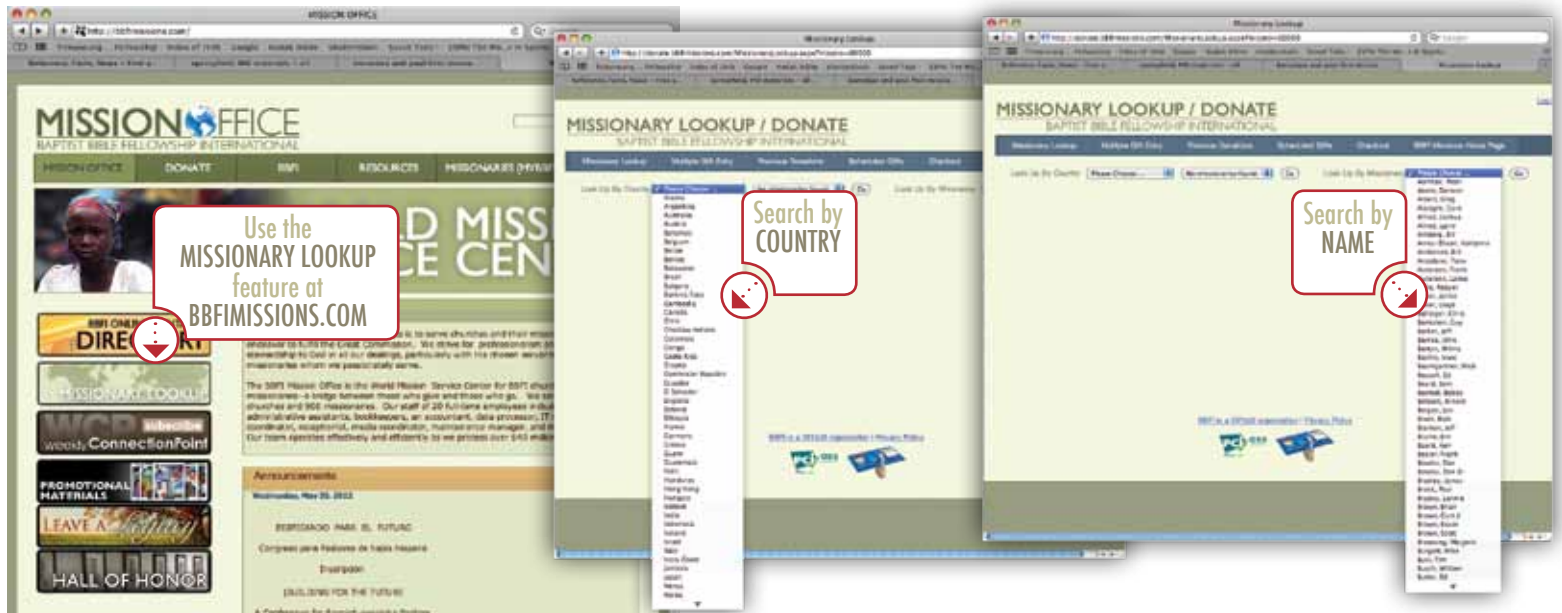
The missionary improves the relationship by communication. **When they communicate with members, they should encourage them to faithfulness and prayer.** They should regularly tell them how much it means for them to give to missions so they can be where they are and other missionaries can take the gospel around the world.

When they come home they **should be faithful to services.**

Calling to touch base would be a good idea. It seems like the only time some missionaries call is when they need financial help.

Missionaries could **improve their relationship with their churches if they looked at their role while on furlough as a staff person** rather than someone in constant need. Helping to solve problems instead of being disengaged.

GET CONNECTED AND STAY IN TOUCH WITH OUR MISSIONARIES!



JAMIE NEWELL, NICARAGUA

I love the relationship I have with my sending church, Lee's Summit Baptist Temple in Lee's Summit, MO. I grew up in my sending church, so it is even more of a special relationship, because the same group of people that commissioned me saw me grow up. They were at my high school and college graduations. They are very much a huge part of my family. It is crucial to me to have this family caring and praying for me while I serve in Nicaragua.

I remember one time I was sitting with the choir facing the entire church and the pastor asked the church, "How many fathers does Jamie have in this church? If you're one of her fathers, stand up." About 50 men stood up. Then the pastor asked, "How many of you own a gun?" About the same amount of men remained standing. I remember laughing, feeling loved, and feeling hesitation for the day my future husband meets my slightly overprotective family.

CRAIG & AMANDA DYSON, ETHIOPIA

We have been blessed to have a great sending church behind us and I can confidently say we would not be here without their support and encouragement. Being on the field can be difficult at times and it is nice to know we have our sending church behind us. We love knowing that we can be honest with our church and if we are struggling through life here we don't have to worry that they will suddenly stop supporting our ministry.

It is a great asset to know that we can talk to our pastor about anything and he will give us sound biblical advice while still encouraging and standing behind us. We have always had great experiences when we have needed something on the field to know that we can ask our church for help. There have even been times we have not even asked or expected. This is not something we take lightly or frivolously. About a year ago when our insurance went up, our sending church informed us they were going to cover the expense of that increase via our support.

Mid-Way was a huge blessing when we went through the loss of our daughter Ava. Pastor Upchurch and the whole church family stood beside us and wept with us as we went through such a difficult valley. The church graciously helped us in our time of need and preacher was very supportive as we struggled with different emotions even though we were still on deputation. He didn't push us to get to Ethiopia quicker, he encouraged us to wait patiently on the Lord and His timing in our lives. Their love and support through this journey as well as our ministry here in Ethiopia has forever linked Mid-Way with us as our home.

Update your pastor and your sending church on your goals annually. Then be available for follow-up calls (Skype) throughout the year to review progress.

When you return on furlough, have a plan for the care of your family. Do not assume that your sending church will have a place for you to stay.

JOE & SYLVIA WELLS, ECUADOR (RETIRED)

During our first few years in Ecuador, our pastor and his wife allowed our sons to live with them during their last year of high school and attend the church's Christian school. Our church, Landmark Baptist in Richmond, VA, put tens of thousands of dollars into the ministry in Ecuador.

Their retirement plan for us was a tremendous blessing. When we started drawing Social Security they gave us this money to invest as needed in our retirement. Now that we have retired, they have decided to support us for life.

Communicate early and often with your sending pastor concerning any changes to your ministry. (New church plant, furlough plans, starting a college, etc.)

Realize that sending churches are not banks. **They are happy to give but they will expect some deposits from time to time.**

HISTORY

BAPTISTS AND THE BIBLE SOCIETIES

BAPTIST

In 1793, William Carey, the man recognized as the father of modern missions, arrived in India. He found a society enslaved by idolatry, superstition, and cruelty. He knew if India was to be reached for Christ the Bible must be translated into their language. This task presented a formidable challenge because the people spoke several languages and dialects. Fortunately, Carey was a brilliant linguist and during the next 41 years he and his associates would translate the Bible into 44 languages and dialects.

A few years prior to his death Carey recognized that his most important work, the Bengali Bible, was in need of revision. Carey's failing health prohibited him from attempting the revision. That responsibility fell upon the capable shoulders of fellow missionary William Yates. Yates and his co-laborers produced a revision that was declared to be far superior to the original. In 1832, the Baptist missionaries requested funds from the British Bible Society to print Yates's revision. They expected no difficulty even though a pedobaptist (advocating infant baptism) paper in 1829 had published an article attacking Carey's translations, accusing him and the Baptist translation of sectarianism because he translated the Greek word baptizo with words that meant "immersion."

A pedobaptist scholar published an article defending Carey and his translations. He reminded the society that if Carey's translation was sectarian, then most ancient translators were guilty of the same offence because they also translated the baptism passages with "immersion" or its equivalent. He also noted if they rejected the Baptist translation they must also stop funding the Arabic, German, Dutch, etc. translations since they also used words that meant immersion.

The article temporarily silenced the critics. But unknown to Yates, two pedobaptist missionaries had written a letter demanding that the society refuse to fund the Baptist translation. The society's scholars carefully examined Yates's revision and unanimously agreed it was superior to its predecessor. The society engaged in a heated discussion about the pros and cons of funding the project, however, in the end they chose to reject the Baptist application unless Yates would

agree to replace the word "immerse." This he refused to do.

The Baptist missionaries were disappointed but they were confident that God would provide the necessary funds. In 1835, the Baptist missionaries submitted a request to the American Bible Society seeking their assistance. They provided a complete explanation of why the British Bible Society had rejected their application. They were convinced their request would be favorably received based upon the fact that the American Society was already funding Judson's translation, and he translated baptism with a word that meant "immersion."

The society took Yates's request into consideration but it soon became obvious the pedobaptist-controlled society would reject the Baptist application. All 12 of the Baptist members of the board resigned in protest over the Society's decision. Since Adoniram Judson was America's most famous and beloved missionary, the American Bible Society, not wanting to lose the power of Judson's name to solicit funds, sent the Baptist Missionary Society a check for \$5,000 with one stipulation — the word "immersion" must be replaced with a neutral word or transference. The Baptist Missionary Society returned the check. Judson had stated he would rather cut off his arm than change God's Word.

The American Bible Society told their translators to take Judson's Bible and remove all words translated "immersion." Their plan essentially was to change Judson's translation without his approval to suit their particular pedobaptist beliefs. Surprisingly, the British Bible Society had utilized this same tactic altering Yates's revision without his knowledge or permission. In April 1887, Baptist delegates gathered in Philadelphia and formed the American & Foreign Bible Society. The society, though vehemently opposed by the American Bible Society, was a great success. It not only provided funds to print Judson's Bible, but also Yates's revision. The American & Foreign Bible Society during its lifetime would contribute over a million dollars to print Bibles that enabled missionaries to leave a legacy that continues to this day.

Judson had stated he would rather cut off his arm than change God's Word.

by Thomas Ray





URBAN CURRENT

A tale of two mayors

It was the worst of times, it was the worsening of times.

“Chick-fil-A doesn’t belong in Boston,” Mayor Thomas Menino told the *Boston Herald* on Thursday, July 19. **“You can’t have a business in the city of Boston that discriminates against the population.”**

“Chick-fil-A’s values are not Chicago’s values. They’re not respectful of our residents, our neighbors, and our family members. And if you’re gonna be part of the Chicago community you should reflect the Chicago values,” said Mayor Rahm Emmanuel on Wednesday, July 25.

These statements were in response to Chick-fil-A CEO Dan Cathy’s comments essentially articulating the Judeo-Christian belief, held by billions for a cumulative 7,000 years.

Chicago values, Mr. Mayor? And just what are these Chicago values?

Would they be the values of the single-party political organization that has dominated Chicago for decades known around the world as an unbeatable bastion of corruption? The values of “wink, nod, and ‘Here’s the envelope?’” No one has told these parties they aren’t welcome in Chicago. What values are we talking about? Where’s the list? Where do we go to get a copy?

And what about the issue of someone’s opinions, not to mention deeply held religious convictions, versus actual offensive, illegal, or inappropriate action? No one is suing Chick-fil-A for discrimination. There is no track record of discriminatory practice toward employees, customers, or the community. It’s not action or behavior that is at issue here. The business seems to be Exhibit A of living out the values of consistent respect and outstanding business practice while making major contributions to the community. Disenfranchising indi-

viduals or groups who do not agree with us is not an expression of enlightened, open-minded perspective. However, the Chicago powers that be don’t care. Hateful things are being said, a business being blocked. The speech amounts to hate-speech; the actions amount to bullying. Where’s the tolerance?

When this story broke over my neighborhood (Logan Square was Chick-fil-A’s new location choice) and our city, I had to choose how to approach the issue. Anyone who knows the preacher named Lyons knows where he stands on marriage and sanctity of sexual intimacy. I don’t think we win the culture to biblical thinking through denouncements, pronouncements, protests, etc. Don’t get me wrong, I’ve been involved in many. But the purpose of those was not to change a cultural mindset. This time, I felt the vulnerable spot in this red-hot story was the blatant hypocrisy in excluding everybody that didn’t follow the beat of the blue drum. The first rule of communication is to speak the language of the people you want to communicate with. There were so many glaring, gaping holes in the mayor’s position it was hard to know which one to go after first.

I chose to respectfully chide the mayor, appealing to him to recognize what he called “Chicago values” were the values of *some* Chicagoans, not all. (Statement text and audio on Armitage Baptist Church Facebook.)

My argument went something like this: Andy Griffith is dead and Mayberry even more a fantasy now. No thinking person claims the contemporary urban community is monolithic in its belief system. We live in a pluralistic age. Of course there are many points of view. Of course these are deeply and passionately held. True community is not about driving everyone into their corners, it’s about calling all to the center to identify what they have in common to pursue for the good of the whole. This is a holistic approach. This is an open-minded approach. There is no room for disrespect of

other people’s beliefs that lead to denigration, attack, and hostility.

I poked at the mayor about being biased in what values he valued and the exclusionary character of his approach. I made a plea for diversity and the need to acknowledge different belief systems. Thousands of faith leaders and hundreds of thousands of those who follow those leaders in Chicago are as much Chicagoans as anybody else. We deserve respect and a seat at the table as surely as those who we do not agree with.

Make no mistake about it, this is all about “How do I advance the cause of truth and the gospel? How do I get a platform for speaking truth in love and love in truth?” I am not one of those who thinks we’re going to “get America back.” I never heard Jesus talk about “getting Jerusalem back.” I do believe we can be sons of Issachar, understanding the times and knowing what to do. I do believe we can be wise as serpents. We can be a voice of righteousness and reason, which with God’s favor breaks the caricature of us created by bigots and radicals. We can seek the welfare of our city. I do believe in the power of the Holy Spirit. We can demonstrate the love of God standing on His truth, winning some here and winning some there. ChiTown and BeanTown both need Jesus.

By the time you read this maybe the tale of two mayors will have played out to some conclusion, satisfactory or otherwise. More than likely it’s just another chapter in an unfinished story.

Remember what we city slickers deal with today, everybody else deals with tomorrow. Better start a Chick-fil-A stash!

by Charles Lyons, Pastor
Armitage Baptist Church,
Chicago, Illinois
charles.lyons@armitagechurch.org



Resolve



by Mark Milioni | President | Baptist Bible College

The word resolve means to come to a definite or earnest decision about; a determination to do something.

Earlier this summer the Baptist Bible Fellowship was challenged to give to a very critical financial need at Baptist Bible College. As the new college president I want to say that I am overwhelmed and honored at the tremendous response. In about six weeks we raised approximately \$600,000! What a great response from the pastors and churches of our Fellowship. We received this amount from over 800 different gifts. This tells me there is a resolve among the pastors, a resolve that strongly suggests we believe in Baptist Bible College. These gifts represent hundreds that are resolved in the present and in the future of our College. This offering should be a clear sign to everyone in our Fellowship that the pastors are resolved in their belief that Baptist Bible College needs to exist and succeed.

The amount and the quantity of these gifts have challenged my heart and mind. The support gives me a resolve deep down to do whatever it takes to lead Baptist Bible College to develop and train shepherds that will change the world. It has given me a new resolve to trust God more.

- I am resolved to pray for the Lord's clear leading and wisdom.
- I am resolved to study and meditate on God's Word, not just read the words.
- I am resolved to share Christ with those around me.

Every January we hear about New Year's resolutions. Maybe now is a good time to revisit those goals you had such hope for in 2012. Maybe your time in the Word has slowed down, your prayer life has slipped, or maybe even a habit you wanted to get rid of has crept back in. Why not be resolved about some things right now?

- Be resolved about finishing your degree or starting a new one.
- Be resolved about reaching your entire town with the gospel.
- Be resolved to make that difficult visit or phone call you have been putting off.
- Be resolved to finish that book, pay off that debt, or get something repaired.
- Be resolved to study more, encourage more, and love more.
- Be resolved, like Noah, to finish what you have been putting off.
- Be resolved, like David, to fight for what is right.
- Be resolved, like Daniel, to spend time with God no matter what.
- Be resolved, like Jesus, to give your life for others.

At Baptist Bible College we are resolved to train leaders, shepherds, and evangelists. We are resolved to develop staff members, pastors, and missionaries. We are resolved to have a great college. We are resolved to love and serve the churches of the Baptist Bible Fellowship and to appreciate our partnership.

The past couple of months have easily been some of the most challenging of my life, but I am loving it and consider it such a great honor to serve you as president of Baptist Bible College.

Of maps and apps



by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College

I live in a city of more than five million people. That city grew long before city planning had ever been given much thought. Many of Boston's roads were old oxen trails and followed the courses of rivers. And while that leaves us with modern streets that frustrate tourists, I think of it more as a reality video game of sorts. But I can do that because of maps.

When I first moved to Boston, I decided I wanted to know how to get around the city. I got a map, studied it, and drove around for months, always trying to figure out where I was going. I know this is the age of GPS, and I've got a map app on my phone like most of you do. So if I want to take my life in my hands I could be staring at my phone driving through traffic, or listening to a voice on my dashboard say "re-calculating" ... but I just prefer to know where I am going — up front.

This all kept going through my mind last week as I sat in a meeting with about a half dozen of our staff members. We were working through our curriculum for ministry training, as we have done regularly for years, determined to be current, thorough, realistic, and biblical. "Getting better" is just the Boston way. So we hammered away looking at current classes, organizing new ones, tackling issues old and new, "mapping" out plans of study for our students — tomorrow's leaders for our churches.

I looked around that room last week and saw over a century of church leadership experience in a single academic subcommittee! Years of pastoral, youth, and worship ministry experience — all wrapped together with a wealth of academic degrees and hearts for Jesus. Two of the people in that curriculum committee meeting were Boston alumni. In that one room I could see the whole cycle of what God has given us to do here. The more I looked around that room, the longer I listened to the banter back and forth, the better and better I liked our map. I just kept thinking, "Students who use this map will get where they need to go!" Now, as we do every semester, we will work through that improved academic map with each of our students — individually. Academic advisors in Boston listen to what God is doing in the lives of our students and help them map a plan to get into ministry and stay there for a lifetime!

After a full day and with a pretty tired brain, I headed for home. I-95 was tied up with traffic so I took a short cut I learned years ago. On my way, I saw a pitiful site. Some poor lady was just sitting in the middle of a rotary with her hands up in the air, glaring at a Garmin on her dashboard. I zoomed around her and laughed thinking, "She needs a map!"

CHAMPIGNY-SUR-MARNE, FRANCE

Paul and Alexi Dedeyan mark 40 years in France

Over 40 years ago, Paul and Alexis Dedeyan received a God-given call to leave Paris, TX, U.S.A., and go to Paris, France, to take the light of the world, to share a passion for Jesus, and to feed starving souls with the Word of God. God has used this couple and their five children to start and build Eglise Biblique Baptiste de Champigny-sur-Marne (Bible Baptist Church of Champigny on the Marne) which celebrated its 40th anniversary on June 10, 2012, with an attendance of more than 250 for the day-long celebration.

The Dedeyans' sending pastor, Bruce M. Humbert (Sauk Trail Baptist Temple,



Paul Dedeyan (left) with Bruce Humbert

Richton Park, IL), was the special guest speaker. The celebration included music, food, fellowship, testimonies, and the installation of a commemorative anniversary plaque. Humbert says, "The joy of the Lord filled the hearts of pastor and people with memories of God's blessings. They are now baptizing fourth

generation Christians." He was referring to the family of Marcel and Micheline Minard, who were saved and baptized, then their children and spouses, later, their grandchildren and spouses, and now some of their great-grandchildren!


The French church has purchased two properties, which are now paid off, and are in the process of paying off a third property and the new sanctuary (dedicated in 2009). Humbert notes, "A building built purposely to house a non-catholic church is rare in France. This is a testimony to the seriousness and permanence of this church — it is not a frivolous endeavor that will soon disappear."

More than 1,000 people have been saved, and the Dedeyans have conducted 38 summer youth camps with over 300 children from all over France accepting Christ as Savior.

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TYLER, TX

Band of Brothers trains men to lead in church and community

Band of Brothers, a men's discipleship program of Central Baptist Church, held their 2012 graduation service on Father's Day, June 17. Since 2006, 96 men have finished first and second levels of the curriculum.

Conceived in 2006 by Pastor Kim Beckham, the Band of Brothers began with eight men from the congregation he wanted to train for leadership. He spent nine months personally teaching and sharing his passion to reach men for Christ and to impact the church

and community. Those original eight men became leaders in the program, as have several other graduates.

Beckham says BOB has transformed the lives of many in the church as well as in their families, workplaces, and neighborhoods. Each year on Father's Day, the new graduates quote Bible passages and give public testimony of how participation in BOB has changed their lives. Pastor Beckham calls the program and the accomplishments of the program "amazing."



JOPLIN, MO

Sagmount camp hosts more than 2,200 campers, plans for more improvements

By Kevin Kolb, Pastor
Grace Baptist Church, St. Charles, MO

God blessed the camp with a full summer. Over the 10 weeks of summer camp 79 different churches brought 2,207 campers from six different states (Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma). The greatest blessing again this year was watching 103 young people give their lives to the Lord and 128 make the life-changing decision to surrender fully to Christ.

The camp was constantly in use. All the improvements done to the camp over the previous years continue to attract new churches and groups who want to use this facility located just south of Joplin, MO.

One of the fun improvements for this year was a professionally installed zipline donated by a Christian businessman. The campers were able to endure the hot summer with cool cabins now that all the rooms are air-conditioned. The property committee continues to receive really positive reviews of the facility. We want to thank Chet Wampler, our caretaker, for all the hard work he has done, and all the churches and work groups who helped make the improvements a reality. Another real encouragement of this camping season was the unity among the churches using the facility. They appreciate the work being done and want to help continue to improve the property.

The property committee met in mid-July and concluded that the next major project would be the enclosure and air conditioning of the Tracy Tabernacle. This will help campers listen to the Word of God more attentively during those hot summer days. We have already raised over \$10,000 for the project, estimated to cost nearly \$35,000. Please consider helping with this important improvement.

We would love for other churches to con-

sider using the facility. It can logistically be used from February to November because of the number of buildings heated and cooled. Contact Gary Berry, property chairman and pastor of Southland Baptist Church in Belton, MO, to schedule a tour or to find out if Sagmount could meet your church's camping or retreat needs.

The annual business meeting for the camp will take place at 10:00 a.m. September 11 at the camp property. We plan to set the next fiscal budget, elect three property committee members, and finalize some short and long-range goals for the camp. All those who give to the camp at any point throughout the year are invited to come and participate in these decisions. Bring your golf clubs as we will enjoy a round of golf after lunch.



METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Global Surge Evangelistic Camp sees 127,989 attend in Metro Manila

Greg Lyons, BBFI missionary to the Philippines, reports the following from this camp season.

Campers: 127,989 young people
Salvation Decisions: 65,957
Baptisms: 10,018 to date
Discipleship Commitments: 21,338
Bible College Applicants: 2,250
Camps Held: 103 back to back
Average per Camp: 1,242 young people
Volunteers: 1,800

Greg says, "God continues to move ... we shared the gospel with more young people from Metro Manila since the camps began in 2000. Additionally, we have seen a higher percentage of response to the salvation message. Our partnership is making a difference."

The partnership Lyons references includes supporting churches, the Rawlings Foundation (whose funding founded the camp facility), and more than 1,800 volunteers who served. In addition to these camps, the facilities and the Lyons' ministry also host camps and conferences throughout the year, including conferences for public school personnel.

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REPUBLIC, MO

WWII veteran and retired pastor, Cecil Hindman, visits Washington, D.C. with Ozarks Honor Flight

Earlier this year, on his 90th birthday, Cecil Hindman participated in Ozarks Honor Flight, traveling to Washington D.C. to view the World War II, Lincoln, and Vietnam Memorials along with Arlington Cemetery. His brother Leon traveled with him to assist with his wheelchair.

Cecil Hindman enlisted into the Army

Signal Corps in 1942 obtaining his basic training at Drew Field, FL. He traveled across North Africa serving most of his time in Naples, Italy. After the war in Europe he served in Japan.

Hindman graduated from Baptist Bible College, Springfield, MO, in 1960 and pastored churches in Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico, and Missouri along with his wife and four children. He now faithfully attends and serves Bible Baptist Church, Republic, MO, where Branson Howard is pastor. Several of Bible Baptist Church family welcomed Cecil's arrival home at the airport.

Ozarks Honor Flight took its last flight June 6 of this year. Their mission was to transport military veterans of World War II to Washington D.C. to view their memorial and other commemorative sites at no cost to the veteran.

Information for this article provided by Jorene Howard.



Cecil and Leon Hindman

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WITH THE LORD

RALEIGH, NC

H.W. CAREY

Harold Winfred "H.W." Carey, Sr., 87, passed from this life July 16, 2012. Mr. Carey was a veteran of the U.S. Army serving in combat for 36 months in Europe during WWII. Discharged in 1946, he graduated from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, in 1955 and went to Raleigh to organize Bible Church, later known as Poole Road Baptist Church, and presently known as Grace Baptist Church. In 1961, Neuse Baptist Church, just outside Raleigh, called him as pastor. Following his retirement as pastor of Neuse Baptist Church, Pastor Carey organized and pastored Lake Country Baptist Church in Clarksville, VA, for 14 years.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Mildred Carey, two children, and three grandchildren. Memorial services were held July 19, 2012, at Neuse Baptist Church.

ALBUQUERQUE, NM

HENRY POWELL

Long-time BBFI pastor Henry L. Powell went to be with the Lord August 3, 2012. Powell was a minister in the Lord's service 46 years, serving Cielo Vista Park Baptist Church in El Paso, TX, Temple Baptist Church in Las Cruces, NM, and Berean Baptist Church in Albuquerque. Most recently, Henry served as a missionary with Outreach to Asian Nationals (OTAN).

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Sandra, three children, and six grandchildren. Memorial services were held August 9, 2012, at Temple Baptist Church in Albuquerque with Don Weakland and Fred Gurule officiating.

An advertisement for 'The Pine Family to Great Britain'. It features a large image of the White House in the background. In the foreground, there is a statue of a person on a pedestal. Overlaid on the image is the text 'The Pine Family to Great Britain' in a large, stylized font. Below that, it says 'Brethren, pray for us. (1 Thessalonians 5:25)'. At the bottom, there is a red banner with white text containing contact information: 'P.O. Box 191 Springfield, MO 65801', '(417) 241-0880', 'britishpines@gmail.com', 'www.britishpines.com', and 'Approved May 2012'.

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(Sources: Constitution and Bylaws of the BBFI and The BBFI Contact Directory)

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We are not alone in this work

By John Arnold, Pastor Library Baptist Church - Crossroads Ministries, Finleyville, PA

Every Sunday morning I look forward to reporting in to our resident prayer leader, Matt Pettigrew. He was known in his younger years as a brawler. That part of his life is ancient history. He is now known as a wrestler for souls. Even though he is in a wheelchair, he is committed to pray without ceasing. His morning prayer routine is to rise at 4:00 a.m. and pray for three hours. He has many lists of names, but also has many of the people he prays for committed to memory.

Our Associate Pastor, Ken Barner, has been one of Matt's prayer projects since Ken was about seven years old. Matt says he has prayed for Ken every day since then. Ken was a Sunday school kid who came on a bus from the city of Pittsburgh. He had little chance to succeed, but God's hand was upon him in the midst of the confusion of his home life. He fell in love with Jesus early in life. He went to Bible college and has continued to further his education in seminary. Ken's wife, Rhonda, is the worship director at Crossroads. Ken pastors our young adults and works in all areas of church ministry. I know those early morning prayer vigils of Matt Pettigrew swept Ken and Rhonda into a ministry making a difference in many people's lives.

As I said, I report in to Matt. He sits at a desk in one of the offices. He looks at me with a twinkle in his eye, expecting me to tell him if I'm ready for light duty or heavy duty. I give him a sign, and he gives me a thumbs-up.

JoAnn and I came here right out of Baptist Bible College. And the main reason we have been able to guide the church is because of the prayer support of God's people. A recent phone conversation illustrates this. One of our older members, Goldie Mudrick, is seldom able to come to church, but our church is constantly on her mind. Every time I talk to her, she encourages me. She does attend her version of church each Sunday morning. She tells her friends, "Don't disturb me at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday as I'm attending church." She is referring to listening to our radio broadcast. She gets her Bible out and follows along. She recently said, "Pastor, I pray for you and JoAnn every day," she paused and said, "No, I pray for you every hour." I was taken back with her comment. God does these things for the church as it confronts the culture with the gospel. I understand more fully now why we have the strength and power to carry on. It's plain ... it is because of the pray-ers who stand in the presence

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fully now why we
have the strength
and power to
carry on. It's plain
... it is because
of the pray-ers
who stand in the
presence of God
on our behalf.

of God on our behalf.

Don Finney, the father of another of our associate pastors, Al Finney, was also a great pray-er. Al spent eight years as a missionary in the Philippines. He is now director of the junior high students and our senior citizens. He just led a successful mission trip to the Philippines to evangelize and build a new dormitory at the Good Shepherd Fold Orphanage on Guimaras Island where his wife, Linda, grew up. One of the last requests Don made before he died was for a list of the names of the junior high kids so he could pray for them.

I'm also remembering Fran Wadell. God directed her to our church many years ago. God knew we needed her. Often she was unable to attend the service but she fell in love with the church family. She made praying through her well-worn church pictorial directory her calling. In our busy culture, not many church members know each other by name, but Fran made it her business to know the families by name and need.

I can't leave out Albert Dry. God also sent him to our church when we needed him. He was very gregarious and loved to go around and shake hands with the people. Often when the service was getting ready to start, he would continue to shake hands as though it was still the pre-service time. We all knew he was hard of hearing. One Sunday morning he asked me to step into our little side room off the auditorium and he said, "I want you to see something." He began to pull up his dress pants above his knees. His knees didn't look normal. They were callused from praying on them. That is an experience one can never forget. I'm glad, for my sake, he didn't keep his calluses to himself. He was exactly what we needed for that time in our history.

I know one of these days Matt will not be sitting at the desk waiting for me to report in on Sunday morning, but there is another man who sits in the office beside him. Bill Best is younger than Matt and in good health. I expect to see him sitting in the chair that Matt vacates. The church will always be borne along on wings of prayer.

God just keeps giving the church His army of pray-ers. I'm reminding myself again today that we are not alone in this work. Only God can do these things.

MINISTRY TRAINING IS WHY I AM HERE

An interview with Mark Milioni, new president of Baptist Bible College

Bible and ministry training. BBC graduates are known for their commitment to the Scriptures, for their evangelism, and for their hard work. I have said that I want BBC to be known as the MIT and the Harvard of ministry training. Should anyone in the world want to learn how to do ministry, then they should think of BBC first. That's the ideal and my dream — that our ministries are making a difference in every town and village, here and around the world. That we would provide such an important service to the Kingdom that pastors and churches want to partner with us to get in on what God is doing.

In addition to teaching ministry, we hope to reinvigorate the entire Fellowship. Being a part of the BBFI should be something we are proud of, active in, and encouraging. I am so thankful for what the Fellowship has meant to my life and to the eternal history and destiny of my family.

Tribune: *You've come to this job in a difficult time, no doubt. How are things going for you right now?*

Milioni: That is one of the most frequent questions I get: "How are you doing?" I think I am doing well. It has been a very emotional time in our lives, not just mine, but also for my family and church. I have a son going into the Marine Corps in September, his older brother returns to a very dangerous situation in Afghanistan while serving in the Army, I'm resigning from a church that I dearly love, trying to sell a home, and then coming into a situation that demands a great amount of time and effort has been a little overwhelming. But through it all I must say that God has been so faithful. It is His work, after all. The challenge to raise funds in our Fellowship this summer turned out to be such an encouragement. In just a matter of weeks we raised well over \$600,000 coming from over 800 different gifts.

That really demonstrated the commitment, the desire, and the support BBC has from this Fellowship.

I am very thankful for what God has done and is doing and there is an excitement about the future that has taken time to develop — I truly believe great things are ahead.

In addition to teaching ministry, we hope to reinvigorate the entire Fellowship. **Being a part of the BBFI should be something we are proud of, active in, and encouraging.**

Tribune: *Instead of simply saying "pray for us at BBC," how should we shape our prayers for you and the college?*

Milioni: I would ask anyone to pray for us in this way — mainly for wisdom. We are indeed facing a time when tough decisions are being made in literally every area, from finances, to personnel, to facilities, to students. Pray for me, pray for our trustees, pray for Greg Christopher our academic dean, pray for Jon Slayden our director of student life, pray for our professors, and please pray for our students. You could also pray for finances to be consistent, pray for enrollment, and would you please pray for the weather? It has been ridiculously hot and it is supposed to continue. Northeast Ohio sure sounds nice right now.



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**"There is nothing too hard for thee:...
the Great, the Mighty God."**

Jeremiah 32:17, 18



**GOD
LOVES
ME**



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