Promoting the World Baptist Fellowship and Its Approved Ministries

The Fundamentalist
FALL 2017

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WELCOME NEW MISSIONARIES

We welcome the newest members of the WBF Mission Family: Joshua, Rachel and Blace Easlon and Jacob & Hali Woodfin and their son, Takoa. They were approved by the WBF Mission Committee on August 8, 2017.

Josh was saved as a child in his home in Paris, TX. He attended East Paris Baptist Church until he moved to Denton, TX to attend the University of North Texas where he received his first Bachelor’s degree in Psychology in 2010. After moving back to Paris, TX they started attending Victory Baptist Church and felt the call to full-time ministry in 2015. They served as youth leaders from 2015-2017 at Victory Baptist, but then felt the call of missions on their lives after visiting Mike & Christie Starling’s mission in Huachichil, Mexico in 2016. Josh graduated from Arlington Baptist College in 2017 after following God’s call on their lives for missions.

Rachel was raised in a non-denominational home, but was saved at the age of 23 at Victory Baptist Church. She graduated with an Associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene in 2014 and started taking courses through Arlington Baptist College in 2015.

They have one son – Blace.

God has led them to serve the country of Nigeria. Their sending church is Victory Baptist Church in Paris, Texas.

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Jacob and Hali Woodfin will be going as Home Missionaries to start a new church in San Francisco, California. Jacob is the son of Pastor & Mrs. Skip Woodfin of the Koolau Baptist Church in Kaneohe, Hawaii. Hali is the daughter of Dr. & Mrs. D. L. Moody of Arlington Baptist University. Jake is a graduate of Arlington Baptist College and he has served for several years as Associate Pastor/Youth Pastor of the Lake Point Baptist Church in Port Clinton, Ohio.

Both Jake and Hali were saved and baptized as children in their respective fathers’ ministries. They have one son, Takoa. They were approved by the WBF Mission Committee on August 8, 2017 and will be doing deputation to raise support for their ministry in San Francisco. Their sending church is the Lake Point Baptist Church in Port Clinton, Ohio.

Please pray for these new missionary families and if possible, have them in your church to present their ministries. You may reach the Easlons or the Woodfins through the WBF Mission Office.
Sacred or Secular?

October 31, 2017 will be the 500-year anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the Wittenburg Castle Church. This event was the beginning of what became known as the Protestant Reformation. Luther was labeled a “heretic”, excommunicated from the Catholic Church, and was forced into exile.

We do not hold that the Baptist Church was a result of this Reformation; instead, we hold that Baptist churches were in existence long before this October day. However, many of the issues that Luther addressed in this document are truths that Baptists have espoused throughout church history…salvation by faith alone, condemnation of “indulgences,” the Bible as the final authority for man, understanding and interpretation of Scripture by the individual believer, the priesthood of the believer, and many others.

One of the great outcomes of Luther’s work, and ultimately the Reformation, was something that early Baptists had known all along; namely, that the Roman Catholic hierarchy was unbiblical in exercising spiritual superiority over individual, born-again, believers. Understanding that the Holy Spirit indwells every Christian, and in so doing, provides empowerment, guidance, comfort, soul-security, and intercession with the Heavenly Father, eliminates any and all barriers between the “sacred” and “secular” areas of the everyday life of the believer. Every thought, word, and action is to be consistent with the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Every decision, circumstance, and response to both are to be faced with a dependence upon the Holy Spirit. Every career, ambition, and mission-of-life should be done in obedience to the call and guidance of the Holy Spirit. There is no distinction between sacred and secular; all is to be done for the glory of God and the enhancement of His Kingdom.

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance; for ye serve the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:23-24)

Here is my point: When my feet hit the floor in the morning, I am in full-time Christian service, regardless of where I will be going to work that day. When my head hits the pillow at night, I am accountable as to how faithfully I have served my Savior that day and how diligently I have applied myself to being a “good steward” of all things He has put in my trust.

Luther addressed this issue of the work of individual believers being as important as that of the priest in his writing entitled The Babylonian Captivity. “The entire world is full of service to God, not only the churches but also the home, the kitchen, the cellar, the workshop, and the field of the townsfolk and farmers.”

I would submit that segmentation of sacred and secular, whether done intentionally or unintentionally, is the greatest contributor to the downward spiral of the moral climate of our country. When you remove spiritual, biblical influence from government, education, economy, and general population, then society is deprived of the healthy and wholesome values that God provides. Christians, by the very nature of who they are, are called by God to be influencing factors in the world around them.

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.” (Psalm 33:12)

Regardless of who we are and what we are called to do, we live in the sight of a Holy God. May we courageously march with the message, mission, and model of Jesus Christ…realizing that He has called us to be “salt and light” at all times, in all places, and to every person.

Abraham Kuyper (1837-1920) was a Dutch reformed pastor and theologian. He believed in taking his faith to both inside and outside the walls of his church. When he founded the Amsterdam Free University, he said in his inaugural speech: “There is not one square inch in the whole domain of human existence over which Christ who is sovereign does not cry out, ‘Mine!’”

*Luther as quoted in Colson, Charles and Pearcey, Nancy. How Shall We Live? (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 1999), 388

** As quoted in Kent A. Van Til, “Abraham Kuyper and Michael Walzer: The Justice of the Spheres.” Calvin Theological Journal (2005); 267-289
If your summer was anything like my summer, you are probably ready for a break! Summer ministries are always intense, though they can be extremely rewarding. Kids camp, teen camp, VBS, mission trips, community outreaches - you know how exhausting it all can be. Now the Fall season is upon us, which has challenges of its own. If we are not careful, we can get so involved, and even overwhelmed, by the activities in our local church that we lose sight of the Big Picture. What each of our churches is doing to carry out our Lord’s mission is vital and urgent, but it is only a part of the Big Picture. The Great Commission challenges us to actively take the Gospel locally, regionally and globally at the same time (Acts 1:8). We must be sure to keep the Kingdom fires burning in our heart.

One of the best ways to do so is by staying personally involved in the work and mission of World Baptist Fellowship. The WBF Fall National Meeting is coming up soon (October 16-18, 2017), and I know that Southpoint Baptist Church, in Jacksonville, Florida, under Pastor Terry Collins’ leadership, is designing this entire meeting to be a much-needed encouragement to you, your family, your church staff, and your church family. Pastor Collins has a passion for world missions, and a heart for God’s servants everywhere. I can assure you that if you make the investment to attend, you will:

• Be refreshed by fellow servants of Jesus
• Connect with new and old friends
• Be inspired by our WBF missionaries
• Be renewed by Spirit-filled worship, testimonies and preaching
• Be humbled by loving hospitality

What about the money? I know the biggest factor in attending our national meetings is often the finances. Would you begin to pray specifically for God to supply the costs? Would you be willing to carpool with another pastor, or share the hotel cost? Maybe God has blessed you to be able to sponsor a church planter, or a pastor from a small or struggling church, to attend the conference. Southpoint Baptist Church will be generously providing most of the meals, so if you can get to Jacksonville, the expenses will be minimal. Attending the 2017 WBF Fall National Meeting will be well worth the investment.

As we close out 2017, I am excited about what God is doing through World Baptist Fellowship. Pastors and churches are actively engaging in God’s work around the world. Younger generations of God’s servants are joining the cause, and stepping up to carry the mantle of God’s work into the future. Opportunities are in the works for our Fellowship to partner together to send the Gospel to new communities and regions of the country. It is an awesome time to be serving the Lord together! Friend, don’t lose sight of the Big Picture. We are part of the greatest cause in human history!

Have you ever asked God, “Why is this happening?” But more specifically, have you ever wondered, “Why is this happening now?” One of the greatest areas in which our faith is put to the test is when it comes to God’s timing in our life. The issue of God’s time is at the very heart of the Christian’s journey of faith. In God’s Time tackles some of these gripping life questions, as Rick Washburn, Jr., looks at key individuals and events in biblical history, and challenges us to trust that God is who He says He is, and that He will do what He says He will do, in each of our lives.
responsibility is and then gave us a list of over fifty different ministries we can be of service in and for our church. He taught us what our fall short. The next week I had Bro. Malphrus come and share ways no matter how much we want to serve God and please Him, we often what it means to be a servant. Then I followed that with a lesson that asked our Educational Minister, J.B. Baldridge, to come share with us presented Christ as a Servant. After I taught the summary of Mark, I have volunteered to repair things in the church, help with building maintenance, paint, help keep the church building and grounds clean, and desire to be a blessing. New people can walk through the doors to help him. I pray for him and for you that as we work together, the world around us will see Jesus in and through our love for others. They don't have the right to take advantage of our love and desire to be a blessing. New people can walk through the doors of your church and immediately know and feel like they are at home, or, feel the tension of a people who don't work together. How is it with your church? Are you the one who makes the difference for Jesus?

But, when you get right down to it, where would our churches be without faithful, hard-working, unselfish, giving members like you who love the Lord, and are ready to do anything you can to further the cause of Christ in your community.

God gives each one of His children special gifts for them to use to grow His churches. Staff members are great to have if a church can afford them, but even though the staff may work with our music program, our children’s and youth ministry, they can’t do our work for us. They are only there to show us how to better use our gifts through our ministry in and through the church. You may not think you have a spiritual gift, but you do! You were born with them. Our congregation gets so amused at our InReach Pastor, Bro. Eddie Malphrus. He loves music, and would love to sing, but he admits he can’t carry a tune in a bucket. He may not be able to be a part of our music program, but his love for people he counsels, those he teaches, and through the sermons he preaches when our pastor is gone is amazing.

And, you are no different. Whether you serve as a greeter at the doors, parking attendant, or security, think about the times you have volunteered to repair things in the church, help with building maintenance, paint, help keep the church building and grounds clean, mow the lawn, weed the flower beds and plant new flowers, help with the widows, times you have taken food to those who are sick, visit in the nursing homes or hospitals and never thought of it as God’s giving you a special gift to use in those ways.

I’ve been teaching a series of lessons in my ladies Tuesday morning Ladies Bible Study. It’s called “A Summary of the Books of the Bible.” I’ve completed the Old Testament and am now in the New Testament. I’ve taken extra time with the Book of Mark because he presented Christ as a Servant. After I taught the summary of Mark, I asked our Educational Minister, J.B. Baldridge, to come share with us what it means to be a servant. Then I followed that with a lesson that no matter how much we want to serve God and please Him, we often fall short. The next week I had Bro. Malphrus come and share ways we can be of service in and for our church. He taught us what our responsibility is and then gave us a list of over fifty different ministries in and through our church where we could use our gifts for the Lord, and be a part of winning the lost, and strengthening the weak about us.

Some of our ladies have a Breast Cancer Support group for women going through the trauma of breast cancer. Another group is making quilts for Shawn Sullivan to use in the orphanages in the Ukraine. Others make phone calls from home, send greeting cards to those sick or in the hospital, visit nursing homes, and help in the church office. All this besides teaching classes, helping in the nursery and in children’s church. Always appreciated are those men serving in many areas, as well as being deacons, trustees, and on the finance committee. We’ve also started a Crises Relief Ministry to help when there is a need in the community as a result of tornados, fire or floods.

Many times you are ready to help because you see a need and just do it without even giving it a thought that you are using your spiritual gift to help others. Jesus said, WHATEVER you do in word or deed, DO IT AS UNTO THE LORD with the right attitude, expecting nothing in return.

Whatever would we do? Where would we be? If it wasn’t for you helping, loving, sacrificially giving of your time, efforts, and even your money to further the cause of Christ among God’s family. Too, it’s vitally important that you use your gifts with your mission giving. That makes it possible for our missionaries to go and do more to win the lost in their areas of the world. They really need our help. I was amazed to hear Bro. Hart, missionary to Mozambique, Africa, tell us that as a result of a tsunami there, they helped to build seventy new homes for their members while building and witnessing about God’s mercy and grace. It just about wiped them out financially. How blessed they were that many of our churches here helped them with this endeavor.

Again, Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! for always being available to serve when your Pastor shares a need. It’s refreshing for him to know he can count on you to help whatever the need might be. Our pastors have a tremendous load to bear. God put you there in your place to help him. I pray for him and for you that as we work together, the world around us will see Jesus in and through our love for others. They don’t have the right to take advantage of our love and desire to be a blessing. New people can walk through the doors of your church and immediately know and feel like they are at home, or, feel the tension of a people who don’t work together. How is it with your church? Are you the one who makes the difference for Jesus? Just exercise your spiritual gift and you will truly shine for our Lord.

See ya next time! Love ya bunches!
Our world is so different today than in the days of the missionary pioneers. When reading the biographies of the great missionary statesmen of the 18th and 19th centuries, we read of the perils of long voyages at sea, difficult living conditions, violent, primitive societies and even cannibalism. It would appear that missionaries today have little difficulty in making their way to a field or in living and working in the various parts of the world.

The missionary of today, however, faces many difficulties that his pioneer forefather did not face. The first missionaries to Africa, India, China and Burma and other lands went to live in places without running water, electricity, telephones, modern travel, etc. They did not have these conveniences at home either. Indeed, the difference in living conditions in many third world countries is much greater for today's missionaries than for the pioneers. The political policies of many countries cause the missionaries of today many more problems than in the past. In the 18th and 19th centuries, missionaries made difficult voyages to far off mission fields but they were able to enter almost any country in the world. Today, many countries simply will not allow missionaries to enter.

In the minds of many people, including some Bible believing Christians, there is the mistaken conclusion that because countries have become modern they are no longer mission fields. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Modern conveniences have in many cases been more of a hindrance than a help on the mission field. I remember villages in Colombia and Mexico which had no electricity. There would be large crowds at the evening services, simply because there was nothing else to do. Many were saved who first attended the services out of curiosity or just to have someplace to go. When electricity was introduced, then people began to get radios and even television was introduced. These modern conveniences caused many to look to worldly entertainment instead of attending the services. While I am not in favor of doing away with today's conveniences, it is easy to see in our own society that modern lifestyles are so filled up with pleasure seeking that there is little time for God.

Advancements in education, health care, communications, travel and everyday life must not be confused with Christianity. An unsaved man in a modern city in Europe is just as lost as a man in some primitive tribe in the jungles of Ecuador or Brazil. Indeed, the greatest and most needy mission fields today are the large urban centers of the world. Millions of people live in relative comfort due to modern improvements. These multiplied millions, if they are lost, however, are headed for an eternity in a burning hell.

The need for missionaries is as great today, if not greater, than ever before. Perhaps the greatest single reason that the need is so great is that there are more people living on planet earth than at any time in all of human history. Each one is a soul for whom Jesus died, and who will die and go to hell if not reached with the Gospel. Time is short; the Lord Jesus is surely coming soon to receive His Bride. If the Gospel is to be preached to the world it must be preached now.

Modern life has not changed the great truth of the Word of God: Romans 10:13-15 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

The advancements of modern society can be used to advantage in reaching souls with the Gospel. Rapid transportation means a missionary family can be on their field in a matter of hours rather than spending months at sea. Modern means of communication have opened doors to new and greater opportunities to spread the Gospel message. More people are literate today than ever before and this means they can be more quickly reached with the Gospel. Education and health care can be tools of evangelism by which the Word of God can be preached. Some countries that will not allow missionaries to enter will issue an invitation to a teacher, health care worker or technician. In some areas of the world, only a “tent maker” will have the opportunity to witness for Jesus Christ. If God’s people are willing to go anywhere, He is able to send those whom He calls.

The need is still great. The need for churches to send out missionaries is still great. The need of prayer and financial support for missionaries is still great. The need of lost souls to hear the Gospel is still great.

**THE NEED IS STILL GREAT**

Tommy Raley  
Director Emeritus/  
Mission Representative
Well, what did you expect? Jesus said, “...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.” (Luke 9:23). That sounds like a life with heavy burdens and costly sacrifice. Jesus also said, “If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.” (John 15:19). Sounds like we won’t get much sympathy from the world. And we must not forget Jesus’ words recorded for us in John 16:33 “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” Jesus made it clear that we should expect difficulty, heartache, and plenty of opposition in this world, and that the only peace to be found is in Him. And the only real joy to be found is in knowing He has overcome for us, and we will overcome through Him. And yet, if we’re honest, we must admit that as servants of the most high God, what we expect from God is often quite different than what He expects for us. While we may expect protection from the storm, God expects peace in the storm. While we expect to remain healthy, God expects us to remain holy. While we may expect to escape death, God expects us to embrace life. And when we sometimes expect serving God to be easy, God expects serving Him to be enough – to know whose we are, and who we serve (Acts 27:23-25).

It is not uncommon for those in full-time Christian service (especially those who receive a salary or support from the church) to develop a sense of “entitlement.” We may expect, because of all we do for others and for the Lord, to be “compensated” – to be cared for, respected, appreciated, and protected from any hurt or harm that might come. But those full-time Christian servants who read of in the New Testament would tell us that the latter expectation is quite unrealistic. This is one of the reasons why the Apostle Paul urged a young man in ministry, Timothy, to “…endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.” (2 Timothy 2:3). He was to expect to be in a fight, and to be hurt at times.

As long as we live in this sin cursed world, we should EXPECT difficulty and disappointment. And although that truth may devastate our “great expectations,” it can re-direct us toward a greater expectation, which is revealed to us in Philippians 1:20 “According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.” This message came from Paul, under the inspiration for the Holy Spirit, while in prison. We don’t find Paul complaining about not deserving to be in this prison. Nor do we read of any regrets in surrendering to God’s call upon his life. Instead, he finds opportunity right where God has appointed for him to be. He had an “earnest expectation” in that place. That phrase literally means “to watch with outstretched head.” Paul expected God to deliver him (vs. 19), and was anxiously awaiting HOW that deliverance would take place. But the greater expectation for which he anxiously awaited was to see how Christ would be magnified in him. Paul’s expectation for deliverance was not based on his own well-being, but rather the well-being of the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ. He longed to remain bold and confident and to magnify the Lord Jesus Christ “as always...whether it be by life, or by death.” In short, Paul’s GREAT EXPECTATION was to lift up Jesus, wherever and however God saw fit. Paul had come to a glorious conclusion in his life: “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” (Philippians 1:21). Whatever expectations he had from God were based on the expectations God had for Paul.

God expects for each one of us to glorify and magnify Him wherever we are and in whatever we do (1 Corinthians 6:20; 10:31). Our expectations must not be based merely on what might benefit us, but rather what might benefit lost sinners (Matthew 5:13-17). We can agree with William Carrey who said, “Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God.” The greatest expectations from God will come when we are committed to doing the most we can for God.

What will we expect…when we step into the pulpit, when we present our ministry to reach the lost in the regions beyond, when we spend and become spent for others? May God help our “earnest expectation” to be that Christ might be magnified in us. There is no greater expectation.
The conversion of Saul of Tarsus, the greatest persecutor of Christians was also the most important event in church history after the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. This would be the beginning of the conversion of the Gentiles. Paul would become the apostle to the Gentiles. God was completing His plan to bring about the preaching of the Gospel to the whole world. The account of the conversion of Saul of Tarsus is given three times: Acts 9, 22 and 26. Saul experienced four meetings that transformed his life.

1. He met Jesus Christ (Acts 9:1-9)

Here was a very zealous man that actually thought he was doing God a service by persecuting the church. He possibly could have said something like this: “Jesus is dead. Do you actually expect me to believe that a crucified nobody is the promised Messiah?” According to Jewish law anybody who is hung on a tree is cursed (Deut. 21:23). Would God take a cursed false prophet and make him the Messiah? NO! His followers (Christians) were preaching that Jesus was both alive and doing miracles through them. Their power comes from Satan, not God. Saul was spiritually blind (2 Cor. 3:12-18), religious but lost. Many self-righteous religious people today do not, or cannot see their need for a Savior and completely resent it if anyone tells them they are sinners. Saul believed that the Law had to be obeyed before Messiah could come. Yet these heretics were preaching against the Law, the temple and the traditions of the fathers (6:11-13). Saul wasted the churches in Judea (Gal. 1:23) and got authority of the highest Jewish priests to go as far as Damascus to hunt down the disciples of Jesus. The authority of this highest Jewish counsel was behind him. Then Saul suddenly found himself on the ground (9:4). It wasn’t a heat stroke or an attack of epilepsy that put him there, but a personal meeting with Jesus Christ. At midday (9:6) he saw a bright light from heaven and heard a voice speaking his name (26:6-11). There were men with him that heard the voice but they could not understand any of the words being spoken from heaven. They stood to their feet, hearing Saul address someone, but not knowing what was happening. The Lord had a special work for Saul to do (26:16-18). The Hebrew of the Hebrews would become the apostle to the Gentiles, the persecutor would become a preacher. These men led Saul into the city, he had to be led because the light left him blind. God humbled Saul and prepared him for the ministry of Ananias.

2. He met Ananias (Acts 9:9-10)

Ananias was a devout Jew (22:12) who was a devout believer in Jesus Christ. He knew what kind of reputation Saul had and that he had come to Damascus to arrest believers. Ananias was available to do God’s will, but he certainly was not anxious to obey. Once God convinced him, Ananias lost no time going to the house of Judas and ministering to a waiting Saul. Saul not only heard Ananias’ voice, but he felt his hands (vs. 12, 17). Saul tarried with the believers in Damascus and learned from them. God can use even the most obscure saint. This experience also reminds us that we should never be afraid to obey God’s will. We must never underestimate the value of one person brought to Christ. Peter was ministering to thousands in Jerusalem, and Philip had seen a great harvest among the Samaritan people, but Ananias was sent to only one man. However, Saul of Tarsus became Paul the apostle and his ministry has influenced people of nations all over the world.


Immediately Saul began to proclaim that the Christ he had persecuted, declaring boldly that Jesus is the Son of God. Every new believer’s witness should begin right where he is, and Saul began at Damascus (16:20). Then Saul’s visit to Arabia, and after three years he was back in Jerusalem (Gal. 1:18). Then Saul returned to Damascus, he began his witness afresh and the Jews tried to silence him. He would discover what it meant to be the hunted instead of the hunter, this was only the beginning of the “great things” he would suffer for the name of Christ (9:16). Throughout his life he was hated, hunted and plotted against by both Jews and Gentiles. He had much opposition and persecution until he ended up a prisoner in a Roman jail. However, he counted it a privilege to suffer for the sake of Christ. 2 Timothy 3:12: “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

4. He met Jesus Christ a second time (Acts 22:4-16)

The close look at each check sometimes causes us to pause and smile about someone’s name. There are some names that I see monthly that I’ve wondered for years how to pronounce. Certain names are indigenous to different areas of the United States. There are groups of Italians, Germans, Polish, Mexican and many, many other ethnicities within our US borders. Some days we even try to guess about the origin of a name. I don’t remember ever seeing two folks send in checks with the same signature. The names are very individual. Many times they are not readable. We don’t try to figure those out.

I have never met anyone with my exact same name. It seems my name is just mine. My maiden name, Bacon, was made fun of when I was a young child in school. I grew to love that name as I realized that my name was unique and all mine and that it meant I belonged to my family.

I received a new name on my wedding day that I loved immediately. Actually I would have loved that name no matter what it had been. I love it because I love the wonderful man who gave it to me.

So, what is so special about a name? When checking out at a store if the cashier is wearing a name tag I always call them by name before I leave. Most of the time they are a little surprised and kind of grin. Nearly all of us are proud of our names.

I remember the old song, “There’s a New Name Written Down in Glory”. I can remember when mine was that new name. It has now been in God’s Book of Life many years. I am thankful it will never be erased. The book of Isaiah records the Lord telling Israel, “Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands…” He is one parent who never forgets a name.

As the song goes, “He Knows My Name”. If it is not special to anyone else, it is special to Him. I love the thought that He thinks of me, knows my name and everything about me. I wear my name proudly.
New Dean of Students  
John Brown

Recently, I stood looking down the hill of the campus towards the small pond just off the side of the lane. It was a peaceful scene as the sun was just peaking through the trees. I was reminded of an early photograph of Dr. Louis Entzminger standing beside the very same pond. He was surveying the site prior to the seminary’s move to Top ‘O Hill. While more than sixty years have passed since that picture was taken, it is such a joy to know that the original purpose for this campus continues today!

It is truly a joy to be entrusted with the position of Dean of Students here at Arlington Baptist University. While being a faculty member going on three years, and now within the administration, I still may be new to many within the World Baptist family. Therefore, allow me to share a brief sketch of my journey to ABU!

My path to this beautiful campus began here in Arlington many years ago. As a young man, I was saved at Trinity Baptist Church under the preaching of Dr. Bob Smith. Through his mentoring and leadership I began my ministry training at NBBI. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow. While at Trinity I met my wife Melanie; we married in 1998. A year later, we began our missions ministry to the Republic of Ireland. During our time in Ireland the Lord allowed us to see many saved and baptized. The Lord blessed us in many ways but especially with our first child, Evelyn! Today, that church is a thriving congregation on the south side of Dublin.

In 2005, we made the transition back to Texas and were called to the Ramseur Baptist Church of Paris, Texas. Since then, the Lord has blessed us with two other children Brendan and Allison. The work in Paris has been a true joy and continues to be as we are now beginning our 13th year. Throughout the years, I continued my education by completing my Master’s work at Liberty University’s Theological Seminary. Currently, I am working on my doctoral dissertation in Practical Theology.

A few years ago, Dr. Moody and I met and were able to spend time getting to know each other. It was so exciting to see and hear his vision for ABU! It is no secret that his excitement is contagious! In 2015, I began teaching pastoral and preaching courses. In 2016, I was tasked with being the faculty Chair for the Pastoral Program as well as the Intercultural Program. It has been a wonderful joy to become a part of such a historic institution!

It is my heartfelt hope that we will see a renewed excitement amongst the World Baptist Fellowship churches for ABU! Every generation is unique. Each new year brings its own challenges and opportunities. If I can serve you in any way I would be honored to help. May God continue to use ABU in Preparing World Changers for His Glory!
Transition Troubles

This past June, we graduated the largest group of students from our ministry since we’ve been in this current ministry. On graduation Sunday, we had around 15 students recognized, nine who were active members of our student ministry.

The first Sunday in August at our church is Promotion Sunday and we had one last event with our graduated Seniors. This group has a special place in our hearts because it was this core group of students who welcomed us into this new ministry 5 years ago. It was this group that we spent a lot of time with, getting to know our community, our school system, and other teenagers. Needless to say, this summer has been bitter-sweet for us. We’ve shed a lot of tears and shared a lot of hugs. By the time you are reading this article, these students will be spread across the country at various colleges & universities starting the next stage of their lives.

So what’s next for our ministry?

If you have been in the same ministry for some time, you have no doubt experienced this as well. You know the troubles of transitioning out core students and the feelings of “What now?”

Well, just as we transition OUT students, we also transition IN new students. For us, that means getting eight new 7th grade students.

Your ministry may look different but there are a few things that will remain the same:

1. The Connections with our Graduates will Change, but the Care for them will stay the Same.

The relationships and connections we had with this tremendous group of students will surely change. We won’t talk as often or see each other as much. They will begin to grow and mature in different ways. They will get married & have kids. However, our love and care for those students will always be the same because we want to see them succeed. We want to see them grow up & become leaders within the church ministry. I’ve been in student ministry for 14 years now and we still stay in touch with students from our first years in ministry. It amazing to see them grow up, marry, & have kids… makes you feel super old too!

2. The Interests of the New Students will Change, but the Investments will stay the Same.

The likes and interests of High School Seniors are way different than the likes and interests of 7th graders. A lot will change for us in what activities we do, places we will eat, games we will play, & lessons that will be taught. But, the investment into the lives of students will remain the same. We will put forth the same effort. We will do our best to build relationships just as strong as we had with the group who just graduated. Will we replace those graduated Seniors? Of course not. Their footprint in our ministry will forever be there. We are not looking to fill the shoes of those who just left; we’re looking to create new footprints with these students, moving forward with our ministry to places we have never been before!

3. The Face of our Ministry will Change, but the Focus of our Ministry will stay the Same.

We are transitioning from an older group of students to a younger group. High schoolers to Middle schoolers. Teens who can drive to meet you for lunch, to teens who need you to pick them up for everything. The maturity of our group will change. The Bible knowledge of our group will change. However, the focus of our ministry will always be the same. We are here to create a safe place for students to be who they are without judgment and introduce them to Jesus!

Transitions in Ministry can cause some troubles, but if we keep in mind all that will stay the same, God will continue to bless your ministry and you will continue to reach students for the Kingdom!
Contend, but Never Compromise
by Wendell Heirs

The book of Jude was written to exhort believers to contend for the faith against those from within who were compromising the truth. Initially the book was not going to be written for this purpose, but Jude was going to encourage the believers in their salvation (v. 3). Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit he felt it important to write concerning those who were denying the truth and to motivate believers in their faith to stand for truth against compromise and error. Here is an important question for us in the 21st century. Are we as Independent Fundamental Baptists contending or compromising the faith?

The local church is God’s work, and while there is a vast movement sweeping churches into compromise, we must challenge God’s people to remain committed and as God’s under shepherds, lead them by example.

The term “new evangelicalism” was to bring modernists together with the fundamentalists by encouraging them to compromise doctrinally. It was seen by many as a movement of deception intended to attract people for the purpose of drawing a crowd. The seeds of this type of compromise are evident in many movements today. Church leaders today must beware of deceitful meetings that drop doctrinal distinctive for the purpose of appealing to a crowd.

Many years ago while studying at Florida State University, one of my professors asked the class, “What is two plus two?” Of course several hands were raised and the answer was, “four.” “Not exactly,” was the professor’s reply. He went on giving what is known today as “relativistic thinking.” What might add up to four for one individual, might add up to seven for another. At the time my only thought was, “If I really believed and thought this way, then I should make the Dean’s List this semester and never ever fail another exam, especially in chemistry.”

How many times have you witnessed to someone in your daily walk who were willing to listen to you as you explained to them the way of salvation via “the Roman Road,” only to be told, “Well, different strokes for different folks.” They would then proceed to justify themselves to just as right as you are, and would somehow go to heaven. Their justification is that there is no absolute truth, and what may be truth for you was not necessarily truth for them.

This type of moral relativity has been around for decades now and has resulted in chaos, confusion and compromise, because there are no absolutes. This relativity has led to a tolerance of any and all kinds of thinking; except any thinking that declares or believes in absolute truth. However, the only thing 21st century culture will not tolerate is absolute truth. This is leading and has led to the new “C-word” compromise which, is a function of all human relations from the home to opposing political groups.

Let me be explicit in saying, “With God there is no compromise.” The word compromise is not to be found in any concordance I own. The word “C-word” is not found in the Bible, but the concept is seen in the Bible. The book of Judges and Pilate’s compromise with the religious leaders of Jesus’ day are two occasions that come to mind.

God’s absolute truth cannot and must not be compromised. Compromise has been defined as: give and take, negotiation, bargain, give in, meet half way, deal, find middle ground. When it comes to compromise, Fundamental Bible believers must be opposed and stand in opposition to those who, through their relativistic way of thinking, compromise biblical absolutes as found in the Word of God. In these days of war, terrorism, globalism, self-building and clash of nations, it is our place as fundamental Baptist churches and believers, to never compromise our Bible-based beliefs and principles in order to fit in with 21st century culture. Our alliance is to the biblical absolutes as declared in God’s Word.

Most of the time total acquiescence is not the name of the game. There is a potential peril or discrediting in compromise, in that it lessens the importance and significance of something or somebody. To compromise or be politically correct in regards to John 14:6 and Acts 4:12 is to undermine God and His plan of salvation. Compromising can cause the loss of God’s blessings, and damage our spiritual immune system.

The bottom line is that in the 21st century the church compromise is the question of authority. In many churches Jesus Christ is no longer the head of the church, and His Word is no longer the final authority. As Fundamental Baptists we believe that, as the church’s founder, Jesus is still the Head, and we submit to the mutual accountability and submission to the authority of His Word in all matters of faith and practice. In this kind of church, both pastor and people must die to self-will and desires of the flesh and attempt to live in constant submission to doing God’s work God’s way.

Several years ago the fall meeting of the World Baptist Fellowship was hosted by the Chichester Baptist Church, located in the Philadelphia area. One of the many sites to be visited in this area is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It was built following World War One and dedicated on November 11, 1921. Additional work was done, and it was opened to the public in April of 1932. The Tomb is guarded by sentinels from the 4th Battalion of the 3rd United States Infantry Regiment known by its nickname, “The Old Guard.”

The changing of the guard is every hour on the hour October 1 to March 31 in an elaborate ritual. An impeccably uniformed relief commander appears on the plaza to announce the Changing of the Guard. Shortly thereafter the new sentinel leaves the Quarters and unlocks the bold of his or her M-14 to signal to the relief commander to start the ceremony. The relief commander walks out to the Tomb and salutes, then faces the spectators and asks them to stand and stay silent during the ceremony. This is followed by a detailed white-glove inspection of the weapon. After the relief commander and the relieving sentinel meet the retiring sentinel at the center of the matted path in front of the Tomb, all three salute the Unknown who have been symbolically given the Medal of Honor. The relief commander then orders the relieved sentinel, “Pass on your orders.” The current sentinel commands, “Post and orders, remain as directed.” The newly posted sentinel replies, “Orders acknowledged,” and steps into position on the black mat. When the relief commander passes by, the new sentinel begins walking at a cadence of 90 steps per minute.

The cross is empty, the tomb is empty, and as Independent, Fundamental Baptist, our post and orders remain as directed. We must not let relativistic thinking lead us into an accommodating style of theology in which the Word of God is manipulated to say what the unsaved want to hear. God help us to rightly divide the Word of Truth by being sensitive to our Savior and the inner working of His Holy Spirit. As a World Baptist Fellowship God help us to be sensitive to our mission. Our orders remain as directed, “... ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the utter most part of the earth.” Maranatha!

Think what we can do together!

Wendell Heirs
Editor
Fundamentalist
I have been involved in world missions my entire life, and yet God’s work still amazes me. No matter how much we think we know or understand God’s work, and how He operates around the world, the truth is, God is infinitely bigger than we can imagine. We love to put God and His ways in a “box” and tend to forget that God said:

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8-9).

When we think about world missions, we have our way of doing missions, and like to think of it as God’s way. In fact, if God blesses a certain ministry, strategy or method, we are quick to assume that it is the only ministry, strategy or method that God wants to bless. We are so foolish!

I was recently reminded of this as I joined a team from Vandalia Baptist Temple on a mission trip to Italy. We partnered with an amazing missionary couple that is involved in reaching our American servicemen and -women who are stationed at a nearby Navy and NATO base. I had heard testimonies over the years of veterans who were involved in missionary church plants while they were stationed in countries like Japan, Korea, and Germany. However, I had never personally witnessed such a work. In my mind, world missions is always about indigenous church planting, so it should always focus on reaching the nationals. The goal should be to have services in the local language. It was very odd for me to head to Italy, and prepare to do ministry in English!

What we experienced was absolutely awesome. God had opened doors for these missionaries to evangelize and disciple military personnel, their spouses and kids, civilian contract workers, and a growing population of African refugees that all spoke English. As our team led a VBS in southern Italy, there were even some Italian kids who came, and had their African friends translate everything into Italian. This kind of ministry is challenging, to say the least. The church is constantly seeing members leave to serve Jesus around the world, and new families arrive for a season of their lives. But, as I have heard veterans share with me, during their time in small churches like these, they grow more spiritually than they ever have before.

No matter where you go there are people in need of the Gospel. Many times, there are people groups within larger people groups that also need to be reached, and in unique ways. As Christians, churches, and as a national fellowship of churches, we need to be willing to think “out of the box” when it comes to the Great Commission and world missions. This recent experience reminded me that there is a need for missionaries everywhere, but also that missionaries everywhere are in need of encouragement while they are serving in faraway places. Financial support is needed, but the value of personal visits simply cannot be measured.

So, keep your eyes and your heart open to where God is working, and to people in need of Jesus. Be willing to step “out of the box” and out of your comfort zone. You will be surprised at what God will do!
News From The Regions Beyond

...behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.” John 4:35

CHARLES & JUANITA BOWEN – HISPANICS USA

The Hope Baptist Church (Iglesia Bautista Esperanza) celebrated its second anniversary on April 30, 2017. We had a great service with an excellent attendance and an inspiring and encouraging service. There were special programs presented by the young people and children of the church. I had the blessing of bringing the message and Pastor Jesus Gonzalez read the amazing testimony of the beginning of the Hope Baptist Church. I thank the Lord for Pastor Gonzalez, his wife, Magda, and for the wonderful work they have done, and are doing, in preparing leaders for the church. They have led the church to support several missionaries in Mexico, Spain, Kurdistan and El Salvador. Three of the men trained to teach in the church are helping to conduct the services in our new mission in Grand Prairie. Brother Gonzalez and these men are a great help to me since my heart attack. There is an average attendance in the church in Irving on Sundays and Wednesday nights of 42 with a high attendance of 120 at our annual Matrimony – Family conference.

I still get fatigued quickly and am limited in my activity but, thank the Lord, I have not had any serious pain in the heart area and only some dull, infrequent pain in my left arm. I still am able to preach and teach in the mission in Grand Prairie.

KYRON & ANTONIA HORTON – BRAZIL

We have now been in the city of Palmas for almost three months and are getting settled into what is not only a new area but also a new culture. The city of Palmas is a melting pot of people from various parts of Brazil, all with slightly different customs and language accents. It will take some time to get accustomed to it. There are many differences between Palmas and Belem, where we served for the last 2 years, including the weather (hot and dry/wet and muggy), the population (200,000/2 million), and the traffic (oh, what a difference!), the food (Belem has a greater variety of fresh foods), and the prices (the cost of living is significantly higher in Palmas). The greatest difference is the ministry. In Belem, when we started churches, we always had other churches and missionaries around for encouragement, a good Bible Institute and campground and we have none of that here. In the beginning we had church services at home with just our family but soon we met a family from the state of Bahia who had been looking for an Independent Baptist Church since they arrived. God has blessed and now we have a small group of believers with which to start our work here in Palmas. We began having services on June 11 in the meeting room of a local hotel. This will be only temporary and we are praying for a place of our own very soon.

DAVID & CAROLE ROSS – INDONESIA

Hello from Singapore! We want to send an update on David; He is getting stronger each day. He has wheelchair therapy, exercises, etc. each day. We are thankful for your prayers and support. David has excellent care here from the doctors, nurses, therapists, sleep coach and staff. We are very thankful.

Carole was able to return to Indonesia to visit some of the churches we work with. While there she was able to take care of some sorting and many other needed things. While Carole was in Indonesia, a friend from our home church, Greg Heckling, who is working in Taiwan, came to spend time with Dave, which made him very happy. He has also had visits from Pastor and Mrs. Antoro, head of the Bible Institute in Porworo, Indonesia, Dr. Luke & Carny Wibowo from our home church in Dayton, Ohio and Pastor Markus and Bro. Toto from Jakarta, Indonesia. Pastor Jerry Siler sent money so that Carole could rent a room about a half a block from the hospital. She had been sleeping in the hospital, except for two nights a week. Carole has also been given the opportunity to help out on a volunteer basis with the team that works with David. It has been a real blessing and she looks forward to being a blessing in this endeavor.

JENNIFER STORKE – DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Early in March of this year I was frustrated with my lack of progress in scheduling and making connections. It was then that I received email from Lynn Cunningham asking for someone to pray about going to the Dominican Republic to finish out the school year as a third grade teacher and to help in the ministry while there. Anyone who knows me, knows that my degree is in Education and my passion is working with children. I looked at this as a door that God was opening, where my calendar was a door He kept closed. After much prayer, counsel and consideration, I made the choice to go to San Pedro de Macorís, in the Dominican Republic.

I have made mission trips to five countries and never has God opened my eyes and heart more than while in the DR. In addition to teaching at the school, I was able to make contact with WBF Missionaries Matt & Flor Patton and their three sons. I had the privilege of getting to know them and serve beside them in their church in La Romana. Had I not gone to the Dominican Republic, I would never have realized God’s plan for my life was to serve Him there.

I arrived on August 1, 2017 to begin my first term of service in the DR. I ask you to pray for me as this is a big change. Without being on a path that I believed would be headed to Italy, I would never have had the opportunity to go to the Dominican Republic. Had I not gone I would never have fully realized God’s plan for my life was to be in the Dominican Republic. I am so thankful for everything God has done through you and has taught me using everyone I have met.

TERRY & GLORIA McCLURE – PALAU

On March 13, 2017, our third grandchild, Jonathan David McClure was born to Andrew and Evangeline in Saipan, where they are presently serving in the work of my parents, David and Dorothy McClure. Thank the Lord that both mother and baby are doing well. Great joy I accepted the invitation to go from Palau to Saipan and preach the dedication service for Jonathan. We had four generations of McClures to sit for a family portrait and I preached from I Corinthians 10:1-11 on “The Example”. There are many examples in Scripture for us to follow and many do not follow because they refuse to listen and follow God’s Word. Then I elaborated on the glory I had in my father’s example to me as a young man; how he lived the faithful Christian example and I reap the benefits. Then I challenged Andrew and Evangeline to use Matthew 5:13-16 as their guidelines for little Jonathan. At the close of the service we all gathered around the altar and pledged our faithfulness to God’s Word for each other and for Jonathan’s sake. The whole church was moved and joined in our promise.

Caleb Fielding – England

I have been on deputation for 5 months now and God is really blessing. I have been able to go to two revivals, two pastors’ fellowships and two mission conferences since my last prayer letter. In all honesty, if deputation is always like this I feel sorry for any missionary who is not an Independent Baptist because the churches I am going to are more and more fixed up to go to the field. I am more excited about my call today than when I started deputation because of the wonderful churches I have attended on my journey.

Please pray for me concerning the following things: that God will continue blessing me with meetings; that churches would financially support me as they are able; that I stay healthy; for traveling mercies as I travel; that as I present my ministry and churches I visit. For more missionary news visit www.wbfi.net
Not too long ago I was with my Dad in the hospital, and we were watching one of his favorite movies on his laptop. We repeatedly had to “press pause” while doctors, nurses, and visitors came in and out. A 2 hour movie took us 4 hours to watch. My Dad had seen this movie so many times, yet he had me “press pause” because he didn’t want to miss a moment of it. He wanted to watch each and every scene even though he has the whole thing memorized. Has that ever happened to you - you were watching a really good movie and then someone called you or came by so you “paused” the movie? Why do we do that? Generally, it’s because we don’t want to miss anything important; we’re enjoying it so much that we want to watch each moment and not miss a thing. If we aren’t really into the movie, we don’t “press pause” because we don’t care what we miss.

In our time with the Lord, we should “press pause”. We shouldn’t want to miss anything. We should want to get everything He has to show us and teach us for that day. In order to do that though, we must pause and listen. We must quiet our hearts and give Him time to speak and lead. Oftentimes, we don’t pause because listening to the Lord does not fit with our busy schedule. We only allow ourselves a little bit of time for our devotions then we get busy “doing”. A few years ago, we were attending Reformers Unanimous meetings and using their Quiet Time Journal. One thing it emphasizes is “pausing” like the Bible says to do in Psalm 46:10, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.” The Journal encourages you to: Read, pause. Pray, pause. Ask, pause. Pause, meditate. Pause, memorize. Pause, listen. Allow Him time to lead and speak. This is so hard to make myself do. Usually, I just want to finish off my checklist so I can move on to the rest of my day. But if I’m in such a hurry, I will miss Him. Sometimes, I need to turn off the tv, radio, or phone so that I can just be still and listen to His voice. I Kings 19:12, “And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.”

We’ve all had those wonderful times when we’ve slowed down enough to let the Lord speak to us – when we’ve “pressed pause” and followed His leading. Then we’ve had those times when we’ve rushed ahead and not waited for Him to speak. We often wish we could go back again and slow down and just listen. The Holy Spirit still speaks and leads. Am I still listening? When my habit is not to “press pause”, I just get used to my own voice and my own will. This could indicate that I have gotten out of touch with Him. I’ve got to get back to “pausing” and listening. I know you are like me – we don’t want to miss out on anything God has for us. But, what price are we willing to pay? The cost is high - silence and stillness. But really it’s not that much for time with the Sovereign God of the universe! I want to challenge us – “press pause”, and listen. We will never regret it!
When was the last time you felt like you were wandering in a desert? When life felt like it was at a standstill or maybe you felt like you were trapped in a routine constantly running but not really accomplishing anything. This life cycle is described in the history of the children of Israel as their wilderness wanderings. Talk about going nowhere for forty years! Sometimes we, like the children of Israel, can get to a place in life where we feel dry and desolate. A place where our circumstances cause us to get discouraged because nothing seems to be happening no matter how hard we try. I believe it is in this very place that God puts in his followers a thirst for something more and that thirst can only be quenched by him.

The great news about this desolate place in life is that God longs to do a new thing. Isaiah 43: 18-19 states, “Remember ye not the former things neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.” I love these verses of renewal that were given to the children of God when they felt like they were going nowhere. The whole chapter of Isaiah 43 reminds us that we are redeemed. The God of the universe has called us by name. We are created to testify that He is God alone. He is with us through every trial and in every dry place, and desires to do a new thing, but these verses of hope are quickly followed by how we get to the dry places of life. Verse 22 states that although we have all of this, we do not call on his name. We weary him with our rebellious hearts, but praise God he does not leave us there. He goes on to say in verse 25 that he blots out these transgressions so that we may declare his praise. God alone is the cure for a desolate heart that is thirsty. He wants to help us forget the past and press on to a new beginning. We must get alone with him, repent and acknowledge that he alone is the God that can satisfy. He promises to “make a way in the wilderness” and bring forth “rivers in the desert.” The word “way” here describes a road, a course of life or mode of action. God will give us a way out of the wilderness when we spend time basking in his presence.

How long has it been since you took your life map to the Lord and asked for his directions? Maybe you should spend some time with the compass holder today. He promises to make a way!
WBF FALL MEETING

This year's WBF Fall Meeting will be held at Southpoint Baptist Church in Jacksonville, FL on October 16-18, 2017. Pastor Terry Collins, the church staff and church family are working hard to make this meeting a time of great blessing and encouragement to all who attend. Make your plans now to be at this great meeting.

At the Fall Meeting each year the Special Mission Offering is received. This offering helps our Mission Office to be able to continue to serve our missionaries around the world. We are thankful for those who support the General Fund monthly but we need the special offering each year to help us make our budget. The goal for this year's offering is $60,000 and this amount is greatly needed. Please have a part in helping us reach the goal.

Also, at the Fall Meeting we have the Missionary Gift Card Shower. Churches and individuals around the country send in gift cards that are such a blessing to our missionaries, enabling them to purchase needed items for the field. Some churches have a gift card shower for the missionaries and send the gift cards to the meeting. Gift cards may be mailed to:

Southpoint Baptist Church  
3335 Tiger Hole Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32216

The cards should reach the church no later than Monday, October 16, 2017. Thank you for your participation in the Special Mission Offering and the Missionary Gift Card Shower.

LODGING FOR THE 2017 WBF FALL MEETING

The host hotel for this year's WBF Fall Meeting will be:

Fairfield Inn & Suites  
4888 Lenoir Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL

PH: 904-854-6200

The rate for the meeting is $99 per night. Be sure to mention that you will be attending the WBF Meeting at Southpoint Baptist Church in order to get this rate. This rate will be good until two weeks before the meeting.

In the same circle are also: Town Place Suites ($119 per night), Hampton Inn ($114 per night), Red Roof Inn ($72 per night).

If you have any problems making your reservation call the church office at: 904-731-0333 and speak to Kitty Collins.

PASTOR JIM POINTER RETIRES AFTER 43 YEARS OF MINISTRY

On September 2, 2017 the Sioux City Baptist Church celebrated the retirement of Pastor Jim Pointer after 43 years of faithful ministry. Bro. Pointer has led the church through these many years to be a great missionary hearted church. They support many missionaries and have been so faithful through the years.

Congratulations, Pastor and Mrs. Pointer, for a job well done. May the Lord continue to add His richest blessings to your life and may you have many opportunities in the future to keep on preaching!

Gift Card Shower

Please don't forget about the gift card shower for our missionaries. You may send your gift cards to the mission office by October 1 or you can mail them to Southpoint Baptist Church with a note “Missionary Gift Cards” by October 10. Thank you for your generous giving for our mission family.