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November 6th & 7th
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There are only two things in this world that will last forever…the Word of God and the souls of men. By virtue of the permanence of these two things, I am of the opinion that they should have a far superior place of significance in our individual and institutional lives.

Consider first, the Word of God:

“Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.” (Psalm 119:89)

“The words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever.” (Psalm 12:6-7)

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” (Matthew 24:35)

No book ever produced can compare to the Bible, and no other book can confidently make such promises as these. This is because the author of this book is also the one who has total control of all things from eternity past to eternity future…Almighty God!

The Bible then, with its far-reaching and eternal message, should never be neglected or minimized by us who live in a world where everything else (besides the souls of men) is only temporary. As one bright little girl on her way home from Sunday School deduced, “Mom, I know what the letters in the word Bible stand for…Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.”

Secondly, consider the souls of men:

“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:26)

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

As elementary as this may sound, we need a constant reminder that every person on earth will spend eternity either in heaven or in hell…determined by whether that person has believed on Jesus Christ as Savior or not. The God-given command of Scripture is that every believer should be a witness to and a herald of the Gospel of Christ. Every person we meet during the course of life is a soul for which Christ died, and we are entrusted with the message that can spare them from hell.

These two, the Word of God and the souls of men, are the only two things in this world that will last FOREVER. These two are the foundation and essence of what Arlington Baptist College is all about. Every student at our college is exposed to and immersed in a study of the Holy Scriptures. Every subject taught at ABC is intrinsically grounded in the teachings of God’s Word. Every student is challenged to know the Word, live the Word, and share the Word.

Soul winning is constantly emphasized in chapel and classroom. We rejoice together when a student or staff person announces that he had the privilege of leading a soul to Christ. Regardless of the student’s degree program, he is taught that his primary occupation both now and in the future is to be a witness for Jesus Christ.

The Word of God is the ABC MESSAGE…reaching lost souls is the ABC MISSION!

ABC is in the FOREVER BUSINESS!
God will never change. Malachi 3:9

Jesus is Coming Again.

The Message of the Church will not change.

The Bible, God's Word will never change.

God will still answer prayer.

The Plan of Salvation will not change.

God will still be the only way to the Father. It is only through Him that we can be saved.

The Message of the Church will not change. Though we may have different methods our message will continue to be the Gospel of Christ. That message will never change.

God will still answer prayer. We need His help and comfort in everything we do. Prayer will still be God's way of blessing His children. He will still answer our prayers.

Jesus is Coming Again. We don't know the day or hour but we do know He is coming. He told us He would.

Let's do our best as believers and constituents of the World Baptist Fellowship to show our support for all of our ministries and see what God can do to help us train and be a part of seeing many "World Changers" for the cause of Christ.

The Hilltop Conference was a real blessing and encouragement once again. We were challenged through the messages of Tony Canady and Jonathan Falwell. It was a blessing to hear from our missionaries and see what God is doing around the world. God truly has been and continues to be good to the World Baptist Fellowship.

It has been my privilege to serve the last four years as President of our Fellowship. I have had the privilege to experience some key special events: 75th Anniversary of Bible Baptist Seminary/Arlington Baptist College. What a blessing to see how God has blessed our school, mission, and fellowship through these years. I was also blessed to be able to be part of honoring Tommy and Linda Raley for their twenty-five years of service to God and WBF Missions. It was a blessing to see and hear what God has done through their leadership with our mission agency. It is such a blessing to be able to be part of this great fellowship. Though my term as President has come to an end, I still want to do my part to make our fellowship and ministry stronger. I know we have a great list of officers that will take us even higher than before. Thank you, for your support and kind words.

God has given us a great group of leaders for this next term. As a Fellowship, let's follow their leadership as we continue to do the work of the Kingdom of God. We need each other even more now as our world is ever changing. Let's be prayer warriors, praying for those who will be leading us in the months and years ahead and ask God to use them to help our Fellowship, College, and Mission Agency to reach many more people with the Gospel.

Though we may have a change in leadership, there are some things that will never change.

- **God will never change. Malachi 3:9**
  He is still the same loving God that He has always been. We must share that love with others.

- **The Bible, God's Word will never change.**
  It will still be relevant and will meet the needs of every person around the world.

- **The Plan of Salvation will not change.**
  Jesus will still be the only way to the Father. It is only through Him that we can be saved.

- **The Message of the Church will not change.**
  Though we may have different methods our message will continue to be the Gospel of Christ. That message will never change.

- **God will still answer prayer.**
  We need His help and comfort in everything we do. Prayer will still be God's way of blessing His children. He will still answer our prayers.

- **Jesus is Coming Again.**
  We don't know the day or hour but we do know He is coming. He told us He would.

The folks at Friendswood Baptist church were gracious and friendly. The music blew the roof off the place. Brother McCauley introduced us to pastor Elijah from Romania who brought a challenge to us that was so inspiring. I am so glad I was there to hear from that man of God. I praise God for what he is doing in his world.

If Thomas had known Jesus was going to show up that night he would have been there for sure. The trouble is we don't really know when God is going to show up in a significant way. I am going to do everything I can to be at each meeting believing God is going to show up. See you there!

**THE FOUNTAIN**

Everyone driving onto the campus of Arlington Baptist College is noticing a beautiful addition to our pond. Thanks to the generosity of a family at Pleasantview Baptist Church there is now a fountain that makes the once scummy water dance high into the air. It looks so fresh and clean. Even our visiting ducks seem to enjoy the water more.

The inspiration for adding the fountain was born from a sermon that Bro. Tommy Raley preached one Wednesday evening. One of his illustrations made reference to the green scum that was frequently present around the edges of our pond, comparing it to spiritual stagnation in our Christian life.

A few days later I received a call asking that I check into the availability and costs of putting a fountain in the middle of our scummy pond. Shortly thereafter the water was getting a much needed aeration. The change is amazing.

When night falls the lights begin to shine brightly from the base of the fountain. Our pond is no longer an eye sore but a lovely addition to an already beautiful campus.

We are so very grateful to a family who was inspired to help beautify our campus.
Recently I finished writing the history of the Trentman Ave./Pleasantview Baptist Church located in Arlington, TX. The church recently celebrated their seventy-first anniversary. They have had six pastors, and the membership is hoping their sixth pastor serves until the Lord returns. God used the strengths and personalities of each pastor to grow the church into a great lighthouse for the Lord.

Thinking about their history brought to mind two sister churches who also have histories of great men who have served as pastors, and now have new leaders to guide them on to greater heights for God’s glory. The Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring, TX has been a lighthouse there for eighty-five years under the leadership of eleven great men, the eleventh one being their current new pastor, Bro. Scott Kirkland.

Bro. Kirkland and his wife, Shelly, and their 16 year old son, Chandler, came to Trinity from the Bible Baptist Church in Gardena, California. Bro. Scott served there for twenty years. While there he was a founding pastor of the Pacific Baptist College in Pomona, California. He taught there for fourteen years and still serves on the Board of Directors of that school.

Bro. Scott and Shelly grew up in Abilene, TX. She received her degree in English there, and he received his degree from the Baptist Bible College in Springfield. Shelly sings in the choir, loves teaching children, as well as the social life involved in the church. Bro. Scott loves history and architecture, and loves to travel when he has the opportunity, but don’t talk with him about gardening. He avoids yard work at all cost. His passion is teaching. He loves to watch people as they listen to him, and watch the light go on in their eyes as they understand the Scripture and begin to apply it through their lives. He is very transparent. What you see is what you get. Their son, Chandler, has surrendered to full-time ministry, but that didn’t keep him from discovering “girls” and sports. He loves basketball, and from what I can determine from this interview, he’s quite the “charmer”. As I spoke with Bro. Kirkland about his wife and son, I could just hear the love and pride in his voice as he shared facts about them with me. He’s just happy to be back home again in Texas. They only came there the 27th of March, so they haven’t had much time to get acquainted with everyone, but just talking with him on the phone was refreshing. The love and laughter they share in their home will fit right in with the wonderful family at Trinity Baptist Church.

In I Cor. 3:6-17 we learn that one man plants a church, others water, and God gives the increase. We appreciate the work God has led great men to do in our churches, but we don’t need to dwell on what has happened in the past, but remember what God said in John 5:12, and we believe it, that led by God the Holy Spirit, we will do greater works than these. This is a reminder to all of us that God always moves history toward a goal, and He wants to expand on what He has done in the past to make the present meaningful and important. We anticipate the future with joy as we look for His coming.

The Worth Baptist Church in Fort Worth, TX just had their sixty-second anniversary. It’s amazing that through those years God led only three pastors to serve Him there as they led the church to victory after victory. Their fourth one is their present pastor, Bro. Tyler Gillit, who looks forward each week to what God the Holy Spirit is going to do there through his ministry. Bro. Gillit and his wife, Tori, are bubbling over with love and joy as they serve there, and the church feels so blessed to have them as their leaders. I’m told Bro. Tyler has so much wisdom – and is wise beyond his years. God has definitely given him a talent for the ministry. He shows it even more through his passion for seeing the lost ones come to know Jesus as Savior. He received his degree at Crown College in Tennessee, but realizes that the best knowledge he can ever gain is that which he will experience every day as he serves His Lord at Worth Baptist Church.

Tori Gillit is in her element when she has an opportunity to paint, draw, or help with decorations at the church. It’s a given that her two children, Will (6) and Anna (4) love it when their mommy sits down to help them draw pretty pictures. She also uses her lovely singing voice to bring honor to the Lord as she sings for His glory. It’s natural that she and Bro. Tyler would share a joint passion for youth since he was their Youth Director prior to becoming their pastor.

In I Cor. 3:6-17 we learn that one man plants a church, others water, and God gives the increase. We appreciate the work God has led great men to do in our churches, but we don’t need to dwell on what has happened in the past, but remember what God said in John 5:12, and we believe it, that led by God the Holy Spirit, we will do greater works than these. This is a reminder to all of us that God always moves history toward a goal, and He wants to expand on what He has done in the past to make the present meaningful and important. We anticipate the future with joy as we look for His coming.
Upon our return to the field of Mexico in 1984 we were invited by Missionaries C. L. and Danny Jones to work with them in their Bible Institute in Monterrey. We were also invited by Missionary Tommy Ashcraft to teach in his Bible Institute in El Barrial which was a few miles from Monterrey. We felt that this was the Lord’s will so we settled in Monterrey and began to seek a place to start a new church.

The Mexican government had just completed a new suburb called, Tres Caminos (Three Roads). There were hundreds of newly built and government financed homes in this colonia. We met a young couple, Juan and Rosario Luna, who were Christians and had just purchased one of these new homes. They had been saved in one of Bro. C. L. Jones’ works in Guadalupe, N. L. I asked them if they would be interested in opening their home for a Bible study; they readily agreed.

In the spring of 1985 a Bible study was held on a Wednesday evening with 7 people present: 4 members of the Raley family, Juan and Rosario, and one teen aged boy. From that humble beginning a new church was formed. We began inviting the Luna’s neighbors to attend the Bible Study and soon their little house would not hold the crowds. We put a cover over their patio and met outdoors under that cover for almost a year. It can get cold in Monterrey in the winter and we had some really air conditioned services!

We began to pray about finding a piece of property for the new work and the Lord led us to a plot of ground and also provided the funds to purchase it. I received a letter from a widow who was a member of the First Baptist Church in Pleasanton, Kansas where I had served as Pastor informing me that the Lord had laid it on her heart to send us a special offering to be used in the work. This offering was exactly what we needed to pay for the property we had located. God is still Jehovah-Jireh, the God who provides.

Well, we now had a growing congregation and a piece of property, but no building! We had challenged the people that we would depend on the Lord to provide and that through the offerings of the church we would construct the building. We all gave as we could to the work and as funds began to accumulate we began to build. We hand dug the foundation and pier holes and as we had the funds began to purchase steel and cement for the foundation. After the foundation was laid as the Lord provided we purchased cement and blocks for the walls. Little by little the building took shape as our people prayed, gave sacrificially and labored together. Members of the church in Guadalupe also came and helped with the labor and soon we had a shell of a building. We could not afford a tin roof at first so we purchased roofing made of oil-soaked cardboard and began to meet in that building. We had dirt floors; no doors or windows and a cardboard roof but it was a place where God’s people could meet to worship and study His Word together. We purchased the materials for the building as the offerings came in; some weeks we bought more material and some weeks less, but through it all the work continued to progress. In time we were able to replace the leaky cardboard roof with tin roofing. Juan Luna worked for a washing machine factory and they received their parts in large plywood crates from Brazil. We were able to purchase the plywood crates at a very nominal price so our doors, windows and Sunday School classroom walls were built out of used packing crates. We were able to pour (by hand) a cement floor and then we had a “painting party” and almost all the congregation, men and women, came to paint the walls. As time passed the building of the Bible Baptist Mission (now Bible Baptist Church) was completed.

I went back to preach a revival meeting a few years back and was thrilled to see how the church had progressed. They had been able to pour a concrete ceiling and build a second floor on the building that included Sunday School space and a small apartment for the pastor and his family. The “packing crate” doors and windows had been upgraded to steel and glass and the building looked very nice. Through it all the Lord has used His people and their desire to build a work for His glory.

We have found in our ministry that God has begun a new work through home Bible studies that grew into missions that grew into churches. I know that is not the only way to begin a work but it proved to be a blessing to us when we were on the field in Colombia and also in Mexico. It is amazing what the Lord will do when there is a group of His children who want to see the work of God go forward and are willing to allow Him to use their lives in His service.

Throughout our world today there are many places where there are communities like Tres Caminos where people need to hear the Gospel and be won to Christ. What is needed is young men and women who will dedicate their lives to the service of Christ and who are willing to go to these places to win people to Christ and began Bible believing Baptist Churches for the glory of God.

Tommy Raley
Director Emeritus/ Mission Representative
I don’t know of anyone who likes to be kept in the dark (to be uninformed about something). In this age of technology, the latest news is generally available in an instant through television, radio, and internet. This has increased the public demand for the latest information that is of greatest importance or merely of greatest interest to us. Social media has taken this desire to an extreme in which individuals want to know throughout the day where their friends are going, what their friends are doing, and what their friends are saying. And most people are greatly offended if they are “the last to know,” and have been “kept in the dark” while others were made aware of the latest news.

Most of those who are reading this article would agree with me that the most important news that could ever be reported to this world is the GOOD NEWS that Jesus “died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:” (I Corinthians 15:3-4). This is the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ that is “the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...” (Romans 1:16). It is the greatest, most powerful, and indeed life-changing message that could ever be broadcast across the world. And yet, it is estimated that over 2.5 billion people are being “kept in the dark,” meaning that they have not yet heard the “glorious gospel” which has been committed to our trust (I Timothy 1:11).

And with that in mind, we must ask ourselves this question: “Who is keeping them in the dark?” The simple answer is: “The devil, of course.” After all, the Bible tells us that “the god of this world (Satan) hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” (II Corinthians 4:4). But we must remember that the devil does his work in a very sly and strategic way. And according to II Corinthians 4:2, even teachers and preachers could have a hand in keeping people in the dark when it comes to sharing the gospel. The Apostle Paul often wrote of false teachers who watered down, twisted, and in essence corrupted the Word of God simply for the sake of telling people what they wanted to hear rather than what they needed to hear (II Timothy 4:3-4). In such a society, Paul urged Timothy to preach the word without compromise and without apology (II Timothy 4:2). And in II Corinthians 4:1-7, Paul testified that he was committed to be clear rather than clever, to manifest truth rather than trickery, and to preach Christ rather than himself.

The Apostle Paul recognized what many of us must recognize today – people must not be kept in the dark. And although the depravity of man resists the truth, and clearly does not want to hear the truth; I believe there are souls across our country and across this world who are recognizing that they are indeed being kept in the dark. And they are longing for truth! They want to know what God REALLY says. They want to know what Christians (followers of Jesus Christ) REALLY look like. And they want to know how their lives can REALLY change.

But I submit to you that if we fail to present to this world an inspired, infallible, inerrant, and preserved Word of God as a “more sure word of prophecy,” we are keeping them in the dark (II Peter 1:19-21). If we convey to them through our word and actions that after you “come as you are,” you may simply “stay as you are,” we are keeping them in the dark (II Corinthians 5:17). And if/when we “blend” the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ with what is acceptable and politically correct with this fallen world, we are keeping them in the dark (Romans 12:2; II Corinthians 6:17). And we must recognize that if we present such a clear truth and such a convincing testimony, there will be many who oppose us. But such was the case with our Savior (Matthew 10:34). And if we truly follow Him, such will be the case with us (John 15:18-20). And I am reminded of what commentator Warren Wiersbe wrote, “Truth without love is brutality, and love without truth is hypocrisy.”

I remember singing the song “This little light of mine” as a child in Sunday School. And you may recall the one phrase, “Hide it under a bushel – NO! I’m gonna let it shine.” This dark and doomed world needs much more than a “flicker” of Christianity today. May God help us to be bold enough to shine the light and share the gospel as those faithful saints we read of in the New Testament. And if our gospel be hid, may it not be hid because of us. Because no one really wants to be “kept in the dark,” especially for eternity (Matthew 8:12).
Changes and Adjustments

Most missionaries from the USA going to a foreign field will need to adapt quickly to the new country’s culture, customs and language (CCL). Missionaries do not expect the people of any host country to learn English or do things in the American culture to appease a foreigner. All foreigners must learn to adapt to the host country’s (CCL). Adjusting to a new money system, finding suitable housing and getting utilities turned on, finding a serviceable vehicle and registering it, getting a foreign drivers license, registering passports and visas with immigration, find schooling for the children if “Mom” isn’t teaching the children at home. Getting “settled in” means adjusting to all things, and all the immediate needs such as food sources, driving requirements and changes. Some countries drive on the “other” side of the road, and their cars are built with the steering wheels on the other side and gear shift, etc. in a different place, many times it is a very hard adjustment for the new missionary. The first year or two missionaries are adjusting to so many new things. Making friends can be very interesting, exciting and very difficult. The children of the family are usually quicker to adapt to the language than Mom and Dad and they may have to ask their children what the nationals are saying; this can be humbling and humiliating. Once the missionary family is kind of settled and hopefully new friends are made and then comes a time to start a Bible study. Usually the missionary’s home becomes the first meeting place. Having strangers come into the home is a real shock for everyone. Some missionaries are not able to organize a church in their first term. After being in the host country 3 or 4 years and seeing people saved and baptized but not spiritually mature enough to take over...and it is time for furlough. This aspect is usually very difficult; it is hard to find someone to take over the work while he goes back to the USA and leaves for a year of furlough. Many times during the year’s furlough, the work the missionary has started goes downhill in attendance, and the devil has a heyday. All of what has been written so far would fall in the category “culture shock”. There are missionaries that never get past it and they go home and never come back because they just couldn’t adjust. First term missionaries need a lot of extra prayer to adjust. God is merciful and gives more grace where more grace is needed. Please pray for all the new missionaries and what they need to do. God bless you as you care for the foreign missionaries.

Just Thoughts

There is very little about being a grandmother that doesn’t make me happy and have a feeling of fulfillment. Granted we enter into that stage of our lives a little older and with less energy. However, generally speaking we can rest when they go home. The exception would be those champion grandparents who are raising their children’s children.

I began “grandmotherhood” at an early age and have absolutely thrived on that part of my life. I’ve written many articles mentioning my grandies and can never quite adequately describe the wonderful feeling of seeing my children bring these wonderful gifts of God into my world.

As Tommy and I read during our Bible studies through the instructions that God gave His children about passing on along to their children and grandchildren His instructions and guidelines, I feel so impressed to have a part in my grandies’ lives. When they were little and wanted me to read to them and tell them stories it was easy to pass along the adventures of Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David and the other characters found in the Bible.

Just recently my twins and I had the awesome opportunity to meet women’s speaker and author, Phyllis Shirer. She was at a Christian bookstore signing her first children’s novel. Of course each of my girls got their book signed and picture made with this precious lady. We talked a lot about things in the Word and about her book during our day together.

There’s nothing greater than talking about things that will have meaning throughout the grandies’ lives. I was reminded a few weeks ago about how fragile the lives of our loved ones are.

After nearly every family get-together I find something that’s been left behind or not put away. A toy under the couch, a charger for little cell phones or anything that reminds me of our precious time spent together.

After church Easter Sunday we had our ham and mashed potatoes, along with lots more food, and enjoyed the afternoon of dosing on the couch, Easter egg hunt and lots of toys on the living room floor. These times are not nearly enough and cherished dearly.

When everyone left I noticed a dried up little dandelion on the living room floor. These times are not nearly often enough and cherished dearly.

Our life here is short. I want to squeeze all of the love and attention I can into my family. That would be both the little ones and the big ones. After all I don’t know just how long I have to do that. I don’t have time for selfishness or hurt feelings. Everyday should count - passing along God’s love and teachings.
I feel deeply humbled and honored to have been asked to serve the World Baptist Fellowship as your President. Even though it was something that was never in my mind and heart, I am willing to serve our pastors and churches in seeking God’s vision for the coming years of our Fellowship.

I love the World Baptist Fellowship! I understand that it is not the only family of fundamental Baptist churches and pastors, but it is my family, and for many of you, it is your family. It was always an honor to represent the WBF as a missionary around the country and overseas, and it is still an honor to now be involved as the pastor of a stateside church.

From our roots as the World Fundamental Baptist Missionary Fellowship, we have stood for the fundamental doctrines of Scripture, such as the inerrancy and infallibility of Scripture, the virgin birth and deity of Christ, and the imminent, bodily return of Jesus. We have also been a Fellowship that is passionate about world missions and church planting. As you find within many of our local churches, we are a very diverse network of churches and pastors, with varied views and convictions on certain matters, and yet united around the greatest purposes in the Kingdom of God. I tell our congregation all the time: Our differences are not liabilities to get rid of; they are assets, blessings and benefits that we need to celebrate. In fact, the entire message of the Gospel is about all different genders, nationalities, ethnic groups, cultures, languages and generations brought together by the Cross of Jesus. Our unity, despite our diversity, is what displays the power of the Gospel to the world.

As President, I want to hear from you. I am praying for God to give us a clear vision and some God-sized initiatives that we can rally around and partner together on to make an eternal difference. Some of these initiatives include:

• Restoring the function and leadership of the Fellowship Board
• Creating a WBF website and social media presence
• Opening an account to fund our Fellowship projects
• Launching a Top O’ Hill Restoration Fund
• Seeking sponsorships for pastors of church plants and struggling churches to attend our national meetings
• Developing our church planting network to give church planters far greater access to resources and assistance

I am forever grateful for our past and heritage as the World Baptist Fellowship. We truly stand on the shoulders of giants. However, I have no desire to relive or recreate the past. I want to faithfully and passionately serve the Lord and His Kingdom in my generation, and intentionally serve the generation to come. Will you join me in seeking God’s vision for the World Baptist Fellowship? I can’t wait to see what God has in store!

The restoration of this car has strengthened our relationship as father and son.

Consider how these things relate to the restoration of our college and our fellowship.

The first step in restoring the Arlington Baptist College or the World Baptist Fellowship is that we must take ownership of them. Not in the sense of being the CEO, but rather in the fact that we realize that this is our school, and it is our fellowship. Taking ownership of them means that we have to take responsibility for them. The realization has been made, that if our college and fellowship are going to be restored, it is up to each of us to work together in the process. Many of us were never privileged to see ABC or the WBF in their prime. We have heard stories and read articles but we were not there. The reality is that we cannot recreate what used to be, and we shouldn’t be trying to simply recreate what once was. We ought to be striving together to restore our college and our fellowship to be better than they have ever been! If we are honest, we could all say that we can look at our college and our fellowship and see many things that are wrong with them. We can all identify things that are keeping them from being effective. It’s hard to find everything that was wrong with it.

The restoration of this car has strengthened our relationship as father and son. Would you be willing to join in and do your part in the restoration of the Arlington Baptist College and the World Baptist Fellowship? The process will be long, and it will not be easy, but the end result will be well worth it!
The Change Challenge

People who know me, know that I have gone through a big physical change in my life over the last two years. For those of you who don’t know me, I began a healthy living journey two years ago that has resulted in a loss of over 150 lbs. I was extremely overweight & unhealthy but the thought of change was not pleasant for me. I continued in my “routine & habits” for years and it wasn’t until a health scare in March of 2014 that I realized a change was needed in my life. I had all kinds of excuses as to why I did not need to change or even that I could change if I wanted to. I knew I needed to change, but the challenge of changing seemed impossible for me. What I have realized however, is that making the necessary changes in my life has resulted in me being a better man, husband, father, and even a better student pastor - the change was good!

If you would like to hear my full story, join me at the WBF Semi-Annual Meeting at Connersville Baptist Temple-Connersville, Indiana, October 10th – 12th, but for now, I want to share with you 3 benefits of overcoming The Change Challenge:

1. Change brings New Life-
   When we make changes within our ministries, it brings new sense of life or excitement to our ministry. Healthy change can get our students talking about our ministries to their friends and inviting them to come to an event or service. Healthy change can help build adult support within the church as well. I’ve noticed in my years of ministry that a lively student ministry breeds a lively adult ministry.

2. Change brings a New Love-
   Changing things up in your ministry can help remind you of why you love student ministry. So often, we get stuck in our routines and the mundane schedules & the same service orders that we could do it all with our eyes closed & one hand tied behind our backs. But change brings new life, which brings new excitement, which refreshes the love & passion for our ministries once again.

3. Change brings a New Outlook-
   With new life & new love, you’ll find that you’ll also have a new outlook on your ministry. For years, in my unhealthy state of living, there were things that I never dreamt would be possible for me to do. However, once I made the change in my lifestyle, my outlook has changed & I feel that the sky is the limit on what I can achieve. The same will be true with your ministry. Your outlook will change. You will realize that there are goals you can accomplish & students you can still reach. There are no limits to what God can do within your ministry!

It’s been said that, “Change is hard at first, messy in the middle, but gorgeous at the end.” Change is not always easy, but the right kind of change is always worth the effort!
GLORIA HIGGINS WITH THE LORD

Missionary Gloria Higgins went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 after a devastating stroke that caused bleeding in her brain. Gloria and her husband, Norman, had faithfully served the Lord for 44 years as a WBF Missionary in Mexico. Through the years she had battled severe diabetes and some of its complications. She was also battling lymphoma at the time of her homegoing.

Gloria was born on April 8, 1943 in Miami, Oklahoma. She and Norman were married on December 12, 1960 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. They were approved by the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Committee in 1972 as Missionaries to Mexico and have served admirably through all these years.

Gloria is survived by her husband, Norman, two sons: David and Daniel and by a daughter, Christie and several grandchildren.

Please be in prayer for Norman as he continues on in the ministry to the Mexican people. It will be very difficult for him without Gloria by his side and he will need the grace and strength that comes from the Lord.

Home With the Lord

The Fundamentalist has learned of the recent home going of Mrs. Dorothy Bowers. She was preceded in death by her husband Dr. E. R. Bowers. Mrs. Bowers was in her 90’s at the time of her promotion to glory. She played a big part in the founding of the First Baptist Church of West Hollywood, Florida. Aunt Dot, as she was fondly known, was Nancy Roberts mother, and served the Lord faithfully for many years. Please keep Nancy, her husband Bill, and the rest of the family in your prayers. Funeral services were on May 16, at the Lantern Park Baptist Church in Lake City, Florida, and grave side services were at the Oak Grove Cemetery in Branford, Florida.

Stepping Down
Bro. Marcus M. Lowthorp

Bro. Samuel Rowlett has served as pastor of Central Baptist Church in Mansfield, Texas for over sixty years. Bro. Rowlett was a 1954 graduate of the Bible Baptist Seminary, and for many years has supported the World Baptist Fellowship, Arlington Baptist College, the WBF Mission Agency, and other avenues in the spreading of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ both locally and worldwide.

This dear brother also served his country in World War II, was shot down over Germany, injured, captured, and remained a prisoner of war until the war concluded in 1945. It was during his captivity that he vowed if he survived he would serve the Lord the rest of his life. He has fulfilled that vow faithfully.

Recently Bro. Rowlett announced his intention to retire and surrender the position of pastor to younger leadership.
How To Navigate Ministry Transitions

Rick Washburn Jr.
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Missionaries find themselves in complicated situations from time to time. As they follow God’s leading in their life, family and ministry, they often face decisions that can have lasting impact and consequences. Some of those decisions may involve a ministry transition in some way. The challenge comes when they have to decide who they can share it with, and when is the right time to share it.

Pastors who believe God may be leading them to make a ministry transition to another place have to be careful about what they share, when they share it, and with whom they share it. It is not that they are being dishonest in any way. They are simply wanting to be prudent and wise. The same happens many times with missionaries. However, their decision affects many churches and pastors at the same time.

Missionaries want their supporters and supporting pastors to know what they are facing, and to join them in prayer. Occasionally, the circumstances are so personal, that they prefer it not become a public issue or source of gossip. However, many times missionaries are fearful of losing support, or of pastors not understanding, or of being accused of dishonesty. And yet, the missionary also knows that it would be very foolish to speak prematurely about a situation or decision that is still undecided or unresolved.

My wife and I faced that on different occasions during the years of our missionary service. As pastor, I have been asked by missionaries on many occasions: “What should I do? Who should I tell? Is it wrong to not say anything yet to pastors, or to write about it in my prayer letters?” These types of questions can be grueling for a missionary, and lead to worry and sleepless nights.

I wish I had an easy, simple, one-size-fits-all answer to give. However, there are a few suggestions that I believe can be made:

1. **Speak to your pastor first.** A missionary’s first responsibility and accountability is to his or her local church (not the dozens of supporting pastors). Any mature pastor will know the importance of confidentiality in matters such as these. Your pastor is there to offer prayer support and give counsel and encouragement. If a missionary cannot trust his pastor with this kind of information, that is a separate issue which needs to be resolved as soon as possible.

2. **If you are part of a mission agency, share it with your mission director or field representative.** Those in authority do not want to be caught off guard by a situation, or be unprepared to answer questions by supporting churches and pastors. Most mission leaders are mature enough to handle confidentiality, and will have the missionary’s best interest at heart. That is an essential part of their ministry role.

3. **Seek advice from trusted counselors.** There may be colleagues and peers in the ministry that you can trust with your life. Let them know what you are wrestling with, and seek an outsider’s perspective. They may have faced a similar situation, and can be used of God to bring clarity and direction. “In a multitude of counselors there is safety” (Proverbs 11:14).

4. **Don’t be hasty in going public.** If you are still unclear about what God wants you to do, and it is a decision that can have broad impact, there is no need to broadcast it to the world. That time will come. Be honest with what you share with others, but if you honestly don’t know about something, wait until the time is right. Being hasty in talking publicly about things that may never happen is unwise, and can hurt your testimony and credibility. Give God time to work out the situation, but don’t get ahead of Him, even if you begin to get impatient.

5. **Once there is clarity, share it with those affected.** Your supporting churches and pastors need to know what God is doing in your life and ministry, in a general sense. I am not speaking of very personal and private matters that are handled accordingly. Supporters have a vested interest, financially and spiritually. If your decision may impact their future support, or the direction where God is taking you, they need to be made aware. However, it should only be done when you, your pastor, and other leaders in your life feel it is appropriate.

Missionaries, I pray that God would surround you with trusted friends and counselors as you navigate the many challenges of cross-cultural ministry. Pastors and churches, pray for your missionaries, and have an understanding and compassionate heart for the many situations that they face, which you may or may not know about. If you are confided with information, be sure to honor the LORD and His servants in how you respond. In the midst of storms, trials and transitions, God will be your Strength, your Guide, and your Peace.
James & Monika Brown – Australia

We are at the end of the summer season here in Australia and we are truly thankful for the changing of the seasons. We are currently under water restrictions as it has been very dry this year. With the arrival of fall also starts another Rugby season. We enjoy being around the players and ask you to pray with me that I will have open doors with them to share and witness to them. We have a new family that has been attending services faithfully and another family that has attended regularly over the past several months. Pray that we will be able to reach them for the Lord. We thank our prayer warriors who pray for us. Thank you for all you do for us and missions around the world.

Ernie and Monoka Brown – Ecuador

We both have had sinus infections and Monoka with walking pneumonia, but we are both recovering now. We are in Ecuador renewing our visas, and we have received only a 6 month visa this time, it is getting hard to get the proper paperwork done in a timely manner. We have a couple of Ecuadorian Pastors that have health problems right now. Pastor Adrian Sanchez fell and fractured his hand and has a lot of complications from it. A week before that fall his wife, Marta had to have gall bladder surgery. National Missionary Luis Tulcana has been suffering with his voice and throat problems and he had surgery and needs to have chemo but the cost of it is very expensive and he has postponed it until the Lord provides the funds to do them. He is a very faithful man and if when possible gone by car or pickup all over his mountain area for many years. His prosthetic has been worn down and replaced many times as he has gone and preached God’s Word. He is now 66 years old and his health is preventing him from doing the job as full time pastor. Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and finances for the ministry in Ecuador.

Myron and Antonia Horton – Northern Brazil

In my last letter I was awaiting my return to Brazil to join my family, after having to get a “tourist” visa back to Brazil, where I have lived since 1974. Praise God the paperwork was resolved and I flew back to Brazil on January 19. We were able to ship a new Maytag washer and dryer (after 21 years with the first Maytags). All of our boxes, containers, and luggage came on the plane with Antonia and Stacy. Antonia was allowed to get all our belongings through customs without paying any duty and with very little trouble. We thank the Lord for His mercy. I am really thankful to my dad and several relatives who accompanied Antonia to and from the airport several times, since I was not able to be there to help her. I hardly had any work to do myself when I got back, and I told Antonia that we were going to have to do this all the time. LOL, she said: “I don’t think so.” God is at work and we have had the privilege of seeing nine people make professions of faith in Christ. One of the new believers, a lady named Stephanie has asked to have a church started on the nearby island where she lives. She has opened up her home for a Bible Study. Please help us pray about this opportunity. We are taking a survey trip to the State of Tocantins. We are seeking God’s will concerning starting a new church in this state. The city of Palmas, the capital city, is the fastest growing city in Brazil with a population of 260,000. Stacy is busy with home-schooling, and doing well considering all the travels. She enjoys home-school but at the same time misses being in a classroom setting, having school friends and activities. We are blessed to have Abeka DVD curriculum; we thank the Lord she is getting a good education. Keila is doing well in college in the States. She misses us an awful lot as we do her. This is a blessed time for her and she is growing through this change in her life. She is praying about the next step for her college studies. Pray with us.

Larry & Barbara Koehn – Chile

Vacation time is over, kids back in school and things have returned to somewhat normal again. February began with youth camp and several older youth couldn’t go this year because of work, but there were three that went for the first time. It was great to hear testimonies from the parents about the difference they saw in their kids after a week of being totally immersed in a spiritual environment and in the Bible, and “no cell phones.” The end of February was our church-wide BBQ. One of the highlights was the baptism of Claudia Navarro and the dedication by Arturo and Nicole and their two children to the Lord. Claudia’s family was strongly opposed to her baptism as none were believers. We encouraged her to obey her parents and one day the Lord would open the door for her to be baptized. It was very precious. The child dedication was also very special. Over the past five years I had the opportunity to work with Arturo as he went through three levels of discipleship studies. Arturo was one of those men I mentioned last time who has to travel and work outside of the city much of the time. While on one of his work trips their oldest son had to be hospitalized for nearly a week, very difficult for Nicole to be home alone with their two boys.

Tim & Joy Guenther – New Zealand

We are finding out that everything does not move quickly even here in the U.S.A. We started our visa process by getting fingerprinted at our local sheriff’s office 6 months ago. We sent the documents to get our background check for New Zealand immigration. We were already scheduled to present our ministry in some churches in Florida. While in Fla. we each received a medical check-up as required by the New Zealand immigration. Only certain doctors would be accepted and the doctor we were seeing in Fla. was on their list. Then the “waiting” process for our background check to come in. We couldn’t send in our application to immigration without it. Four months, to the day, the FBI received it, we got the background check back. But there was a PROBLEM!!! Joy’s fingerprints would have to be re-done, they were not clear enough to suit them. We called the FBI and asked if there was a faster way of getting them back? I went ahead and sent in our application to the New Zealand immigration anyways. We found out that our medical checkup was only good for three months, and we were soon to pass that date. Another set-back was when we were contacted by New Zealand immigration that we had not satisfied all their requirements. They needed us to supply them with more documentation. I was able to get all the requested documents and submitted them, and get them sent in for our immigration visas; THEY WERE APPROVED. We have finally arrived in New Zealand!
A CASUAL FOLLOWER OR A COMMITTED DISCIPLE?

Spectator - one who looks on or watches

Casual - laid-back, nonchalant, blasé, indifferent, cool

Onlooker - a passive spectator

Follower - archaic meaning is to chase after; one in the service of another; one that follows the opinions or teachings of another

Follow - to go, proceed, or come after; synonym to chase; deny, a complete surrender.

“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me” (Luke 9:23).

Have you ever watched from the parking lot of the local YMCA or some other exercise facility people who go there to get in shape. They come in for a work out before heading home still dressed in their work clothes, but they reach in and grab a gym bag and sling it over a shoulder. And more often than not they reach in and emerge with a cup that has a red spoon in it. They’re finishing off a Blizzard from the local Dairy Queen. They take the final bites, throw the empty cup in the trash and walk in for the workout. They want to get in shape, but they don’t want to make any personal sacrifices.

That’s how a casual follower will try to follow Jesus. Luke 9:23 makes it clear that if we are going to follow Jesus, a casual no-strings-attached arrangement isn’t a possibility. You can’t “come after” Jesus without denying yourself. The phrase “deny himself” isn’t just the idea of saying no to yourself, or even resisting yourself. The idea here is that you do not even acknowledge or recognize your own existence.

Back in the 80’s a song came out that went like this:

“I don’t want to be... I don’t want to be a casual Christian, I don’t want to live... I don’t want to live a lukewarm life, ‘Cause I want to light up the night with an everlasting light...”

Revelation 3:16 is a very sobering verse in Scripture. God tells us what He thinks of lukewarm. “So then because thou art lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.” I don’t know about you, but I don’t ever want to be “spewed” out of God’s mouth. Have you ever grabbed a glass of water, thinking it was cold, and when you took a huge gulp, you realized it was lukewarm? Not pleasant. Not pleasant at all. Following Jesus Christ is so much more than attending church on Sunday, reading the Bible in a year, or going on a mission trip. It’s about dying to self, renewing the mind, and following Christ. Let’s stop being casual Christians, and start living for Christ by dying to everything we are. It's no longer about us. It's about Him. “O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together” (Psalm 34:3).

The Lord reminded me that if I am full of myself, my own agenda, or the things the world offers, I’ll never be “full”. In fact, I’ll be running on empty. Are our lives supposed to feel empty? John 10:10 says, “I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” God wants me to be full, but to be full of Him.

If I want to truly be full of Him, I must be empty of everything else. I “feel” empty even though my schedule is full. How do I get truly “empty” so God can fill me? Mark 8:34-37 tells me how to prepare for God to fill me: I have to deny myself. Deny means to contradict, to refuse to yield, to decline. I must say “no” to myself. I generally do not want to tell myself no. We are told by our society to say yes to ourselves and “have it our way”. However, this type of “filling” only leads to temporary fullness. Anything other than the Lord cannot make me fulfilled because nothing can do for me what God can do for me! He created me – He alone can truly fill me.

I must choose to yield to His way, His plan, and His work in my life. I must take more time to spend with Him. I have to be willing to say what Paul said in I Corinthians 6:12, “All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient (profitable, useful): all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.” When the Holy Spirit nudges me, I need to be able to walk away from things that are permissible, but are not beneficial to me (those things I can do, but shouldn’t do or don’t need to do). I need to be able to say no to me and yes to Him. The Lord can adjust my thoughts and plans and help me to see Him and His will if I will let Him. He will show me what needs to be done, how it needs to be done, and when it needs to be done. All I have to do is wait and acknowledge Him and He will “direct my paths” (Prov. 3:5-6) It’s easy to say and hard to practice.

We were made for more than a life of running on empty. We were made to “be filled with all the fullness of God” (Eph. 3:17-19). If I want to be full, I must be willing to intentionally sacrifice my will and my way. This takes surrender and trust. To be truly full-filled is so much better than being full-ishly empty.
Continuity
by Woody Cash

As a word, continuity is not mentioned in God’s Word. Yet its essence permeates the truth of holy writ. In the material world, continuity denotes the state or quality of being uninterrupted in extent or substance. For the immaterial realm, continuity addresses the state or quality of being uninterred in sequence or succession; in essence or idea; connectedness, coherence, and/or unbrokenness.

Consider the continuity of God in His attributes and actions. Perhaps the greatest attribute of God as it affects us is His love; God is love; and His love certainly never fails. God so loved us that He ordained our salvation before the foundation of the world. Jesus, our Savior, has forever united all believers through God’s gracious gift of our new birth into the divine family. In Christ, we are joint heirs and sons and daughters of both His present Kingdom and its future manifestation. That reality has been true from Adam’s regeneration forward. It has demonstrated a divine continuity relative to salvation and His fatherly blessings through all generations. God does not change. The eternal and only begotten of the Father, Jesus Christ, is also the same yesterday, today and forever. The Psalmist stated it clearly: “from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”

Another aspect of God’s continuity is experienced in the demonstration of His faithfulness. Over the millennia of human existence, God has proven that He is faithful. Whatever He has promised, He is faithful to bring it to pass. God is also faithful in His purpose. He is faithful in regard to our salvation, to our calling, and to the compassion with which He stands to our rescue. Those in their twilight years, God is an ever present source of comfort. His faithful continuity unto every age and every generation is set forth in His promise to never leave us nor forsake us.

To establish and nurture our relationship with Himself, God has given us the continuity of His written Word. To the saints of both the Old Testament and the New Testament God has given the assurance that His Word will never pass away, even unto the realization of a new heaven and a new earth. That which He has spoken through His holy prophets since the world began will surely be fulfilled without the loss of nary a jot nor a tittle. God Himself said that the words He commanded to be written are faithful and true.

A prime example of continuity is afforded via the nation of Israel. To His chosen people God has said that He has engraven them upon His hands, and that His salvation would be from generation to generation. The covenants that God has made He keeps to a thousand generations. Israel is encouraged to hope in the Lord’s mercy and plenteous redemption. Indeed, God has stated that He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

The continuities addressed thus far have had in common that they each extend from the nature and will of a sovereign and Holy God. Collectively they demonstrate that continuity is important to God. In an earnest effort to be more like our Savior, should not we seek to establish continuity throughout our earthly sojourn? We have the encouragement to be not weary in well doing. We are admonished to hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering. Surely we all desire to hear God say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” Our goals should be to be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Our battle cry would well echo “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit ye like men, be strong.”

Some avenues by which we might strive for a Christ-like continuity are set forth for us in scripture. It is incumbent upon fathers and mothers to communicate an understanding of who God is and what He expects of us. They in turn are to teach their children. And so it goes from one generation to the next, and the next. Establish a continuity of the will and way of God. Older women should teach younger women. Likewise, older men should exhort the younger men. Timothy (with a good foundation via his mother and grandmother) was urged by Paul to commit what Paul had instructed Timothy to know and practice unto other men. Jude speaks of a continuity when he challenges us to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. To the Philippians Paul wrote of his confidence in their continuity when he acknowledged that God who had “begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

But, sad to say, continuity is sometimes not the hallmark of 21st century believers. The church of the Laodiceans was not about the task of establishing continuity with anyone but themselves. The church of Ephesus had undertaken a dis-continuity. It is an end-time tragedy that churches which were at one time on fire for institutional continuity have left to find other fires to give them a sense of purpose. New purposes may be exciting and satisfying until that new wears off. Then it is off to a fresh endeavor. And continuity is left in the lurch. It is an unchangeable truth that it is “God that worketh in you to will and to do of His good pleasure.” Our heavenly Father desires that we occupy until Jesus returns. To do so, we must re-invigorate our noble efforts to assure continuity. Such is the nature of God who continues generation to generation to embrace continuity. With Him, there is no variability, neither shadow of turning. Lord, help us to emulate your continuity.

What brings you to your knees?
by Katrina Sellers

In the last few weeks, it seems that our church body has been under attack. My husband and I have spent the last three Sundays at the local hospital. The week days have included contacting and offering services to the ones supporting the ones in need. This is the design of the church, to be supportive in these circumstances. However, sometimes I wonder if we are doing a good job with so many needs that need to be addressed. Among this chaos, I have found myself more at the feet of the Savior pleading for relief and wellness as well as for wisdom on how to minister to each family.

I wonder, as Christians, how much time we actually spend on our knees praying for the needs of others. Do other’s broken circumstances drive us to the throne or is it more self needs or desires that place us there. Jesus had compassion for those he ministered to. He was found crying over their condition. When was the last time you cried over a specific need or an unsaved individual’s destination? Intercessory prayer is a powerful tool of the church. We must cultivate this privilege of inviting miracles into other people’s lives. I fear that we intend to do more than we do. We address prayer in a quick reply that we hardly intend to keep or we use it only as a last resort.

Most of us would agree whole heartedly that prayer is important, and it changes things. If we truly believed this, my question would be: Why would we ever get up from our knees? There is only power when prayer is practiced. When it becomes part of our routine. Our first defense in a trying situation. For that to happen, we must believe in it. Not just with our mouths, but with our actions. What kind of movement of God would we see if we came together in fervent prayer asking God in unison for the same things?

I know the needs are great. The prayer list at my church is overwhelming, but do not let this be a trick of the devil to stop you from even starting. To be a prayer warrior, you have to start somewhere. Begin by praying specifically for a relative or friend every day and let them know when possible that you are doing so. Once you get in this habit, add someone else. Ask God to bring to mind the people you should be praying for and then ask Him how you can minister specifically to that situation. The needs are great, but our God is greater!
Please make your plans now to join us here in Connersville, Indiana, for the 2016 Fall Meeting of the WBF, October 10-12, 2016. If you are flying, you can choose from three different airports which are all approximately a 1 hour and 15 minute drive to our church. Check into Cincinnati (CVG), Dayton (DAY), or Indianapolis (IND) for great options. Our local hotel is providing us a great rate of only $67 per night when you reserve it under "WBF" or "Connersville Baptist Temple". Blocked rooms are limited so make your reservation today!

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Pastor Tim Billups
www.baptist-temple.com

THANK YOU!
MRS. MOFFITT AND LADIES CLASS

We are thankful to the Pleasantview Baptist Church’s Ladies Bible Study Class, led by Mrs. Marjorie Moffitt, for purchasing new furniture for the remodeled foyer of the WBF Mission Office. This special group of ladies has been a blessing through the years in providing needed items for the Mission Office and the Mission Houses. They are a great blessing to the WBF Mission Agency and to the Pleasantview Baptist Church.