

Promoting the World Baptist Fellowship and Its Approved Ministries

THE FUNDAMENTALIST

WINTER 2016



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INVESTED pg 13



Arlington Baptist Patriot Basketball Schedule 2016-17

Date	Women/Men	Opponent	Time	Place
10-31 Mon.	W/M	Baptist Bible College	5 & 7 PM	Springfield, Mo
11-1 Tues.	M	Champion Bible College	5 PM	Hot Springs, AR
11-5 Sat.	W/M	Jarvis Christian	1 & 3 PM	Hawkins, TX
11-8 Tues.	W/M	St. Thomas University	5 & 7 PM	Houston, TX
11-10 Thurs.	M	Southwestern Assemblies of God	5 & 7 PM	Waxahachie, TX
11-15 Tues.	W/M	Jarvis Christian	5 & 7 PM	Home
11-17 Thurs.	W/M	University of the Ozarks	TBA	Clarksville, AR
11-18 Fri.	W	Philander Smith College	4 PM	Little Rock, AR
11-21 Mon.	W	McMurry University	5 PM	Home
11-22 Tues.	M	Dallas Baptist University	7 PM	Dallas, TX
11-29 Tues.	W/M	Southwest Adventist University	TBA	Keene, TX
12-1 Thurs.	W/M	Central Christian College of the Bible	5 & 7 PM	Moberly, MO
12-2 Fri.	W/M	Manhattan Christian College	5 & 7 PM	Manhattan, KS
12-3 Sat.	W/M	Barclay College	TBA	Havilland, KS
12-8 Thurs.	W	St. Edwards University	5 PM	Austin, TX
12-9 Fri.	M	Trinity Bible College @RU	TBA	Moore, OK
12-9 Fri.	W	Houston Baptist University	TBA	Houston, TX
12-10 Sat.	M	Southwestern Christian University	3 PM	Bethany, OK
12-12 Mon.	W	Southwestern Assemblies of God	TBA	Waxahachie, TX
12-17 Mon.	M	Houston Baptist University	7 PM	Houston, TX
12-21 Mon.	M	Lamar University	TBA	Beaumont, TX
2017				
1-6 Fri.	W/M	Ozark Christian College	4 & 6 PM	Joplin, MO
1-10 Tues.	W/M	Texas College	5:30 & 7 PM	Sherman, TX
1-14 Sat.	M	Tarleton State University	7 PM	Stephenville, TX
1-16 Mon.	W/M	Texas A&M Commerce University	5 & 7:30 PM	Commerce, TX
1-19 Thurs.	W/M	Ecclesia College	5 & 7 PM	Springdale, AR
1-20 Fri.	W/M	Rhea Bible College	5 & 7 PM	Broken Arrow, OK
1-23 Mon.	W	Texas Wesleyan University	6 PM	Ft. Worth, TX
1-24 Tues.	W/M	Texas College	5 & 7 PM	Home
1-26 Thurs.	W/M	Dallas Christian College	5 & 7 PM	Dallas, TX
1-31 Tues.	W/M	Univ. of Texas Permian-Basin	5 & 7 PM	Odessa, TX
2-3 Fri.	W/M	Rhema Bible College	5 & 7 PM	Home
2-6 Tues.	W/M	Dallas Christian College	5 & 7 PM	Home
2-9 Thurs.	W/M	Southwestern Adventist University	TBA	Home
2-13 Mon.	W/M	Texas A&M International Univ.	2 PM	Laredo, TX
2-14 Tues.	M	University of Dallas	7 PM	Dallas, TX
2-14 Tues.	W	Pensecola Christian College	TBA	Pensecola, FL
2-15 Wed.	W	Selma University	TBA	Selma, AL
2-17 Fri.	M	Champion Bible College	7 PM	Home
2/22-25 Wed.-Sat.	M	NCCAA Regional Tournament	TBA	Moore, OK
2/23-25 Thurs.-Sat.	W	NCCAA Regional Tournament	TBA	Moore, OK
2/28-3/4 Tues.- Sat.	M	ACCA National Tournament	TBA	Joplin, MO
3/1-4 Wed.-Sat.	W	ACCA National Tournament	TBA	Joplin, MO
3/8-11 Wed.-Sat.	W/M	NCCAA National Tournament	TBA	Ankeny, IA

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Wendell Hiers, Editor

Editorial Office:
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Editorial Board:
Emil Balliet
David Schembera
Mark Ogle
Charles Bowen
Shawn Sullivan
Rocky Lindley
Rick Washburn Jr.

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THOUGHTS

Dr. D.L. Moody
President
Arlington Baptist College

Thoughts About Christmas

For me, Christmas is always a time of simple contemplation...it causes me to remember and think. I think much about what it would have been like to be at the manger when Jesus was born. I think about what it would have looked like to be with the shepherds when the angels appeared to announce the birth. I think about what it would have felt like to be a part of the excitement that the arrival of the Magi would have created and what the sight of the expensive gifts they brought to our Heaven-sent King would have looked like. I like to THINK!

I also like to think about the Christmas season in the modern world. It truly may be "The most wonderful time of the year." Allow me to use some simple words that come to mind in relation to my world at Christmas time...Thoughts About Christmas:

Questions about Christmas lingo – "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire..." What are chestnuts? ...I don't think we have those in Texas. "Don we now our gay apparel..." I am not sure I would look very good in those kind of clothes. "Black Friday?" That does not even sound fun to me!

More importantly, however, is the tragic divorcing of the name of "Jesus" and "Christ" from the celebration of the season. I simply and emphatically refuse to put an "X" in the place of "Christ" in the name Christmas. I continue to refer to the season as "Christmas" and not "Winter Holiday."

I have THOUGHT about it...and I believe that the preeminent lingo of Christmas should revolve around Jesus and His miraculous birth.

Quietness of the campus – Ten minutes after the last final exam is completed, the students of our college seem to have vanished into thin air. I certainly cannot blame them for being in a hurry to get home to family and friends. I certainly can understand, dads and moms anxious to have them home for a few weeks.

However, while the relative tranquility of the campus is welcomed and enjoyed for a little while, I sure would not want it to be this way for very long. I start to miss those students and all the activity associated with a busy semester.

I have THOUGHT about it...I want our students to enjoy their break and time with their families...but hurry back!

Quality time with my family – I am a very BLESSED man! I have a wonderful wife (of 38 years), two incredible children, a great son-in-love, a great daughter-in-love, and two PERFECT grandkids. We do not get to be all together every Christmas, but when we are, there is absolutely no greater joy than those occasions. We usually spend every-other Christmas together in Colorado and the memories made there will be with me for the rest of my life.

I have THOUGHT about it...the closest that I can get to that "Bethlehem Morning" has to be Christmas morning with my whole family in the same house with me.

I have THOUGHT about it... and yes, that song writer may have had it exactly right. Christmas is "The most wonderful time of the year!"

The GREATEST Gift

We each can remember those special and memorable Christmas gifts we have received. It was that gift or gifts that we wanted intensely or needed desperately, that when opened, brought a huge smile to our face, a lump in our throats, and a warmth to our hearts...a GREAT gift!

Perhaps however, the GREATER joy comes to the one giving such a gift. To know that a thoughtful and generous act has brought such an emotionally charged reaction to the one receiving the gift, is an incredibly joyful experience... "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Would you consider, during this Christmas season, including Arlington Baptist College in your "gifts to give list?" I assure you, for us to receive your expression of love and encouragement through a Christmas Gift, will indeed bring the "smile," the "lump," and the "warmth" of a GREAT gift and will be a GREAT investment in the preparation of World Changers for Christ.

You may mail your Christmas Gift to the college (3001 W. Division, Arlington, Texas 76012) or by going to our website at www.arlingtonbaptistcollege.edu and clicking on the "Donate to ABC" tab. Please use the "Christmas Gift" category for our accounting purposes.

May God bless you mightily during this time when we celebrate the GREATEST GIFT ever given...The GIFT from heaven...JESUS!

From all of us here at ABC...MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Straight Ahead!

Arlington and Beyond

In rural areas of our state, as well as around the country, there are many small and not-so-small churches. By-in-large, these churches have pastors and church leaders who are bi-vocational, surrendered to the ministry later in life, and have no formal Bible college training. It is impossible for them to uproot and move to Arlington to enroll in Bible college.

In 2013 we launched a new program called Real Life Institute or RLI. If students cannot come to us, we are going to them! This is a non-credit Bible training, offering in-class instruction to these individuals through night classes. Here is how it works:

- A local church allows us to use its facilities to offer classes;
- If the church is within reasonable driving distance from the college, myself or one of our faculty will travel there to teach the class;
- If the distance is too far, we incorporate a local, Baptist, pastor to teach the class as an adjunct professor, and we provide the course material;
- The classes meet one night of the week;
- There are no test or papers required of the student;
- The cost of the course is \$120 and includes 32 hours of lecture and a notebook for each class; and
- When the student completes 5 courses, he/she is eligible to receive a certificate of completion and participate in the college's commencement exercises in May.

We currently have three extension campuses, one in east Texas, one in west Texas, and one in north Georgia. We also offer a Thursday afternoon class on campus for local residents who wish to participate. Total enrollment for these classes is averaging between 55 and 65 students per semester. Some of the students in these classes are enrolled for credit and are combining these classes with online classes to pursue a degree from ABC.

RLI is providing a major benefit to local church leaders and has the potential of being used all over the country to produce Worldchangers for Christ.

DID YOU KNOW?



Rick Washburn Jr.

President

World Baptist Fellowship

This is an exciting time to be a part of World Baptist Fellowship! God is doing a renewing work in many of our hearts and churches as we seek to become more engaged and effective in reaching lost souls for Christ and planting

autonomous, reproducing churches around the United States and around the world. It is an honor to lead our national Fellowship at this crucial moment in our history.

In the months that I have been serving as president, I have learned (or been reminded of) some things about World Baptist Fellowship that you may not be aware of:

1. **World Baptist Fellowship is an affiliation of three autonomous corporations.** World Baptist Fellowship, Inc. (national fellowship), Arlington Baptist College, Inc., and World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency, Inc. Each has its own Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws. That means that no one entity speaks for the other two. That means that no one entity exercises authority over the other two. That means that the decisions of one do not always reflect the perspective of the other two. Each corporation has its own purpose and function – connected, yet distinct.

2. **World Baptist Fellowship is a partnership of churches, not pastors.** Our national Fellowship, unlike others in fundamental Baptist circles, is a network of churches. Each church that chooses to be affiliated with WBF and any of its approved ministries can have up to three (3) voting delegates. These delegates are submitted by each pastor on an annual basis, and are the ones who nominate and elect individuals to serve in different capacities.

3. **World Baptist Fellowship ministries share the same Statement of Faith.** The World Baptist Fellowship, Arlington Baptist College, and WBF Mission

Agency each hold to exactly the same doctrinal positions, which unite us as fundamental Baptists. This Statement of Faith appears in the By-Laws of each corporation. There are specific issues that we disagree on (sometimes intensely!), but we respect the autonomy of each local church and church planter, while holding to the same Statement of Faith. There is far more that unites us than divides us.

4. **World Baptist Fellowship ministries are linked through the election process.** Even though each corporation is autonomous, they are directly linked and held accountable to one another through the annual Election of Officers. The General Assembly of World Baptist Fellowship chooses the individuals who will serve as the Board of Directors of Arlington Baptist College and the Mission Committee of the World Baptist Fellowship. These directors and committeemen are chosen to represent the values and mission of the national Fellowship. This keeps us all connected.

The ministries of World Baptist Fellowship, as well as the churches and pastors of World Baptist Fellowship, are dependent upon one another. The success or failure of one ministry directly impacts the others. We are not in competition. We are on the same team, and our cause is the Greatest Cause in human history!

I encourage you to get engaged in the regional and national efforts of World Baptist Fellowship. Pray for me and our national officers and Board of Directors as we have begun to tackle some structural issues within our national Fellowship. We are committed to bringing greater clarity around our mission and vision, and are restructuring how we function to allow greater representation and participation from pastors, regional fellowships, and missionaries. It is an exciting time to be a part of World Baptist Fellowship! Will you partner with us?



By
Marjorie Moffitt



Heartbeat Of The WBF

throne, every unexpected struggle has led you closer home. No, we don't have to understand when God has another plan.

Remember, when God has another plan, walk on and just say, "Yes". When God has another plan, be assured that He knows best. When all your dreams are shattered, rest in His sufficient grace. We don't have to understand when God has another plan.

I know that didn't sound much like a Christmas wish, but it is my wish for all of us that we will not question what God is doing in our lives, but will each morning get up and know that He has a special purpose for all of us to be a blessing to someone else each day as we give of ourselves to others. May He fill your lonely hours, your anxious unmet need. May your lives be an example of His grace, His provision and His love as He prepares you for what is just around the corner to fulfill His plan for your Jeremiah 29:11.

Hopefully you will let this be the best Christmas ever as you watch God work in your life, in your church, in your community as they in turn see Him in you as you share your life with them. Shine on, sweet friends! Let YOU be the best gift they will ever receive as you lead them to a better relationship with our blessed Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

GOD BLESS YOU!! AND HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Let me begin by wishing everyone the very best Christmas you have ever had! While for most people Christmas is the best time of year as they look forward to being with family, opening gifts, and sharing so many wonderful memories. Yet, many of you are not looking forward to Christmas for a variety of reasons. Perhaps you have lost a loved one this year, lost that job that you thought you would have forever, lost that investment that was supposed to be a sure thing, or perhaps you have become a caregiver of one with a disease you can't fix, and wonder where the money is coming from to take care of all the upcoming expenses.

This last Sunday night Julie Bacon sang a song at church that really caught my attention, and I want to share the words with you. I hope they will help you see that Jeremiah 29:11 sometimes takes a while to come to pass as God takes that which God calls "good" in our lives and uses us to be a blessing to others around us until we reach the time when we can see the good. Here we go!

Forsaken by his brothers didn't fit the scene. Being made a slave was not what Joseph dreamed. The coat of many colors was stained with blood and lies, but from this divine appointment, a ruler would arise.

Chorus: When God has another plan, walk on and just say "Yes". When God has another plan, be assured He knows best. When all your dreams are shattered, rest in His sufficient grace. We don't have to understand when God has another plan.

Alone and broken hearted, questions fill your mind. Changes can be hard that come by God's design. But, if you could see tomorrow with a view from Heaven's

**PRAY FOR OUR
MISSIONARY WIDOWS**

World Baptist Fellowship

FROM THE HEART

I have been to many fellowship meetings during the past 48 years and have heard countless sermons. I have always been blessed by the preaching of the Word of God. This year's WBF Fall Meeting was a great blessing but at the same time a bit different. Each speaker brought a Bible based message but it seemed that each one spoke from his own experiences as an illustration of his message. I can truly say that I felt that each speaker opened up his heart and allowed us to see and feel his emotions.

It has been said many times that our most powerful witness for Christ is our own testimony of what the Lord has done for us. In reading the Book of Acts and the epistles of the Apostle Paul we see that almost always his messages reflected his own life and the experiences he had as he served the Lord. In the Book of Acts each of Paul's recorded sermons are testimonies of what Christ did for Him on the Road to Damascus. In using that testimony he challenged and encouraged his listeners to place their faith and trust in the Saviour who had transformed his life. While our preaching and our testimony should always be from the Book we should also reveal to others the depths of our hearts, especially in showing how God has worked in our own lives as a witness to the Truth of His Word. Sometimes we are reluctant to allow others to see inside our hearts but it is only as God's Word has worked in our own lives that we can expect He will use our preaching and His Word to have effect in the lives of those who hear us preach.

The Psalms of David are beautiful examples of a man who opened his heart, not only to God, but also to those who would later read and sing those beautiful songs of praise and worship. David was not afraid to allow others to see his struggles, his weakness, his doubts and fears, as well as his mountaintops of victory. We see in David a man who could honestly say to God, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalm 139:23-24)

In his confusion and lack of understanding of his circumstances, Job opened his heart to God and also to his three friends who sat by him during his time of suffering. He did not know why the terrible events of his life had befallen him and he wondered aloud, asking the Lord "why?" Through all his calamities he made this statement, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." Job



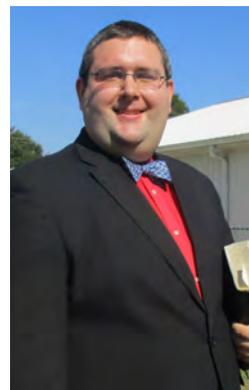
Tommy Raley
*Director Emeritus/
Mission Representative*

did not hold anything back but truly opened his heart to the Lord.

The Apostle Peter in his own strength assured the Lord that he would never forsake Him or deny Him, and yet in that same night three times he denied that he even knew Jesus. His strength was turned into weakness; he became a broken man. In his brokenness God could work in his life and the Lord Jesus gave him three opportunities to declare his love for the Saviour. (John chapter 21) Then on the Day of Pentecost he spoke with the power of the Holy Spirit and 3,000 souls were born into the Kingdom of God and added to the New Testament Church. Peter came to the place in his life where he opened his heart to the Lord and to others and was mightily used of God.

Pastor Tim Billups set as a theme for our recent Fellowship Meeting, "Shake, Break, Illuminate". The speakers at the meeting and we who heard them preach were challenged to allow God's Holy Spirit to shake us, break our hearts, and illuminate us with the desire to return to our places of ministry with a renewed desire to open our hearts to the Lord and to others. If we follow God's leadership we will see new and greater victories in our ministries than ever before.

Thank you, Pastor Billups and Connersville Baptist Temple for allowing God to lead in the planning and preparation for the meeting and thank you to each one who spoke "from the



Welcoming Caleb Fielding

Please join us in welcoming Caleb Fielding to the WBF Mission Family! Caleb was approved as a WBF Missionary during our Fall Mission Committee meeting held in Connersville, Indiana. Caleb will be sent out of Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington, South Carolina. Bro. Steve Cummins is his pastor. Caleb attended and completed our Mission Seminar here at the WBF Mission Office

in July. He feels God calling him to England to be a team church planter. Caleb will be working with BMFP Missionary Donovan Bangs who has been serving in the Cambridge area for several years. During a survey trip to Cambridge, Caleb observed the diversity of people groups who come to or through that area. In just a couple of hours, he met people from ten different countries. The harvest there is truly plenteous and diverse. And in many instances, there is a great opportunity to reach the world from that field. Please be in prayer for Caleb as he makes preparation to begin deputation. He is very excited and has a genuine passion for souls in England. If you would like to schedule Caleb to be in your church, you may contact him at calebjfielding@gmail.com or 803-640-2333. Caleb is an answer to the Matthew 9:38 prayer. Please continue to pray with us that the Lord of the harvest would send forth more laborers into His harvest. It is a great privilege for a local church to be able to send out missionaries from their church! And we are here to help when you send them out! Thanks for all you do for WBF Missionaries!

WE HAVE IT ALL

It is interesting to observe the shift in mindset that takes place from the Thanksgiving Season to the Christmas Season. As we enter the Thanksgiving Season, the emphasis is on what we have. But as we transition into the Christmas Season, the emphasis seems to shift to what we want. I know this may not be the case with everyone, but our society certainly portrays and promotes such a mindset. In fact, the “what we want” mindset of greed is slowly but surely crowding out the “what we have” mindset of gratitude. This kind of thinking coming from a sinful society certainly does not surprise us (I Timothy 3:2). This world will continue to “want it all,” but will never find it at all outside of Jesus Christ (Mark 8:36). This is where the Salt and Light of the local church and the individual Christian becomes so important once again. While people living in darkness continue to “want it all,” Christians living in the light must convey that we “have it all” in Christ. Though it may appear from this side of heaven that the surrendered Christian who has given all has lost it all, nothing could be further from the truth (Matthew 16:25)! In many instances, the missionary may shed the brightest light on this subject. One of the scriptures that I have always considered to give a good description of a missionary is II Corinthians 6:10 “As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.” In this context, the Apostle Paul was sharing his testimony that gave credibility to his witness. And in his testimony, he conveyed that although he had plenty of reason to be sorrowful, he was always rejoicing. Although it would appear to many that he became poor in material wealth, he was in fact making many rich by introducing them to spiritual wealth. And although it would seem he had plenty of reason to say he had nothing, he in fact recognized that he had gained everything. The servants of the Lord today, including all the faithful missionaries serving in the regions beyond, are abundantly blessed. Many missionaries will testify how churches and individuals shower them with extra blessings during the Christmas Season. And by all means, that kind of care for the missionary should continue to flourish (Philippians 4:10)! Nevertheless, missionaries and all those who love serving the Lord would tell you that they really and truly already have it all. Recently the Lord reminded me of some specific things we have – things that we possess – things that cannot be taken from us. For example:

- We have eternal life in Jesus Christ! During the Christmas Season, we celebrate the greatest gift we were ever given – the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:16). And through Jesus came eternal life (I John 5:12). And that eternal life can never be taken away from us (John 10:28-30)!
- We have abundant life in Jesus Christ! Not only do we have a wonderful life to come, but we can enjoy a wonderful, abundant, extraordinary life, right here, right now (John 10:10).

- We have a home in heaven! This alleviates the disappointment of living here as well as the fear of leaving here, because we have a home prepared for us (John 14:1-3). Along with that home in heaven, we will have a new glorified body (II Corinthians 5:1)!
- We have the ever-abiding presence of the Lord with us by way of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16; Hebrews 13:5)! He is ever there to comfort, guide, and convict when necessary.
- We have the inspired (II Timothy 3:16), preserved (Psalm 12:7), inerrant and infallible (Proverbs 30:5-6) Word of God! This is one of our most prized and valuable possessions (Psalm 138:2). His Word has been settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89), and will endure forever (I Peter 1:25). There is nothing to be added to it or taken away from it (Revelation 22:18-19). His Word is the final authority for all we need to know (II Timothy 3:17). And I’m grateful to know that I have a perfectly preserved copy of His Word in the English language in my King James Bible. There are still unreached people groups in the world that do not have a copy of God’s Word translated into their native tongue, and so I consider myself rich to have that precious, Holy Book.

That fact is, as servants of the Most High God, WE HAVE IT ALL! The few things I have listed only skim the surface of ALL we have been given in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:17, 32; Ephesians 1:3). During the Christmas Season, we will no doubt consider things we would like to have, and we will enjoy both giving and receiving. But may we never forget, we already HAVE IT ALL! We can relate to what Jim Elliott said, “He is no fool to give what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” And we have the great privilege and responsibility of telling the lost where to find what they are really looking for and can never lose. You really can HAVE IT ALL in Christ!



Joey Bacon
Mission Director



**GOD HAS ONLY ONE
PLAN FOR WORLD
EVANGELIZATION AND I
WANT TO KNOW, WHERE
DO I FIT IN?**

David Schembera
Asst. Mission Director
WBF Mission Agency

much diversity in our world, large metroplex areas and small cities, urban areas, even uncivilized and unreached regions and so much in-between in our world. Where do I fit in? One of my pastor friends would quickly respond: "I am so glad you asked." Is there one particular place or one people group in our world that is needier than another? No, they all have lost souls, they must hear to be saved. We can be assured that there is not one area or people that are more important than another because the God of heaven is no respecter of persons. All are important and God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. What or where or how do I fit into this commission? There are three areas I would like for us to consider:

1. Pray – We can and should all pray for lost souls everywhere, even in the area where you live and work in this world. "Bro. Dave, I live in the Bible Belt of America and I am not sure there are any lost people here, and I wouldn't even know where to start." There are lost souls at Walmart, the local grocery store, the gas station where you buy gas, at the department store where you shop, the guys that come and mow your grass or the electric company employees, or at the library, at the doctor's office, or dentist's office or any medical facility. There are lost souls in all parts of our daily lives. We, who have the truth, are supposed to go tell the lost about Jesus Christ and His saving power. If we Christians don't do it, then who will? Pray for all of us that are workers both here in our state and country where we live that God will open doors for us to give out the gospel message. Most lost people don't even know they are lost and need to hear. There are many that have never heard there is an eternal heaven and only one way to get there. Pray for effective workers. Pray for your local church and workers locally and for our missionaries worldwide.

2. Give – It takes a great deal of money to operate a church here in the States and in some countries the cost of living and supplies for the church are much greater than here. Our local church pastor isn't expected to, and can't give all the money that is necessary to pay all the bills locally, he needs everyone in his congregation to give and do what they can for the work locally. Then give to missions; that the work can be accomplished where we can't personally go. We are blessed here in the U S A; most of us have sufficient, and above, and where much is given, much is required. Give according to your means; that is what God requires. It may be to start new churches in our own country, or on a foreign mission field. When a missionary comes by our church and presents his burden for another people and country, we should do all we can to help him get there and support his ministry monthly. It is taking so much of the missionary's time and a lot of work to be able to present in your church; we should give financially so he can one day get there.

3. Go – Every born again Christian has been called to go somewhere. This is a universal calling: "Go ye" is for all to go. God directs the believer where to go. The God of the universe directs his children to the exact place. Some may be called to go to a foreign field; that would be for missionary service. It takes a lot of hard work for anyone to go to a foreign field. First, there is Bible School training, a college education in Biblical studies. Then being approved by a mission board. Then comes the task of raising the prayer and financial support needed to do the work. Then comes the difficult task of learning a foreign language. Being fluent in the language of the people is so important. Then comes the day he/she is going to depart his home church, close friends and relatives, his/her culture to go to a place where God has directed. Getting to know the language and culture of a foreign country, learning their customs, culture and making friends is sometimes more difficult than anyone expected. Culture shock is just that for the new missionary.

Others may be called to go to a closer place than where he/she lives. It may be to a local church right in their own community and state. God may direct others to another State to plant a new church, we have all kinds of examples. The important thing is to "go" somewhere, because you can't take the gospel to the wrong address. The need is so great that we all need to be involved doing what we can for the evangelization of the lost. God, where do I fit in, prayer warrior, or a giver and a goer someplace? God help us to do what we can while we have the opportunity to work for the Lord. "The night cometh when no one can work."

**JUST
THOUGHTS**



Linda Raley
WBF Mission Agency

During the last few months both Tommy and I have had early chiropractic appointments before coming to work. I noticed that each of these mornings as we pass the corner fire station near our doctor's office the trucks are pulled out of the building, the lights are glowing and the firemen are walking around the trucks. They are washing or polishing and checking out every working part of their vehicles.

It took me several mornings to realize that they were getting their equipment ready for whatever came their way that day. When they pull out during the time of an emergency they can be confident that the truck will start, the lights will work, the hoses have been put away correctly so they can be unrolled and used quickly.

I've only been in one bad accident where emergency help was needed but the first to arrive was a fire truck. They comforted me and helped me until the attendants of the ambulance arrived. I'm sure not one of them said, "I hope our vehicle is in good enough shape to get us to the accident". They had made it ready.

This puts me in mind of the story in Matthew 25 where we read of the bridegroom arriving to find only five of the ten virgins were ready and "went in with him to the marriage". The other five had gone to get oil but not in time. They were not "ready".

We moms always try to be ready for whatever when we have children, especially with multiple activities and sometimes different schools. We don't want to be unprepared. Many of us have burned the midnight oil because our youngster forgot that he is to bring cupcakes to class tomorrow! We try to be prepared for anything that might be needed for our household.

Just this last week I heard a very compelling sermon on being ready to give an answer about our Savior. To be always ready with the plan of salvation, with our testimony and with our encouragement in time of need. In our Father's plan we are sometimes allowed to go through awful times to get us ready to be of use in our lives. His Word is our guide and teacher. That precious God breathed Word.

Very few homes are without this wonderful book but do we get it out every morning and let it get us ready for the day – no matter what comes our way? Watching the firemen get their trucks ready for whatever emergency happens in their area was quite a visual aid for me.

Our preparation for life is in our hands. Will we let it get us ready for our day, our week, our year, our life? It occurs to me that life is much more bearable that way.

After a few days of recovering from the Fall Meeting, I would like to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU.

Thank you to each of you who gave of your time and resources to come and fellowship together and encourage one another. There's just something special about these times of gathering together as "family".

Thank you to each of our speakers who shared what God had put on their hearts through their personal stories. I so very much enjoyed watching God use what I viewed as obstacles, and orchestrate the theme in His own awesome way! We have some amazing folks, hidden gems if you will, right here in our own Fellowship, but there are obviously some non-WBF individuals that have some great stories and experiences that can encourage and inspire us as well.

Lastly, I'd like to say thank you to our staff and volunteers here at Baptist Temple. Events like these don't "just happen"; they take much effort and sacrifice on the part of multiple people. A WBF meeting was very new to our church family, but they eagerly embraced the chance to welcome and serve the pastors and missionaries that are serving the Lord across the globe.

Thanks again to Bro. Bacon, Dr. Raley, and the Mission Committee for giving us the opportunity host the meeting. I'm looking forward to the Hilltop Conference at the end of April at ABC, and of course the next Fall Meeting with Pastor Terry Collins in Jacksonville, Florida.

-Pastor Tim Billups



Kyle Collins

Graduated from Fellowship Academy 2012

Began ABC Fall 2012

Baseball all 4 years

Walnut Ridge Baptist Church, Mansfield

Graduate Dec.

BS in Bible and Business

Internship – Ricky McGill Insurance

Once graduated – Holt Cat (Catapillar) in Ft. Worth ...
management training

Goal: Own his own business

"Always be there for his employees with spiritual guidance and operate business with a Christian-Worldview." Seek to get employees on the right track spiritually, saved and engaged in church. Real interest is in business management.

Learned a lot (biblical languages,) around all the professors and seeing Christ reflected in their lives...especially Coach Weaver... Quality of instruction in Business has been excellent. Bible classes, chapel, have made him stronger in his walk with God.

Feels equipped to be a Christian business man and make an impact on the world as a world changer.

Now What?

by Richard Koons

The election is over. now what? You are battling a life threatening medical condition. Now What? You are struggling financially. Now What? The church you pastor is struggling. Now What? Paul writing from a jail at the end of his life writes a letter to the church at Philippi. He is chained to elite guards twenty-four hours a day. Paul is truly in a "now what" moment in life. Yet, the theme of his letter is JOY. How is that even possible? One word: Perspective.

Paul writes in Philippians 1:2-7 the following:
2 Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:7 Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

The Apostle Paul is in a "now what" moment. Yet he writes under the influence of the Holy Spirit about 'JOY'. I work diligently to teach our students that JOY comes in the morning. As a former college student at ABC, I remember the struggles of being a freshman. I remember balancing a job, athletics and the ministry of my local church. I was glad there were faculty and staff who poured into my life in the dorm, on the court, in the classroom, chapel and my local church. Most recently one of those encouragers went home to be with the Lord. I am thankful as a freshman: Donna and Griff Jones walked along side me and guided me in my early days at ABC. Donna lost a courageous battle with cancer most recently. Lavonda and I along with several former students drove to Odessa for her memorial service. The theme seemed to jump out from every part of the memorial service. Joy truly comes to those who are hurting and even feel somewhat hopeless. Three thoughts:

- We all have a what and don't understand the why.
- God always has a why behind the what.
- I don't have to understand the why to trust God in the what.

As we approach this Christmas I am reminded there will be people everywhere. Many will be struggling with depression due to the loss of someone important for the first time. Many will be struggling with the burden of gifts for the family. There will be those who have become disillusioned with life. All around us we will be reminded of the "why" behind the "what" of Christmas. Each of us will have the opportunity to share the story of Jesus Christ. As a professor used to say on many occasions, Jesus left the "splendor" of heaven for the "suffering" of the earth.

JOY COMES IN THE MORNING!

Cause we're wild & crazy about students

The STUDENT SECTION

Written by: Stephen Kirkwood
Student Pastor



Do You Wanna Build A StuMin?

It's the most wonderful time of year... at least for some of us cold weather, snow fall loving people like me. I'm the guy that puts up his Christmas lights and starts listening to Christmas music on November 1st! In fact, I was actually listening to Christmas music while mowing my grass in late October.

I love the Holiday season. I don't overlook Thanksgiving (If you know me, you know I wouldn't skip a day centered around food!) but I combine Thanksgiving and Christmas together. After all, the greatest thing I have to be Thankful for is the birth of Jesus Christ which led to His death, burial, and resurrection! And, because I live in the Midwest, the cold weather is going to come and the snow is going to fall whether I like it or not, so I might as well embrace it all.

One thing that is a Winter season tradition for my family is to build a Snow Man. It's fun to start with just a handful of snow and roll it out into a beautiful 6 ft tall creature complete with eyes, nose, and arms. (Ahhh, I can't wait!)

When you think about it, building a student ministry is similar to building a snowman... we take small, somewhat unformed, groups of students and over time we build them into something bigger and beautiful for the cause of Jesus Christ.

If you'll stay with me, let's look at the similarities of building a Snowman and a StuMin (That's social media talk for Student Ministry).

1. The Setting-

You can't build a snowman without snow and snow won't fall if the settings are not right! You've got to have the cold temperatures, the right barometric conditions, precipitation and I'm sure a lot of other factors that a meteorologist would tell you about in order for snow to arrive. Oftentimes, these are not conditions that everybody likes to be in, but they are necessary if you want to build a Snowman. The same is true for building a StuMin. You've got to have the right setting. In order to build a StuMin, you need to have a setting that is favorable for students to show up. Create a youth room that reflects students. Paint the room different than just neutral colors. Get games that students would enjoy in the

room. Play music that students would like. Again, I understand that these are not conditions that everyone is going to like, but they are necessary if you want to build a StuMin.

2. The Supplies-

Traditionally, a Snowman is built with "a corncob pipe and a button nose and two eyes made out of coal" but I don't think I have ever built a Snowman with those supplies (where would I even find coal?!). I use the supplies around me. We use sticks for a nose, rocks for eyes, and we top him with a baseball hat. In fact, the rocks and sticks I used last year will not be used again this year. The point I'm getting at is to be flexible. Use interchangeable pieces to build your StuMin. The parts and pieces (methods) we use to create our StuMin will change with our surroundings. Be flexible with your ministry and allow God to use different parts and pieces to make it work.

3. The Secret-

Here's the secret: The key to a really good looking Snowman is doing the proper prep work in the season before the snowfall... making sure all the ground work has been done. Having the grass mowed neatly and all the leaves raked up in the Fall season. If not, all the grass clumps and the dead leaves will roll into your Snowman ball and make it look dirty. The same is true with building a StuMin... We've got to be meticulous in prepping the groundwork before the blessings begin to fall, otherwise all the dead grass and leaves will roll in and make your StuMin look dirty. Make sure you are spending the time needed to prepare your heart and mind for the season of ministry that is before you; it's the secret to a beautiful StuMin.

It truly is the most wonderful time of year... the setting is right; the supplies are all around you; all you have to do is start rolling... Do you wanna build a StuMin?

Stephen Kirkwood- Student Pastor @ THE Connersville Baptist Temple, Connersville, IN



@stevekirkwood

WINTER EDITION



The winter edition of the Fundamentalist is always a challenge. There are two special occasions that occur during this season--Thanksgiving, Christmas, and this year to add to the mix we have the 2016 National Elections. By the time you read these words two of these three events will have passed, and maybe even the third.

So we begin with the first--Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving Day, is an important public holiday, celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November in the United States. It originated as a harvest festival. Thanksgiving has been celebrated nationally on and off since 1789, after a proclamation by George Washington. It has been celebrated as a federal holiday every year since 1863, when, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens," to be celebrated on the last Thursday in November. Together with Christmas and the New Year, Thanksgiving is a part of the broader holiday season. Thanksgiving was founded as a religious observance for all the members of the community to give thanks to God for a common purpose. Traditionally Thanksgiving Day was set aside as a time to give thanks for one's blessings. Sad to say, but for most Americans Thanksgiving Day 2016 brings to mind turkey and dressing, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, family reunions, and American football. I trust that your Thanksgiving was one of "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph. 5:20).

Then there's Christmas! "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us..." (John 1:14). God had entered the world as a baby. He looked like anything but a king. Majesty in the midst of the mundane. Divinity entering the world He created on the floor of a stable through the womb of a young virgin, and in the presence of a carpenter. It was said of this baby, "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men" (John 1:3, 4). The swaddling clothes that warmed Him were the finery of eternity. His throne of glory had been vacated for the lodging of animals. The worshiping angels who announced His arrival on the hills of Judea were replaced by a group of bewildered shepherds. The people of that hour would ridicule and make fun of anyone who told them that God lay in the arms of a teenager in a barn on the outskirts of Bethlehem. After all, Caesar Augustus had done the economy of Bethlehem a favor when he decreed that a census should be taken. No one could remember when such business had come to this little town. There was simply too much to do to imagine that the seemingly impossible had happened. Those who missed Jesus' arrival that night were all too busy to even consider the likelihood. They missed the birth of the Savior because they simply weren't looking. Little has changed since that first Christmas; has it? Sad to say but this probably can be said about Christmas 2016...people are just too busy to consider.

Purposely I have left the third occasion until last. I do not



Wendell Hiers
Editor
Fundamentalist

have to remind you that the elections have probably been the most despicable. The elections are over and at this moment I do not know what party won the 2016 National Election. However, I do feel the words, actions, and behavior of the politicians have been the most despicable, shameful, vile, disgraceful, and any other adjective you might want to use to describe the political hysterics we have witnessed. God has placed three divine institutions here on planet earth...the home, governments and the church. It was in this order that he gave them and might I add that all three are under satanic attack. No matter the end result of the 2016 National Elections, we as Christians should never forget, "...that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will" (Daniel 4:32).

I pray you had a blessed Thanksgiving, a joyous Christmas, and may 2017 be the year for Maranatha.



A Touch of Class

by Wendell Hiers

In October the Connersville Baptist Temple hosted the Fall Meeting of the World Baptist Fellowship. This meeting always gives emphasizes to the Great Commission. Bro. Tim Billups, pastor, his wife, Becky, the church staff and the wonderful people of the church did an outstanding undertaking in hosting the gathering. God's Word encourages us to be prudent, but not in the realm of His work. Many times in God's Word we are urged to be magnanimous, openhanded to the point that some might find themselves uncomfortable surrounded by such impressive loveliness. Pastor Billups and the Connersville Baptist Temple went the second mile in hosting the WBF Fall Meeting.

What the fall weather lacked in color, the church made up for it in the hours or preparation that went into preparing for the meeting. Flags of the many countries where the missionaries serve were in evidence both inside and outside the church sanctuary. The church did an excellent job in showcasing its musical gifts. The singing was superb and moving. Pastor Tim though prayer and time well spent, along with the church did a wonderful job in planning the meeting. The hospitality of the church was seen and felt the moment you got out of your car. The meals prepared by some of the best cooks around were outstanding. If you attended the meeting, you will agree with me when I say, "There aren't enough adjectives to describe the Goliath cinnamon rolls." And if you left before the meeting ended, boy did you ever miss a blessing. For dinner that evening we had steak and shrimp! And what about the theme of the meeting: "Shake, Break, Illuminate." Intriguing, you bet, and it was evident that every speaker was prepared through personal experience to address the theme of the meeting. Our hearts were blessed by the personal testimonies given by each speaker. We were met head-on with the challenge to let God, shake, break and illuminate in our lives. A musical special sung by one of the men of the church still rings in my heart, "I've been through enough... Jesus is all I need."

And what a blessing the closing service. Tim and Becky Keep, former missionaries to the Philippines, gave their testimony concerning their young son, Jesse. Our hearts were deeply touched as Becky related the heart-wrenching story of how they walked with their young son into total blindness. By the way, Jesse, now a handsome young man, played the piano at the close of the service. Their testimony was a fitting praise to the faithfulness of God and how He shakes, breaks and illuminates so "...that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."



Thank you Connersville Baptist Temple for a mission well done!

THE MISSIONS CORNER

How To Navigate Ministry Transitions

Rick Washburn Jr.
Pastor
Vandalia Baptist Temple
Vandalia, OH
@rickwashburnjr

Every time missionaries step foot in our churches, they ask us to pray for them. Every time a missionary sends a letter, he or she mentions some specific prayer requests. Yet, since it can be difficult to track all of the individual needs of each missionary that we support, we tend to pray something like this, "God, bless our missionaries!" Am I right?

A few months ago I ran across some words written by the original pioneer, church-planting missionary, the Apostle Paul. In his letter to the Christians in Rome, he asked for prayer in some specific areas:

Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me; that I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints; that I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed. (Romans 15:30-32)

I believe that we could have a powerful impact in the lives of our missionaries if we were to specifically intercede for them and ask God to grant them:

1. **Deliverance.** Paul was under genuine threat from the unbelieving Jews in the Jerusalem area. He also faced dangers and threats elsewhere in his travels. The same is true for all of our missionaries. Some live in areas of political and social unrest. All of them live a lifestyle of constant travel, which poses its own risks. We all face spiritual assault from our enemy. We must pray that our missionaries be

delivered from danger.

2. **Acceptance.** Paul was involved in a commendable effort to bless the saints in Jerusalem. Churches across the first-century world had partnered together (through Faith Promise!) to bless the suffering believers in Israel. And yet, even though these ministry intentions were good, it did not guarantee that it would be well-received. Missionaries give of their heart, time, and resources to bless the people they are ministering to around the world. They travel the country sharing their burden and the cause of world missions with pastors and churches. These efforts and intentions are amazing, and yet, it does not guarantee that they will be well-received. We must pray that our missionaries' efforts and service be accepted.

3. **Joy.** We would like to assume that Paul was always filled with joy as he traveled and served the LORD. But if you have been involved in ministry for long, you know that there are countless circumstances and experiences that drain or steal our joy. And when we aren't serving with joy, it can become miserable! Missionaries (as anyone else) need God to be their Source of joy, and to lift them up as they press on in carrying out the will of God. We must pray that our missionaries be filled with joy as they serve.

4. **Refreshment.** Serving God in any ministry, and in any location, can be exhausting physically, spiritually, and emotionally. That reality is exponentially greater when a missionary is far removed from his family, home church, and native culture. The isolation can be brutal at times. Even when missionaries return for "furlough," it is often far from a time of rest and renewal, as they need to report to their supporters, which involves constant travel. We must pray that our missionaries intentionally seek times of personal, marital, and family refreshment while they are on the field, and especially while they are on furlough, and we must be their greatest cheerleaders as they do so.

Yes, we want God to "bless our missionaries." But I invite you to take Paul's prayer requests, and make them a regular part of your prayer for missionaries. The impact will be greater than you can imagine.

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



Karen Werth – Indonesia

We had two services celebrating the Shalom Independent Baptist Church's Anniversary. For the first one Pastor Davy Sim from Singapore flew over and was our special speaker and did a fantastic job. Afterwards our ladies served a delicious Indonesian lunch. The next Sunday we had our other anniversary service with all nine Sunday Schools attending and there were 198 present. I had the privilege of teaching all the children. It was a challenge to keep that many boys and girls engaged in the lesson and set a good example for our teachers. Thankfully, the children were surprisingly well behaved! My text verse was Job 12:7 "But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee." Animal puppets and photos of animals using Power Point were used as aids to teach the children scriptural principals from God's Word. Following the lesson the younger children gathered together to play games. Bianca, a former Sunday School student of mine, met the with the older children in another area and divided them into ten teams. They had to find their way to another station and complete a Bible Quiz and they rotated until they competed in all five stations. Before going home, the children were served a box lunch of fried chicken and rice. After this three hour celebration, we all returned home exhausted, but thankful for the opportunity to minister to so many children. Thank you for your faithful prayers and support to make all this possible. Please pray for Floryda, one of our Sunday School teachers, and mother of six children who desperately needs gallbladder surgery.



Arza & Ruth Brown – Hawaii

These past weeks have been eventful as Ruth planned and prepared for our annual Vacation Bible School. Ruth trains the teachers, and directs the VBS that is well known on the island and well attended. This year the attendance was good and ran smoothly but without Ruth being present. Everything was prepared and on Thursday before VBS began she fell and severely injured her hamstring, groin and gluten muscles on her right side. She was hospitalized for four days and then on to rehab for 12 days. She progressed well and now two months later is walking with a cane and expected to have a full recovery soon. I am planning to return to the church we helped start in the Philippines six years ago. A young man from the church is in his second year of studies at Massillon Baptist College and has surrendered to be a missionary in China. Thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support.



Kenneth and Cynthia Chapman – Australia

I was able to return to the States for my mother, Ruth Chapman's, 90th birthday. I had the opportunity to see Joy, Caleb and Faith. Cyndi was not able to be there because of the cost of tickets. I preached at a School camp from Oct. 11-15. I preached a series of messages on "Back to the Basics." It was great. We set up a booth at the Fred Pass Show (like a county fair) and passed out a lot of Gospel tracts. A couple of weeks after the show a young backpacker, Catherine, while working at a cattle station in the bush, found one of our Bibles and my business card in the bunkhouse. She has been attending our church and enjoys the fellowship with other Christians. She is currently serving in another station as cook. We ask your prayers for the salvation of Phil, Aiden, Courtney, Nicole, Jamie, Phillip, Shawn and David.



John and Lynn Cunningham – Dominican Republic

If you could see the amazing and drastic changes in the "old building" to the completely renovated church; it is so pretty. This is a work here in Ramon Santana that has a testimony all in itself, but thank the Lord that many gave financially to make this a dream a reality. Thank you so much for the sacrifice and for all who came to work alongside us in overwhelming heat. We were kind of disappointed when we just couldn't get it all done on time! However, God is so gracious and thank you for praying for us each step of the way. There is still much to be done but the funds ran out before the work was finished – (poco a poco) as they say here, little by little.



David and Debbie Smith – Quebec

We are in the midst of a church campaign and we are planning a fall picnic at Beauchamp Lake. Please pray for our people that they will be encouraged to do more for the Lord when the campaign is over. Several new people are coming to our services, Judith, Denise, who invited a friend, Benoit, and he brought his friend Norman. All of them have been faithful to come and have volunteered to help clean the building. Mrs. Therese is a 77 year old lady who has been coming regularly for years and suffers from arthritis of the knees, making walking very difficult for her. Her daughter, Edna, came to live with her from Haiti and is mentally challenged, and her other daughter, Rachel, financially supports both and often has to work 7 days a week to do so. We ask your prayers that each would accept the Lord and be saved. We have been helping a man in our church that attempted suicide. He is currently hospitalized and getting the help he needs. I translated some biblical counseling material for him; pray that this will help him and that the biblical lessons with Scripture will help him through this difficult time.



C.D. and Chloe Smith – Palau

Six thousand one hundred seventy-two miles were scheduled to be traveled in the past 3 months, (and a few more miles than that were traveled) to churches in Colorado, Ohio, Iowa, Minnesota and Indiana. We are back in Texas and have seen God's provision many times over for us. His timing is always "RIGHT ON TIME". One special occasion for me was when a young man, a pastor's son, surrendered his life to the preaching of the Gospel. It is a great encouragement to see this type of decision; as it is a dream of ours to see God call a brother or sister to the ministry through our ministry that would outrun, outshine, and outlast anything we could accomplish in two lifetimes. This is our prayer for him. We ask you to pray that God would use us through the working of the Holy Spirit to call many more laborers into His blessed work. Pray that we will be able to see the hand of God move and many of the churches we have been in will begin to support the ministry we hope to do in Palau.



David and Florence McDonald – Spain

I was driving home and began to listen to a CD from Pleasantview Baptist Church and had to fight back the tears as it started with a message that the end times are near. I looked around and saw people without the hope of spending eternity in heaven. I said in my heart, "Lord, I need more time to try to win them to the Lord." A lot has been done since we arrived in 1984, but there is still so much to be done. It would be a lot more productive if we had more missionaries...the need is so great and the laborers are so few. I asked the Lord for a young man, who would be like me when I was young and willing to do whatever the pastor asked. Now I have not one, but three; two older men and one 20 year old who feels God is calling him to preach and I am preparing him to be a pastor someday. What a blessing these men are to me personally and for the work. God is so good, and He is all the time good. I count it a privilege to be here and be part of this great work God has given us to do together. I love being here and love doing the work.



Tim and Betty Hawkins – Brazil

We are continuing to help part time in the St. Agustinho church that dad started 35 years ago. They do not have a national pastor and we ask you to pray that God would send the right man soon. We are also helping in a community, San Sebastiao, two hours from Manaus. We are still working on the building and putting in bathrooms. We started services on Sunday and there have been five souls saved. We held a baptismal service for a 76 year old man saved at the inaugural service. Youth conference was a great success with over 100 present for the four days. I traveled 650 km. to attend a Bible Institute in the city of Caracari. Pastor Luiz Costa (graduate of IBBA, Manaus, started an institute in his church 3 years ago and I have been promising him a visit since last year, and finally made it up there. There have been four men graduate and he currently has seven students studying. I also preached on Sunday night and one lady came forward for salvation. The Bible Institute in Manaus started on Sept. 12; there were seven students returning and they have four new students this trimester. Pray for us for health and that God would give us wisdom to help each and everyone. You are the lifeline that enables us to do the work God had called us to accomplish.

WEST ORLANDO BAPTIST CHURCH DEDICATES NEW SANCTUARY

by Wendell Heirs

It was just a year ago this past October that the West Orlando Baptist Church did an outstanding task in hosting the fall meeting of the World Baptist Fellowship. It is at this meeting each year that the WBF Mission Agency's ministries are emphasized. Last year was no exception, with one notable difference. The occasion was taken to give tribute to Bro. & Mrs. Tommy Raley for their 25 plus years of service as missionaries in Colombia, Mexico, and for almost three decades as WBF Mission Director. Bro. Raley still serves in the capacity of Mission Director Emeritus. It was obvious that the church and Bro. Barnett put a lot of time and effort into hosting the meeting.



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Along with preparing for the meeting the church had not too long before broken ground for a new sanctuary due to the growth of the church. The foundation for the new edifice was being laid at the time, and praise the Lord, they have since dedicated the new facility. To top off all that has been going on at the West Orlando Baptist Church, Bro. Barnett launched his TV ministry just a year later. Just kidding! However, he did speak at this year's meeting in Connerville, Indiana via Skype. We praise the Lord for what He is doing at the West Orlando Baptist Church in and through Bro. Barnett and his fine people.



By the way, Bro. Terry Collins and the Southpoint Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida will be hosting the WBF Fall Meeting in October 2017 (exact dates to be announced later). Why not make this meeting one of your New Year's resolutions?

And as the folk at Southpoint Baptist Church would say, "Now y'all come!"

What:
**World Baptist Fellowship
Fall Meeting**

When:
October 16-17 2017

Where:
Southpoint Baptist Church
3335 Tiger Hole Road
Jacksonville, Florida
Pastor Terry Collins

The Art of Appreciation

by Julie Bacon



The word appreciation means to "raise the value of, to increase in worth, awareness of value, a recognition of the quality or magnitude of people or things". Today this word is over-used, but often under-done. Many times we fail to express the proper appreciation for people and things that are done for us along the way. This is due in part to the "how" of expressing appreciation. Sometimes it's just hard to know what to do.

In the book of Ruth, Ruth expressed Spirit-led appreciation by going with Naomi when she was returning to Bethlehem. Ruth was so grateful for what she had learned from Naomi that she was willing to leave her family, friends, and home to follow Naomi to a place she had never been. What did she see in Naomi that would elicit this kind of appreciation? Possibly what she saw was love, hope, or faith, but it was definitely something different than what she found in Moab. Ruth's appreciation led to service. She willingly served Naomi because she appreciated all Naomi had done for her. Her service came from her heart of appreciation. This was more than just mere thankfulness. Her life had been changed by Naomi and to show the extent of her gratitude, she was willing to leave familiarity and serve in uncertainty. Additionally, the Lord rewarded Ruth for her show of appreciation by giving her another husband and then a son. God appreciates appreciation!

There are times when appreciation is easy to convey, as in the case of standing to show proper respect to my nation's flag during the national anthem or saying "thank you" when someone holds the door open for me. These are simple ways to show appreciation. But truthfully, it is sometimes difficult to show proper appreciation. Sending a thank you letter sometimes seems insufficient. How can I show proper appreciation for those churches and individuals who faithfully support us each month? How do I show our family how much I appreciate all they have done for us? How do I show those who have prayed for and encouraged me that I appreciate them taking the time? How can I let our pastor and staff know we appreciate all they do? More than these, how do I show the LORD I appreciate ALL He does on a daily basis? Service. There is nothing I can give these special people or my precious Savior to fully convey my heart of appreciation, but I can serve. Service should not take the place of pausing to say "thank you", but it should be a reflection of my appreciation and gratitude. I am aware of the value of all that has been done for me, and I desire to acknowledge that value by serving. For the "art of appreciation" is truly service.

Invested

by Woody Cash

It is in the area of economics that the term **"Invested"** is initially interpreted. As stewards of our finances we are challenged to make wise and successful investments. Caution would lead one to not "put all our eggs in one basket." What transpires when we invest is that we entrust our monies to accomplish a greater purpose than they could achieve if hoarded and not put to use. But we would miss a greater meaning of **"Invested"** if we limited it to only the financial.

By definition, **"Invested"** connotes to having furnished with power or authority and made use of for future benefits or advantages. That is what God has done, and by conformity what we each can do. God, in eternity past, was not deficient or in need of anything. Yet, the triune God decided to make man as an integral part of God's divine plan for the eternity portion of human history as we journey ever closer to eternity future. For Adam, God prepared an earthly paradise and then **"Invested"** its upkeep to one created in the image of God. Consider others in whom God **"Invested"**. Noah was given the power and authority enabling construction of the Ark. That investment had as its benefit or advantage the preservation of eight souls through which God's plan would continue.

It was through Abraham that God **"Invested"** the calling and perpetuation of an elect chosen nation. About 2,000 years later, God **"Invested"** in a young virgin to birth the incarnation of his only begotten. Jesus, himself, was **"Invested"** with the accomplishment of the Father's pre-Adamic purpose of the spiritual birth and adoption of the redeemed.

Throughout church history we can observe the continuing investing of God in those used to carry out the evangelization of God's saints. God has **"Invested"** us to obey, and fulfill His purpose for this age of grace. And God's investiture is incumbent upon us to functionally pass it on to others. That is what Jesus did when He **"Invested"** His empowered disciples with the commission to permeate and perpetuate the whole world with the propagation of the gospel. That is what Jesus did when He **"Invested"** his chosen vessel Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus. So also did Paul when he **"Invested"** his son in the ministry, Timothy. Our stories are not recorded in God's Holy Bible, but we too are **"Invested"**. We are God's human instrumentalities. God has a vested value in the success we can have in accomplishing His unchanging purpose. And, that success does not end with ourselves, but obligates us to determine that it goes forward and beyond our own capacities.

Where can we find ourselves **"Invested"**? A starting point is within our family. We invest in our marriages, in our children, etc. We are **"Invested"** in them and delight to note their successes. We are **"Invested"** in our churches via our attendance, support, and foremost our prayers. It is a blessing to us to be a contributing aspect of the growth and fruitfulness of the church in which we are **"Invested"**. The community at large can be that in which we are **"Invested"**. Beyond our own locale, the missionary outreach of the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency well deserves that we be **"Invested"** therein. Most noteworthy are those investments we make in the next generation and others after them who will further assure that what God has **"Invested"** in us and what we have **"Invested"** in those to follow us, will not fail in the fruition of God's desire and design. Arlington Baptist College has and continues to be the beneficiary of all those who through many years have faithfully and consistently nurtured their investment in the lives and ministries of our students as they prepare to be the WORLD CHANGERS God would have them to be. Everyone is **"Invested"** in something or someone. Wisdom would guide us to be of the same mind as God and to be **"Invested"** in that which pleases Him.

Dating or Marriage? Drive Through or Residing?

by Katrina Sellers

Dating is fun! It is a series of highs and lows as we learn the other person's likes and dislikes. We try to impress and appease our partner by hiding away all negative things. Dating approaches the subject of relationship with a drive-thru process. We drive up, meet briefly not really ever getting out of our cars, and we drive home. Our partner sees what we want them to see, a snippet of our true selves. If we mutually like what we see, we continue this process with a longer look next time until more and more of our time is taken experiencing this person inside and out. On the other hand, if we do not like what we see we are free to move on, hence the fun of dating, good and bad experiences, little commitment.



Marriage is in complete contrast and is the very definition of abiding. When we say, "I do" we are committed for the long haul. We see the positive and the negative in the other person more clearly, because we are exposed to our spouse for longer periods of time. Sometimes we encounter rocky situations, but the marriage partners endure because we expect to come back together for the good again. It is the opposite of a drive-thru relationship. It is spending lots of time together learning things about each other and from each other. It is the commitment to remain that advances our relationship to maturity. It is the security of knowing that person will stay with you sometimes in spite of you.

Abiding is the type of relationship God wants to have with us. He wants the mature stay-put kind, not the non-committal, drive-thru kind. We have to invest time in His Word and on our knees to develop security in Him. He invites us to taste and see whether he is good or not. After testing and finding Him to be faithful every time, we can put more trust in Him. This gives us security in the relationship. We, then in turn, can let our guard down and let Him deep into our hearts so He can heal us. Abiding is choosing to stay. You cannot have a mature relationship without it. What better place to abide than in the one who made you, loves you, and already knows everything about you. What kind of relationship with the Father will you have?

Prayer:

Lord, help us set aside time to develop a true loving relationship with you. We do not want to stay in the drive-thru lane only coming to the window when we are in need of something or when we have it all together. We desire to abide in you just as you abide in your Father. Show us your love so that we may learn to trust you enough to let you inside of our thoughts and hurting areas. Heal us through a thriving mature relationship with you. Amen.

Hilltop Conference

Schedule of Speakers – 2017

Dates: April 24 – 26, 2017

Monday 5/24, 12:30pm Board and Committee Meetings
 Monday 5/24, 7:00pm Rick Washburn
 Tuesday 5/25, 8:30am Prayer Time (Tea Garden)
 9:00 – 9:45am Speaker – Tim Billups
 10:00 – 10:45am Evangelism Workshop – John Meador
 11:00 – 11:45am Speaker – John Meador
 12:00 – 1:30pm Lunch Break
 1:30 – 2:30pm Q&A on Evangelism
 7:00pm Speaker - Dr. Eric Capaci

Wednesday 5/26, 8:30am Prayer Time (Tea Garden)
 9:00 – 9:45am Speaker John Brown
 10:00 – 10:45am Breakout Sessions
 11:00 – 11:15am Missionary Presentation
 11:15 – Noon Speaker - Rick Henry
 1:30 – 2:30pm Breakout Sessions / Ladies' Meeting
 7:00pm Speaker – Clark Bosher

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Identify yourself as a member of the HILLTOP CONFERENCE

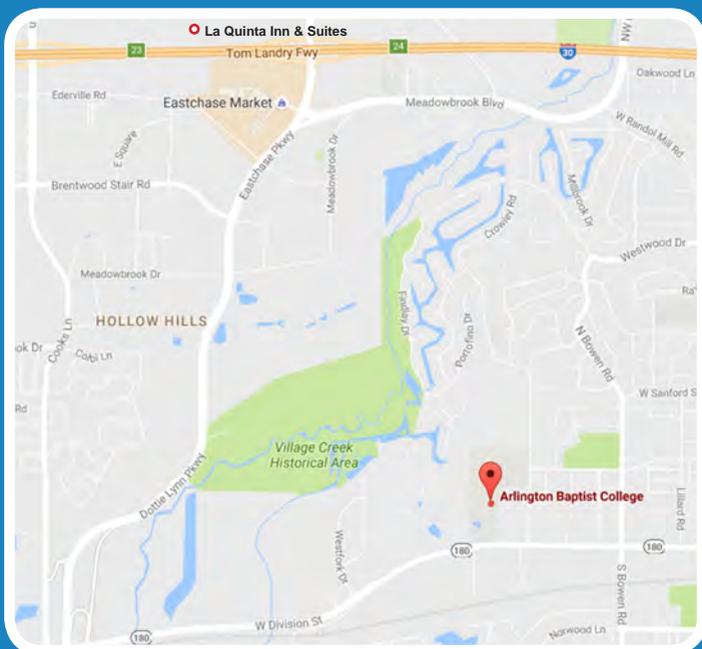
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