

# West FLORIDA BAPTIST News

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. H. H. Strickland

Greeting in the name of our blessed Savior.

January was a month of challenges. We had to, like all of our other institutions, consider how we were going to continue our operation and service the students who have a desire to learn the word of God. Some of the schools have already been engaged in one line studies but we have only explored the possibilities of including these in our studies. Some ground work had been done when we had to close our in-house studies, which put an end to developing these programs. Also, there is the problem that VA students cannot take on line courses. Since most of our students were

Voc-rehab students, this presents a problem for them and us.

However, we are able to have several students that have enrolled and are taking classes though "zoom." The registrar has done a terrific job in getting these classes set up. I am teaching a new class on Tuesday evening. It reminds me so much when I tapped messages to be aired on the radio. The difference here is that you can actually see the students that you are teaching. To me it is better than online courses where a student simply views the taped class where there are no interactions. I realize that most schools already have online classes and I also realize that we, on necessity, will have to provide the same programs. To do this, it requires someone who knows how to set these things up and that is not me. I might be able to do a lot of things but this is not one of them.

I am so thankful to the instructors that have helped to keep the school operat-

ing. Without their help, very little would be done.

I am so grateful to those who have supported this ministry over the years. Some have changed their support and others have come on board to help. To those who have "stayed with us," I am so grateful to you.

We have been blessed so much, that none of us has been affected by the virus. The wife and I have been able to continue to work as usual. We both are slowing done some but we will continue to work as long as the Lord give us health and strength.

Thank you for every means of support to us, the phone calls, the letters, and yes the checks. It all means so much to us and the work. I never take for granted any form of support.

May the Lord continue to bless you all.

## SPRING SEMESTER

The spring semester is under way, even with all the difficulties we have experienced, we are able to continue classes even without in-house studies. Several students are taking classes via ZOOM. If you might be interested in any of these classes, contact WFBI.

From a  
**Woman's Point**  
of View



**By: Loretta Pritchett**  
lorettapritchett@yahoo.com

**The Yellow Rose**

Valentines Day has just about or has already surpassed Mother's Day in gift giving on their special day.

Women all over anxiously anticipate this special day, because they can expect a show of their loved one telling and showing them how much they care about them.

My husband had always given me the traditional gifts of flowers, candy and a card on Valentine's Day.

However one year he surprised me with something different which became his tradition for me on Valentines Day.

Ladies let me tell you a short sweet story. First, never be disappointed over any special gift you're husband may give you on Valentines Day. It may be his special way of expressing his love for you and sharing a memory.

After several years of marriage my husband surprised me with his own Valentines gift for me that year.

This was not a traditional gift and was all his idea of expressing how much he loved me and what I meant to him all these years.

This particular year my husband came in with a dozen Yellow Roses. The card was traditional red and white with hearts all over it and a beautiful poem. But inside the card was the best surprise of all. My husband had hand written the following message:

"To my sweet Yellow Rose of Texas, the only Valentine who captured my heart." In the middle of the bouquet was a single Lincoln Red Rose with an attached ribbon which said "I Love You."

I have never forgotten this special Valentine my husband gave me that year.!!!! Now that he has passed I miss those special flower arrangements he would come up with every year.

But I taught my boys to always appreciate their loved one and never forget to show how special they are to them.

On the very first Valentines Day without my special guy, my youngest son took me to dinner and gave me one single Yellow Rose and a card which read: "To Mom, my Dad's special Valentine his Yellow Rose of Texas."

My son doesn't do this every year, but when he does he always does it on a special occasion, like my Birthday, Mother's Day or even our Anniversary date to remind me I am still loved, remembered as his dad's Yellow Rose of Texas.

Ladies remember to appreciate any gift your special guy gives you, after all, he did remember, right.???? Happy Valentine's Day.

**Philosophy of Religion**

**"THE GAP THEORY"  
OR  
"RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD"  
"SCRIPTURAL OR  
UNSCRIPTURAL?"**

**THE RECONSTRUCTION**

When these verses are considered together, they present a very clear picture that God created the original heaven and earth. He created them suddenly and they were created to be inhabited. That means that they could not have been created in vain or void. Remember, that a Holy and Righteous God cannot do an imperfect act. If so, He is not perfect. The nature of God prevents Him from even thinking of doing an imperfect act.

Now consider this, can a perfect God do

an imperfect act? The answer is absolutely not. A Holy and Righteous God cannot do an imperfect act. If the earth was created in vain and void, then this would be an imperfect act. God would no longer be a holy and righteous God. Therefore, He could not have possibly created an imperfect heaven and earth. This leaves us with the question, "How did this perfect creation become void and uninhabitable?" The answer is found in several scriptural references.

In Jude 6 we read; "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."

In Isaiah 14:12 these words are found: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning; how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou has said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God."

Ezekiel 28:1-28 should be read for it will further point out how this happened. It should be noted that this could not have possibly been a future event because Satan was already in the world operating as the fallen angel before the creation of man. His movements can be clearly seen following the creation of man and what happened through his efforts toward Adam and Eve.

Then in Revelation 12:7-9 this explanation is found. "And there was a war in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels, and prevailed, neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceived the whole world. He was cast down into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." There is no future event regarding this matter. It clearly states "he was cast down," not will be cast down. This event has already occurred. Satan's abode is no longer in heaven. "Neither was their place found any more in heaven."

Lastly, in Luke 10:18 we read; "I beheld Satan as lightening fall from heaven." These scriptures cannot be studied without coming to the conclusion that a very devastating event took place sometime in history. There is, however, no specific reference made as to when, only that it must be concluded to have occurred before man was created. It is concluded that, when Satan was cast out of



David Gonnella, Th. D.

## Is There Light At the End of Our Tunnel?

The West Florida Baptist Institute has never been a large seminary. We have been larger in times past, but never what one would consider large.

Still, the Lord has used us to train some of His servants. You will find our graduates in the pastorate, on the mission field, on church staff, serving as Sunday School teachers, and even on our faculty. They exhibit a good knowledge of the Word of God, sound Baptist doctrine and a zeal to count for Jesus Christ in their generation.

Those who have stood by us in prayer and financial support have had much to do with the product of our seminary. Without them, we could not have provided the training needed to produce dedicated servants of the Lord.

Having said that, a number of things have happened over the last couple of decades that has reduced the number of our supporters bit by bit, until we find ourselves in the middle of a long tunnel. To see some light at the end of it would be encouraging indeed.

As time has passed, a number of ABA churches in our region have closed. Several have closed in the six short years I have been here. Churches that no longer exist cannot support a seminary.

Then, too, so many of our churches in this region are declining and aging out. While God can call servants at any age it is usually the young who respond to that call. Churches that have few or no young people are not usually “feeders” of students to seminaries.

Still, with all of this we were able to stay afloat and provide a good quality program of study. Our faithful supporters and our ability to recruit from Baptist churches in our region provided the income through offerings and tuition that kept us in good financial condition. We were even able to buy a small lot of land next door for a much-needed new building.

Then Satan struck from within. I will not rehash that sordid incident but it did result in some who did not bother to ask for our side of the story dropping our support. It wasn't much, but when you don't have much to start with it can hurt.

We had hardly stabilized from that when the corona-virus pandemic hit. Students and faculty were shy about attending classes and some churches closed temporarily reducing their ability to support. We were just beginning to put in place online classes, but were far from any comprehensive course offering so our student body was greatly reduced.

The good news is that we have accelerated our on-line course offerings and are poised to reach students within and without our region. Even yours truly is teaching two online courses this semester (a surprise to my daughter who thinks I am a dinosaur!).

Is there light at the end of our tunnel? Yes, there is, for we trust in God. *The Lord is my light, and my salvation.* -Psalm 27:1. We believe that the Lord will move churches and individuals to help us. Perhaps the Lord would lead you to light a candle at the end of our tunnel so we can see the light of your prayer and support. All I ask is that you pray about it, and then do whatever the Lord says to your heart.

heaven, he was cast onto the earth with such devastation that it caused the perfect creation of God to become void and vain and uninhabitable.

When the scripture is read and studied correctly, it will give a good understanding of what really happened. For instance, on the first day of reconstruction, it is recorded that God separated the light and darkness. It does not say, He created the light and darkness, for both were already present. The same principle holds true for all the other days, with the exception of the great fish and man. It has already been stated that there were some things created during the reconstruction.

The conclusion of the matter is simple. The belief in the reconstruction teaching does not violate any scriptural principles. It does not distort any interpretation of scripture. It does not take any single verse of scripture out of context nor does it misapply any text. Therefore, the “gap,” or “reconstruction” teaching is very scriptural.

One does not need to attach great numbers of years between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, in order to believe this teaching. In no way, does it compromise the belief in Divine creation. In fact, it places more

emphasis on the Divine work of God and relies solely on the harmony of all scriptures to prove its validity. The acceptance of the reconstruction teaching does not imply or support evolution. The teaching relies solely on the scriptures and not on the theories of man.

The last consideration deals with time. Evolutionists are constantly attaching more and more years to their fanciful ideas in an attempt to make their teaching seem more plausible. The mistake that many Bible believers make is trying to defend the age of the earth, there is no way in which this can be determined with any certainty. In reality, it is the argument on both sides. However, the one argument that is defensible is the age of the existence of man. Evolutionist can put time before man but they cannot put man before time. At this point, we are looking at approximately six thousand years since the creation of man. On this subject, the record is clear. It makes little or no difference regardless of how much time is attributed before the creation of man. God is not dealing with the creation of the earth. He is dealing with man and his relationship to Him.



Glen Davenport, Th.D.

## THE STUDENT OF THE SCRIPTURES

### INTRODUCTION;

Learning comes natural for all people and animals. We can't help but learn. We come into the world knowing nothing. We aren't called students until we enroll into some kind of uniformed class of study. At that time, we will be studying things that our teachers think will be good for us. If we will commit ourselves to the task, understanding the value it will have in the future, we will study more and gain more. We become students. However, far too many people stop their formal education when their term of schooling is done. Learning won't stop but the quest for knowledge will. From that time forward, we fumble around and pick up what we need when we need it.

Sometimes, when one realizes his need for more education, he will take up some kind of 'trade school', such as masonry, or nursing, or preaching. PREACHING? I dare not put preaching in the category of career management because true preachers are called of God and chosen, not for their skills or knowledge, but for a service.

### **Matt 22:14**

*For many are called, but few are chosen.*

The call that will turn a common man into a preacher is unique.

### **I Cor 1:26-27**

*26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:*

*27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;*

Testimonies of 'callings' are about as unique as fingerprints. No two are alike but the end result is the about the same. God may find His man in a hay field or in a factory, in a hospital or in the

Army, when he is young or when he is old. God knows what He needs and He knows who can fulfill the tasks.

The writer of the book of HEBREWS pointed out; god has used various means to get His message to us. Sometimes the Word was passed from man to man. At other times His word was communicated through the 'oracles of God' but now- a-days we have the Bible, God's written Word. Here is where we, as students, meet our challenge. The Preacher once said:

### **Ecc 12:12-13**

*12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.*

*13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*

Here is a fitting proverb. "You cannot teach that which you do not know". Therefore the student must, or should I say: will want to study the Scriptures.

### **TEXT: II Tim 2:15-17**

*15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

*16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.*

*17 And their word will eat as doth a canker*

### **I. Study!**

A. Study is the 'key' word. If you don't know how, learn how.

B. It is a commandment. God has called. He has the right to issue orders.

C. It is imperative. Pressing, ... of the utmost necessity, ... vitally important, ... mandatory

### **II. To Show Thyself**

A. You are standing before God!

B. You're standing before His people.

1. Make your best presentation. Dress right, Talk right and be careful with illustrations and gestures.

2. Prove, demonstrate, show yourself to be true, authenticate your calling

### **III. Approved Unto God**

A. It has noted in **Matt 22:14**

*For many are called, but few are chosen.*

B. There is an implication that some are NOT APPROVED. ... not acceptable.

C. The choices and all decisions belong to God.

God accepts no bribes or 'sweet talk'.

### **IV. A Workman; A Teacher**

A. God desires educators, instructors in the Scriptures, illustrators in speech, and demonstrators in Godly living.

B. Your labour has great value. **I Cor 15:58**

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

C. You have a great reason to keep up 'the good work'. Gal 6:9  
*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Camp Glenwood News

Ray Meigs, Director

Recent blessing: During the off season, we like to make improvements to the camp grounds. Two projects were completed this past month. First, Jim and Jeremiah Mattingly helped repair and re-roof all of the pavilions. You will see the difference this summer. Next, a Christian Home-school group that meets at the camp installed a bell near the flagpoles. This bell came from Sea Breeze Baptist Church in Gulf Breeze, FL. Our plan when someone trusts Christ as Savior, they get to ring the bell!

We are thankful for Bros. Jim and Jeremiah Mattingly and the Classical Conversations Home-school group for their willingness to make Camp Glenwood a better place for the glory of God!

Valentines Day Offering: Valentines Day Offering for 2021 will be February 14! Each year Camp Glenwood asks churches and individuals to consider taking a special offering to help support the ministry of Camp Glenwood. All offerings will go into our building fund and maintenance fund.

This past year was an especially difficult one with all the COVID-19 restrictions. For the first time in her history no summer camps were held. This has put a strain on our finances and your help is needed.

## Green Mountain MBC of Rutland, VT is in search of a pastor:

Green Mountain MBC is the only Missionary Baptist church in the state. It is a great, doctrinally sound church located in the city of Rutland. Please send questions or a resume to [bryanteer@yahoo.com](mailto:bryanteer@yahoo.com) or call 518 260 5979 if interested

## SEEKING PASTOR

Small Landmark Missionary Baptist Church established in 1975 seeking a God called Pastor preaching and teaching the inspired and complete King James Version of the Word of God. He agrees with and practices the American Baptist Doctrinal Statement and Church Covenant

We will provide a parsonage with an attached two car garage, utilities and a small salary. The man should be willing to work a secular job. Please contact Bro. Ivan Hale, 524 Barnett Ave, Dillon MT 59725 5421 406 683 5421SEEKING PASTOR

## V. A God-Called Man Needeth Not To Be Ashamed.

A. God's Word is true! ... dependable and is accompanied by His Holy Spirit.

B. God's man has the challenge to *rightly dividing the word of truth.*

## LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES

TOBY W. CRIBBS SR., Director

### MACEDONIA CALL

Lighthouse Ministries was started in February 1988. We are a Jail and Prison Ministry. We are Sponsored by Hillside Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee.

I am 80 years old and my wife is 83 years old. We are not quitting just slowing down.

The Lord has blessed this Ministry. In the beginning we were sending out 30 to 40 Bible Courses. Today we send out 300 to 400. Our courses have reached into all the states.

We have over 300 resource materials. We give out KJV Bibles, Large Print KJB, and KJB Study Bibles. We have over 200 gospel tracts and over 200 gospel booklets.

We print all of our Bibles Studies and other booklets.

We minister to one Georgia county jail, one Tennessee county jail and two Georgia State Prisons.

We are in need of someone or a couple to come and learn about the ministry. They would have to raise their own funds and get a sponsoring church.

It is a blessing to see and hear what the Lord is doing in the lives of the inmates.

Many are in churches in some capacity.

If you are interested in this ministry you have to believe that the King James Bible is the preserved word of God and to adhere to ABA Doctrines.

You can call 432-496-7116 or 423-548-0078, email [cribbstoby@yahoo.com](mailto:cribbstoby@yahoo.com).

WEBSITE [tobycribbs.com](http://tobycribbs.com)

Awaiting the call !!!

## Worship Minister Needed in St Helens, OR. \$2000/month

\$2000 monthly support; covocational or bivocational position. Able to work with children, youths, and young adults, a plus. Would like to develop worship team, drama team, and assist with outreach.

Contact: [Pastor@sthelensbaptist.org](mailto:Pastor@sthelensbaptist.org)

## CONCLUSION:

Some may be called 'Masters' or 'Doctors' but none can ever climb higher than a 'Student'.

The Master or Doctor who is not a Student is a high-minded, self sufficient babler; unworthy of the 'call'.

**ALWAYS - BE A STUDENT!**



*Secretary/  
Treasurer  
Missions*  
  
*Roger Stewart*

# MISSION NEWS AND VIEWS

## STEWART REPORT

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$2,414,346.49</b>
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Interstate Salaries	\$55,781.07
Foreign & National Salaries	\$53,047.61
Designated	\$36,741.72
Undesignated	\$15,469.91
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$161,040.31</b>
<b>BALANCE FOR SALARY/EXPENSE</b>	
	<b>\$2,575,386.80</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Interstate Salaries	\$74,429.80
Foreign Salaries	\$22,765.79
National Salaries	\$24,379.20
Designated	\$36,741.72
Salaries & Expenses of Sec-Treas. Office	
Office Salaries	\$12,157.61
General Office	\$1,169.37
Automobile Expense	\$(371.93)
Sec/Treasurer Exp	\$172.76
Postage	\$490.00
Total Office	\$13,587.81
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$171,904.32</b>
<b>BALANCE FORWARD</b>	<b>\$2,403,482.48</b>
<b>DEFICIT FOR Jan.</b>	<b>\$(10,864.01)</b>

*News:* We rejoice to report that the current **Thanksgiving Mission Offering** total is **\$268,527.96**. This offering represents 7 families, 2 auxiliaries and 267 churches from Mexico, Japan, Philippines and USA. Thank you for your incredible sacrifice on behalf of ABA missionaries.

*Names:* January was a busy month for Gena and me. Though we were forced to cancel our January 3rd appointment with Sharon MBC in Benton, AR, due to COVID-19, we spent the evening of January 9th and morning of January 10th with Unity MBC in Richwood,

TX, and the evening of January 10th in Houston, TX, with Mission Bend MBC, Mision Bautista Emanuel and Iglesia Bautista Betel in combined services. We thank Interstate Missionary Michael Torres who translated for the Spanish-speaking portion of the congregation. Unfortunately, Interstate Missionary Gabriel Sanchez had COVID-19 and was unable to attend. On January 17th we were with Calvary MBC in Sherman, TX, and Unity MBC in Denison, TX. January 24th found us at Locust Grove MBC, Locust Grove, AR, and Maxville MBC, Cave City, AR. We finished the month at Olive Branch MBC in Pine Bluff, AR, where I pastored for 17 years and South Crossett MBC, in Crossett, AR. Each church was incredibly welcoming and provided generous offerings for the missionaries.

*Numbers:* For January, the recommended missionaries reported **503 professions of faith** and **68 baptisms** bringing the associational year's totals to 2379 and 261, respectively.

*Notes:* Digital (PDF) copies of the **2021 Missionary Recommendation Forms** are available by requesting them at [missions@abamissions.org](mailto:missions@abamissions.org) or at [www.abaptist.org](http://www.abaptist.org) (scroll over to MISSIONS and down to REPORTS and finally further down to MISSIONARY RECOMMENDATION FORM). Please mail all 2021 Missionary Recommendation Forms to Secretary-Treasurer of Missions, P.O. Box 1050, Texarkana, TX, 75504-1050 or scan your completed form and email it to [missions@abamissions.org](mailto:missions@abamissions.org) **no later than Friday, April 23, 2021.**

*Needs:* The duty falls to me this month to remind the churches that **2021 Pre-Association Standing Missionary Committee Meeting** will be here in the not-so-distant future. Preparing for this meeting requires, among other things, a handsome balance in the **Missionary Committee Travel Expense Fund** which is currently at **\$408.17**. Typically, this two-day meeting costs about **\$15,000.00**.

Because last year's meeting also included an extra day to accommodate the **Executive Committee of the ABA** in lieu of the Messenger Meeting, which was cancelled, the funds in that account were completely depleted at the May 2020 meeting. If you would like to help defray the expenses of this year's meeting please send an offering to the Missions' Office and place a note in the memo line indicating *SMC Travel/Expense*. Thank you in advance!

## FOREIGN MISSIONS

**L.A.M.B. Ministries**  
*Jim Gage, Missionary*

Our kids surprised us by renting a lakeside cottage in North Carolina and took us there for an enjoyable time together. Even those that couldn't come were able to unite via the web. So, this is how we form wonderful precious memories.

Christmas for a missionary, without the family, can be a lonesome time. However, this year, we could fly home December 15th and spend our holidays with the family.

**CONTINUE TEACHING AND PREACHING VIA WEB :** While quarantined in Colombia due to the virus restrictions, we continue to teach and preach via the web. **Here are a few of our activities.**

Sundays, we hold weekly church services at the Sembrador MBC, Pompeya, and attend, when possible, the Grace MBC in Bogota via zoom.

Each Monday thru Friday, 3-4:30 pm, we meet for Bible studies and prayer.

The ladies meet Mondays at 8 pm for Bible studies and prayer.

Lamb Seminaries hold classes online for the Ecuadorian and Colombian campuses. We periodically hold special services with guest speakers.

Two associations are functioning now, one

for Colombia and the other for Latin American Churches and works.

**Help needed to finish 2nd floor :** At the beginning of 2020, Bro Douglas Wiersema, a building team, and our youth group had made plans to come to Colombia and finish the second floor getting it ready for classes and Church services. Of course, due to the virus, that was not possible. However, we would like to contract a local constructor to complete the work. We believe that approximately \$4,500 to \$5,000 should be enough to complete the task. We would appreciate any help you might be able to provide.



Bro. Gregorio Esquivel went home to be with the Lord Saturday 23rd of January. He faithfully ministered to the Lord's churches and helped me establish the work in Villavicencio in 1978. At the time of his passing, he was the Co-Pastor at the Sembrador Missionary Baptist Church.

### Colombia Missions

*Gilberto Pinzón, Missionary*

Thank God, my health is progressing. I continue having medical controls and specialist appointments, but virtually, every month. Thanks for your prayers. God continue to bless and protect you all. Amen

**PENIEL BAPTIST MISSION:** Today is the 326th day of health emergency due to Covid-19 here in Bogotá, for the last 47th weeks we are having virtual services from home, Sundays and Wednesdays, by Zoom and Facebook live. Also, daily devotionals, by WhatsApp reaching about 600 people in North, central and South América. Christopher, ten-year-old boy, son of Bro. Andres Maldonado, made profession of faith in Jesus Christ. Amen. Please pray for his spiritual growth. Due to the new strain of the virus and the little precaution of the people, the ICU are at 90% busy. About 57,000 people have lost their lives of Covid-19 in Colombia. It is not yet known when we will be able to reopen presential services.

The Colombia MB Federation (Association) was established in 1998. This year we are supporting two works. Please pray for more missionaries and new works in

Colombia. Amen.

**THE COLOMBIA THEOLOGICAL BAPTIST INSTITUTE.** Will starts its 2021 virtual classes the second week in February. We do not know when we can have presential classes yet. Please pray for a great school year and for new students.

### Costa Rica Missions

*Walter Goulding, Missionary*

For the last in-person services in March, two people showed up – the treasurer and myself. It was just before all meetings were shut down because of Covid-19, and many were already scared to go out.

Then the Lord opened the doors for a new venture – online or *virtual* services. Although I had been active on social media for a while, and I have been on radio for many years, I had never conducted a live event on social media. I had a lot to learn. The Lord sent me tutors to show me the way. Our leased store front did not meet the new code, so we had to let it go – but not before a large bill for rent built up due to reduced income. An agreement was reached with the landlord, and the Lord provided an anonymous donor to cover it.

We met virtually for nine months, and then the *Templo Bautista Misionero de Guadalupe* agreed to let us use their auditorium the first Sunday afternoon of each month. Our first services were held December 6, with 8 in attendance.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support.

### Spain

*Daniel Estrada, Missionary*

We are glad to be back meeting in person again every week. We keep working and sharing Christ as we have open opportunities. God is giving us opportunities with new people.

**Alhaurin de la Torre work...** Praise the Lord we had a new family attending church. They are from Argentina and wanted to follow Christ. Please, pray for them, they have a lot of problems and could not get a job yet. But they would like to become disciples of Jesus.

The lady in the middle is a new prospect and I hope she can come again, her name is Yanet.

These are the new Argentina Family, pray for them.

We share the Gospel when we can because of the pandemic, it is difficult, because they do not want to get the virus. Pray that, God will bring more people in.

This was our last service in December 2020, praise God the whole family from Argentina came.

They are saved but need to grow in the Lord and have a scriptural baptism.

This is Horacio, a faithful man from Venezuela who is growing in the Lord exceptionally quick. He has just completed the basic disciples Bible lessons. He is getting involved more and more in the work of the Lord. Pray for his wife, the Lord might touch her heart, she brought him to the Lord and now she is not coming, pray for this matter.

Keep praying for these people that we are teaching two times a week, and they love the Lord, and are growing up amazingly fast.

### Rominia

*Kolt Mackrill, Missionary*

We hope that this newsletter finds you safe and healthy. We pray that you all had a very merry Christmas with friends and family or however you were able to celebrate this year. Last month we enjoyed special Christmas services in Zarnesti. We continue to see an increased interest in our Sunday evening services and Wednesday evening Bible Studies. One young man has been faithfully attending since we began. Please continue to pray with us for the work in Zarnesti.

The Lord is doing a great work and we are privileged to be a part. We look forward to this new year and all the blessing which the Lord has in store!

Last month was a special month for the humanitarian work. Because of the generous love offerings and support we were able to have Christmas presents for the children who come to the Feldioara Baptist Church. It was a sweet service also due to the fact that it was the first time in two weeks that the church was able to come back together again because of a few members who were diagnosed with COVID. We enjoyed a sweet time of fellowship; singing Christmas carols fol-



lowed by a Christmas message which I had the privilege of sharing.

In Zarnesti the humanitarian support was also able to help give a few gifts of cozonac, Romanian traditional Christmas bread, to our neighbors and those who attended our special Christmas service. We are so grateful to all who pray for this work and give financially to its support.

We pray that you all have a Happy New year in the Lord! Thank you and God bless!

### Russia

*Jodis Vesely, Missionary*

Highlights of 2020

#### Lives Changed:

- 1) Hemal was baptized!
- 2) Two people joined our church!
- 3) Many new people started coming to our church!

#### Successful Furlough:

- 1) There wasn't a church that we planned to go to that we weren't able to get to!
- 2) We were able to get our health addressed and planned out for the future, including special help for Haddee! This means more than we can express!
- 3) Despite the pandemic, we found some time to gather with friends and family and rest!

#### Prayer Needs:

- 1) We can't emphasize enough how vital it is for borders with Russia reopen for us to get new visas and be able to return soon!
- 2) Pray for our sending church as they complete their new building and we attempt to serve where possible to help them in reaching more people while stateside.
- 3) Pray for more souls to be saved and disciplined in Russia through our church.

#### Ministry Continues:

- 1) Throughout the pandemic our church has continued to gather online via Zoom and/or in person!
- 2) English Movie Night has continued via Zoom and /or in person!
- 3) The church continues to serve while stateside!
- 4) Several in our church have mentioned needs of people around them, and our church is stepping up to meet these needs!

### Reynosa, Tamaulipas-Mexico

*Julio Rodriguez, Missionary*

I love Jesus my Savior and I love serving

in the work of God. All my youth since I was 14 years old I have preached the word of God. In 2014, I was appointed Associate Pastor of Monte de Zion Baptist Church. In 2018 God gave me the opportunity to pastor the Good Samaritan Baptist Church for 2 years.

In August 2020 I am serving in the Alpha and Omega mission, preaching and working in the children's ministry with my family. Our ministry is focused on healthy spiritual growth to all people, with an emphasis on children.

We teach the word of God to adults every Thursday. We also have the Bible club with the children, where we teach them the word of God, sing songs, play games and share food. On Sundays we have preaching and class for the children.

We ask for your prayers for our ministry and especially for the mission, although these are difficult times we are living, there is a hunger for the word of God in this place and in the children. God is blessing and we are growing and we want to continue working this year with the community with a soccer club to be able to reach out to young people and preach to them the word of God. Also with summer Bible schools with children in other parts of the city.

### Bulgaria

*Jim Black, Missionary*

Who could have anticipated how the world would change? There seems to be no end in sight. In these times of uncertainty our hope remains steadfast in Jesus Christ.

"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness." - Edward Mote, 1834

On the first Sunday of the New Year a man named Stoian walked into our Bulgarian service with a gospel tract and an invitation in his hand. "This is the third time that I have found your literature in my mail box. I am looking for some answers. My church only lights candles." - Stoian.

Sofia Mladost. "...pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you." - 2 Thessalonians 3:1

Ivailo is from Bulgaria and has been faithfully attending services since November. He always brings his 3 year old

daughter Ivy. Earlier in his life Ivailo was a Mormon missionary in Bulgaria. Ivailo found us on the church's Facebook page.

Kevin is from the UK and was transferred to Sofia by his employer six years ago. He came to a recent Sunday afternoon English service as a result of receiving a Bible tract and invitation in his mail slot.

"**Done Book**" "what most religions don't tell you about : the Bible" was translated into Bulgarian by our colleague Jeff Shergalis, with permission from the publisher. The printing was completed just in time to distribute during the holidays along with some scripture calendars.

### Argentina

*Scott Maness, Missionary*

Every year my family begins the year by reflecting on the goals set during the last year to compare what we wrote versus what was accomplished. We always find that many goals were met, some were lost along the way and other goals that we had not initially planned were later added and finished. 2020 did not turn out how anyone initially planned but we have been amazed by God's goodness as He added to our ministry here in Argentina. With the start of 2021 there was a lot of talk about the government in Argentina returning us to a strict quarantine. (The quarantine never was officially lifted in December but people en masse acted as though it did) There were several travel restrictions and it was believed that on the 15th of the month that it would possibly become stricter again. Thankfully, that time came and went without any new government restriction. We pray that things will continue to open up further and look forward to possibilities in the future.

The Lord gave me the opportunity to share the gospel with a homeless couple. I had just come from a vegetable store and bought a sale on lettuce and tomatoes. As I was walking home, I saw a homeless couple that had piled up boxes to make an enclosure on the side of the road. It was like the Lord was telling me in my heart to share some of the produce that I just bought. It turned out that they had a box full of rabbits under a blanket that they did not have food for. I began to share the gospel with them. After they listened to the presentation, they had a



request. They said that they wanted me to get them Jackie Chan's autograph for them. You see, here in Argentina, many people seem to think that everyone in the US is extremely rich and knows everyone famous. They told me that they really liked Jackie Chan's movies and really wanted his autograph. I let them know that I really didn't know that many famous people except one that was the most important of all time, Jesus Christ! From there I was able to share the gospel a second time. Later that day I returned with a Bible that they could keep. I found that they changed addresses. They had moved their things to the other side of the road! He told me that he would read the Bible that I brought them. She told me that she would not read it since she was Catholic and didn't need to read the Bible. Please pray for them and many like them!

### Thailand

*David Leak, Missionary*

My thanks to Pastor Thompson & Pleasant Hills MBC in Overton, TX for the invitation to attend their Missions Conference in October! It was a time of great preaching, food, & fellowship! Pastor Thompson sent me a message via FB a few weeks ago with the fantastic news that they have picked me up for support; thank you all so much! Pastor Thompson & Pleasant Hills MBC has an obvious & passionate desire for Missions & Missionaries, & it was so great to be there with everyone!

I also want to thank Pastor B.J. Bennett & Antioch MBC in Wichita, KS, for picking me up for support as well! I'm so thankful for the Lord providing new supporting Churches, even in the midst of seemingly impossible situations that have occurred this year! He is so good to us all & worthy of our praise, worship, & adoration @ all times! **Hallelujah; what a Savior!**

Presently, I am in Arkansas, staying @ Terry Young's Mom's home. I usually stay @ Terry & his wife Vanessa's home, but his Mom has been so very kind to allow me the privilege to stay in her home, since she has moved in with them. I want to express my thanks to them for how they've ministered to so many Missionaries throughout the years! This has been/is their Ministry to/for Missionaries, & I have enjoyed the privilege

of staying with them each deputation since, for extended periods of time. They are so kind; a true example of the Love of Christ; not only in word, but in action as well! They literally put feet to their prayers for Missionaries! Thank each of you for your consideration & kindness during this unusual furlough/deputation.

I want to say a special thank you to our Church Secretary, Casey! She helped me tirelessly with preparing my display table before I left Florida for the Missions Conference @ Pleasant Hills MBC in Overton, TX. She has also helped me with my Word program to improve my reports; she's taught me a lot, & of course she is still helping me when I have other issues too!

### Missions: SE Asia

*Rusty Teer, Missionary*

The new teachers at school are giving us new opportunities to share the Truth with them. The new science teacher eats at our table from time to time; this opens many topics. Mrs. Kak helps me explain things to her. That helps them both and helps me listen to better ways to explain. I get to hear what they are hearing as I try to help them understand how to test truth claims. Sometimes the principal jumps in with a question as well!

One discussion led me to ask how the first human couple came to exist if they had no karma? They asked me why no one had taught them about how to deal with these good questions about their beliefs. They said they never questioned their beliefs because their parents and society just told them what to believe with no why they should. Mrs. Kak said that maybe it's not possible for them to understand their own beliefs. I tried to show her that if her belief is not rational there is no reason to believe it. Daily I see we are responsible to not just tell people "what" to believe but "why" we should believe and how these truths conform to reality. We need your prayers for daily wisdom to answer our teachers and our students as they ask questions about why we believe what we believe.

COVID-19 cases are increasing 10 hours south of here. The death toll nationwide is 77 with 19,618 cases total. Many cross back and forth illegally across the porous borders for many reasons and immigration officials

have been party to this problem. Our Father is answering your prayers in protecting us as we continue His work here. We know that He protects us in our dangerous daily drive as well as from disease.

It is our normal time for furlough but we don't see a way to return to the field if we depart. Please pray that our Father will provide a way for us to know the best time to take our furlough and have someone to care for our home while we are away. As of today the only requirement to get back into the States is a negative covid test. Thank you for your partnership in His work here. Our Father has given us a great team in each of you.

### Colombia S.A.

*Carlos Julio Mendoza, Missionary*

On January 28, we had the privilege of once again having Pastor Roger Stewart, Secretary of the ABA, preach God's message to us. My daughter Johanna translated his preaching into Spanish for us. God bless Pastor Roger's ministry and also bless his loving family. Also, God bless my daughter Johanna, for helping with the translating.

My son Jeffers David, teaches Sunday school at Quiroga MBC in Bogota.

My son-in-law, Edgar is preaching Sunday night from Monterrey Cas. MBC.

At Fusa MBC, the government did not allow them to have services the last 2 Sundays in January.

We opened a bank account for the property of the new mission in Ibague, Tolima.

Gracia MBC Bogotá sent \$94.00

Monterrey MBC sending \$562.50.

The total property fund is now, \$656.50

We opened another account to save for the rental of the house where we are going to start the services, when the government allows us to gather. To date we now have **\$1,406.25** dollars for rent.

Thank you for your prayers and financial help for this new work. We continue to pray for the Reed and Carthage MBC family. We pray that God will always magnify this Church.

The radio show continues to grow. They hear it on wassap in Costa Rica, and Peru. In Colombia, in addition to Monterrey, Cas., the message was sent by wassap to Ibague, Villavicencio, Fusa, Bogotá, Puerto Lopez, Meta and Zipaquira, Cundinamarca.

## Interstate Missions

### Lighthouse Ministries

*Toby Cribbs Sr., Director*

#### THE FIRST THING: MANY THANKS

I want to thank each Church that sent in a personal gift, THANK YOU

THE SECOND THING: New Jails—Prison Federal C.I. Butner, N.C.

River Bend D.C. Lake Providence, LA

F.C.I. Seagoville, Seagoville, TX.

Sago Palms, Pahokee, FL.

Catawba D.C. Newton, N.C.

We have reached into 776 Jails and Prisons with our Bible Correspondent Courses.

THE THIRD THING: We mailed out two Macedonia Bible studies and one certificate.

THE FOURTH THING: We mailed out (34) of our Resource List to Chaplains

THE FIFTH THING: STATISTICS  
Studies Courses 214 Bibles 196

New students 34

Birthday Cards 5 Saved 1

Large Print Bibles 7

Bible Dictionaries 4 Study Bibles 1

New Testaments 0

Sent out (1070) Brother Dills Tracts and (1028) his booklets.

Five finished the Old Testament-Four New Testament and Three finished course. One had finished program number Two

THE SIXTH THING: Letter from an inmate J. E. Smith. He is at W.C.F.A., Whiteville, TN.

### Hope Missions

*Scott Bourland, Missionary*

**Covid Finally Caught Us:** All through the spring and summer we had no cases of covid nor any even close to us. Then in the fall we started to see it a little, but in January it paid us a big visit.

In response, we had no in person services from January 4th through the 23rd. Our people hated it and I agreed with them, but it was necessary.

To this point 6 of our 10 member households have had covid, as well as one of our prospect households. While we would have preferred to avoid it altogether, I am very

proud of our people. If they test positive, they do the right things and once they are well, they return to church.

Everyone has recovered just fine. Sister Helen who is in her 80's has had a slow recovery, but is making progress day by day. She told me, "Brother Scott, I would not change a thing. I would keep living my life and trust God to do as he sees he became one of my regular visitation partners and never ceased to tell others the great joy of seeing people we visited come to Christ in salvation or make important decisions to follow him.

Space is not adequate to tell of this man that taught me the value of hard work and a life wrapped around serving Jesus. To worship with him was to be alive and impassioned.

It has now been 16 days since he left for his heavenly home and I doubt that the shouting in glory has stopped yet.

### Benchmark Baptist Fellowship

*Allen Schoeff, Missionary*

**YOU PRAYED, WE DID IT!** I reported last month that the Covid-19 Virus came for a visit and caused us to return to online services only for a period of quarantine. That meant of course that several events had to be cancelled and curtailed. On 12/13 we reopened!! And OH HOW SWEET IT WAS. We still have one or two who are sheltering in place. But we saw another first time visitor on that day and God's people were prepared to worship. I know for that for many, they choose to make church attendance a higher priority during the "Christmas Season", which of course is a sad commentary on the state of Christianity, but nevertheless, it was good to be able to reopen in time for our "traditional" Christmas worship services. And, it was good to have guests join us for that time.

**WE PRAYED, WE DID IT!** I have been serving in some form of ministry for the Lord for over 4 decades. From the first role of "Jr. Recreation Director" in VBS to the current role of "Interstate Missionary". Well, this year in December we did something we have not done since I became ordained. We took the entire week of Christmas off as a vacation. That may seem a little odd since we had just reopened the church doors on 12/13, but

it was necessary. It was necessary for the health of the missionary and for the health of the mission. The extra stress of dealing with the 'Rona had taken a toll and I was near burnout. Julie and I had a vacation scheduled earlier in the year, but Corona. We re-scheduled for Thanksgiving week, but Corona. So, after some time with God in prayer I decided that this was probably the best thing for all concerned. We went and got a test to make sure we were "clear" and then headed to Indiana to spend time with family. We saw my parents, Julie's parents, our children, and most importantly our grandchildren.

It was a blessed time of relaxing and renewing, but it was sort of a work-cation. I did not leave my phone or computer turned off and did some work from the apartment we stayed in. But the best part was that one of our members stepped up to teach Sunday School for me and another stood in the gap and filled the pulpit which means that we did not need outside help to be functional. We are growing toward that time when we can be fully independent!

**We returned on 12/28** and on 12/30, after our Bible Study, I had the opportunity to share the gospel with a troubled young man named Hunter. We spent a considerable amount of time sitting at my dining room table and I answered every question he had concerning "how to be saved". At last I brought him to the throne and asked him to pray and receive Jesus. We had spent the better part of two months, he and I and others, getting him to this point, so you can imagine my disappointment when like King Agrippa before him, he was "almost persuaded".

### Twin Lakes Baptist Mission

*Jerry Baker, Missionary*

We are off to another year of ministry among the Navajo people with January already in the past! I had always thought time slowed down as one grew older, but such is certainly not the case for us. In trying to remain busy for the Lord in this seemingly never ending season of "THE virus" we've taken on another project.

Although we remain in "lockdown" mode in many ways, which some may not understand unless you reside in New Mexico,

there's always a "to do list" for in and around the church property. Realizing that most of our building had not been repainted since our initial occupancy in 2009, the mission members voted for us to have a nice "redo" with interior painting throughout from top to bottom. Although a "normal" crew would be able to whip that project out in no time, it takes an older missionary, his wife, and one inexperienced painting college student a bit longer. Connie and I find we are actually able to work 2-3 hours before we have to break for a couple of hours! My problem seems to be that it's time consuming to only be able to work about four hours, and then the need of rest for four hours to complete my eight hour work day. The concrete floor and working from a ladder is much harder on our bodies than it was in the early years of this ministry.

We are thankful for our college student, Christian Lee, who volunteers a few hours almost every day, working around his on-line college courses. He and I are more like a wrecking crew than a painting team though when it comes to removing trim and baseboard for repainting. But, for Connie, the concrete floor sure is cold to kneel or sit on to repaint the baseboard. (Remember, it's wintertime on the Rez with daytime highs seldom reaching above 40's!) We are grateful for Christian's willingness to lend a helping hand as well as for the "project funds" many churches and individuals have contributed to the ministry.

A core group of members are remaining faithful in attendance and in the giving of their tithes and offerings. Some of you will recall our early days of teaching with regard to church members becoming more financially responsible and we are beginning to see the fruits of those labors. We may be few in number but we rejoice over their faithfulness becoming more evident. Sunday morning worship services continued during January in spite of the abundance of snowfall (on dirt roads) and being under the state's health order to not exceed over 25% of our occupancy level. And, even though during the month the Navajo Nation remained on tribal imposed weekend lockdowns, our people were in church services. We rejoiced with 6 additional

returning visitors during the month, 2 were adults and 3 teens. Please join us in prayer as we look to possibly resuming at least more normal Sunday morning services of both Sunday School and worship.

### **Heritage Baptist**

*Allen Barton, Missionary*

This past year has been a hard year on everyone. This certainly doesn't exclude the church and her ministries. 2020 has seen many challenges for those both in church ministries and for missionaries across the globe. We have had to get out of our comfort zones...A LOT...in order to continue to minister to those in our communities. We have faced challenges that no one in our lifetime has had to face. However, this does not negate the fact that God is still on His throne and still in control!

We have much planned for the new year ahead. Bro. Wesley and I plan to do door to door visitation as soon as the weather warms just a little (even if we have to wear haz-mat suits!). We also plan to begin some other ministry outreach programs such as a young adult Bible study group, a men's fellowship group, seeking ministry opportunities at Haleyville City Schools and so on. Of course, these ministries will be highly impacted on what we are allowed to do during the pandemic, but we are optimistic and determined not to sit and wait to be told "ok." Our attitude it is better to be told "don't do what you are doing" rather than "yes you may."

### **Antioch Baptist Church**

*George Dever, Missionary*

As with many churches, we have seen a major downturn in attendance in our Sunday and Wednesday services. We understand the reason why, and like many, we are waiting for the day that we can get back to whatever normal will be. Even though we are low in attendance, we still maintain serving the Lord. We are still meeting on Sunday morning and afternoon along with our Faith Bible Institute classes in the afternoon. Along with Sunday services, Wednesday night Bible study, Monday night Bible study, and Friday night women and men's fellowship are still meeting, and we have

been blessed with visitors in almost every service with many attending numerous services. This is exciting to see God working in the church in Dexter.

We are now preparing for future activities: VBS to be held in July, ladies retreats, and hopefully the restart of AWANA on Wednesday nights. Of course, all these activities are contingent on the mandates imposed by our governor concerning Covid-19. We are praying for the mandates to loosen up, getting back to these types of outreach, and a more relaxing atmosphere in the community.

We are blessed by your love, prayers, cards, emails, and financial assistance. These demonstrations of concern resonate more than you can imagine. Thank you for your continued support of the work in Dexter.

I have some prayer requests that I would like you to pray for: the unity within Antioch, a continued desire for the lost and wandering ones, the community of Dexter, and for my wife who fell and broke her radius, and ulna at her left wrist. May she have quick healing with little pain, There are also needs that we are addressing in the sanctuary. The painting of the ceiling in the sanctuary, carpeting the sanctuary floor and replacing the pews that are falling apart with chairs. I am asking for your help in getting these much-needed repairs and renovations accomplished. Thank you for considering the spiritual and physical needs that were mentioned.

### **Colorado Church Planting**

*Evertt Ledbetter, Missionary*

January 2021 has started in some ways just like 2020 ended. We had some challenges this month that the Lord guided us through. We have encouraged our people that if they were sick in anyway to stay home and help us to prevent spreading it. This month, we saw at different weeks different families need to opt out of in person services due to sickness or a recent medical procedure. This is completely understandable and appreciated, however still discouraging.

My wife was one of those. As many know, she battles MS and twice a year receives an infusion which lowers her immune system for about two weeks. So, following her infusion, she quarantines from our services, but logs



in online. Thank you for all the prayers during her infusion this month.

Even though we continue to battle covid restrictions, we have seen an increase in community outreach. I have been able to get back into the gym and as a result, have increased our outreach. Each week, I am meeting new individuals and getting their contact information. Just this month, I have increased my contacts in the community by some 30 different individuals. I also carry water bottles with me and make those available, this is big since all the water fountains have been shut down due to covid. Each water bottle has our labels on them.

Update on Matthew Ledbetter. This month, we had a real scare from our oldest son. He was admitted to the hospital in Texas and for a time did not look good at all. The doctors were talking sepsis. It ended up being covid related pneumonia. After a week in the hospital, he is out and doing well.

Thank you all for your prayers. Continue to pray for them in their upcoming medical bills.

### **Missionary Ambassador Ministries**

*Christopher Cartwright, Director*

**February 2 marks 18 years in Ministry:** Today, as I was shoveling sidewalks where I live after this past weekend's snowstorm, I was reminded of a similar event 18 years ago at an apartment complex in Wilmington. It was a snowy weekend after the tragic event of the Space Shuttle Columbia breaking up over northeastern Texas on February 1, 2003. I was watching the news as the events unfolded and realizing that time is short and we are not guaranteed the next second in life. That was when on February 2, 2003, I got some Spanish tracts and my shovel and started shoveling sidewalks and entrances and passing out Gospel tracts to a few Hispanics that lived in the complex. From then on, I started the ministry in my apartment until October 2004, when I was able to rent a storefront for the Mission until I moved back to Washington Court House in July, 2011, and from then on, was able to minister in more ways than one. I praise God for being in the ministry for 18 years in the ups and downs of the work, and for working with a diverse group of people and making opportunities in ministry not only here in Ohio but in Nicaragua, and now all over the world.

### **Ministry Reaching People Throughout**

**The World:** The series of TURNING THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN has made quite an impact in the world in the past year that it has me a little bit overwhelmed. As of this writing, the pastors and preachers have reported to me that 36,701 people have been saved in 17 countries which are as follows: Kenya (24,501), Burundi (5,545), Malawi (2,809), Tanzania (2,344), Uganda (921), South Sudan (244), Democratic Republic of the Congo (190), Zambia (179), Liberia (65), Ghana (54), Philippines (34), Nicaragua (29), Nigeria (14), Rwanda (7), Sierra Leone (6), Vietnam (1), and China (1). Even churches have been formed and planted through the preaching of the teachings from the series. In five countries, 82 churches have been planted: Kenya with 57, Burundi with 17, and Tanzania with 4, Malawi with 3 and Uganda with 1. You never know what will happen when the Lord takes an idea and uses it for His purpose and for His glory.

### **Bloomington Baptist Mission**

*Scott Pruitt, Missionary*

This month we have seen a steady flow of first time and return visitors. People are looking for stability and consistency after a year of much the opposite.

We sent Alex Chestnut off to start Student Ministry in Mexico. Journey's people loved him well and sent him off with an ice cream social. It was a great day of fellowship and encouragement.

We also had our first Ladies fellowship night which was attended by 15 ladies and 2 infants. Some of these ladies have been on the outside edge of fellowship for some time and this laid-back fellowship was just what they need to feel comfortable joining in. A great time of fellowship was had by all and the ladies have talked for weeks about how encouraged they were by this special time together.

This was a rough month for our family, as Kelli's grandpa was very ill and passed away. The people of Journey came around us, took kids, made meals, and loved us through every minute of a rough 2 weeks. His love is woven through the halls of our new building which he was a great help in finishing. He will be missed deeply but he is now singing praises to Jesus in heaven, which just so happened to be one of his favorite earthly pass-times

as well. Pastor Micah also got to come up to spend time with the Bourland and Pruitt family during the time of Celebration for Papaw B.

We had 3 salvations this month, and the greatest part is, none of them happened at the church. I got a call from a father who had led his 13-year-old son to the Lord at home one week, a mother who led her 9-year-old son to the Lord at their home, and a wife who led her husband to the Lord after visiting this month! We also welcomed Nathaniel Johnson into fellowship with Journey. He is a teenager who has been visiting with us for several months and has a passion to help with worship.

### **The Florida Plant**

*Church Fernandez, Missionary*

Rebuilding and battling could easily be the theme of 2020 at The Florida Plant. I'm certain that everyone reading this report can identify with the personal challenges that CV-19 brought upon you and the Lord's Churches this past year. The Florida Plant was no exception. While we were not rebuilding the broken walls and gates of Jerusalem like Nehemiah, make no mistake about it, we were rebuilding. We saw the fear of CV-19 decimate our ranks. The most surprising part of the whole CV-19 saga was that while you expect these types of events to affect the young in faith, we didn't expect it to impact the mature members as much as it did. We saw our attendance drop from the 50-65 range to around ten during the peak of the scare. As a newly established Church plant the effects set us back to the point where we literally felt like we were starting all over again. However, early on we prayerfully decided to leave the doors open and let people decide for themselves if they wanted to come and worship the Lord in spite of any perceived risks involved. We did our part to clean and follow most of the protocols but we were blessed that Florida was not on mandated lock down. We were also ahead of the curve as we had been offering zoom to our shut-ins long before the CV-19 crisis hit. However difficult the set backs seemed to be, the Lord used it for good in so many ways as we buckled down and battled our way back with God's help.





Dean Grigsby

## Business Manager Report

The Articles of Agreement of the American Baptist Association state the following in “Article II – Object”:  
The object of this Association is to encourage cooperation and Christian activity among the churches, to promote interest in, and encourage Missions on a New Testament basis among all people, to stimulate interest in Christian literature and general benevolence, and to provide a medium through which the churches may cooperate in these enterprises.

Bogard Press is one medium through which the Association works to stimulate interest in Christian literature, and we are thankful for the privilege to serve the churches in this capacity. In the object statement above, there is a strong emphasis on cooperation. The churches have never been more cooperative and encouraging to Bogard Press as they have during this pandemic. We have received numerous personal encouragements through letters, phone calls, and social media. To date, we have received over 130 love offerings from churches and individuals. These acts of encouragement and cooperation are truly appreciated by each one of us at Bogard Press.

As we consider all that has happened over the past twelve months, we have learned much about relying on God’s strength. Paul stated his reliance on God’s strength in Philippians 4:13: ***I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*** Philippians 4:13 Then, in the next verse, he commended the church at Philippi for being a medium through whom God used to demonstrate His strength: ***Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.*** Philippians 4:14 The gifts from the church at Philippi to Paul helped him overcome the pressures of his ministry. The encouragement and the gifts from the Lord’s churches have been a demonstration of God’s strength to us and have been a big help as we have battled the pressures of the pandemic over this last year.

We will continue to pray for the Lord’s churches in these uncertain times. We thank you for your prayers as we continue to serve churches by providing literature and tools needed to assist them in fulfilling the Great Commission.



**Kyle Elkins**  
**Editor in Chief**

Have you ever been away from home for such a long time that you grew homesick? One particular account reveals the intensity of being homesick. One man was far from his home. He developed various symptoms including fever. His condition worsened to the point that the doctors gave up hope. They concluded he should be carried back to his home for his final days.

As the travelers neared the man's home, he began to improve. Back at home, every symptom soon was gone. The best treatment for this man was simply to return him home where he longed to be.

From an account like this, the word nostalgia was coined. From two Greek words, "Nostos" meaning return home, and "algia" meaning pain. Nostalgia and homesickness come from looking back at what a person remembers how something was or was to have been.

For believers, however, a longing to be home comes from a forward look at what will be. Believers look forward to eternity and time to spend with their Savior Jesus Christ and all the saints of God. Paul expressed his desire to go to Heaven in Philippians 1:23, "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better."

Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2, 3). These words spoken by Jesus should create a longing in every believer to hasten that day to come.

Believers should recall that we are pilgrims and strangers on this earth. We are merely passing through to our eternal, heavenly home. A well-known preacher is attributed as saying, "Christians are not citizens of earth trying to get to heaven but citizens of heaven making their way through this world."

Are you homesick yet?

**FINANCIAL REPORT  
WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST INSTITUTE  
November/December 2020**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$1,984.79
<b>INCOME:</b>		
<b>ALABAMA</b>		
Magnolia Springs -Theodore, AL	400.00	
Schillingers Rd. BC -Mobile, AL	275.00	
<b>GEORGIA</b>		
Northside, BC -Vienna, GA	200.00	
Traders Hill -Folkston, GA		
<b>FLORIDA</b>		
Okeechobee BC -Okeechobee, FL	166.29	
Oleno BC -HighSprings, FL	200.00	
cALVARY bc -pANAMA cITY, fl	100.00	
Sunlight BC -Pensacola, FL	50.00	
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>		
Central BC -Gulfport, MS	30.00	
Mics:		
TOTAL		\$1,421.29
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS:H.H.Strickland</b>		
Magnolia Spring BC -Theodore, AL	800.00	
Frankfort BC -Russellville,AL	200.00	
Newark BC -Elkton,MD	200.00	
Cumberland Cove BC -Monterey,TN	50.00	
First Baptist BC -White City, FL	200.00	
TOTAL		\$ 1,450.00
<b>COMMITTEE OF 100</b>		
Terry Alexander - Pensacola,FL	20.00	
Kitchen Sales -Pensacola, FL	-0-	
Transfer from Flexline	3000.00	
<b>TUITION/REGISTRATION</b>		
Registration	\$ -0-	
Tuition	\$ -0-	
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,891.29	\$2,891.29
TOTAL AVAILABLE		\$4,891.29

<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
Utilities		\$	1,165.79
Misc.			1,485.95
Office			14.00
Instruction			<u>1,450.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE			\$4,600.74
NEW BALANCE			\$1,709.45
<b>BOOKSTORE FUND</b>			
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$	1,634.75
<b>Income:</b>			
Bookstore Sales		\$	28.39
Press Sales			\$1,466.03
Contributions			
Landmark BC Monticello, FL			<u>200.00</u>
Total Income			\$3,329.17
TOTAL AVAILABLE			\$4,670.83
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Utilities			\$572.61
Postage			\$-0-
Print Shop			\$-0-
Supplies			\$202.40
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$775.07
NEW BALANCE		\$	2,554.10
<b>BUILDING FUND</b>			
Calvary BC -Panama City, FL		\$500.00	
TOTAL INCOME			\$500.00
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
Regions Bank			\$1,003.34
Transfer			\$-0-
Interest Income:			-0-
Building Fund			\$3,746.98

**CHURCHES SEEKING A PASTOR**

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church is in search of a pastor. We are a small church but are interested in growing and serving the Lord in our community and surrounding area. We are located 6 miles east of Ola, Arkansas. Please contact Kenneth McCoy at 479-747-3760/email kenneth@arkwest.com or Don McCoy at 479-747-3403 for more information and to set up and appointment.

**Northside Missionary Baptist Church** of Ocala, Florida is currently seeking a full-time pastor. Applicant must believe that the Holy Bible is the inspired and infallible word of God, meet all the qualification of 1Tim. And Titus, preach and teach only from the King James Version, be a part of and in good fellowship with the American Baptist Association, be in complete conviction/agreement with the ABA Doctrinal Statement. Applicant is asked to submit a resume that includes educational background, previous positions, and reference contact information via email to Paul Merritt at secretarynmbc@gmail.com  
Christi Merritt, Secretary

**South Louisiana Church** Seeks Pastor: College Town Baptist Church of Hammond, LA is an old line Missionary Baptist church that is seeking a like-minded pastor. It presently has an interim pastor who wishes to retire due to age and health issues.

We are looking for a pastor with shepherd qualities. Preferably one with some Bible training, able to feed the sheep, willing to seek out the wanders and lost sheep, user of the King James version and one who loves to meet and fellowship with people.

Hammond is about 65 miles of New Orleans and the church has three acres of park-like property, a small but beautiful sanctuary, no indebtedness and an unstained reputation. It once had a nice size congregation, but attendance is drastically lowered. Therefore, a pastor would need to be bivocational. Pastoral support would increase as circumstances improve.

Interested men of God may contact Bro. Patrick Henagan at 52022 Fontana Lane, Independence, LA 70443. If they prefer they may call 985.351.8980 or 985.069.0028.

# PRINTING NEWS

## Printing News:

January has been a busy month for the work on the print shop. I realize that we are not a commercial shop that must run every day in order to operate. However, there are times when the press must run. It is getting much harder to put in the hours that are needed. However, the work must be done and I do what is necessary.

Due to good sales on Dr. Gonnellas' books, two volumes had to be reprinted. Volume five has been done and on the shelf. Volume four is off the press and is in the process of being completed. Printing the books always takes less time and what follows.

The work that we had done of our main press has proven to be what it needed. It really runs great. I also know that as long as we have old equipment, there will be repairs that will be needed. Our main cutter is a case in point. It really has been a work horse for us but I must have some repairs done. At

this point, I have to very careful and make sure that the funds are available before I order supplies or have work done.

## Now Productions:

As I mentioned, we had to reprint two volumes of Dr. Gonnellas' books on "Systematic Theology." This five-volume set of books are the first of its kind to be done by one of our pastors. I am grateful to him for the effort that he has put into this work. He is now working on a history of Israel. I am not sure when it will be available for publication, but I am looking forward to having it available.

## Special Request:

I have mentioned this before but it is becoming more necessary as time goes on. The wife and I are both putting some year behind us and we are both not able to do the work we once did. I can remember teaching four hours of classes and then running the press until 10 or 11 o'clock at night. I can say that those days are gone. It would be a tremendous blessing to have someone come

and learn this phase of the ministry. We have done so much since it began in 1989. So many productions, both in Spanish and English, have been done. Books that would never have been available were it not for this work.

The word that was done on the little book "The Trail of Blood," was first produced in the large form by this ministry. This was printed both in English and Spanish, now everyone is printing it in this form.

## Thanks:

My deepest thanks to those who continue to support this ministry. I would like to remind everyone that none is paid directly from the funds received for the print shop. We do not have anyone on salary, neither does anyone receive payment for their books other than a certain amount of books to use as they please. I have never taken any money for the books that have been printed under my name.

Thank you all so much and do remember us in your prayers.

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Articles should be in the office no later than the 10th of the month so that they might be included in that month's edition. Mission reports are alternated so that all may have the opportunity to be published.

H.H. Strickland; editor

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