

# West FLORIDA BAPTIST News

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. H. H. Strickland

I trust that all who receive this news report that you are doing well. Everyone associated with the school is fine and we are doing our part to be as safe as possible. We wish you all the continued blessing of our Lord.

April opens with a great deal of uncertainty. Classes have had to be altered somewhat because of the virus that has affected almost everyone. We have tried to maintain a certain amount of order so that all of the students can complete their studies for the semester. So far everything is working well.

In the last edition of WFBI News, I made an appeal for the annual offerings that are always received around this time of the year. Founders Day celebration was not held as usual and I made an appeal for churches and individuals to designate March 20<sup>th</sup> to receive an offering for the school. I did not have any idea as what the results would be but thus

far we have not heard from anyone or any church. I realize, at this time, many churches are doing their best to maintain their own. I do ask that you continue to remember us all here.

I am becoming concerned relative to graduation. There are several students which have worked really hard to achieve their degrees and I am in earnest hope that we will be able to honor them as we have done in the past. We have an invitation of a church to host the services, but whether or not we can hold the meeting is yet to be determined.

In every work, changes become necessary. So is the case with West Florida Baptist Institute. In January, The Baptist Chapel voted to discontinue the sponsorship of WFBI. As a result, the Magnolia Springs Baptist Church voted to sponsor the school for 60 days, upon which they would determine whether or not to become the permanent sponsor. They have done a complete investigation regarding the school, its operation and the finances. On Wednesday, March 25, 2020, they voted to become the permanent sponsor of WFBI.

On a personal note, Magnolia Springs Baptist Church is where my ministry began almost 60 years ago. This church ordained me on January 1, 1961 while Dr. L.B. Wilson was

the pastor. I have been close to most of the people over the years, even though many of those that were there during those early days, are now gone. Dr. David Gonnella is doing a tremendous job at the church. He is an instructor at the school and has been a faithful supporter ever since he came to the area.

Due to the change and questions regarding some of the practices at the school, several changes have been made. A set of guidelines has been adopted that expresses the responsibilities of every position in the school. The operation of the school has always operated on the faith of all concerned and the integrity of those who worked at the school. When that integrity is violated, more rules must be put in place.

I have been with the school since 1984 and have been President since 1989. I have seen many great accomplishments over these years and I am confident that there are many more tremendous things in the future.

I am eternally grateful to all the churches and individuals who have supported this work over the years. Our offerings have dropped some in the past few months but we are financially solvent. We have been able to reduce overall debt and we will continue to monitor all of the expenses so that we can continue to do the work the Lord has given us.

## GRADUATION

### MAY 8, 2020

## BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

## PENSACOLA, FL

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



**By: Loretta Pritchett**  
[lorettapritchett@yahoo.com](mailto:lorettapritchett@yahoo.com)

### God Will Provide

During this time of the deadly Corona-virus everyone is rushing to the stores for food and other personal items needed, and they tend to forget about God.

As I was thinking about the article for this month I did a little research on God's provisions for all of us if we but would call on Him for help.

Recently I read a Devotional story from my book "Chicken Soup for the soul," that contained a story where a Pastor went to a conference out of town.

Packing hurriedly he noticed when he arrived at the hotel he had forgotten his razor. Thinking one day without a shave would be okay, he decided he would go to the hotel store and buy one after the first day of the meeting.

There were no razors available and stores locally were now closed and he decided one more day and try again after the next day's class. Again, class lasted longer and he was unable to go look for a razor. Looking down as he walked he saw something laying on the ground, bending down he found an unopened package of a disposable razor.

Most people say it was just a coincidence or was it a gift from God? Of course I believe it was a gift from God, as He always knows what we need. In Luke 12:27-30 we read the story of how God provides for the lilies and the grass and other needed things. If He can

provide for this everyone should know He can provide any need we may have.

Bro. Lee and I can attest to this as a fact. We had just gotten down to the last few packages of meat and no more money was available until two weeks. Bro. Lee had just come home from his second heart by-pass and we had no extra money set aside.

While we were discussing this the doorbell rang and the neighbor's lady held out two big grocery bags of meat and frozen vegetables. She needed to put them in a freezer and could we do that. Of course we said yes, and told her to come get them when she was ready. No, no, no she said you keep it all and use it. I have cooked all I can, our new freezer comes this afternoon. God had met our need and hers as well.

The story of what had happened was their pet dog had gone behind the freezer and unplugged it. Nothing was wrong with the freezer to begin with. Coincidence or God providing our need?

**Happy Easter!**

## Philosophy of Religion

### The Problems of Fundamentalism

There have been many ideas relative to what might be meant in the use of the term "Fundamental." In some circles, it is a revered name and others it is not held in high esteem at all. This is certainly true among those who refer to themselves as "fundamental."

Much of the early fundamental movement revolved around Martin Luther. It appears that it was both a condemnation and a recommendation. The following quote presents several aspects of that controversy.

"Luther's thesis enumerate five kinds of punishments for sin, and by the same token five kinds of sin. Here are eternal punishments, which are brought about by God and can be remitted only by God. Second, there are purgatory punishments, which are also brought about by God and can be remitted only by him. Third, there are evangelical punishments, which refer to Christ's recommendation that Christians

mortify their flesh. God accepts such mortification, and only his grace can determine that it may not be required. Fourth, there are corrective punishments, as in the case of disease, which are administered by God for human enlightenment. While prayers and penitence can assist man, they cannot frustrate God's educative intent in sending the disease in the first place. Fifth, there are canonical punishments, which relate to infractions of Church laws and chastisements by the popes and the councils for such sins. This was the only kind of sin which was within the jurisdiction of the church to remit, but even here, good reasons had to be shown to justify remission."

It would take more time and space to comment of each of these five kinds of punishments held by Luther. However, it can be seen that, almost without exception, the ideas that he held had very little difference from those of the organization from which he broke away. In fact, the modern day Lutheran Church, along with the Episcopal Church, is so similar in doctrine and practice of the Catholic Church that it is difficult to distinguish one from the other.

Martin Luther did not break from the Catholic Church over doctrine but rather he broke away from them because of the immorality that existed among the leaders. He took many of the fundamental doctrines of the Catholic Church with him and they were accepted within the new organizations.

In the five punishments for sin, several of them are still observed in all three of the mentioned Churches. One such doctrine is the matter of punishment in purgatory. This doctrine was taught by the Catholic Church and was adopted by both the Lutheran and Episcopal Churches as they came into existence.

Needless to say, this doctrine is nowhere to be found in the Word of God. It was adopted by the Catholic Church in order to appease lost people who refused to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior while alive. It also became a tremendous source of revenue for the church. People would be required to pay hundreds of dollars so that a family member could be delivered from purgatory and not be condemned to spend eternity in hell. It truly was a doctrine of the Devil.



David Gonnella, Th.

## Big, Happy Announcement

The last 10 months have seen *WFBI* come through what may have been the most difficult times we have ever faced. Satan attacked us like he never has before. The most hurtful thing is that the attack began from within and has been carried out by one who claims to be a brother but who threatened to destroy us. Not exactly a Christian attitude.

The good news is that the Lord has preserved us and because of this trial we will be a better seminary than we would have been otherwise. What we have endured has caused us to make certain changes and set certain policies that have strengthened us.

Please know, that if I believed that the accusations against Dr. Strickland were true I would sever my relationship with the seminary. I am decidedly convinced to the opposite. I have complete confidence in him and in the seminary. And I believe you can too.

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, after two months of investigation and prayerful consideration, the Magnolia Springs Baptist Church in Theodore, Alabama, by unanimous vote of the congregation, became the sponsoring church of the West Florida Baptist Institute. The church is very happy to acquire the sponsorship of a seminary that has done so much to train servants for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Due to the serious nature of accusations made the church took the time and made the effort to investigate thoroughly

before making any decision. To be sure, if we had found any credibility in such accusations we would not have consented to sponsor the seminary.

Now on to more good news: After closing for one week and taking our Spring Break early we are once again holding classes. If all goes according to plan we will finish the semester on time and present degrees, diplomas and certificates to those who have earned them. It is possible that we will not hold a graduation ceremony but in time we will know about that and will make appropriate announcements.

The summer semester may or may not take place depending on the severity of the corona virus. Again, we will make the announcements on this in good time.

Fall semester brings the promise of a good number of new students as some of those associated with our seminary have been busy in recruitment. We appreciate their efforts and look forward to having new minds and new hearts to fill with the Word of God. We also are eagerly anticipating the expansion of our online courses, on which Dr. Turner is working so diligently.

If you would like to train for the Lord's service either as a minister or layperson, or if you are already in the ministry and would like to continue your education feel free to call the seminary office. You will be trained by a highly qualified faculty dedicated to helping you be what the Lord wants you to be.

One other notable observation of punishment was that there were certain sins which the church could forgive. While certain of the teachings recognized that some punishments could only come from the Lord, they chose to believe that certain sins could be forgiven by the church.

The church was never given any authority to forgive sin. Like the doctrine of purgatory, the idea came from men and not from the instructions of the Lord.

One of the most interesting things I have observed over the years, is how many people have participated in "Martin Luther Day." This

is where this Luther is praise for the things he did. I cannot understand why any Baptist would join participate in such a celebration. Maybe they forgot or maybe they do not know, that Martin Luther became a persecutor of the Baptist of his day. Following the Protestant Reformation, the true believers of the Lord now had three religious organizations which persecuted them rather than one. I am sure that if one of those true believers of that day could speak today, they certainly would denounce such a celebration.



## Jesus Preached A Mighty Good Sermon Not Long Before He Was Crucified

TEXT: Matt 11:28-30

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

INTRODUCTION:: Jesus desires fellowship with His creation. So, He makes this appeal:

- A. The Invitation: Come unto me,
- B. The open door: all ye that labour and are heavy laden
- C. The promise: I will give you rest.

When one comes to Jesus, he should do as directed.

- A. Take my yoke upon you,
- B. Learn of me;

Jesus' appeal is not without reason for He said:

- A. I am meek and lowly in heart: and
- B. Ye shall find rest unto your souls.
- C. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light

Not only is our Lord careful about overloading us, He stands ready to help us with our burdens.

(He may well be implying that He will not burden us with more than we want to carry.

Without doubt; our Lord appeals to the SAVED as well as to the UNSAVED with this invitation and this promise.

### I. THE BURDEN

- A. Some are laden with sin.
  1. There is a guilt feeling that will not go away. The Holy Spirit calls upon them one way or another.
    - A. It could be through certain laws. (drinking, foul language, adultery, gambling, lying)
    - B. ... because one has heard the preaching of the gospel.
    - C. ... through the ministries of dedicated workers.
    - D. ... perhaps through a death of a loved one.
  2. They are depraved.
    - A. ... falling through the cracks.
    - B. ... enveloped in pride.
    - C. ... full of iniquity (determined to do their own thing)
    - D. ... selfish
- B. Others groan under the distress of life's pressures.
  1. Poverty
  2. Sickness
  3. Temptations (Satan takes advantage of depression)
  4. Persecution (God is able to use things to wean us from this world and prepare us for the world that is to come).

### II. THE RELIEF

- A. Jesus offers pardon to the guilty.
    1. He gives rest to the conscience by removing that overwhelming sense of guilt.
    2. He provides peace for the heart.
  - B. Christ offers purity to the unholy.
    1. Jesus is the epitome of holiness.
    2. His Holy Spirit is sufficient.
    3. His promises are reassuring
- I John 1:7 says: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

### C. Christ offers grace to the needy.

1. He will remove the pain from our sinful hearts.
2. He will enable us to rise above our afflictions.

### III. THE MEANS

- A. We must accept His invitation: "COME UNTO ME"
  1. It is possible to come to church without coming to Christ.
  2. It is possible to come to the altar without coming to Jesus.
  3. It is possible to come into the baptismal waters without coming to Christ.
  4. It is possible to come to the Lord's Table without coming to Christ.
- B. We must approach Him personally.
  1. Our faith must be pure and complete.
  2. Our confession must be honest.
  3. Our sacrifice must be acceptable unto God.
- C. We must approach Him humbly.
  1. He is the Giver. It is He who made the offer. We are the recipients.
  2. It is up to us to accept His invitation.
  3. It is up to us to say: "Lord be merciful to me; a sinner."
- D. We must approach Him obediently.
  2. ... by learning to do good.
- A. Act justly
- B. Be merciful.
- C. Develop habits of truth and honesty.
- E. We must approach Him believingly.
  1. Believe He is here.
  2. Believe He is ready to help; now.
  3. Believe in His promise of rest.

### CONCLUSION:

It is a shame that all men do not come to Jesus for rest.

Angels lament this.

Good men lament this

There is no excuse for being lost or overburdened.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MISSIONARY COMMITTEE TRAVEL EXPENSE FUND.

On May 18-19, 2020, (Starting at 1:00 p.m. on Monday) the annual pre-associational meeting of the Standing Missionary Committee will be held at Northern Hills Baptist Church in Texarkana, Arkansas. They will review the missionary recommendations forms that serve as a basis for presenting a recommended list of missionary and missionary helpers to our church messengers when we meet in Springfield, Missouri, June 23-25, 2020. These 25 men have volunteered time away from their churches, ministries and families to serve us, and they received no compensation for their valuable

assistance to our associational work. Reimbursing them for their travel, lodging, and meals expenses is the very least we can do. It takes approximately \$12,000 for these men to travel from all over the U.S. and Mexico to meet in Texarkana to serve us. Please receive a special offering from your church and send it to the office of Secretary-Treasurer of Missions, P.O. Box 1050, Texarkana, Texas 75501-1050 and designate it to MISSIONARY COMMITTEE TRAVEL EXPENSE FUND.

Bill Kuykendall  
Micah Carter

## Marsh Road Baptist Church

Woodbridge, VA

*Billy Shepherd, Pastor*

Marsh Road Baptist Church, 1514 Old Marsh Road, Woodbridge, VA 22191 is seeking a man of God to serve as Associate Pastor with Pastor Billy Shepherd, from within the fellowship of the American Baptist Association. If God leads you to consider this field, you may contact Pastor Billy Shepherd at 703.402.9305.

## Missionary Baptist Church of San Antonio, TX

Brethren:

On 14 June 2019, the Lord called our pastor Steve Duffitt home. It was sudden and a loss to his wife, Mary, his family and the Church. We know God has our new pastor picked out and we just need to align our will with His will. To that end, Missionary Baptist Church of San Antonio would appreciate you placing a notice in the next edition of your publication.

Seeking our new Pastor: Missionary Baptist Church of San Antonio is in need of an under shepherd because our pastor of 19+ years, Steve Duffitt, was called home to be with the Lord. We seek the man God has already chosen for us. The church is small, with 24 members and not able to financially fully support a man, so the man of God would need to have another income to supplement what the church can afford at this time. This man of God would need believe the Bible is the inerrant and infallible word of God, agree with the church doctrinal statement and church covenant. If you believe God is calling you to San Antonio, Texas please contact Rod Garrett @ 210.627.59.88 or igarrett42@satx.rr.com

## Missionary Needed

The Tri-County Association, located in East Texas is seeking a missionary for an effort in establishing a new church in Lindale, TX . Sanderson Chicken Farms is building an operation in the area that will bring in 1,700 new jobs. University Baptist Church in Tyler, TX, Bro. Don Britton Pastor, is the sponsoring church. The Tri-County Association is made up of five churches and all of them are supporting this effort. Contacts: Phone: 1-903-566-4384; e-mail: donaldbritton75@yahoo.com.

Jesus was slated to die on the cross for our sins. We should listen to His invitation:

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.  
I Thess 5:23

23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ



*Secretary/  
Treasurer  
Missions*  
**Roger Stewart**

# MISSION NEWS AND VIEWS

## FOREIGN MISSIONS

### SELLERS REPORT

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$1,539,793.75</b>
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Interstate Salaries	\$49,193.03
Foreign & National Salaries	\$43,255.08
Designated	\$39,048.80
Undesignated	\$13,837.09
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$145,334.00</b>
<b>BALANCE FOR SALARY/EXPENSE</b>	
	<b>\$1,685,334.00</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Interstate Salaries	\$80,429.80
Foreign Salaries	\$22,690.60
National Salaries	\$24,739.20
Designated	\$39,048.80
Salaries & Expenses of Sec-Treas. Office	
Office Salaries	\$12,360.95
General Office	\$8,362.38
Postage	\$2.40
Automobile Expense	\$484.00
Sec/Treasurer Exp	\$1,832.07
Total Office	\$23,041.80
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$189,950.20</b>
<b>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>\$1,495,177.55</b>
<b>Deficit for March</b>	<b>(\$44,616.20)</b>

ALL missionaries present are asked to sign-in [for their region of the world] on Tuesday morning of the American Baptist Association during the Missionary Committee (10:00 AM – 11:30 AM) in anticipation of the Wednesday night *Missions Presentation*. Missionaries who plan to attend are asked to bring their country or state flag, if possible; otherwise, flags will be provided.

*News:* Though travel changed due to COVID-19, Gena and I did visit Del Rio, Texas, and Acuna, Coahuilla, Mexico, in mid-March. The Mexican brethren there were wonderful hosts. Prior to Mexico we were in Theodore, AL, for the Alabama State Association hosted by Baumhauer Road MBC; and, with Schillinger Road MBC in Mobile, AL, for a Sunday morning service.

The kind people of south Alabama could not have treated us better. We thank God for each of them.

*Names:* Among the many blessings we enjoyed while traveling was getting to meet many new friends and co-laborers for Christ; however, the thing that topped the list was receiving offerings from the churches and missions in Del Rio and Acuna. Knowing their circumstance, these brethren made great sacrifices to give handsomely to ABA missions. A big “thank you” goes out to Iglesia Bautista Berea (Pastor: Juan Gallegos); to Iglesia Bautista Misionera del Centro (Pastor: Oscar Torres); to Iglesia Bautista Bethel (Pastor: Ruben Lopez); and, Iglesia Bautista Corinth (Pastor: Ernesto Gallegos, Jr.).

*Numbers:* For the month of March 2020 the recommended missionaries reported **416 professions of faith** and **50 baptisms** which brings our totals since the ABA Meeting last June to **5310 professions of faith** and **430 baptisms**. *What a Mighty God we Serve!*

*Notes:* I want to remind you that all Missions’ Office events are still scheduled: 2020 Recommendation Forms due April 24th; Pre-Association Standing Missionary Committee, May 18, 19, Northern Hills MBC, Texarkana, 1:00 PM; Missionary Share Time, June 22, 7:00 – 9:30 PM, Springfield (MO) Expo Center; Missionary Committee meeting, June 23, 10:00 – 11:30 AM, Expo Center; and, the annual Missionary Committee Presentation, June 24, 7:00 PM, same location. An additional note, our ONLINE GIVING button is now up and running at [www.abaptist.org](http://www.abaptist.org).

### South Pacific Missions

*Walt Emry, Missionary*

I had opportunity to visit with some men at a local Nakamal. A Nakamal is a meeting place where men meet to discuss business and other things. As I was walking by I greeted them and they called for me to come and sit with them. I think I was the first “White Man” to sit with them. They wanted to know about the Coronavirus, and they wanted to know my story especially about my Army days.

When we were talking it started to rain so we gathered under a small lean-to and continued to talk. I gave them each a booklet of John and Romans and shared the precious gospel of Jesus. I will have another opportunity to visit with them. Come to find out one of the men was baptized, years ago, by Brother Leon Jasper.

**New Missionaries to Vanuatu:** The Rickett family, Clint, Crystal and Ryan are missionaries from Hot Springs, AR they came to Vanuatu early this year. They found an apartment here in Vila to get all their visas, vehicle needs, language classes etc out of the way. On March 21st they packed up and went to the island of Tanna. That’s where they feel

God is calling them. We got to spend quite a bit time with them while they were here in Vila. Pray for them as they are getting a house built and find their ministry there on Tanna.

### Russia

*Jodie Vesely, Missionary*

When we wrote our last letter the CO-VID 19 wasn’t even on our minds! Now it affects everything we do. Like many churches, we have adapted.

1. We are using chats and Zoom video meetings to continue our church meetings, English Movie Night, and men's Bible study. We have periodically canceled our English Family Fun Night ministry.

2. We are also not meeting with people regularly in person, but we are using technology to keep in touch. Just so you know, we are safe right now. However, we are here indefinitely until everything reopens and we are able to return to the US for our furlough, which is still tentatively scheduled for July. We understand that none of us can predict what the worldwide situation will be at that point. If for some reason we need to delay our flight, our visas can seemingly be extended until we can leave. We do have enough food for a little over a month if needed. We are still regularly able to find the groceries we need, but the city is pretty much a ghost town at this point, with no tourists and many Russians out at their summer homes out of the city. It is eerie to walk through an empty Palace Square, a constant reminder of the seriousness of the situation we are all in!

*Wow! Times change quickly!*: 1. The church we planted in St. Petersburg on March 2, 2019 celebrated its 1 year anniversary with a baptism and special fellowship just outside of the city over a weekend. Praise God's for Hemal's baptism and church membership!

2. We have officially partnered with Holly Naimushina as a ministry partner, who has been working with us to varying degrees since we have been in St. Petersburg. Now we are excited about God does going forward with a full partnership!

3. New people continue to attend our outreach English ministries and church services! Please pray for more to accept Christ and for the growth of the church here, along with the planting of more churches and Russian men called to the ministry.

4. We have been blown away by the support we have received so far from churches. Since our last report we have received \$2,546.01 out of \$4,000 (needed) designated towards our flights to the US and visas and \$920 out of \$6,000 (needed) designated towards our Fall furlough homeschooling need, primarily for lodging! Praise God for your heart and care to help with these important needs!

### Romanian Missions

*Kolt Mikrell, Missionary*

**Furlough Visits:** Last month, before we departed for Romania, we were able to make a few more visits. The first week of February we went to Arkansas and made a weekend stop in Sikeston and Marston, Missouri. We visited with Evergreen Baptist of Marston and Mt. Calvary of Sikeston. We are thankful for these sweet churches! Next we headed for Somerset, KY, where we stopped for a quick visit with Whetstone Baptist. We were able to celebrate Eliza's fifth birthday and visit with friends and family. The next weekend we made it over to Stuart, VA and visited with Unity Baptist.

We are so very thankful for these sweet churches and all that they have done and continue to do for us but more importantly for the Lord! Again, we want to thank all the churches which we were able to visit while in on furlough! All who we didn't visit, we are sorry time did not allow, but we are still grateful for you all!

**Back on the Field!:** Praise the Lord! We arrived safely back on the field here in Brasov, Romania on Tuesday, February 25! We are so thankful for everyone who lifted us up in their prayers for health and travel safety. Sunday, February 23, was our last Sunday in the States. We wanted very badly to be with our sending church, **Langdon Street Baptist**, but we are so very thankful for **Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist** for showing us such wonderful love and giving us wonderful encouragement. God knows just what we need and He supplies us with those needs. Of course, we already miss everyone back in the States. We hope that you know that we are so very thankful for each and everyone of you. We appreciate your prayers and your encouragement! However, we are so very glad to be back home! Truly, God has placed Romania deep in our hearts, and we are excited to see what God has in store for the future!

### Colombian Missions

*Gilberto Pinzón, Missionary*

Thank God, my health is getting better every day. Because the coronavirus, many of the hospitals are attending only urgencies, priority appointments and covid-19 patients.

Several of my medical controls and specialist appointments have been reprogrammed for June and July. I continue appreciate very much all your prayers and support in favor of my health and the Lord's work in Colombia.

**PENIEL BAPTIST MISSION:** Due to the mandatory isolation, decreed by the president of the nation, we have not had congregational services since last March the 22nd. But our churches are not closed, we are having virtual services, from home to bless our brethren with God's Word, through Facebook live. We also, virtually transmit the classes of the Bible Institute: Bible Analysis and Homiletics, Monday and Tuesday at 5:00 PM. We also continue doing devotions every day through WhatsApp.

I need to replace my old laptop, because, it is not running well, I use it to study, preaching, teaching and transmissions, almost, every day. Please pray for this.

Because the home isolation, many people have lost their employment. Food prices, medicines and first hand articles are increasing, and there are long lines to run errands or to be able to buy what we need. Only God knows how long we will be with this situation.

### Colombian Missionaries

*Carlos Julio Mendoza, Missionary*

In March, before the government ordered a curfew, we visited several families for 10 days. In two of the families there were 3 professions of faith, glory to God. They told us that they listen to the radio program regularly. In our church services, we had 2 professions of faith and 1 sister for baptism. Due to the curfew it was not possible to baptize her.

The government ordered to close temples from March 17 to April 19. The radio ministry is continuing to broadcast the message of salvation. Right now there are more people at home than usual due to the curfew. We have a much larger audience than ever before. We have doubled the air-time at the radio to take advantage of the large audience. People ask for a lot of prayer that God will protect them from this pandemic.

We are also sending studies by wassap to the brothers who have internet.

Every night at 8pm all our families are raising their voices in prayer for lost in the world.

The Campaign from April 10 to 19 to organize, Fusa BM and Monterrey BM as New Testament Churches was canceled and the brothers of the U.S.A. could not travel to Colombia due to the Pandemic.

Thank you for your prayers. There will be many crowns in heaven for the members of West Florida Institute for all that you do for his kingdom. May God bless, Pastor Bro. H.H. Strickland and family.

### Spain

*Daniel Estrada, Missionary*

We thank God for His goodness and love toward us. During the month of February God has brought more people in. God continues to do His great work in this mission. Also, we want to thank our sending church for their support in many different ways. What a Savior we serve and what a sending church God has given us.

Praise God for the Rebolledo Family that are faithfully attending church Sunday and Thursday nights. They are growing in the Lord and want to be baptized soon. Please, keep them in your daily prayers, also they are getting papers in order to live and work here. God is opening that door too.

**Giving Bible lessons by skype...** God has allowed me to give Bible lessons to several people now. There is a family in SWEDEN that keeps receiving Bible study every week. Also, Bro. Julio, leader of the church in Barcelona is receiving Seminary lessons every week. Thank God for the opportunities that God gives in order to minister to other people that are in other parts of Spain and out of the country.

**Record attendance in February ...** In the month of February God brought in a lot of people. Well, when we started this work, God brought in many people. We had around 20 people, but later some families moved back to Sweden, and others left us. But in the last two Sundays of February we have had very good attendance in church. We also had a new visitor and gave her a Bible. Her name is Dinora and she was happy to receive the Bible.

### Tanzania

*Livingstone Lambert, Missionary*

Greetings to all. We continue to thank God for his never ending love and protection for us. We have witnessed and have been blessed by His powerful hand in our churches (missions) in Tanzania. We have seen men and women come to know God and become willing to dedicate their lives to serve Him. And, for this we praise the Lord! It brings me great happiness to see your love, support, and prayers for us. The unity and support for us throughout this ministry is shown as God's work spreads throughout Tanzania. This has been a great example that has fueled our people, as lost souls are saved, and people begin their relationship with Jesus Christ. We have strong leaders and members with the desire and willingness to serve God fully.

God's guidance at Zion MBM - Munguwatosha, Tanzania: This mission work is doing well. We have made some big steps in a short period of time, and all thanks goes to our Lord! The village has welcomed us with open arms, and as we have found our own property and placed the tent there. We have begun now to pray for a building. I'm happy to report as well that recently, the ladies of our church, (Power MBC) were able to donate some clothing to other ladies at Zion MBC/Munguwatosha. This is a great example of love.

Good news for Zion MBM: I would like to joyfully inform you that Zion, which is our newest mission point has received someone to guide them. He is a young man coming from the mission Manderu and his name is Bro. Filbet Filipo Magaza. He is among the first members of the Manderu Church who began the work there with Bro. Jackson. He was among the first that were baptized when we used a hole filled with water to baptize. He has grown spiritually and has learned a lot about the word of God. He is a faithful young man and firmly humble. We thank God for his calling and for Bro. Filbert's response to the call.

### Thailand

*David Leak, Missionary*

Earnestly; I wish I had more to report on this month; but, as everyone is aware, this

virus, & these most unusual circumstances that we are all in the midst of, have hindered me from doing so; as well as so many other things. I am; however, working on preparations for when this all is over; again, the good Lord willing, & hopefully, prayerfully, very soon. However; I do know, as I'm sure we all do, that the Lord is in complete control of every detail thereof, so, as Believers, we need not fret, or be carefree-anxious for anything (Phillipians 4:6). As I've heard my Pastor, & so many say, "The Lord's got this"! No doubt; He does, & it is such a blessing to have Him to lean on; always, no matter the circumstances. We also need to heed the remainder of that verse as well, & pray; then we can rest in the fact that His peace will enshroud every detail & aspect of our lives, as His Word promises He will.

My gratitude to each of you; as Churches & individuals, that support this Ministry that the Lord has called me to. I also want to express my appreciation to each of you for your kind patience & understanding through this most pressing time. I can't thank the Lord enough for how He provides through His people! That's one of His amazing ways in which He works. To those that have; & continue to follow His leading by being obedient to Him; thank you! Without those who help from other Churches; as well as individuals, it would be impossible for any one Church or individual to carry out the Great Commission, & for that, I'm so thankful; (Ephesians 3:20-21). The Lord could bring it to pass any way that He chose to; so, it's not that it's impossible for Him...He has just chosen for us to "work together", & I'm so thankful for each of you that make it possible for me to pursue this burden; this Ministry, that He has laid upon my heart for Thailand for Christ! I'm often reminded of the words of the Prophet Jeremiah in Chapter 20:9b, "But His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forebearing, and I could not stay." I would love to leave immediately to go back to Thailand; if possible, but I'm in desperate need of increased support presently before I do so. Please keep this as a matter of prayer before the Lord on my behalf; thank you!

I also want to again thank my Sending Church; Westwood Missionary Baptist Church, in Winter Haven, Florida, for their kindness & generosity by providing me a place to stay during this crisis. Also to 2 really great & close friends; Wally & Cherie Mann, I want to say a very heartfelt, "thank you"! They are both in 1 side of a duplex that we are in, & they have opened it up to me & made me feel so @ home; for that, their kindness, & generosity, I am so thankful! On my 1st furlough/deputation return, they were both very instrumental in/through a very difficult time after I arrived back in the US. I was told by several that I would experience, "reverse culture shock"; initially, I was in total denial, as well as disbelief that such a thing could happen to someone when they returned to their home country, but it became a harsh reality. They were; and still are such a blessing to me!

### **Cambodia**

*Roger Babylonia, Missionary*

Dearest faithful partners, I express my feeling of gratitude and appreciation to all of you for faithfully and consistently partnering with me in Cambodia Mission. For about one year of experience as our missionary, I have encountered a lot of discouragements, but through the grace of God and through your prayers I have been able to overcome them.

For a year of labor and struggle, we have been able to lead more than 80 Cambodians, who have made profession with Christ as their Savior. They are composed of children, young people, and adults who have publically professed faith in Christ. Right now, even we have not baptize any people, but we have already a regular Sunday morning service with an average of 7-9. Our morning attendance is composed of Cambodians, Vietnamese and Filipinos. Also we have 2 villages children ministry every Sunday afternoon. At present, we have one Cambodian prospect for baptism. Just help us pray that his baptism will not be hindered.

### **Japanese Missions**

*Shin Kamoda, Missionary*

In February we were honored to have Brother Jepy and Sister Rose Nepomuceno

with us for our annual Faith Promise Missions Conference. Brother Jepy gave us his report and exhorted us with the Word. Sister Rose and he blessed our hearts with a special song. We read Mission reports and watched videos of missionaries serving over seas and in Japan. Prior to the Conference, I preached a series of sermons on Giving.

We learned giving tithes and offering is not only our duty, but a privilege given to the children of God. Members indicated their commitment to pray for and give to Missions.

We learned giving tithes and offering is not only our duty, but also privilege given to the children of God. Members indicated their commitment to pray for and give to Missions.

Miya Sato attended our week day Bible class for the first time. She is a freshman in a University in Tokyo, who used to attend our sister church in Madale, Texas for one year. She was an exchange student and her host family are faithful members of that church. They requested me to send a copy of scripture for her. And I did. Last year, on my furlough, I enjoyed a visit with the church and her host family when I heard about her stories. With their witness and sewing seeds of the Gospel, her heart was ready to hear the Gospel in her own language. She said the Gospel message sank into her heart and understood. We promised to meet again. After her departure, I read her comments in the questionnaire that indicated she had trusted in Jesus Christ as her Savior. I would like to reaffirm her assurance of salvation next time we meet. Such a joy to hear one professes faith in Christ!

Our daughter Miki was able to attend the class and sat next to Miya. There's a one year age gap between them. They can be good Christian friends. Please, pray for Miya. She is willing, but distance and her busy schedule prevent her from frequent attendance at services. But the Lord is able to help and bless.

### **Indonesia**

*Chase Reynolds, Missionary*

We have finished drafting the entire book of Luke in Yetfa!

There is still a lot of work to be done before it is ready to be published but finishing

the first draft is the most difficult part. This will be the first complete book of the Bible in the Yetfa language.

Luke writes that the purpose of his book was so that the recipient, Theophilus would "know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed." Through the 50 oral Bible stories that we translated a few years ago, the Yetfa people have heard and been instructed in the good news of God's grace - the message of salvation through Jesus, and many have put their faith in Him. As they receive the gospel of Luke, we know that - as Isaiah says - his word "shall accomplish" the purpose for which God sent it.

**The translation Team:** Over the last decade of working among the Yetfa, not only have we been translating portions of God's word, but more importantly, we have been training a team of Yetfa speakers to be the primary Translation Team.

In those 10 years, there have been a lot of discipleship, as well as training in the principles, processes and technical skills involved in Bible translation. As we wrap up the Book of Luke, this team is prepared to work more independently. This means that they will produce a first draft on their own (without my direct involvement) and I will serve as a consultant, rather than a translator.

Lord willing, in May the team will begin translating the Book of Ruth as a trial phase for working more independently. They are extremely excited to have reached this level of proficiency, and I am very proud of their faithfulness and commitment.

Yetfa Bible Study in Town: Another situation that has developed in the last few years is more Yetfa speakers are coming to and staying longer in town. Families with school age children are seeking an education for their children, and since that is not available in the village, they are coming and staying in town for extended periods.

That has opened an opportunity for us to minister to Yetfa people from multiple villages all over Yetfa area at the same time, so in January, we began a weekly Yetfa Bible study in Sentani. Please pray the God will continue to use this Bible study to draw more Yetfa speakers to Jesus.

## Interstate Missions

### Lighthouse Ministries

*Toby Cribbs Sr., Director*

**What is a “Stockholder?”** If you or your church supports this ministry you have placed interest, earnings rewards and treasures for every soul that is led to Christ. Matthew 6:20 “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth nor rust doth corrupt and where thieves do not break through nor steal.”

**Churches visited:** Refuge MBC Murphy, NC.; Temple BC Murphy, NC.

**First:** I am still in the healing process. I cannot drive for another week and take a shower. I go for another procedure the first of March.

**Second:** Thanks to Galilee MBC, Milton, FL, for \$1000, Faith MBC, Sebring, FL \$200, and Household of Faith BC, Murphy, NC, \$500.00, for the book finisher machine. Our goal is of today, \$1700.00. Will you please help on the project?

**Third:** Prayer that my wife and I will be able to go to Long State Prison, Ludowici, GA in March. And that I will be able to go to the other jails and prisons.

**Special Prayer Request:** We would like God’s people and God’s churches to pray for a missionary or missionaries to help in this ministry. This has been the most rewarding ministry for my wife and me. Jail house religion? I met a man that was in Raiford Prison on death row. Mickey Park was sentenced to death. One night he got alone with Jesus, and poured our hi heart and asked Jesus to forgive him and save him. The judge that sentenced him let him go. He has been out now about 20 years preaching the gospel. Do pray about helping in this ministry.

### Missionary Ambassador Ministries

*Christopher Cartwright, Missionary*

It has been a very interesting month, but I praise the Lord that He has gotten me through even in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. It has not stopped the proclamation of the truth of the Word of God. God is so good..All The Time.

New Study Series Recorded and Book Translated: In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am still able to contact all the pastors and even make contact with new pastor friends online and send the Turning The World Upside Down message series and digital book to share with others in East Africa.

So far, as of this writing, 3,100 people have been saved since 10/27, and that is 3,100 and counting because many more are hearing the Word all over Africa.

So far, those who have received the Lord Jesus as Savior, are from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, South Sudan, Malawi, and Sierra Leone. We praise God for faithful pastors and workers sharing the life-changing message of the gospel to hungry souls for the word.

Working with Churches in Kenya: At the beginning of March, I had spoken with a man who was a pastor of a non-denominational church, and he had six churches which he had started in October 2019. Normally, I start the conversation by getting to know where pastors and preachers comes from. Bro. Antony Sakula comes from Bungoma in Western Providence, Kenya. A while back, I discussed how it was important to know that if someone was to die today for whatever reason that they would go to heaven. I mentioned that when I met people, whether they go to church, are members, are baptized, or serve in the church, and I asked them that very question of being sure about going to Heaven, a number of people would respond that they are not sure. This includes pastors, and is also a truth that pastors are not immune.

The day after I originally posted of Facebook, I was chatting with this brother, I explained about the post, and for some reason, I asked the same question, and he responded, “No till judgment day.” I explained to him about the plan of salvation, and for the first time, my friend understood what it means to be saved.

### Hope Missions

*Scott Bourland, Missionary*

Plans Change: Proverbs 16:9, *A man’s heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps.*

We had a tremendous plan laid out and were executing it very well until the middle of the month when things changed dramatically, as they did for all of us.

Covid-19 derailed the way we had laid out, but we are absolutely confident that God is directing our steps.

**The Facility:** In spite of the uncertainty we continued on with our renovation of the facility we have leased. We tore out walls, patched and painted, put in all new flooring, installed a kitchenette, and a dozen other small things to get the place ready.

For the most part things are complete and we have plenty of time to finish install of sound system and other small items that remain on the “to do” list.

I want to give my personal thanks to Don Bourland, Eddie Ragan, Josh Bourland, Dan Piper, and Carolyn Titara, who worked along with Missy and me to get all of the renovation work done. I also want to thank the churches and individuals who contributed to make this possible.

Potential Families; Although we were not able to start the services publically as we planned, we did start putting them on Facebook live and have remained in regular contact with those that expressed interest. They all are very responsive to our contact and have been viewing the services online. One couple even came to services as we were allowed to have 10 or less.

### Blooming Missions

*Kevin Plaster, Missionary*

**A Momentous Start:** March began with amazing momentum. We had visitors and return visitor continuously. Jim Woods joined the first Sunday of the month. The next Sunday, Roberta Delp joined and we had a baptism.

Then as many of you, we were faced with the current circumstances and had to make some tough decisions. We really did not want to stop meeting and go to online only services. We considered doing both online for our more susceptible crowd and in person for those comfortable with it. Then, like many of you, our states Governor asked groups of more than 10 not to meet. So, we spent many hours trying to figure out how to reach ALL of our people and stay connected with our new converts.

**Ministry in Light of COVID-19:** I know this is new territory for all of us, but as a mission work, I was really worried when we first made the decision to have to meet online. However, God has used this as an opportunity in so many ways to deepen our relationships and strengthen our communication with our members and attendees.

We have made a serious commitment to communicating with our people daily and meeting virtually for discipleship so that our new converts don't fall out of the "habit" of coming to church. We have also used technology to post daily videos of scripture encouragement, weekly sermons, and small groups via Zoom. Daily phone calls and virtual meetings have filled my days in a new and exciting way.

We are also partnering with our local Law enforcement and Emergency Medical Services and opening up our building for our service members who may have been exposed to self-quarantine and keep their families safe. Providing them snacks, and place to sleep while they are not on duty is just one tangible way we are looking to serve in midst of this crisis.

### **Benchmark Baptist Fellowship**

*Allen Schoeff, Missionary*

**Sometimes the best laid plans of man get changed by GOD.** I had planned to attend the S.A.L.T. Conference in Wetumpka, AL. I booked my flights, rental car, and hotel just like normal. I headed to the airport and stood in the line like cattle; just like normal. We boarded and took off and landed just like normal. But that was where normal ended. A severe weather front came through Charlotte, NC, bringing with it high winds and tornados. The airport was shut down! And the stranded passengers were instructed to wait out the storm in the "shelters". Those just happened to be the bathrooms. Imagine five hours in the bathroom of your favorite layover airport. After the airport was reopened, having sustained no damage (PRAISE GOD), we were allowed back into the main parts of the airport; where everyone was going nowhere fast. So, I sat on the floor next to a power outlet so I could pirate some juice for my phone. Low and behold, that was when God showed up. He sent Jennifer Dixon to sit

down next to me so we could share the outlet. Little did she know that God was going to open a door of opportunity for me to share the gospel with her. She and her traveling companion were very talkative and open to general conversation. And, when they asked what I did for a living, well that was like "sick 'em" to a bulldog. We had a very good discussion and she left with a complete understanding of the gospel. She did not receive Jesus that day, so please pray that someone will come along and water those seeds.

**After returning to Fredericksburg having spent** 14 hours in an airport, life felt a little normal again. Between the leaving and the returning was the best part of the trip. That was when I got to spend two days with my wife. Please continue to pray for Julie as she works on her OD. Please pray for us as this causes our temporary separation. It is a small sacrifice as we know it is for the King of Kings.

### **The Refuge**

*Jonathan Woodring, Missionary*

THIS past month was a bit of a quiet one, due in large part to the unfortunate illnesses that plagued so many of us. Early in the month, Jonathan had the privilege of preaching for Pastor Rashad Cunningham and Church on the Rock. The Woodrings also hosted a Super Bowl/Birthday party for Josiah with those who attend our Bible studies and other friends.

Much of the month was also spent preparing for this summer's mission trip, when a few churches will be joining The Refuge to serve and reach our community with the love of Christ. We are so grateful for those who are coming to serve, as well as those who have done so much in the planning and prepping! We look forward to their not-too-distant arrival as we serve alongside one another and fellowship together. Our weekly Bible studies have been picking up steam with a regularity of recurring attendance. Recently, we have been studying through Ephesians, which garnered quite a bit of interest and discussion; this has led to noticeable interest and growth from those who take part. Our goal is to shift these Sunday afternoon studies into a more complete gathering as we continue to study

God's Word together, spend time in prayer, fellowship, and worship. With the growth we also see an upcoming need for a larger space to meet. Please be in prayer as we seek God's wisdom and look for an adequate place that will fulfill our needs.

Speaking of praying, please also be in prayer for the Pipes as Jason seeks a new position through his current job. He has been encouraged by some of his superiors to explore some occupational options (which would come with better pay.). He and Kristine both received recent raises in their respective jobs, so we are praising God for His grace in that area! Please also pray for Kristine concerning an upcoming surgery in April.

### **Sterlington Mission**

*Trey Emory, Missionary*

**Fellowship:** This month I had the privilege of attending a few associational meetings. I joined the Men's Brotherhood Meeting of the First Springhill Association on the third of the month at Trinity MBC in Arcadia. Then our local Northeast Association had its first youth rally of the year at Central MBC in Bastrop on the twenty-second. Also, I had a chance to go to one night of revival services at our sending Church, Promise Land MBC. The fellowship was great at these meetings, but the encouragement I received from hearing God's Word preached was invaluable.

**Ministry:** We have had several opportunities to get involved in the community lately. The principal at the high school invited me to come eat lunch with the teachers each Friday this month and participate in their teacher appreciation activities. It has been a great time to meet and visit teachers and staff. This past Friday, I was allowed to help hand out door prizes and to thank the staff personally for all their hard work. We were also privileged this month to host a lunch for our local police department, firefighters, mayor and town staff in our church building.

**Pray:** Thank you all for your continued prayers for the things listed below. **1.** Pray for lost to be saved **2.** Pray for individuals/families to join in our fellowship **3.** Pray for a pianist or someone musically talented to join us (in order to lead worship)

### Twin Lakes Baptist Missions

*Jerry Baker, Missionary*

Weather on the Reservation (aka The Rez) during the past month was a little challenging, to say the least. Some days we experienced 30-35 mph sustained winds, followed by additional rain and snow, temperatures ranging from 2 degrees to 50! Even though there were 8" deep ruts the mud permanently created, suffice it to say that getting to the church was a bit challenging. For a while it seemed the vicious cycle went from the road being snow & ice packed to muddy, rutted, dried....repeat!

Our members braved the elements, however, and we only had to cancel services one Sunday due to impassable roads and other weather related conditions.

The last weekend of the month winds were gusting in the 60 mph range and managed to rip off the door to the church pumphouse, blowing it several feet from the building. That Friday night the temperature dropped to 2 degrees resulting in severe freezing problems with the church water system, including inside the exposed pumphouse. After several phone conversations with a couple of experts, it was determined that the tank itself along with most of the pipes would have to be replaced.

Through a little trial and error, I was able to make the necessary repairs and replacements, keeping the cost down to just a little over \$510 for materials. We're thankful we didn't have to hire the work done and for our friend in Texas who had a friend who could talk me through the process!

But, more importantly than getting the church water system back up and running are the people God brings our way. One Saturday Connie and I were working at the church when one of our former members walked in the door, asking "Do you have time to talk with me?" As we sat with this longtime friend, we sadly became aware of some family issues which will be difficult for her to overcome. We wept and prayed with her, assuring her that she and the family were welcome, wanted and needed back at Twin Lakes Baptist. We had actually seen this lady a couple of times in town prior to her visit with us at the church. On each of those occasions she had reluctantly mentioned the need to get back in church.

That Sunday she and her youngest daughter came for worship services, slipping in after services had begun and quietly taking a seat on the back row. The following Sunday she returned with three of her daughters and the boyfriend of one of the girls. She has five daughters ranging in ages from 12 to 27 years old. We've known this family since we first moved to the Rez in 2002. We are praying that this couple and their daughters will return to the Lord's work and that healing will come for their family. We would appreciate your prayers in this matter. Due primarily to the anticipated return of the above family, Connie is preparing to teach a SS class designed specifically for teen girls. We're asking the Lord to fill that classroom and to lay it on the heart of one of our men to start a class for teen guys. As we are all aware, reaching this age group is challenging in today's world, and especially here on the Rez. For instance, among the Navajo people, over 80% of the children are born to unwed young mothers. It is not uncommon at all for boys to drop out of school even before they reach their teen years.

**There is a need to reach out with compassion** to these teenagers, beginning with showing them the unconditional love of Christ.

### Colorado Church Planting

*Everett Ledbetter, Missionary*

The month that none of us saw coming. As with every other ministry, we have had our struggles with the virus and the consequential "stay home" order. In many ways, our ministry has been slowed down and affected negatively. However, there are some positives. Some of the positives include getting much closer with some of our neighbors. We have had some of them reaching out to us for prayer, and to make sure that we are doing okay. We have also had some ask if we were live streaming our services. We have one neighbor bringing us food. We are having almost daily conversations with them. This is much better than it was. We have one man that has really opened up through all of this. He is someone that we have worked on for a while, but now is asking more spiritual questions. Be in prayer for him.

It is yet to be seen how this virus will impact our churches financially. I am sure that some

of our churches will see some drop off in their financial offerings, which will most likely show up eventually in the offerings that missionaries are receiving. This needs to be an urgent matter of prayer. As for our current support, we are so thankful that the Lord has supplied our needs. If things stay on the current trends, however we will continue to be \$600 a month short of where we need to be. I would be glad to live stream with a church and share our needs. I would love the opportunity to have a Zoom meeting with a church and answer any questions and share our burdens.

This year's I.M.P.A.C.T. is being postponed until 2021. This is one of the hardest things that we have had to do, but with all the uncertainty, it is the right call. Please continue to pray for the ministry of I.M.P.A.C.T

### Antioch Baptist Church

*George Dever, Missionary/Pastor*

Hello from Maine. The snow is melting and the ground is becoming visible. We do not mind winter, but are glad that spring is around the corner. We know spring is close because we are hearing the birds chirp, seeing squirrels, and the deer are moving a lot more. The warmer weather brings folks out of their houses anxious to get busy planting flowers and cleaning up their yards from all the sand, salt, and plowing that affects the flowers and lawns.

We are blessed that a young man, Alex Sutton, wanted to be baptized. He was saved a few months ago and was hoping his dad would attend the baptism. His dad did not say he would come since Alex made his profession of faith, so Alex called me on the phone and asked to be baptized. We baptized him the following Sunday. We are praying for his dad, Scott, to get saved and join the rest of his family in serving the Lord.

Antioch will be going through some changes in the next few months, and I will be going on designated funds as of July and could use your prayerful financial support. This is a big step for our folks here in Dexter. Our goal, that we have been preparing for the last few years, is to organize and be as self sufficient as we can. This has always been the desire of the people here, so the next step of faith is for me to go on designated funds working our way to organizing and down the road sending out missionaries in the state of Maine.



Dean Grigsby

## Business Manager Report

Have you ever felt physically fatigued and generally worn-out? Often these are symptoms of a vitamin deficiency. Vitamins are essential for physical health, growth and development. When vitamins are absent in the body, there will be deficiencies. People with vitamin deficiencies are often prescribed daily supplements. People who benefit from vitamins develop a habit of consistently taking vitamins, because they believe it will positively impact their physical health and general wellbeing.

Many of God's people are not only physically fatigued, but also spiritually fatigued. They lack the daily requirements of the spiritual vitamins that come from daily Bible reading and study. The Bible is essential for the spiritual health, growth and development of God's people. King Solomon reminds us of the importance of continually reading and studying God's Word: *My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.* (Proverbs 4:20-22)

The Great Physician has prescribed a daily dose of His Word to improve our spiritual health: *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.* (Joshua 1:8) To be spiritually healthy we must keep the words of God in front of our eyes and in the midst of our hearts.

Too often we neglect our daily dose of God's Word and use it only when we are in trouble and think we need a jolt of spiritual adrenaline. Sometimes we may get that jolt, but the long-term benefits of God's Word are more like vitamins. The real value lies in consistent and long-term exposure to God's Word in our lives. We must trust God and His Word, and then prayerfully read our daily dose of the Bible.



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

Have you ever misplaced something, especially something valuable? Have you ever become desperate while looking everywhere to find that valuable object? The more we value something, the more distraught we may become when it is lost. Yet, at one time, the Word of God was lost to the people of Judah.

During the reign of young King Josiah, the lost Word of God had been found. After Josiah had the book read to him, wonderful things began to happen. Idolatry was eradicated. The people observed the Passover like never before. Josiah removed from the land everything that was abominable in the sight of God.

In reality, many people have lost their Bibles today. One way the Bible is lost is through neglect. Many people go about their lives with little to no thought for the Word of God. Day after day they never take time to read the Word of God.

The Bible is also lost when one selectively reads the Bible. Jesus said to the religious leaders of His day: “Ye have made the commandments of God of none effect by your traditions.” They set God’s Word aside by exchanging it with human commandments and traditions. If one puts traditions in the place of the Bible, then the Bible is lost.

Modern theology and higher criticism teach that the Bible contains the Word of God. No, the Bible is the Word of God. The claim that the Bible contains the Word of God leaves the interpretation and application to the whims of whoever reads it. One part may be taken, while another part may be deleted as unimportant.

The psalmist put in words what should be the attitude of every child of God. “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction. I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me” (Psalm 119:89, 92, 93).

**FINANCIAL REPORT  
WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST INSTITUTE  
January/February 2020**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$1,864.56
<b>INCOME:</b>		
<b>ALABAMA</b>		
.Magnolia Springs -Theodore, AL	400.00	
Schillingers Rd. BC -Mobile, AL	150.00	
<b>GEORGIA</b>		
Northside, BC -Vienna, GA	200.00	
Traders Hill -Folkston, GA	70.00	
<b>FLORIDA</b>		
Okeechobee BC -Okeechobee, FL	159.68	
Calvary BC -Panama City, Fl	100.00	
Oleno BC -HighSprings, FL	200.00	
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>		
Central BC -Gulfport, MS	60.00	
Mics:		
TOTAL		\$1,339.68
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS:H.H.Strickland</b>		
Magnolia Spring BC -Theodore, AL	350.00	
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		\$ 1,000.00
<b>COMMITTEE OF 100</b>		
Terry Alexander - Pensacola,FL	20.00	
Kitchen Sales -Pensacola, FL	61.00	
Transfer from Savings	4200.00	
<b>TUITION/REGISTRATION</b>		
Registration	\$ 00.00	
Tuition	\$ 2,995.86	
TOTAL INCOME	9,576.54	\$5,576.54
TOTAL AVAILABLE		\$11,441.10

<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
Utilities		\$ 1,737.71	
Misc.		1,716.48	
Office		39.00	
Instruction		6,050.00	
TOTAL EXPENSE		\$9,543.19	\$9,543.19
NEW BALANCE			\$1,867.91
<b>BOOKSTORE FUND</b>			
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD			\$ 1,868.62
<b>Income:</b>			
Bookstore Sales		\$ 185.91	
Press Sales		\$ 1,536.13	
Contributions			
Landmark BC Monticello,FL		200.00	
Total Income		\$1,922.04	\$1,922.04
TOTAL AVAILABLE			\$3,790.66
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Utilities		\$472.70	
Postage		\$37.05	
Print Shop		\$1,307.09	
Supplies		116.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$1,192.84	\$1,932.84
NEW BALANCE			\$ 1,857.82
<b>BUILDING FUND</b>			
Calvary BC -Panama City,FL	500.00		
Traders Hill BC -Folkston, GA	50.00		
TOTAL INCOME		\$550.00	
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
Regions Bank		\$1,177.86	
Transfer		\$4,200.00	
Building Fund		\$7,901.82	

**CHURCHES SEEKING A PASTOR**

**The Baptist Chapel of Grand Bay, AL** is seeking a full-time pastor. The Baptist Chapel is a strong mission minded church. It sponsors two schools and supports a number of missionaries. The church is debt free. They are seeking a man that is called of God to come and minister in a growing and prosperous community. If you are interested please contact Chris Adams at 251.490.8741, for more information.

**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 or Bro. Elester Raines at 48987 Galafora Rd. Tickfaw, LA 70466. If they prefer they may call 985.351.8980 or 985.069.0028.

# PRINTING NEWS

**Printing News:**

Things have been pretty quiet as far as the print shop is concerned. I have been working on small publications for the school. It has been a work in progress. I think that, after several tries, I have finally got it where it needs to be.

**Equipment:**

Due to the virus, the company that is working on the new printer has not been able to get the parts for the repair. It has been somewhat frustrating because the unit is paid for and we are not able to use it. The tech is not really sure what caused the failure but he has been trying everything he knows to get it back in service. I do have a back up, for which I am really thankful. It was a unit that I traded for a several months ago. I got it

just in case one of the units went down, I would still have a way to do the color work. I am really glad the Lord was looking out for me in this instance. Otherwise, I would not have purchased another unit, thinking that by buying an, almost new unit, it would do the job for a long time without any problems.

**New Production:**

We are constantly working on new things to produce. I am waiting on the translation for the second quarter of Luke. As soon as I receive the material, it will be published.

I am also preparing to go back to press with the Trial of Blood in English. We have only a few hundred copies on the shelf and I certainly do not want to run out of these books. I generally print two to three thousand at a time. It takes several weeks to get it all done and boxed up. The most time consuming part of the operation is inserting the charts in the back. This is where my wife really does a great job.

I have completed my summary on *Philosophy of Religion* but I have not produced more copies than would be used in the classrooms at the school. However, anyone who would like a copy may contact me and I will send you one. The cost is \$15.00 plus shipping.

**Thanks:**

I would, again, like to thank each and everyone that supports this ministry. Your offerings, which goes to the purchase of the materials, helps to keep this ministry going. I have often wondered what might happen to all the Spanish material that has been printed if I were unable to continue. This is why I pray daily for someone to come and learn what is being done in the print shop.

I ask that you continue to pray for me, my wife and this ministry. We have dedicated over thirty years of producing Spanish material. I have been blessed to see the results of some of this material as I have visited several Latin American Countries.

<p><b>Publication</b></p> <p>wfbi News is published each month except July by the West Florida Baptist Institute and is owned solely by the West Florida Baptist Institute.</p> <p>Subscription is free and a copy may be obtained by writing, e-mailing or calling the</p>	<p>office of WFBI. To be placed on the mailing list, simply call, write or email: 1-850-455-4417 or 1-850-455-7474 (fax). E-Mail at wfbi2@yahoo.com or sign up online at www.wfbi.net.</p>	<p>Articles should be in the office no later than the 10th of the month so that they might be included in that months edition. Mission reports are alternated so that all may have the opportunity to be published.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">H.H. Strickland; editor</p>
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