

# West FLORIDA BAPTIST News

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. H. H. Strickland

Greetings in the Name of our precious Savior. I trust that all is well and you are enjoying the blessing of our Lord.

As April comes in, all of the classes at WFBI are through virtual learning. The enrollment is really down as most of our former students are, either unable to enroll or they are unable to access the computer system. Several have told me that they simply are not into the computer learning thing. However with that said, some students are still eager to study and are taking their classes.

One good thing is, after over a year of trying to get our VA approval renewal, we were finally able to get the new catalog approved along with the two new programs. This is a tremendous blessing.

The plan for graduation this year has not been set. We will have to wait and see if

there are sufficient numbers for us to go through with the ceremony. I do know that there is one student that is scheduled to graduate and we certainly desire to see him to be able to participate.

One of the most urgent concerns for the school is monthly support. I realize that many churches are also struggling with their own situation, but with schools, there are no other sources of support other than the tuition from students and the offerings from the churches.

I recently received a post on messenger that really stuck in my mind. It may not have any direct relationship to the school but it does go to the heart of relationships between individuals. I also know that much of the time ministries like WFBI, are supported on the strength of the relationship of the leaders in the particular ministries. This is really true when it comes to supporting missionaries.

The statement goes like this: "A friend who becomes an enemy after a little misunderstanding or fight has been your enemy since day one, but was just pretending."

I relate this to the support of the school and all its ministries. I realize circumstances in churches change and decisions are made

as to whom the church may choose to support and that is their gift of ministry. However, there are times when little or no consideration is given to what hardship or inconvenience the loss of support might do to a ministry or missionary.

West Florida Baptist Institute has churches and some individuals that have supported this ministry from the very beginning, especially since the school was moved to its current location. These churches and individuals have been so faithful over many years. It is because of their faithfulness that the school is able to continue to carry out the mission for which it was organized.

This school is somewhat different from some of our other schools, in so much as our ministry has come to service many of the black ministers and churches of West Florida and South Alabama. We are very proud of what has been accomplished over these thirty plus years.

All of us are contemplating what the fall semester might bring as far as student enrollment is concerned. There is great anticipation and pray for a renewed insurgence of students and faculty.

To that end, I ask that everyone join me and our faculty in prayer that this will indeed be the case.

May the Lord richly bless you all.

**SEVERAL CLASSES ARE NOW BEING TAUGHT VIA ZOOM. IT IS A NEW EXPERIENCE FOR ME BUT WE DID WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE. WORK IS BEING DONE TO PROVIDE MORE CLASSES IN THIS MANNER. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING A CLASS THROUGH ZOOM, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE.**

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



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

**A Season and Time**

Here it is March and while we thought Spring was on its way in, old man Winter decided differently. This morning I woke up to about 2-4 inches of fresh fallen snow.

This sudden change in the weather reminded me of a verse in Ecclesiastes: 3: 1-8 about the

fact there is a time for everything having a season of it's own.

The very first verse says: " To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the Heaven:"

Every time a change comes in our lives as a Christian I have to accept the fact that God is in control and I need to allow Him, our Lord and Savior to exercise His plan in my life.

During one's life time here on earth we will experience or see others going through these changes listed in Ecclesiastes.

Someone will be born, someone will die, things will be planted and that item will be plucked up as it is in God's plan for this to be experienced by us.

Of course there will be killings and healing, some will break down, while others will be building things up.

We will weep, laugh, mourn and dance. We also will cast away stones, and then gather stones together.

While we continue experiencing the rest of the verses we must always remember there will be a time to love and a time to hate, there will also be a time of war and last a time of peace.

God knows what we will be experiencing while here on this earth. However, once we leave here and go home to be with God in Heaven, we know His promise to prepare us a place will be ready But before we leave earth I believe we will experience almost if not all, of the events mentioned here in Ecclesiastes. Praise the Lord, thank Him for your time here on earth.

Spread the Gospel to as many people that will listen because for us it should be a time to love and share with everyone we come in contact with in our daily lives. Have a wonderful Easter coming up in April. Remember: "He Will Rise Again!"

**Philosophy of Religion**

I read a lot of things that post on my e-mail. Most of them I simply delete because they are nothing more than trash. However, a few weeks back, there was one that I actually deleted then later went back and retrieved. For some reason, I simply could not forget what I had read. I know that not everything that comes through the internet is worth reading much less keeping.

With that said, I would like to share with you a portion of the article. I will not identify the church that made the declaration but simply give some of the main points of what was purporting to be said. If this is correct, then it certainly allows us to see where many churches in

America are headed. Here are some of the things that were in the article.

"As Progressive Christians, we're open to the tensions and inconsistencies in the Bible. We know that it can't live up to impossible, modern standards. We strive too more clearly articulate what Scripture is and isn't.

- The Bible isn't:**
- ? the Word of God
  - ? self-interpreting
  - ? a science book
  - ? an answer/rule book
  - ? inerrant or infallible

- The Bible is:**
- ? a product of community
  - ? a library of texts
  - ? multi-vocal
  - ? a human response to God
  - ? living and dynamic

These beliefs were said to come from a former Baptist educated preacher who was now pastoring what may have been a Baptist Church at one time. It is disturbing that so-called men of God, who have been educated in a Baptist School, professed to have been saved, yet have come to a place in their spiritual lives that they no longer believe or accept the very word from which they professed to believe and was saved.

This certainly would not be in line with the charge that the Apostle Paul gave to Timothy. "Preach the Word..." Could it be that men like this have since rejected the very Word they professed to believe?

It might then be asked, since when did the original things change? Nothing has really changed when it comes to the scriptures. It is only what men want to change in order to fit their own warped thinking.



David Gonnella, Th. D.

## Time to Plan!

As more states open up and more citizens are vaccinated it looks like our nation is about to return to a more normal situation. This will provide our school and perhaps you with expanded opportunities.

As for *WFBI*, we are hoping for a return to in-class instruction for the Fall Semester. This will be a great blessing to our local students and those who commute to classes. The personal attention from faculty members and comradery between students will be of great benefit to those attending in person.

To be sure, Zoom has been a great help, allowing us to continue classes that would have been cancelled were it not for this internet marvel. It has been the next best thing to actually being face to face with students.

Some of us have been busy in the further development of our online courses. We now have more courses than ever for the student who is too far away to commute to classes.

Perhaps you will also benefit from our return to more normal operation. If you are a pastor or church staff member who wants to extend your usefulness to the Lord beyond your retirement from church ministry you should explore the possibility of an advanced degree, giving you the qualifications to teach in one of our seminaries.

Of course, if you wish to write books that will be a blessing to God's people the writing discipline of our Master's and Doctoral programs will help greatly in addition to the Bible knowledge you will gain. It is not difficult to discern the difference between a trained writer with a good Scriptural background and someone who decided on a whim to write a book.

If you are a young person called to the ministry you can get good training in the Word of God from a qualified faculty possessing both the Biblical knowledge and practical experience to give you a sound foundation. As with writers, it is easy to tell the difference between one trained for the ministry and someone who is "winging it" with no knowledge and less experience.

Don't get me wrong. Some of the Lord's choicest servants were not formally trained for the ministry. However, these are the exceptions to the rule. Most of the time those who are not properly trained are given to following harmful trends and are in over their head in leading a congregation. The pity is that they seldom realize their deficiencies and so repeat their mistakes in unfortunate church after church.

Anyone can use a dull ax to cut down a tree. However, a sharp ax in the hands of a trained woodsman is far more efficient. You be the one with the sharp mind and training.

If you are a deacon, Sunday School teacher or a church member who simply wants to know more about the Bible you can benefit from the instruction you will receive at *WFBI*. You can pursue a degree or you can take courses that suit your particular interests either for credit or audit.

Allow me to suggest that you begin your inquiry into the opportunities available at *WFBI* now. If you wait, day will follow day, week will follow week, month will follow month and it will be too late to get in for the Fall Semester. Call the office today and start your personal adventure in the knowledge and training available at *WFBI*.

### Marysville Missionary Baptist Church Marysville, OH

Good Morning! Please keep us in prayer as we are seeking the Lord's will in filling the Pastorate position. We are affiliated with the ABA and hold to the same doctrinal beliefs. We are a small local independent Baptist Church wanting the word of God preached clearly and concisely. Leading and teaching the Church to become better disciples of Christ. If you or you know of a man seeking the Lord's will to fill this position, please reach out to us by email ([MarysvilleMBC@gmail.com](mailto:MarysvilleMBC@gmail.com)) or contact Steven Adams at 937-243-8365. Thank you for your time.

### Overton, TX MBC Seeking Pastor

We at Overton Missionary Baptist Church of Overton, TX are seeking a God-called ABA pastor. We have a small congregation but a strong desire to grow and prosper in our community. We have a nice size building with plenty of room for growth, we just need the right man to lead and guide us in that process. Our community is centrally located between Tyler, TX and Longview, TX as well as being within 20 miles of Texas Baptist Institute of Henderson, TX. If you are interested in this position or would like additional information please contact us at [aprillittlefield20@tbi.edu](mailto:aprillittlefield20@tbi.edu) or [acmcp301979@hotmail.com](mailto:acmcp301979@hotmail.com) or call April Littlefield at 903-424-9011. We look forward to the next step God has for us.



Glen Davenport, Th.D.

TEXT: Heb 11:1

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Eph 2:8 *“For by grace are ye saved through faith ...”*

INTRODUCTION:

A. Faith - defined

1. Synonyms for ‘faith’: belief; trust; confidence; security, certitude, reliance, assurance, credence, conviction

2. Antonyms against faith: doubt, uncertainty, skepticism, unbelief, mistrust, suspicion, apprehension, denial, distrust, rejection

B. Faith determined: Faith is determined by the amount or condition of belief or trust that one has in something or someone.

C. The definition of faith does not change even though we may place our faith in various things or people - even idols or God.

D. Our faith must be based or rooted in past observations, whether they are stories told or actual experience.

E. Faith can be evaluated as we apply our perceived knowledge toward future goals.

F. Faith is vitally important as we dedicate our lives to the service of God the Father.

G. Faith can be measured through negativity. That is to say; One’s faith in God can be checked via his antagonism toward the Word of God.

Matt 6:24 *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

### **I. FAITH Is Not Mere Imagination.**

A. Imaginations are basically a flow of images through your mind. Your perception of those images can be real or vain.

B. Faith may still be born out of our ability to imagine.

EXAMPLE: If I say I have a house. You see a house in your mind. Your imagination will continue to expand as I continue to add details. For a while, you have NO DOUBT, but if I go too far with luxurious details, you may soon begin to doubt and stop believing. However unbelievable it may seem - if I can produce enough evidence, you will believe.

### **II. Consider Belief (John 14:1-3)**

*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

*2 In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

## ADAPTED FAITH

*3 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.*

A. According to Jesus’ thinking, -

“If God said this, you would believe Him.

If I say it, you won’t believe it.” WHY?

B. Why would one believe God?

According to MY thinking: God has a RECORD; a history of things He has said and done as recorded in the Old Testament. - from Creation to fulfilled Prophecy.

C. Why would one NOT believe in Jesus?

1. They did not know the Scriptures that spoke of His coming.

2. Jesus had no RECORD; no recorded history. He had not fully manifested His character or Godly abilities.

D. Our faith MUST be ADAPTED to the works of Jesus.

1. TEXT: “... ye believe in God, believe also in me.”

2. *John 5:33-39*

*33 Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.*

*34 But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved.*

*35 He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.*

*36 But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.*

*37 And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.*

*38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.*

*39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

### **III What Could Jesus Do To Prove He Is As Trustworthy As God?**

A. He must do the works of God! *John 14:11-14*

.B. He must establish His testimony in the New Testament even as God established His in the Old Testament.C. He must appeal to our ability to imagine His death, burial and resurrection.D. He must give us a desire to believe in the reality of the gospel.

**IV. When we have acquired Knowledge of Him and When we are able to Believe in the Biblical Account of His Work and Purpose** -It’s up to us to believe the past and it’s up to us, as individuals, to adapt our faith toward the future - something we know little about except through Biblical prophecy.Can we do it?God requires that we accept His document of PROMISES even as much as we accept His HISTORICAL document of His mighty works.God requires that we accept the New Testament in equality with the Old Testament.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Worldwide Literature Supplies

Joel Merideth, Director

**Personal Report:** Frances had her scans in January which revealed that the chemo is working and the areas of cancer are shrinking. She also had a stroke which has affected her right side and her speech. She is in therapy for the stroke and continues the chemo treatments. She has been very sick the past two months and is some better at this writing. Her strength is returning and her speech is getting better. Thank you for your prayers. We both know God has this and He will take care of her.

**Warehouse News:** Brother Darrell Robertson's shipment from Bolivia finally made it to Washington in February. It was held up by Customs for inspection which ended up costing us about \$880.00 for demerge charges and \$110.00 for extra days for the chassis that was hauling it, Customs reserves the right to hold and inspect any container they choose at the expense of the shipper.

The shipment to Palau for Glen Knight arrived safely in Koror. He has unloaded and stored and installed all the equipment and sends his thanks to all who helped with acquiring items for him.

We have completed the inspection and received a Certificate of Conformity from the Tanzanian government to ship some pews and church furnishings to Brother Livingstone Lambert. Halleluia! We have worked for this little piece of paper for months. If all goes well the container will be shipped later in March. A second container will be shipped to Tanzania which will carry literature, books and Bibles. This shipment will not require the PVOC as books are exempt. Only books will be included in this shipment. If you would like to donate English Bibles for this shipment, please let us know as soon as possible.

Plans are to ship two containers of supplies to the Philippines in the next few weeks. We are collecting items for these shipments. We have been asked to collect chairs (folding or stacking), guitars, hymn books and bibles. One missionary has requested a mountain bike or bikes. The Russellville MBC Auxiliary has purchased one bike and we thank you very much. We need as many Hymnals as we can get to meet the request for them. New or used hymn books can be mailed or delivered to us at 300 Byrd Industrial Drive, Hamburg, AR 71646. Pianos are also needed if you have one to donate. Jeremiah Abay, International Christian Publishers, has requested help with collecting Bibles, Children clothes (must be clean and boxed and boxes sealed with tape), Bible study books, school supplies and a new or used generator for humanitarian aid. He also asks for anything that will assist with humanitarian aid. *Pease note that items must be here by early April to be included in this shipment.*

## Glenwood News:

Ray Meigs, Manager

**Marked Men for Christ:** On February 19-21, we hosted a Marked Men For Christ conference. There were thirty-four men from several states that came to Camp Glenwood for a time of spiritual renewal and dedication. The conference was a tremendous success and we were blessed to host the co-founder Steven "Spice" Spicer and his staff.

**Valentines Day Offering:** It is not to late tp give toward our annual Valentines Day Offering. This offering is dedicated toward the building and improvement projects. Current project include improved lighting in our kitchen and dining hall. You may send your offering to: Camp Glenwood, PO Box 538, Folsom, LA 70437, or you may give online. Go to our website (glenwoodbyc.com) and click the donate button.

A Special Thank You! Camp Glenwood would not function without the faithful support of churches and individuals! This fact was brought home recently when we learned of a camp nearby that was having financial troubles and were contemplating closing. They depended totally on camp fees. With no camps in 2020 and therefore, no revenue, their financial position is very dire.

Because of your faithful support, we have been able to meet all our financial obligations during a difficult time! We have remained open and look forward to a great 2021 camp season and many seasons beyond!

**NAVAJO MISSION SEEKING NEW MISSIONARY:** The sending church, Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Judsonia Arkansas is seeking a missionary to take over the work at Two Grey Hills. Bro Rusty Denny is currently the Missionary on the field and plans to leave no later than the end of June of this year due to health reasons. This is a sound work in many ways. It has a 5 bedroom 3 bath parsonage, a new church building that not only will be sufficient for the congregation but also provide a place for those that want to come and do a VBS or work project in the summer. Everything is paid for and up to date. The mission has had many outreaches including the groups coming in the summer, the Northern Nation Navajo Fair in Shiprock, Family church camp in the mountains, handing out over 1000 Christmas shoeboxes each Christmas and other events.

The missionary must teach and believe the doctrinal statement of the American Baptist Association. This should be a lifetime commitment and will be very rewarding. For more information about the work, please feel free to contact the missionary, Bro Rusty Denny at 505-488-8899.



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

## MISSION NEWS AND VIEWS

### FOREIGN MISSIONS

### STEWART REPORT

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$2,389,403.02</b>
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Interstate Salaries	\$59,173.82
Foreign & National Salaries	\$57,489.42
Designated	\$37,269.82
Undesignated	\$17,821.08
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$171,754.14</b>
<b>BALANCE FOR SALARY/EXPENSE</b>	
	<b>\$2,561,157.16</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Interstate Salaries	\$74,179.80
Foreign Salaries	\$22,796.19
National Salaries	\$22,839.20
Designated	\$36,669.82
Salaries & Expenses of Sec-Treas. Office	
Office Salaries	\$12,288.88
General Office	\$5,297.38
Automobile Expense	\$203.57
Sec/Treasurer Exp	\$401.62
BCCS Printing	\$247.55
Total Office	\$13,587.81
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$174,924.01</b>
<b>BALANCE FORWARD</b>	<b>\$2,386,233.15</b>
<b>DEFICIT FOR March</b>	<b>\$(3,169.87)</b>

**News:** March was a great month of travel for the Secretary- Treasurer of Missions. March 7th was spent with Liberty MBC, McKinney, TX, where Brother Kevin Clinton pastors. Brother Clinton was an ABA recommended missionary as this work was being built. March 14th found us at Lakeside MBC, Des Arc, AR, where Standing Missionary Committeeman, Brother Eddie Addison pastors. March 21st found me in Theodore, AL, with Magnolia Springs Baptist Church and Pastor David Gonella, for their Faith Promise Missions Revival. The next day

I was with Heritage MBC, Missouri City, TX, and pastor John Strader, for their Missions Revival. Finally, March 28th, I was with Bethel MBC, Tatum, TX, and preached their Palm Sunday services.

**Names:** I was honored to accompany Interstate Missionaries, Paul Armstrong and Allan Barton, at Magnolia Springs' Faith Promise Missions Revival as well as Interstate Missionary, Juan Gallegos, and Foreign Missionary, Jodie Vesely, at the Missions Revival at Heritage MBC.

**Numbers:** For the month of March the ABA recommended missionaries reported **343 professions of faith** and **73 baptisms**. For these saved souls and changed lives we give God all the glory.

**Notes:** I want to remind the churches and their missionaries of three very important calendar events coming our way: [1] The **Standing Missionary Committee** will meet at Northern Hills MBC, Texarkana, AR, on Monday at 1:00 PM and Tuesday morning, May 17-18. Everyone is invited and all recommended missionaries, along with their Sponsoring Church representatives, are encouraged to attend. [2] **Missionary Share Time** will be on Monday, June 21st from 7:00 to 9:00 PM in the Charleston Convention Center Theater at this year's Messenger Meeting. [3] The **Missionary Program**, presented by the Standing Missionary Committee, will be Wednesday, June 23rd, at 7:00 PM in the Charleston Coliseum. All missionaries and their families who will be participating should bring their country flag (if possible) and sign up, via their region of the world, during the Missionary Committee on Tuesday morning.

**Needs:** By the time you receive and read this report it will be time to complete the **2021 Missionary Recommendation Forms**. The due date for those forms is Friday, April 23rd. If your church plans to recommend and/or re-recommend a missionary for the 2021-2022 associational year now is the time to act. Call 903.792.2312 or email [missions@abamissions.org](mailto:missions@abamissions.org) if you need a recommendation form sent to you.

#### Colombia, SA

*Julio Mendoza, Missionary*

We are praying to God, on our knees for a property for the work in the city of Ibagué, Tolima.



This property valued \$ 127,000 dollars. Area 10X24 meters this other property, Value \$ 87,500 dollars. Area. 7X20 meters.

Thank you for your prayers and financial help for the ownership of this new work.

We have delivered papers to lease this house to start the services. Monthly rental cost \$ 500.00 dollars including public services

We are in Ibagué with my wife, visiting some homes bringing them the plan of salvation. We had 5 professions of faith. Glory to God.

Fusa MB. Attendance 15. Visits 1, Baptism Candidates 2

Monterrey MB. Attendance 21, with 2 visits, a profession of faith.

Glory to God for spiritual results this month for all the work He allows us to do, in His redemptive work. Acts 1:8.

#### Spain

*Daniel Estrada, Missionary*

I would like to thank my wife, Eloisa for the great work that she does every week and every day in our home. She is an amazing woman,

and I praise God for her, and her heart for the Lord.

**Alhaurin de la Torre work...** What an amazing God we serve the Creator of everything. When we see masterpieces like this we have to say; God is great and in control of everything.

God is still making great things in the middle of this confused world. We pray that people may see God and His almighty handiwork and believe in Him.

This family by us is the new Argentina people that are coming to church, pray for the Salcedo Family.

We are celebrated my birthday with our family in Christ. It was a good time of fellowship, and sharing blessings from God.

Please, pray for our congregation, we are still missing some people because of the coronavirus. But, we hope to get them back soon and have more believers attending church.

**Work of SWEDEN...** We keep teaching a family every week. They are regular in having their Bible lesson. Just pray that we might be able to come back to visit them and see what is going on there. We mean, if we can still visit and make more disciples of Christ in that country.

Also, we continue giving a Bible lesson to a group of believers in Barcelona church, two times a week what a blessing we have in serving others.

Pray for them and for the work in Spain.

Also, thank God for the wonderful support of our sending church and many supporting churches, praise God for all of them.

### **Vanuatu**

*Danny White, Missionary*

The start of a new year and a new decade is always an exciting time and we are looking forward to what the Lord has in store for us as a family and for His work in Vanuatu. We are making plans to open the Christian school at Imanaka on Tanna and also we would love to be able to make a trip to the States for deputation, however, as always this is in the Lord's hands, as we are caring for Danny's elderly parents. Please pray with us about these plans, that the Lord will bring them to fruition. We were pleased about the atten-

dance at the new discipleship classes we held in December. The materials were printed in Bislama (pidgin English) - the national language of Vanuatu. After so many years, Danny is fluent in Bislama and can explain God's truths as well as the language allows. Danny also understands some of the local West Tanna language which is the villagers' first language and is mainly spoken only (not read). Vanuatu has 103 local languages in total over the 83 islands. There are a number of young men and women who have attended the classes and we ask for your earnest prayers that the Lord will touch their hearts and give them the desire to continue to grow in their knowledge and understanding of Him. Traditionally, from the age of 12, the young men go to the nakamal (meeting place) to help prepare the kava that is consumed each afternoon by many of the Tannese men. The boys chew the kava root before it is mixed with water and strained. It is a constant struggle to get the men to turn away from the kava drinking practice but with God's strength we know they can do it! Danny has also been training these young men in building skills and they have been learning over time and helping him working on the new storage shed and amenities block.

### **Russia**

*Jodie Vesely, Missionary*

What has been happening in Russia? While we have been stuck stateside, the church has continued to gather sometimes in person and sometimes online. We have been leading many of the events and gatherings online, which seems to be a normal thing to do in 2021. We have friends whose churches have only been meeting online since March 2020; we also have friends who work online now and no longer in an office setting. So a 2021 missionary to Russia might look a little different than a 2019 missionary to Russia. I have even been granted approval to continue being a Children's Hospice volunteer ministering to more children in an online capacity going forward! We are still praying about and researching how to best continue and expand ministry going forward now and in the future. Please pray with us!

I was greatly encouraged to hear one of

the men involved with our church has taken it upon himself to create a Bible study in a cafe near his home in the suburbs. He is currently praying about starting a home church out there. Please pray for him and for God to call him or some other man to be the pastor of our church. We need Russian God-called leaders in the church. Please pray for a pastor for our Russian church!

I have been amazed at how spread out our ministry is becoming. We regularly are ministering to people all over Russia and the world, all online!

### **Ukraine Zhytomyr Oblast**

*Damien Austin, Missionary*

One of the greatest blessings of having the new church building is that we have an additional room for children's church. It's something that we have wanted for a long time.

We were so happy to be able to have church services in February. We removed the middle rows of chairs. Everyone wore masks and used hand sanitizer. We celebrated the Lord's Supper the second meeting. Unfortunately, our region is now under lock down for the next two weeks of March. Group gatherings are not allowed.

Unfortunately, there was a walnut tree that was too close to the building. The roots were starting to crack the foundation and interfere with the second phase of the remodeling project. The tree was removed, and the wood was given a new purpose. We used our village sawmill in Bolyarka to process and dry the wood. Our friend, Sergey built a new podium, and Damien made a cross.

We are making plans for Doug and his team from Westwood to come in May to begin work on the second floor of the church..... if Covid allows. Thank you for your support of this project.

### **Nairobi, Kenya**

*Ernie Hopper, Missionary*

It's great to be 'back in the saddle' again. We all have our stories about how Covid has affected our lives and ministries. In brief, here in Kenya we were under a lock down for three months and then under some fairly strict travel and assembly rules until the end of the

year. I chose to stay at home with my wife in FL than stay alone here. In early January schools and churches opened up and I returned to E. Africa. We kept our office open and continued translating, printing and digitizing our LBBI lectures. Most of our pastors met in the homes of a limited number of church members during this time. As a result, 5 new churches were started during the lock down! Three have already had baptisms and the others will soon. A new class for preachers was started in the southwestern Kenya tribal area of Kisii with 20 students. This last month I did seminars on Baptist History in western Kenya for the two new classes there. I have 3 times that many scheduled for next month. Thanks to all of you who are having a part in this ministry.

### Israel

*Kyle Foster, Missionary*

Shalom, We have been incredibly busy the last two months. WHEW! We are currently in Florida, at our sending church, Westwood. We came for the Mission's conference, Super Bowl Outreach and are now getting ready to get back out on deputation until The Nazareth Trust notifies us that it is time to purchase our tickets for travel. We are just waiting for Israel to open up for international travel, then they will get our visas for us and get them sent, so we can travel. Our friend, Lisa Gee has been our guest at Westwood for the missions conference and helping with some local outreaches, as well as the Super Bowl outreach. We also made "Blessings" bags, for the sheriff's department, put John and Romans with tracts in public access areas such as bus stops, benches, put tracts in beer cartons at Walmart, and made Blessing boxes for some of the homeless.

### Thailand

*Danny Jones, Missionary*

I have been hard at work writing, formatting, publishing, printing and distributing books through our Baptist Training Center Publications ministry. We also have two subsidiary imprint names that are registered: *Koine Press* for general publications and *Boogie Bookhouse*, which is our children's book division. Since my last report, I have published three new books and I am working on several others. *The Art*

*and Science of Soulwinning* by David Smith is a wonderful book that will challenge you to share the gospel.

*Bible Believing Studies in Revelation* by Michael O'Neal is a verse-by-verse commentary on the book of the Revelation. *Tales to Tell*, by James Gage is a full color book of funny short stories. My daughter Tiffany worked as our computer graphics editor and watercolor artist on this project.

In addition to the print publications, I and my daughter Tara have been working on converting the Garner-Howes Baptist Commentary to an electronic format that can be installed into the e-Sword Bible Study program for Windows and Mac, and also the MySword Bible study program for Android. Tara has completed the New Testament, and I have completed Genesis - Job. I hope to finish this work within the month.

What a crazy year it's been: covid, political upheaval, lockdowns, death. Yet, in the midst of all the turmoil, God has still been blessing! Udon Thani Baptist Church reports eight professions of faith and five baptisms! We praise the Lord for several churches who have contributed to the Thailand Seminary Dorm Project, which we hope to begin when travel restrictions are lifted. I have been speaking with Bro. Brent Rosendal who serves as a missionary in Chiang Mai, Thailand, about recording classes in Thai for an online four-year seminary program. This will be a massive undertaking, and may take us several years to complete, however I have quite a bit of material from which to draw, from close to twenty years as a Thailand missionary.

### UPDATE ON RACHEL'S HEALTH

Many of you have asked for an update on my wife Rachel's health condition. Rachel has continuously gone downhill for several months: racked with pain and shortness of breath, fainting, having brain fog, fatigue, extremely low blood pressure and many other symptoms. After a battery of tests, she was diagnosed with dysautonomia, a dysfunction of her autonomic nervous system controlling her organs, breathing, heart rate, blood pressure, and other involuntary functions. The doctors believe that this disorder was caused by our prolonged battle with COVID-19. She was recently placed on medication to raise her

blood pressure which, though is fraught with side effects, has certainly helped her to get back on her feet again. However, there are many other issues which will need to be addressed, and we are trying to get her to a doctor in Tampa, FL which specializes in dysautonomia. In the meantime, she has an extremely weakened immune system, and must take precautions to not make her condition any worse. Thank you all for your prayers and concern, and please continue to lift up my wife before the Lord in your prayers.

### Uganda

*Chuck Fernandez, Missionary*

God's Word Does Not Return Void: We have seen the impact God's Word has made in individual lives, families, villages and tribes. Imagine what it would be like if you didn't have God's Word. What if you wanted a copy, but couldn't afford or find one? While we have already provided thousands, there are still thousands who stand in need in the Pokot, Luo, Luhya & Karamojong tribes. Ugandan soldiers received one solar audio Bible for two soldiers to listen to in the Kerio Valley.

Running Low: Last month we were at a village called Kibuk which is located on Mt. Elgon. Along with the newly reached village called Chalicha where two new Churches have been organized last week. The picture is telling in that hundreds have recently accepted Christ and the evangelist named Wycliffe, is only able to give out the last of five Bibles he had. We are working hard to resupply their needs and we are thankful for those who have recently stepped up to help but we find our supply lacking at this time.

The cost of the Ember model through Mega Voice is \$22.00 each. Now that both Kenya and Uganda are opening up for travel after the CV-19 Saga, the Evangelist's we are working with are starting to return to remote areas in the Kerio Valley. They have asked for one hundred of these audio Bibles in the Pokot languages and one hundred in the Karamojong Language. With over ninety percent illiteracy rates these Bibles are an invaluable delivery tool for the Word of God.

Rom. 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The cost of these Swahili Bibles recently

given to these two Muslim converts is \$10.00 each. Our goal at this time is to provide the Evangelist's on Mt. Elgon with three hundred Swahili Bibles over the next three months. The Macedonian call was given to God's Men to physically come over and help them spiritually. We realize that not everyone come over to Kenya and Uganda to help these new converts but we can be a blessing to them by providing God's Word.

Would you prayerfully considering giving one or two or ten? We at the Florida Church plant have set a goal giving of 50 audio Bibles and 100 Swahili Bibles.

### **Braskov, România**

*Kolt Mickrill, Missionary*

We want to take a moment and thank God for all of His goodness toward us. We are so very thankful that He has blessed us to be here in His service and to have so many who love and support us. We know that you all will continue to pray with us for the work here in Romania!

Last month we enjoyed the opportunity to fill in again for one of our sister churches here in Brasov city. We enjoyed the two Sundays we spent with them and continue to pray for the work they are doing.

Feldioara Baptist Church continues to do well. They are still enjoying seeing guests come and visit their services. We missed them so much the two Sundays which we were out and filling in elsewhere, however the feeling was mutual as they spoke as much when we made back to their services. Continue to pray with us as the Lord is obviously working in their hearts and in their community.

Faith Baptist Church in Zarnesti also enjoyed wonderful services this past month. We continue to see good attendance each Wednesday evening bible study and Sunday evening service. Continue to pray with us as we work to make and meet new contacts.

Pray for souls to be saved as we continue to reach out to those in our community!

### **South Pacific**

*Walt Emery, Missionary*

Association Meeting: Port Vila Association of Missionary Baptist Churches was held March 3- 7, 2021 on the island of Irira. What a joy! At the first association meeting there

were 2 churches represented.

This time we had four different churches attend. I was so pleased to see about 80 people from different churches getting to know one another. They have seen each other in town but didn't know that they had a common belief.

Now they know each other and one of the churches invited everyone to their church for the next one, and everyone is looking forward to getting together again!

Thank you to all who have supported and are supporting us in this ministry, both in prayer and financially. Because of you, we have been able to get God's Word out to those who have never heard. We could not be here doing what God has called us to do without your help!

Maggie and I made 120 song books in two different languages for the island of Tanna. One set of 20 was for South Tanna and 100 for North East Tanna. It was a tedious affair. Maggie typed it out and when I read it back to her, it was one letter at a time. It took quite a while to get all the way through it! But we got it done, and they have been sent to Tanna! They lost a lot of their songs books during cyclone Pam March 2015.

### **Argentina**

*Scott Maness, Missionary*

Marcelo had mentioned to me that in addition to the Bible school that we are having for the younger kids on Wednesday before the preaching, he wanted to try having an outreach to the older youth in his barrio (neighborhood). We have been having a special time on Saturday night with snacks, games, singing and a Bible study. While teaching the Bible study, I can tell that some of these kids are listening intently and processing the information. Much of what these kids have seen and experienced in their home lives cannot be put into words. Please pray!

Next Saturday we are planning on having a time in the afternoon to take a soccer ball down to one of the plazas close to his house and talk to the kids about the Lord. Please pray for not only salvation of those hearing but for wisdom and safety as there is no police presence in this area that is very troubled. His neighborhood is referred to as "tierra de nadie" or "no man's land" You that regularly pray for us and for the people of Argentina have our thanks with words that also cannot

be expressed!

Homelessness is also on the rise in the last few months we have seen much more open homelessness and street vendors than normal.

**Homelessness.** Shacks being set up by the homeless is not anything new, however the number has increased as well as the places where they are setting up a place to stay .

There are several "villas", small mini villages of houses made of cardboard and crates. If you were traveling through different parts of the city, you had to know where these were for personal safety. As we see the homelessness and desparation increase, robberies and other crimes have also increased. There have been an increase of robberies in the neighborhood where we live as well.

**Street vendors.** In past months it was very common to see several street vendors in the center. Now due to the increase in the number of street vendors there is much more activity in smaller neighborhoods. Please pray that people will not only come to know the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, but will repent of their sins and completely trust Jesus for salvation.

### **Bulgaria**

*Jim Black, Missionary*

Our principle method of outreach throughout the duration of Covid has been stuffing mailboxes with gospel tracts and invitations. In just a couple hours time we can stuff around 1200 mail slots. Does it work?

Stoian, Rumiana, Kevin, and most recently Irina, are all people that came to church as a result of receiving an invitation in their apartment's mail slot. Last Sunday was Irina's first time at church. She listened intently, took notes and asked a lot of questions at the close of the service.

Attendance has been on the rise in all three of our weekly services. Three medical students from the UK that regularly attend the Sunday afternoon English service recently brought a friend to church. She is from Pakistan. At the end of the service she told me that she enjoyed my talk. This is probably the first time in her life to hear a presentation of the gospel.

*For the past several weeks we have held a Bible study at Eoin's apartment. He comes from Ireland and has a Catholic background.*

## Interstate Missions

### Lighthouse Ministries

*Toby Cribbs Sr., Missionary*

My wife and I were at Schillinger Road Baptist Church with Pastor Martin McCoy on March 17, 2021 in Mobile, Alabama I gave a report and preached. We had a great service. He is the REAL McCoy.

On Thursday March 18, 2021 we attended a Mission Conference at Magnolia Springs Baptist Church in Theodore, Alabama with Pastor David E. Gonnella. My wife and I sang a song (IN HIS ARMS). I gave a report and preached. We had a great service. Brother David E. Gonnella has written some Commentaries (Galatians, and Romans). He also has books on Systematic Theology (Bibiology-Anthropology-Hamartiology-Soteriology). I recommend all, of them.

New Jails—Prison: Warren Correctional Inst. Norlina, N.C. Ector Detention Center, Odessa, TX, Jackson Correctional Inst. Black River Falls, WI. New Jails—Prison, Warren Correctional Inst. Norlina, N.C. Ector Detention Center, Odessa, TX, Jackson Correctional Inst. Black River Falls, WI.

We mailed out six Macedonia Bible studies and six certificate.

We mailed out (25) of our Resource List to Chaplains

Do pray that God will send a Missionary or Missionaries to help in this Ministry.

### Hattiesburg, MS

*Bruce Betts, Missionary/Pastor*

First let me start by saying thank you to all of the churches who have continued my personal support over these very uncertain times. My family and I appreciate your gifts, prayers, and love this past year. This virus has affected us in many ways but God has been faithful through it all.

Logos, like most missions and churches went virtual and have been for the past 9 months. It has been impossible for us to meet because of the restriction here in Hattiesburg, as some may know we were meeting in a community center but because of covid-19

restrictions city wide that was not an option anymore. But we have been meeting virtually and the Lord has tremendously blessed through the weekly broadcast. We've had several professions of faith through our broadcast and I am especially grateful for that. We've had a few members affected with the virus but thank God no fatalities. God is good!! I have been praying for our missionaries and pastors because of the strain that this virus has caused on us personally. I couldn't visit any of my sick parishioners and that was a hard struggle for me and them as well. God is still good!!!

Even though there was and still is many restrictions here I've seen the Lord bless us. We have a parking lot completed with a partnership with the City of Hattiesburg. I didn't know how we were going to get it done because of the tremendous cost but God! I was in a meeting with the mayor about various things in the downtown area and was discussing with him the cost and process of getting a parking lot built for Logos, he said pastor how about we build it, maintain it, and if there are events going on downtown that you allow the city to use it for parking. I told him I would discuss it with the church but I knew it was God answering prayer. Needless to say we voted to allow the city to build the parking lot. I can report as of the first of February the parking lot is complete. God is good!

### Flagstaff, AZ

February has been a refreshing month. God has blessed us in many ways. Mainly with being reminded that He is still in this work. We were blessed with the opportunity to go to Nevill's Chapel in Mt. Pleasant, Texas, at the beginning of the month. This mission conference was a great time to visit with other missionaries and relax being around people of like faith. Perhaps our favorite part was the glimpse of returning to normalcy. Everywhere we went in Texas, no one wore a mask, and everyone just lived life like pre-pandemic. That was very refreshing from the life we have to live in Flagstaff.

We are excited about a family that has started to join us on Sundays. This is a relationship we have been cultivating for approximately five months and is now bearing fruit.

Owen turned two this month. He is growing into an incredible young boy of whom we are so proud. My mother and Taylor's parents were able to fly out to celebrate his birthday. It was supposed to be a quick trip, but due to the severe winter storms in Arkansas and the rest of the south, their trip was extended to a week due to flights being canceled. This, of course, was a blessing for us as we enjoyed the company.

The most fantastic news of the month was the fact that Hunter was saved on the 23rd. We have been so thankful to God for His enduring promise that He will never leave nor forsake. We have been praying for Hunter for years, and I can not wait to see what God does through him.

### Israel

*Kyle Foster, Missionary*

Shalom, We have been incredibly busy the last two months. WHEW! We are currently in Florida, at our sending church, Westwood. We came for the Mission's conference, Super Bowl Outreach and are now getting ready to get back out on deputation until The Nazareth Trust notifies us that it is time to purchase our tickets for travel. We are just waiting for Israel to open up for international travel, then they will get our visas for us and get them sent, so we can travel. Our friend, Lisa Gee has been our guest at Westwood for the missions conference and helping with some local outreaches, as well as the Super Bowl outreach. We also made "Blessings" bags, for the sheriffs department, put John and Romans with tracts in public access areas such as bus stops, benches, put tracts in beer cartons at Walmart, and made Blessing boxes for some of the homeless.

### Twin Lakes Baptist Mission

*Jerry Baker, Missionary*

We are optimistically looking for changes soon to come for the Lord's work at Twin Lakes Baptist. Although our county remains unopened insofar as restaurants, entertainment, schools and sports are concerned, we are seeing most of the state being allowed to reopen somewhat. The Navajo Nation is also talking about lifting some restrictions imposed on the people.

In spite of the long months of stress, closures, and tight regulations, however, our church continues to remain open on a “reduced” schedule. The members have long anticipated receiving their vaccinations, and the majority now have that sense of security even though they still feel more comfortable with everyone wearing masks.

My personal physician even contacted Connie and I one afternoon with instructions to visit his clinic before 4 p.m. that day to get the vaccine without having to wait on the state’s call to schedule an appointment. Whether or not the vaccine is necessary, at the very least it made our church family have more of a sense of safety and that’s what is most important. With the vaccines, part of our state “reopening”, and warm weather surely just ahead, there seems to be a renewed spirit of hope for all of us. Maybe it’s just me, but I think I’m beginning to see light at the end of the “Covid tunnel”.

One huge encouragement has been our church voting to resume Sunday School classes beginning the first Sunday of March! Harold Belone will again be teaching the adults, Connie is beginning a ladies class, one of our moms will teach a class of older elementary/Jr High students, and Christian Lee will be teaching a class for teen boys. Many of you will remember Christian began attending church with his family when he was just 4 years old. EIGHTEEN years later his family remains faithful and Christian is stepping up to teach this class of young men.

We are optimistic that before long there will be a need to add another class for younger children as we continue inviting those around us to be a part of Twin Lakes Baptist, a ministry to their own people.

### Hope Missions

*Scott Bourland, Missionary*

November through February found us just holding steady in many ways. Though there were still positives our attendance dipped some and we saw very few visitors.

This month we began to see a transition back the other direction. We averaged 35 in attendance, with one service at 40 (a new record) and had 13 first time visitors for the month.

These visitors range from very stable people to folks that are about as far from the Lord as you can get. Some were saved and mature Christians and many are lost. Please pray for their salvation.

**Looking forward to Easter:** Our people have worked extremely hard to invite friends and family to this year’s Easter service. I can not wait to see the fruit that their efforts will produce. There are many valuable methods of outreach, but nothing surpasses an excited disciple telling other about what is going on in their life and compelling them to come and see for themselves.

**Thank you so Much:** We want to express our sincere appreciation to those that responded to the needs we presented last month. The piano was purchased and has already been used and all the outreach cards have been sent. Your love and amazing expressions of generosity are making a difference.

**Our Home:** Missy and I have been looking for a home for a year. There were many road blocks to us finding what we were looking for and our belongings have been in storage this whole time.

Looking back at my father’s needs and how things worked out to help him, the delays make perfect sense, but we are thankful that the wait is over.

### Benchmark Baptist Fellowship

*Allen Schoeff, Missionary*

**Once again God’s people have blessed us.** We want to say thank you. We reported that we are in need of a new vehicle and you have begun to provide the means for us to replace my Jeep. We bought it specifically for ministry long ago and it had been a blessing, but like all things mechanical and materially, they do wear out. Julie’s car is currently in Georgia where Brother Rickie Boyle is working on it to get it back on the road for us while I am borrowing our son’s truck. This is working for now as he is currently deployed. But in a couple of months when he returns, it will no longer be available. We would be very grateful for any support you could offer toward our “new to us” truck.

**February saw Benchmark step closer** to becoming independent. The people here are growing to love missionaries. Several months

ago we held our first ever Faith Promise Revival. The momentum continues, and this month we added seven new missionaries and ministries to our monthly support. There are three areas that we have identified that are foundational to becoming and independent autonomous church. The first is being self governing. I cannot express how glad we are that our sending church is behind us and supports us in every endeavor, yet at the same time they allow us the latitude to be the local church. The second is self supporting financially. We are working to attain this goal. For the last 12 months, we have been able to establish that we can meet our ministry expenses including about 1/5 of what will be required for a pastor’s salary. Obviously, this is an area we need growth. I am teaching biblical principals of giving faithfully, but the virus has caused some of our folks to see a dramatic decrease in personal income. The third area that we need to be strong in in order to become independent is the ability to be self replicate. It is our goal that when we become independent that we will be able to soon thereafter become a sending church ourselves so that we can plant another ABA church in the Mid-Atlantic area! Our Faith Promise will lead us in that direction.

### Misión Bautista Emanuel

*Gabriel Sanchez, Missionary*

And that is precisely what happens when you lift up your eyes to the Lord! We rejoice for another month filled with abundant blessings from God. At the beginning of this year, brother Alfredo Jori and Blanca Carballo started attending our services. They had visited us in the past when they were looking for a church to serve, unfortunately they decided not to stay. Then this time they informed me that their desire was to become members of Emanuel, Sunday. Since we know they were baptized by a church of the same faith and order, on February 14 we voted to receive them as members by testimony.

With the COVID-19 restrictions for more than a year we were thirsty for a church fellowship. February 14 we had a good fellowship which included personal testimonies and a good meal. A total of 53 of our members and visitors were present.

Although we were without power for three

days we enjoyed the snow that our good Lord sent to Houston/Katy. We used these days without heating for a good family time. We had to sleep on mattresses in the living room to keep ourselves warm.

### Colorado Church Planting

*Evertt Ledbetter, Missionary*

Praise the Lord for all that He is doing!! He continues to work in the midst of a pandemic or whatever it is. In February, we shared that Lord had opened an opportunity to minister to a group that does not live in my area. We have been blessed to be able to continue to do that. We have held weekly Sunday night Zoom worship services and weekly Zoom Bible Studies. Each of our Zoom meetings have been well attended. At the end of March, my wife and I made another trip to preach and minister to the group in person. The group had two first time attendees in it this time with an attendance of 12 from 4 households. We continue to give the Lord praise for what He is doing there. Locally, we have continued to reach out, and minister the best that we can. We were blessed with one family that visited with us for our Sunday morning services, and one man that met with me for a one on one Bible Study. Pray for us as we continue to preach His word and reach out both locally and at a distance.

Impact21 is officially going to happen this year in Columbia, MO. We will be working with missionary Kevin Amburgey the week of June 14 - 18. We would love to have more church groups join us in this work of outreach. We have cost plans as low as \$160 per person. This price includes four nights accommodations at The Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, two meals per day, and one Tshirt per person. Please contact me for more information asap. Our registration deadline is April 11th. We need to know who is joining us in Columbia, MO to share the gospel there.

### Heritage Baptist Missions

*Allen Barton, Missionary*

Shoveling snow from the steps of the church on a Sunday morning is not something that we are accustomed to here in Haleyville, AL. As a matter of fact, I don't recall every having to do that in all the time

I've been serving the Lord here in this area! I guess there is a first time for everything!

Late in January, we were hit with a winter storm that shut our area down for a few days. Ice accumulation brought down trees and power lines and made travel very hazardous. Thankfully, we were blessed to not have any damage to the building or property. God was watching over us at home too. We lost power for a little while and we had quite a bit of tree damage, but thankfully no damage to our home.

We are looking forward to the weather giving us a break in the coming weeks. Bro. Wesley and I are very excited and anxious to get out and do some door to door visitation. We hope to start that in March. Please pray for us as we start this new outreach ministry.

Our Sunday school is starting to grow again as well as we have just added a new class for the younger children. We look forward to seeing all the classrooms full again.

### Bloomington Baptist Mission

*Kevin Pruitt, Missionary*

This month was a challenging month for the Pruitt family personally as Kelli has been having some setbacks with her Lupus but God continues to bless Journey in ways that leave us in awe.

This month we have had several visitors and return visitors, despite several weekends of weather and 12" of snow. Three of the four weekends we had a snow event moving through the area.

The church also voted to take a huge step to take on responsibility for a larger portion of my monthly salary. We had currently been sending \$1700 dollars to my salary, housing and insurance and this month we voted to raise that to \$2900. We are trusting God is going to bless this step of faith and are prayerfully shooting for organization the summer of 2022.

We have a few families who have taken the membership class and are planning to join soon. Please pray for continued steps, we have taught the importance of connecting to a church and utilizing their gifts and talents as well as giving to support the advancement of Gods kingdom.

We also have about six people who need to take the next step of following the Lord in baptism and a few people who are regularly

visiting who do not know Jesus as their Savior.

The opportunity to serve is never far from reach. We had several who had health issues this month. It made for quite a busy and stressful week but praise God everyone seems to be recovering well. Our ladies went above and beyond to help a widow whose health is failing. She no longer has her mobility and was falling on quite a regular basis

Journey Kids also had the opportunity to purchase some more coats for the local pregnancy center. The past few months they raised over \$1000 and donated over 100 winter coats. Its so awesome to see the youth passionate about serving and sacrificing to reach the community.

### Missionary Ambassador Ministries

*Christopher Cartwright, Missionary*

I am amazed at how the Lord has provided for the needs of this ministry so far during this time of trial and testing. I praise Him for His provision and goodness in the midst of this winter season.

**Learning the Dholuo language:** I am learning the language as part of my outreach top the people of Southwest Kenya and Northwest Tanzania which number roughly 6,000,000. So far, I have made about seven videos on facebook live using the MUM MALER (Luo Bible) to read Scripture and to preach in English. Also, my book has been translated into the LUO language for publication and that is why I am interested in learning the language. So far, quite a number have been saved recently through the preaching of God's Word in Luo and English.

**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 overwhelmed. As of this writing, the pastors and preachers have reported to me the 41,739 people have been saved in 18 countries. Even churches have been formed and planted through the preaching and teaching fro this series.

**Video Ministry Expanded:** Due to the attempts to learn more of the Dholuo language, I can read he language especially in the Luo Bible, which is also called MUMA MATER.



Dean Grigsby

## Business Manager Report

As several states have lifted some COVID-related mandates, Bogard Press has seen literature sales level out. While we have not seen an increase, our prayers are that Sunday School and other Bible study ministries of the churches will begin to recover, which should result in improved sales. If the current literature sales remain, which are over 30% lower than before COVID, Bogard Press should be positioned well enough financially to withstand the COVID trial. This performance has not come easily, as many difficult decisions and sacrifices by our employees have been made to keep Bogard Press financially operational and positioned to make changes that will be needed post-COVID.

Paul was a man who had learned to be content in any circumstance, even trials, yet he did not allow that contentment to lead to complacency for himself nor for those with whom he had influence: ... ***I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.*** Philippians 3:14-15

God expects us to go beyond the normal and do more than what the majority does, especially in trials. I do not believe God is pleased with an attitude of mediocrity, of just doing what everyone else is doing.

DL Moody stated, “We honor God when we ask for great things. It is a humiliating thing to think that we are satisfied with very small results.” God’s greatness and glory are magnified through what He does in our lives. May we choose to honor God by seeking the greatest things, and then watch Him fulfill more than we could have ever expected. ***Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*** Ephesians 3:20-21



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

Dear Brethren,

The Baptist Sunday School Committee of the churches of the American Baptist Association is announcing the fact that our current Editor-in-Chief, Bro. Kyle Elkins, conferred with the committee yesterday during our March online meeting that he would not allow his name to be given in nomination for his position this June during the 2021 messenger meeting in Charleston, WV. He arrived at his decision after prayer, seeking God's will for his life and ministry. Bro. Elkins has served faithfully and effectively the last seven years as Editor-in-Chief, as well as a combined total of thirty-five years with Bogard Press. It is with regret that the committee understands and respects his decision. Please pray for Bro. & Sis. Elkins for the future prospects of his ministry.

It is the desire of the committee that the churches pray for the Lord's direction for the choice the messengers will make for a new Editor-in-Chief during the upcoming messenger meeting. If there are those who may be interested in the position or know of someone else who may be interested, contact any of the committeemen with this information. You can also contact our Business Manager, Dean Grigsby, with questions regarding the position, (903) 278-6465. We strongly urge that all of our churches and brethren seek the Lord in prayer about this especially important and crucial decision the messengers in Charleston will be making.

In His service,

Bro. David Butimore, Sr., Chairman; (559) 260-0093

Bro. Dennis Richey, Clerk; (864) 238-1131

**FINANCIAL REPORT  
WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST INSTITUTE  
January/February 2021**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>					
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$1,984.79	<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
<b>INCOME:</b>			Utilities	\$ 1,219.73	
ALABAMA			Misc.	12,056.93	
Magnolia Springs -Theodore, AL	400.00		Office	590.62	
Schillingers Rd. BC -Mobile, AL	400.00		Instruction	2,950.00	
			TOTAL EXPENSE	\$16,817.28	\$13,817.28
			<b>NEW BALANCE</b>		<b>\$20,076.60</b>
<b>GEORGIA</b>			<b>BOOKSTORE FUND</b>		
Northside, BC -Vienna, GA	200.00		BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$ 2,554.10
Traders Hill -Folkston, GA			<b>Income:</b>		
			Bookstore Sales	\$ -0-	
<b>FLORIDA</b>			Press Sales	\$1,971.28	
Okeechobee BC -Okeechobee, FL	213.88		Contributions		
Oleno BC -HighSprings, FL	200.00				
Calvary BC -Panama City, FL	100.00		Total Income	\$1,971.28	\$1,971.28
Sunlight BC -Pensacola, FL	100.00		<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE</b>		<b>\$4,670.83</b>
			<b>Expenses:</b>		
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>			Utilities	\$822.69	
Central BC -Gulfport, MS	60.00		Postage	\$-0-	
Mics:			Print Shop	\$156.93	
TOTAL	\$1,673.88		Supplies	\$321.93	
			<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$1,301.55	\$1,301.55
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS:H.H.Strickland</b>			<b>NEW BALANCE</b>		<b>\$3,223.83</b>
Magnolia Spring BC -Theodore, AL	800.00		<b>BUILDING FUND</b>		
Frankfort BC -Russellville,AL	200.00		Calvary BC -Panama City,FL	\$500.00	
Newark BC -Elkton,MD	200.00		<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$500.00	
Cumberland Cove BC -Monterey,TN	50.00		<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
First Baptist BC -White City, FL	200.00		Regions Bank	\$25,000.00	
TOTAL	\$ 1,450.00		PPP Loan	\$50,000.00	
<b>COMMITTEE OF 100</b>			Interest Income:	-0-	
Terry Alexander - Pensacola,FL	20.00		Building Fund	\$54,700.44	
Kitchen Sales -Pensacola, FL	-0-				
PPP Loan	\$32,700.00				
<b>TUITION/REGISTRATION</b>					
Registration	\$ -0-				
Tuition	\$ 1,050.00				
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$36,893.88	\$36,893.88			
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE</b>		\$4,891.29			

**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:

The work in the print shop is continuing to produce and distribute materials. Things have slowed down considerably but the work goes on. I am trying to reduce the inventory so that we will have sufficient space to store new material. Some of the very old Spanish materials that were produced in Texarkana many years ago are outdated and in bad shape. We brought all that material here when we were given the permission to print the Spanish Literature. However, very little of it is saleable. I have tried to display all of the things we have but most are really not interested in buying and some of the material I have even stopped displaying at meeting.

## New Material:

New translations are being prepared for more literature. My goal is to have the ten-year cycle completed before I have to pass this ministry on to someone else younger.

I am also reproducing some of the English material that has sold really well. Like all stores, you have some items that sell really good and there are some items that rarely sell. However, all the items must be stocked. Over all, we carry a larger inventory of materials so that when orders come in they can be filled.

## Equipment:

I am in the process of selling the large Heidelberg four color press. It is in really good shape but for our operation, it is not economically feasible to maintain and operate. Most of our production runs a small, less than 1000 impressions, and this press is designed to run 110 times that.

It is really not productive to hook up and run the press for 1000 or two impressions.

Since the small Heidelberg press is working really well, it will do most of the work that needs to be done. We can use the proceeds from the sale to purchase more material for production in other areas.

## Thanks:

It is hard to really express my heart felt thanks to all the individuals and churches that have continued to support this ministry. The one prayer request that I have is that you join me in prayer for someone to join us in this ministry. There is still a tremendous opportunity to serve the churches in producing both English and Spanish materials.

May the Lord. continue to bless you all

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Publication</b></p> <p><i>wfbi</i> 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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