

West FLORIDA BAPTIST News

6812 Lillian Highway * Pensacola, Florida 32506 * (850) 455-4417, Fax (850) 455-7474

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. H. H. Strickland

School is now out for the summer and I am trying to catch up on things that have been left undone. I would like to thank the Bethel Baptist Church of Pensacola, FL for their hospitality in

hosting the ceremonies for the 2020 graduation class. While the attendance was down, due to the restriction, those who chose to come and participate were blessed by the activities. The people at Bethel Baptist Church have really been friends to me and my wife. We attend there on Wednesday evening and enjoy the fellowship so much.

I thank pastor Cooper for his support. He brought a tremendously challenging message for all of us. I thank him for encouragement he has given to me and the work of WFBI.

I encourage you to view the pictures and comments of the graduation class of 2020, which appears on another page on the WFBI News.

The 2019-2020 fiscal year for the school has been one of the most challenging times for the school and for me. We have witnessed the fall in support but the school is still financially sound. It is amazing to me that when people find something they do not like about someone associated with the ministry, they take it out on the ministry and not on the individual. One pastor told me that one of their members objected to one of the instructors so they stopped their support. Such action does not hurt or hinder the individual but it does hurt and injury the ministry.

There have been many supporters who have seen the great need for this ministry and the success that is being experienced and continued to offer us their support. For all of them, I thank you from my heart.

This is the first time there has not been summer school class for several years. Due to scheduling and the restrictions placed on gathering by the Corona virus, many felt like that it would be better to make out plans for the fall semester and evaluate the situation then. The problem with this is that, the ministry had come to really rely on the income for the summer. Over the years, funds had to be secured to operate because of the lack of tuition but for the past few years this has not been the case. With the additional tuition and

support, the school, has been able to keep the finances solid over the summer months.

There are some changes coming for the new fiscal year. I have asked three of the most faithful instructors and supporters of the ministry to assume positions of leadership. The announcement will be made before the start of the fall semester. These positions will assist me, and the current office personnel, to better fulfill their responsibilities. So many changes are being made in operation requirements that it is impossible for one man to do all the work. The paper work for the VA students continues to expand and it takes much more time to complete.

I am pleased to report that WFBI is now fully certified. All of the paperwork was submitted and approved. It was a long process but we are thankful that it is completed. I am truly appreciative to Karen Cichocki for all the work she has done on this project. Without her work, I am not sure I could have gotten it done.

I ask that you continue to pray for the ministry. I ask you again to look at the results of your support for this ministry. If it were not for the faithfulness of all of you, we could not see this kind of result. It should never be about the individual but about the work. Thank you so very much and may the Lord continue to bless you all.

PLEASE RECEIVE A SPECIAL OFFERING FOR THE NEW PRESS

GOAL: \$2500.00

From a
Woman's Point
 of View



By: Loretta Pritchett
 lorettapritchett@yahoo.com

Honor Thy Father

Usually we think of June as the wedding month. This year I would like once again to recognize Father's Day the third Sunday of the month.

Every year while my husband was Pastor at Walker Baptist Church, we always had that special day to recognize our dad's.

I would search through the books that came from the Christian Book Store for some little object that would say I love you to the fathers.

A small gift would be given to the oldest, youngest and the one with the most children. Of course we always bought something for every father present.

The last year we were there I bought booklets that had daily prayers for the father's to read throughout out the month. We had three special gifts of coffee mugs that quoted a Scripture and gave a short prayer on it to the main outstanding dad's.

Now we can publicly recognize our special dads, but you know that we should always recognize our Heavenly Father as the most special of all.

The only gift this Father is wanting for us is for His children to get saved. He has gone

before us and prepared a place for us to live and spend eternity with Him in Heaven.

However, there are a few people who just can't seem to accept the free gift that the Father has already given us, this being "His Son who died on the Cross for our Salvation."

This year when you recognize your Dad's at church, home or wherever you are, remember your Heavenly Father and give Him the Glory and Praise as the best Father of all.

Happy Father's Day.

**Philosophy of
 Religion**

The Problem of Modernism

In this segment of consideration, it is obvious that some things need to be said about the New Age movement and Modernism. Given what many people have seen in one way or the other, about the new movement, it is imperative that there be some clarification relative to what is being taught. The one thing that is discovered upon a little investigation, is that it is really nothing new. It is much like the new movement some years ago called the "Charismatic Movement." It was really nothing but the old line Pentecostal teaching, dressed up with a new suit, and brought uptown. This is what is happening with the idea of "The New Earth" movement. It is nothing but the old teaching of modernism and Humanism combined. It embraces all the wrong teaching of both heresies.

If one has not seen the video of a well know TV celebrity that has been circulating, it really needs to be viewed. It is one of the most heretical movements that has ever witnessed, especially in light that, by their own statement, was raised in a Baptist Church.

The first thing that is so often put forth relative the Modernism is:

"Is it possible in a complex society to determine with any assurance that the Christian religion has had certain beneficial consequences? Do we attribute the miseries in Christian nations to the sinfulness of particular believers, or do we consider these gruesome events to be the natural results of

the Christian religion? If we deny Christian responsibility for the evils in the world, must we also deny Christian responsibility for the blessings?"

The one thing that must be kept in mind, especially about the writer of these three questions, who apparently was raised a Catholic and became terribly disillusioned with what he was religiously experiencing. It does not take a very intelligent individual to understand the evils that have developed over the years with the Catholic organization. The corruption that prompted the Protestant Reformation was the direct result of this corruption. It was never based upon biblical principle or a search for the truth. It was a moral issue. Most of the doctrines of the Catholic church were retained in the new movements, with only small modifications.

History reveals that these, so called Christian nations, who were dominated by the Catholic religion, did persecute and rob the general populace. It was a very suppressive religion and even today many of the third world countries are dominated by Catholicism. There is never any consideration given relative the true bible believers and their contribution to society as a whole. They were always looked upon as heretics and evil men. The idea was developed that in order to rectify things and to eliminate these so called heretics. Therefore, history reveals that great atrocities were committed upon one segment of the populace. It was only on a few occasions that these great people of God were given any credit for the good they provided for men. Their lives were taken for no other reason than they refused to obey the Catholic doctrine but rather chose to obey the Word of God.

The second question which attributes the miseries of man for what Christian did or did not do is simply total misunderstanding of the whole matter. Of course, where men do not believe that there is something called sin, then there is certainly going to be a problem of what causes the suffering of men. Christians have always been made the scape goat when it comes to these problems. So long as men retain the idea that they are their own god, there is going to be this problem. Both Modernism and Humanism, teach that men are gods within their own selves. Man has the problem and man has the answer. Therefore, there must be a rejection of natural



David Gonnella, Th.

What Are You Buying?

Every time you make a purchase you are investing money in something and you expect a return. When you buy a car, for your money you are expecting transportation with a reasonable amount of comfort. When you buy food you are expecting nourishment with a pleasant taste. When you invest in a mutual fund you are expecting, in essence, to buy a good return on your investment.

So if you are one of the churches or individuals who give financial support to the West Florida Baptist Institute and Seminary, what is it that you are buying? What is your money purchasing?

First, let us consider what you are not buying. You are not buying the opportunity to make any individual rich. Our President, Dr. H.H. Strickland, receives a salary of \$600.00 per month as voted by the Trustees of the Seminary. The rest of his support he has raised on his own.

You are also not making any faculty member rich. Faculty members receive a stipend of \$10.00 per class hour taught. That is not much above minimum wage.

What you are purchasing are servants for the Lord's work. At our recent graduation ceremony we awarded 1 Doctor of Theology, 3 Master of Ministry, 1 Bachelor of Christian Education, and 1 Associate of Bible. Add to this the students who are still pursuing a degree and will, in the next year or two receive that degree and be better prepared for the Lord's work. And add to that the students who are not seeking degrees but will be better Sunday School teacher's, deacons and church workers as a result of what they learn.

Servants for the Lord are being trained, churches are being strengthened and as a result precious souls are being saved because you helped us with your finances and prayers. Because of you we can do good things for the cause of Christ.

Perhaps you are reading this and are not yet a regular supporter of *WFBI*. Please make it a matter of definite prayer. You too can buy servants for the Lord's work.

sin. If one is to accept the idea that sin does exist then there must be some manner in which that sin can be dealt with. Modernism and Humanism rejects the idea of inherent sin and places all the problems on "Christians." They reject the idea of a Supreme Being but always blame "Christians" for the evil that comes on men.

Christians are the only people who can provide an answer for the evils that come upon man. They are the only people who can provide an answer for the remedy of that sin. Christians are the only people who can provide hope to a hopeless situation. The reality is that sin always bring evil, regardless of who it is or where it is. There has never been one Modernist or Humanist who would even consider the idea that there is a cause for the suffering and that is Satan. Any consideration that Satan even exist is mute, therefore, another answer must be found. There answer is to blame Christians. It is extremely odd that the Humanist reject the very idea of a Supreme Being but are quick to use the term "Christian" when it is convenient to blame someone else for the wrongs of the world.

The fourth summary question that has been put forth is this; "When we apply the doctrine of Biblical infallibility, do we raise the status of the assertions of scriptures? If we were to deny that the Bible had absolute insights, would this lead naturally to a demeaning of the book?"

Before these two questions are explored, it must be remembered that the one who is asking the question is the same one who has suggested that there is "no practical use for believing in inerrancy." It is an amazing thing to try and answer someone who has absolutely

no premise upon which to discuss the matter. Consider the opinion regarding the first question here. The whole matter of infallibility rest upon the premise that the scriptures are true and correct. If there are errors in scriptures then the whole matter must be called into question, of which Mr. Wells disputes later. Truth cannot be a mixture of right and wrong. Wrong does to truth what leaven does to bread dough, it permeates the whole. Reasonably, one could answer the question in a very simple manner by stating an emphatic yes. There is no other writing that states with plain and simple truth where man came from, how he got here, why he is here and what is his destiny. There are many writers who have attempted to determine the answer to these questions but none have written, nor can they write, with any degree of authority. Their ideas are the product of thoughts of men. It is realize that these writers do not take serious what the scriptures say, however, one can be reminded what is written, "Man's thoughts are not God's thoughts. Man's ways are not God's ways." Then how could a man who rejects the premise of infallibility even consider that man must seek the answers to this question from any other source other than his own.

The truth of the matter is, when it is determined that the scriptures are in fact infallible, the truth and facts, raises the validity of the scriptures. Words given by a Holy and Righteous God to Holy and righteous men to be written down so that those who read and understand can learn why they are here and where they will spend eternity.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER OF MISSIONS
EXECUTIVE SESSION
MAY 19, 2020**

On Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at 2:00 PM, in the facilities of Northern Hills Missionary Baptist Church in Texarkana, Arkansas, the Executive Committee of the American Baptist Association was called to order by Missionary Committee Chairman, Edwin Button [NOTE: *Articles of Agreement, Article IX, Section 2 and Article XIV*]. In addition to the Standing Missionary Committee of the American Baptist Association most of the associational officers, including President Terry Parrish and Parliamentarian David Butimore, along with many pastors from churches fellowshipping in the American Baptist Association, were present.

Brother Button shared with the brethren that this meeting was called due to the fact that the Messenger Meeting of the American Baptist Association scheduled for June 23-25, 2020, in Springfield, Missouri, was cancelled due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. With no Messenger Meeting for 2020, there remained a few items which required the attention of the brethren in order to continue the work of the association and to be prepared for the 2021 Messenger Meeting scheduled to convene in Charleston, West Virginia, on June 22-24, 2021. What follows is a summary of those proceedings and decisions.

A motion was made, received and seconded, that the Executive Committee accept the 2019-2020 list of recommended missionaries as the list for 2020-2021 and that no new recommendations be included. [Cited with this motion was the 1945 precedent, noted in the 1946 Yearbook on page 39, which states *“that the same missionaries, both inter-state and foreign, as elected by the messengers at Seminole in 1944, be recognized by this committee in the continuation of their services in their respective fields of labor.”*] This motion was followed by a motion to amend to include all sixteen newly recommended missionaries on the 2020-2021 list. The amendment failed. This was followed by a substitute amendment to consider the 2020-2021 newly recommended missionaries according to the three categories identified by the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions: (1) Change in Sponsorship, (2) Formerly Recommended, and (3) Truly New Missionaries. The substitute amendment failed. The original motion was then passed.

Those missionaries left off the 2020-2021 list of recommended missionaries by this decision are as follows: **Change in Sponsorship** – Fred Ando (Hubbard MBC, Mt. Calm, TX), Lucrecio Booc (Mt. Pisgah MBC, Searcy, AR) and Yolito de Gracia (Abiko BC, Japan and Unity MBC, Richwood, TX); **Formerly Recommended** – Carlos Angulo (Sweet Home MBC, Prattville, AR), Percy Hernandez (Landmark MBC, Bedford, IN), David Manary (Cedar Creek, Palestine, TX) and Jesse Mercardo (White Oaks MBC, Greenville, SC); **Truly New Missionaries** – John Boone (Friendship MBC, Flint, MI), Daniel Branscum (Mohawk MBC, Rome, NY), Alfonso Cristobol (Landmark MBC, Pine Mountain, GA), Jose Leos (El Olam MBC, Tenaha, TX), Ruben Marquez (Getsamani MBC, Center, TX), David Rohr (St. Helens MBC, St. Helens, OR), Wesley Webber (Bethel MBC, Iuka, MS) and Devin Wood (Sunbreak MBC, Olympia, WA).

Please note that George Dever (Nevills Chapel MBC, Mt. Pleasant, TX) is considered a newly recommended missionary for

2020-2021 due to the fact that he is changing designations from Interstate on Salary to Interstate on Designated Funds, which, otherwise, could be done at the request of his sending church via a letter to the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions' Office.

In addition to the above lists, please be aware that the following previously-recommended missionaries were intentionally not recommended by their Sponsoring Churches for the 2020-2021 associational year: Gheorge Cormos (Romania), William Davenport (USA), Gene Gabrielson (Mexico), Brandon Jones (USA), Alwin Malaza (Philippians), Sergio Rodriguez (Mexico), John Strader (Kenya), Dan Watkins (USA), Jeremy Valladares (Mexico) and Michael Weiler (Indiana).

Further business introduced by the Standing Missionary Committee was that no raises be granted the full-salaried missionaries for 2020-2021 and that no salary raises be granted to the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions' Office. The Standing Missionary Committee clerk's report was given by Jim Nixon. It included the agreed-upon acknowledgement that it was time for the Missions' Office vehicle to be replaced and that the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions begin that process. The clerk's report was approved.

The Moderator then recognized the Baptist Sunday School Committee for their report. Chairman David Butimore called on Clerk Dennis Richey to present an abbreviated report of the BSSC. He noted that there were two line items to be considered from the BSSC report: (1) to request a 5% increase in literature prices beginning with the Winter Quarter (2020-2021) and (2) that no raises be granted for the Business Manager's Office or the Editor in Chief's Office. Dean Grigsby, Business Manager, was recognized to speak to the matter of price increases in literature. He explained that this request had largely to do with the affects of COVID-19 on the sales of literature. Separate motions were made, received, seconded and passed to accept both line items from the Baptist Sunday School Committee.

At the advice of the Parliamentarian, the Moderator ruled that all elected officers and speakers for the 2019-2020 associational year and the 2020 Messenger Meeting maintain their respective roles until for the 2020-2021 associational year and the 2021 Messenger Meeting. The Moderator also ruled that all salaries accommodated by the American Baptist Association be paid until the messengers can meet in 2021.

A motion was made, received and seconded, that a printed copy of the minutes, church directory, memorials and other reports required by the Articles of Agreement be provided to the churches in booklet form. All reports to be included in this booklet should be provided to the clerks no later than August 1, 2020.

The vote of the Executive Committee insures that the missionaries currently receiving salary funds from the Office of Secretary-Treasurer of Missions can continue to receive those funds; however, there remains a list of newly recommended missionaries who will not be eligible to receive funding from the Missions' Office until after the 2021 Messenger Meeting. If your church can help those missionaries between now and the 2021 Messenger Meeting please send offerings to their Sponsoring Churches.

Finally, can your church help with the Standing Missionary Committee travel expenses? This year the committeemen were asked to perform additional duties which required many of them to stay extra nights in Texarkana and change their travel plans more than once. If so, please send offerings to the Missions' Office.

GRADUATION 2020

Doctor of Theology



Nathaniel Allen

Master of Divinity



Henry Arnold

Master of Divinity



Robert Lovelace, Jr.

Master of Divinity



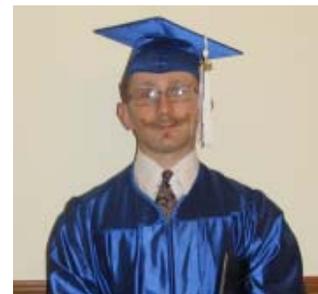
James Smith

Bachelor of Bible



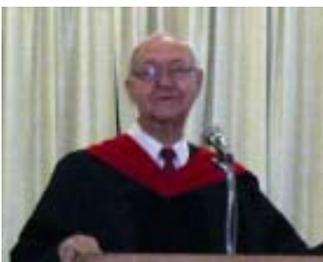
Emery Munlyn

Associate of Bible



Shea Sprinkle

President's Address



Dr. H. H. Strickland

Commencement Speaker



Wayne Cooper. Pastor

Pastor, Sponsoring Church



Dr. David Gonnella

These graduates are the fruits of the support for West Florida Baptist Institute



*Secretary/
Treasurer
Missions*
Roger Stewart

MISSION NEWS AND VIEWS

FOREIGN MISSIONS

SELLERS REPORT

Beginning Balance	\$2,214,704.89
RECEIPTS:	
Interstate Salaries	\$63,023.16
Foreign & National Salaries	\$43,207.83
Designated	\$35,048.80
Undesignated	\$13,272.68
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$155,259.68
BALANCE FOR SALARY/EXPENSE	\$1,369,964.57
DISBURSEMENTS	
Interstate Salaries	\$80,454.80
Foreign Salaries	\$22,690.60
National Salaries	\$24,739.20
Designated	\$36,040.68
Salaries & Expenses of Sec-Treas. Office	
Office Salaries	\$12,020.78
General Office	\$1,089.75
bssc - Mission News	\$2,437.84
BSSC - Envelopes	\$241.71
Automobile Expense	\$118.47
Sec/Treasurer Exp	\$(80.00)
Total Office	\$15,828.55
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$179,753.83
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	\$2,190,210.74
Deficit for May	(\$24,494.15)

News: In the absence of a 2020 Messenger Meeting of the Churches which comprise the American Baptist Association, the Standing Missionary Committee recommended the “moving forward” of the 2019 list of messenger-approved missionaries as the 2020 list of recommended missionaries with no raises to be granted and no new missionaries added to the list. On Tuesday,

May 19, 2020, the Executive Committee [Articles of Agreement, Article IX, Section 2; Article XIV], after discussion, received and adopted this recommendation.

Names: Unfortunately, because no newly recommended missionaries were added to the 2020-2021 list of ABA recommended missionaries several men – many of whom were requesting salary – must wait another twelve months before receiving their endorsement from the churches of the ABA. This will, inevitably, created hardships for their sponsoring churches to overcome. Please join me in praying for these missionaries and their sponsoring churches. If you would like more information on any of these missionaries, please feel free to contact the Missions’ Office. We are happy to help.

Numbers: For the month of May 2020, ABA Recommended Missionaries reported 90 Professions of Faith and 5 Baptisms. Those numbers bring our Year-To-Date numbers up to 5600 Professions of Faith and 445 Baptisms. As you can imagine, COVID-19 has dramatically affected these numbers.

Notes: If your missionary was recommended and approved for ABA endorsement at the 2019 Messenger Meeting in Knoxville, TN, then your missionary remains recommended and endorsed for the 2020-2021 associational year. When 2021 rolls around we will go back to our normal protocols, under the ABA Mission Policy, which will require recommendation forms (due in mid-April) from sponsoring churches for all ABA missionaries – newly recommended or re-recommended.

Needs: Because the Standing Missionary Committee was asked to alter its departure plans from Texarkana to accommodate the Executive Committee session, the SMC travel funds were completely exhausted. We currently show a deficit in that fund of \$3382.63. If your church could help us get that back in the black it would be greatly appreciated.

Colombian Baptist News

Jim Gage, Missionary

Dr Roger Stewart, Secretary/Treasurer of the ABA took time out of his busy schedule to meet with us here in Colombia via zoom. The work in Colombia is reaching out to learn more about the uniqueness of the way our Association functions. Our churches want to learn more. Even though the Lord’s churches here in Colombia are limited in many aspects, associating together to help sister churches in their missionary outreaches is the answer.



GETTING READY TO GET READY: Even though it has been impossible for the Sembrador MBC to meet during this pandemic, we have continued to rent the building space. However, Saturday May 30 we are moving our chairs, pulpit and other things to Pompeya where we will begin meeting there as soon as we are physically permitted to have services.

Colombian Missionas

Gilberto Piñson, 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. I have two doctor appointments this month, and other 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 quarantine caused by covid-19, we continue having virtual services from home, Sundays and Wednesdays. I am preaching a sermon series named: "The Outbreak, epidemic, pandemic and quarantine of sin" Based on Genesis 3-10 and Romans 3.

Our people, is also, holding family services. Brother Luis Joya invited his relatives for a devotional and, six of them made profession of faith. Praise the Lord. He disciples them once a week. Please pray for their spiritual growth.

We also, stream classes of the Bible Institute: Bible Analysis and Homiletics, Monday and Tuesday at 5:00 PM, By Facebook live and Zoom. We have six new students, for a total of 25.

I, also, continue having daily devotions, through WhatsApp. About 500 people listen to God's Word in North, Central and South America.

I need to replace my 10 years old laptop, cause, it is not running well, I use it to study, preaching, teaching and streaming, almost, every day. Please pray for this.

Many people from our churches have lost their employment. Food prices, medicines and first hand articles are increasing. Lord willing, we will be to normality soon.

Because the Quarantine, my son David is not able to go to churches to preach, for that reason, his income is coming down. He needs to pay several bills, for about \$1,100 to the TBI. Please pray for this.

Romania

Kolk Mikrell, Missionary

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord." Psalm 31:24 We pray that this newsletter finds you all full of courage and hope. Like us our hope is in the Lord during these unique and difficult times. We have all had to make difficult decisions and our prayers are with you all. We thank you for your prayers for us and for your financial support. God is doing a mighty work during this time. It is easy to get discouraged. We must not grow weary.

Now more than ever we must focus intently on our obedience to and fulfilment of the Great Commission.

Back on March 14 the Romanian government declared a state of emergency which mandated a stay at home quarantine. As stated in our previous newsletters, this mandate also came with many restrictions, curfews, and banning of all public gatherings. Last month we stayed home in obedience to these new laws put in place. We were only allowed to leave home to buy groceries from the nearest store, go for a brief walk outside around our house, or leave in case of emergencies. Each time we left we had to carry papers with us declaring our purpose for not staying home. The police have been actively fining people who have not had these papers or who lied on their papers about what they were really doing. It has been very difficult for us. We have not been able to accomplish all that we had hoped we would have at this point in time.

The Church in Feldioara has not met since the government banned all church and religious services. Please continue to pray with us as we do what we can to minister to them. I have been posting videos weekly with devotionals to try and keep folks encouraged and positive. The work in Zarnesti has also been slowed to a halt due to these restrictions. We are looking forward to May 14. On May 4, the Romanian government announced that the nationwide state of emergency will end on May 14. The government will implement a state of alert beginning May 15. The government will move toward easing travel restrictions, but many of the restrictions on public gatherings and inter-city travel will remain in place. Our focus still remains on making disciples. This can be accomplished right now even with these restrictions in place!

Spain

Daniel Estrada, Missionary

LAST SERVICE IN THE MEETING PLACE... Well, God had been blessing us with good attendance before we had to quit having services for a while in our meeting place.

God is great because we are safe and healthy in a country that is one of the most

contagious for the coronavirus. Keep praying for us and for our brethren around here.

We are in God's hands and hope that soon we can together meet again. Pray for those families that need to go out and work in order to survive, we do not know yet when they will be able to work.

WE KEEP GOING ON... Praise God for technology, we have been able to meet two times by skype and continue serving and feeding the flock of God. It is not the same, but it is what we can have right now. Also, Eloisa and I keep giving Bible lessons by skype to this couple. It is a joy to see their love for the Lord and the Book.

SWEDEN WORK... Thank God, we keep having Bible lessons with a faithful family in Sweden. Every week we connect by Skype and have a time together with the Lord.

We thank God for all these people who are getting closer to Him. Please continue to pray for those who hunger for the Word of God.

Siloé Misssionary Baptist Church,
Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico

José Luis Guel Loera, Missionary

It is a pleasure to share the missionary work in Saltillo Coahuila, Mexico. Siloe Misssionary Baptist Church is a stable church with an average Sunday morning attendance of 92, Sunday evening, 85; and 60 for Wednesday night services.

Recent Church activities include both a Ladies' and a Men's meeting attended by church members and guests. In addition to fellowship activities, the gospel was preached. A fellowship for married couples held on February 14th was attended by 15 couples who enjoyed good food, a song service, and a message from the Word of God.

This month, Bible studies were held in the homes of eight different prospective families and attended by several guests as well as members of Siloe. We were blessed to be present as eight people attending these meetings accepted Jesus as their Savior. Three Siloe families are involved in holding Bible studies in their own homes for friends, neighbors, and relatives.

Siloe Church is grateful to all who support us with their prayers and finances.

Russia*Holy Couch, Missionary Helper,*

Wow. It's hard to imagine writing last month's report and having no idea what would be coming in the next month. Like many of you, we are adapting as best we can!

Despite the circumstances caused by this unexpected pandemic, we are continuing ministry here, as many of you are in the States, in the best way we know how.

We have continued online Bible study on Saturday nights. I still meet regularly with one ladies as we go through a bible study together. Although we can't meet in person for English Movie Night or English Family Fun night, we are trying to stay engaged by having online meetings; giving challenges; posting discussion topics, questions, and interactive videos on these group pages on V Kontakte (Russian facebook), and generally trying to stay in touch with those we used to see in person every week.

Please pray that we would be able to keep in contact with people! These ministries are some of you furthest reaching ministries in terms of meeting unbelievers and being able to share the gospel. We don't want this self-isolation to be a cause for losing touch with everyone.

Vannatu*Danny White, Missionary*

Cyclone Harold!!!: Severe Tropical Cyclone Harold has loomed down upon the northern islands of Vanuatu as a Category 5 cyclone on 7

April. There was severe destruction on Espiritu Santo and Ambrym Islands. We experienced the damage created in 2015 by Category 5 Cyclone Pam which decimated Tanna in 2015 and know that the effects of a cyclone such as this are felt for a long time into the future.

Immediately, the absence of shade on a hot tropical island is an issue as the abundant trees have lost all their leaves. The lifestyle of the Vanuatu people is largely spent outside and sitting under trees for protection from the hot noonday sun is a normal part of everyday life. As well as the materials to rebuild their mostly coconut leaf and bamboo homes, there is the associated food shortages, as not only the mature fruit

and vegetable crops that are relied on for food are damaged, but also the developing flowers for the crops in the coming months.

Please pray for God's protection over the people who have been affected by Cyclone Harold!

Impact of the Coronavirus on Vanuatu:

At present there is no coronavirus in Vanuatu!!! Thank you Lord! This is such a blessing, as the health system in Vanuatu is VERY limited compared to the US or Australia. However, as everywhere, it is still having an economic impact on the people. Vanuatu has closed its borders and stopped the four or five cruise ships per week that dock in Port Vila. This is probably a very wise thing, however that's 8,000-10,000 people a week who are not coming to Port Vila and buying the local produce and eating in the local restaurants. This is a big impact on a nation of approx. 250,000 people.

On Tanna, some of the villagers at Imanaka have regular work at two close-by resorts and also at the local airport. Unfortunately, these have closed and so the villagers are back to relying purely on their gardens and animals for their needs. In a lot of villages, this has always been the case, however it has over time been quite different for the Imanaka village.

Discipleship Training: Danny was able to start discipleship classes at the new work at Lonomilo (a village at middle bush on Tanna) and while in Port Vila, he commenced the discipleship training at Rentabao. We are pleased that Willie Nipio has stepped up to help lead the discipleship classes that we started in November last year at Imanaka. Please pray for him and his wife Albertine and family, that they will continue to grow in their knowledge of the Lord and maybe develop into part of the leadership team of the church. Willie and Albertine both work at the Tanna airport and so have currently lost their jobs due to the coronavirus.

Thailand*David Leak, Missionary*

Currently, I've returned the lease vehicle to Missionary Tech Team in Longview, TX; after wise counsel from my Pastor, other friends in Christ, & much prayer, it was the right thing to do at this juncture. I'm grateful for a husband and wife that personally gave

me a love offering to assist me with the expenses that were involved. Both of them asked me to keep it confidential, so I am honoring that request, but I'm so grateful how the Lord worked through them both to assist me! I was concerned as to how I was going to handle it financially, but as always, the Lord provides! My sincere thanks to **Him** & those great friends!

All of the counsel, & my adhering to that counsel, were confirmed after I arrived back into Florida, for I learned that the ABA National Meeting had been cancelled this year. With all that said, I'm planning on returning to Thailand ASAP, to continue to work until next February & begin deputation upon my arrival in the US in 2021. I've prayed about it, talked to my Pastor, & others too, & feel it's the best thing to do @ this point with all that's occurred. Thailand has restrictions in place @ least until the end of May, so I'll be attentive to the changes that take place there, & also in S. Korea; where I usually always stop for the last leg of the flight into Thailand. I'd appreciate prayers & if anyone would be willing & able, assistance with the airfare. I feel that it's the wisest use of time for now. Churches are still going to be in "recovery" from these recent events until sometime in the future, & I want to get back to work ASAP.

For a few weeks now, I've been teaching English to the Church Secretary; Khun(Mrs.) Tim, @ Antioch BC in Chiang Mai, when both our schedules allow; which has allowed me to practice my Thai also! She contacted me some weeks ago & asked if I'd be willing to teach her via FB. She & her husband, Khun(Mr.) Dii, have been a real blessing to me. She tells me that he will constantly ask her if she's heard from me, & ask her to contact me to see how I'm doing. One of the Preachers in the Church; Khun Joe, told me after I'd returned from Ubon, that they were all very concerned that I was going to that Province so far away, alone. I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to build relationships @ the Church in Chiang Mai, & in Ubon as well. I look forward to traveling back to Ubon in the future; Lord willing, to stay in constant contact with those that are lost who are heavy upon my heart too; they're not forgotten by any means.

For those Pastors that I've already talked to, I still plan on contacting you soon. Please

continue to bear with me as I make adjustments for a vehicle. My Pastor & Westwood are assisting me in this area; for which, I'm extremely grateful! Thank you all for everything you do for me in support of Thailand for Christ! May the Lord richly bless each of you!

Japan

Shin Kamota, Missionary

The Lord is glorified in that JBA Youth Bible Camp was safely carried out in March. The theme of this camp was The Popular Bible Counseling Room. The messages were centered around finding God's Will. Campers were encouraged to have assurance of their salvation and to seek God's will. We had opportunities to have counseling from pastors and senior believers. On one occasion, our son was taking counsel from Missionary Jepy. I had the privilege of preaching twice during the camp. The testimonials given by the young people shows that the Lord touched their hearts and revived their faith in Him. Thank you for your prayers!

Since Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike called on residents to stay inside, work remotely and avoid nonessential outings beginning 28th March, Saturday, to avoid an explosive rise in the number of COVID - 19 infections, we decided to minister to our people and seekers online and personal visitations. I started to preach, live streaming on Facebook and teach Sunday School and Bible study using Skype. For people without the Internet access, I deliver news letters and recorded messages to their homes.

In this effort, I continue to preach and teach 5 times a week at this mission. It is interesting that 1000% more people were reached and more people engaged in our Facebook page since preaching was posted.

Costa Rico

Walter Goulding, Missionary

Dr. Roger Stewart preached at *The Way* Missionary Baptist Church for the Sunday afternoon Worship Service. Dr. Gene Ray Ward drove him over for the service.

Bro. Stewart is the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions of the American Baptist Association. He was the featured speaker for the School Opening Bible Conference.

Our last service at *The Way* before shutdown was March 15. The effects of the pandemic were already being felt, and there were two present, including myself. We have been holding Sunday School and Preaching Services from my home via social media. Facebook reported 2,959 reached, and we have added a virtual midweek Bible Study.

Russia

Jodie & Gabby Vesely

Transitioning: We are in a season of transitions. We have transitioned to only virtual church and ministry events for two months now, and in June we hope to be able to begin slowly transitioning to church and ministry events in person! We also are transitioning our church to function and thrive while we are away on a furlough starting sometime in July, God willing. We usually try to plan our furloughs way in advance, but that has not been possible due to the pandemic. Hopefully, we can arrange to thank and update churches for their support starting in July at some point. Please pray for the transitions we are facing. Thanks for your understanding.

1. We celebrated both Tobias' (now 5) and Gideon's (now 7) birthdays this month in quarantine! Praise God!

2. We have surprisingly been able to reach out to people in dachas (Russian shacks out of the cities) and in the Moscow region as our outreaches have only been via Zoom (pic to the right)! This has been an unexpected blessing! Pray for God to work on these people's hearts as they see Christ in us!

3. Our English Movie Night attendance has finally reached the attendance it had pre-quarantine! Last week we had 3 full Zoom meetings with room to add more 9-10 people in the future.

4. Praise God that we have found someone we trust that has recently started attending our church meetings and is the best friend of one of our members to stay in our apartment, taking care of it, our plants, and our guinea pigs while we on furlough!

5. Please pray for our furlough situation, that it would be fruitful, restful, and that God would provide cheap, safe travel that would allow us to bring our dog with us to the US. Our July 2nd flight has not been canceled. We have visas that expire in mid-August.

6. Last week we were able to take our first family outing (a walk through the center of the city along the Neva River) for 6+ weeks. We suited up with masks and gloves (required in public places), noticed all of the parks are closed for entrance.

6. Thanks for your continual support! We have received \$2,646 out of \$4,000 (needed) designated towards our flights to the US and visas and \$3,120 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!

SE Asia

Rusty Teer, Missionary

Shut down, not shut out: I cannot say thank you enough to those of you who have contacted us this month and encouraged us via chat, Skype, Zoom, email, etc. Some reassured us that we needn't worry about funding or extra needs here because you are solidly behind His work. Your faith in our living almighty God is so reassuring! It lets us know that God is growing you as well as us through this time. No power can stop Him and His work.

Fern has come to every class during COVID more faithful than ever. This caused her to learn the Easter story so well that she could tell it back to us through the story cards and "resurrection eggs." We know our Father will use this time with her in a special way. Her mom has been a good help keeping my hair trimmed as her shop is closed.

Public schools are closed till July 1. I have had a couple of video calls with our teachers, and they are at school doing office work and cleaning. Some of our students chat with us via messenger, so we know they are okay so far. We know there will be more needs as the fall-out is still coming. We will keep you updated as we work with the local government and people we already have relationships with. Our Father knows our heart is to help, and we are in the right situation to help wisely as it is needed.

Editor's Note; We love to have more reports from the missionaries. Pleaes include your name on your report. The more imbedded the text the harder it is for us to extract. Pleaae help us out. We may not be as computer literate as you. Thanks

Interstate Missions

Lighthouse Ministries

Toby Bribbs, Sr, Director

THE FIRST THING: My left knee has been hurting and it made it hard to walk. I will be seeing an Orthopedic Doctor on May 8. After that I will be seeing my heart Doctor that afternoon.

THE SECOND THING: I have set up special account for FUNDS for the BOOK FINISHER MACHINE. We had an anonymous gift of \$200.00 given this month. We now have \$2400.00. Will you please help us to raise the \$5000.00 that we need?

THE THIRD THING: All the Jails and Prison are still shut down.

THE FOURTH THING: WARREN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION Chaplain Don Stith, Mason, N.C. We sent them 40 Kings James Bibles, 30 The Practical Bible Dictionary and Concordance, 100 Brother Dills booklets and 100 Enrollments Study Forms. Also sent them two of Brother John Sala book "I'M NOT COMING BACK!"

FIFTH THING: We enrolled 58 new students, none finished Old Testament, 2 finished New Testament and one finished course One.

SIXTH THING: HELP IS NEEDED: We have for some time been praying for a Missionary or Missionaries to come along to help in this Ministry. This is the most rewarding ministry that I have ever been into. You need to come and see what we do and the material we have for the inmates. Lives are being changed. It is only by ministries like this. They need the GOSPEL.

You must believe that the King James Bible is the Preserved Word of God and hold to the Fundamental Beliefs.

THE SEVENTH THING: STATISTICS:
 Studies Courses 260 Bibles 96
 New students 58 Birthday Cards 4
 Saved 2 Large Print Bibles 0
 Bible Dictionaries 32 Study Bibles 1

Missionary Ambassador Ministries

Christopher Cartwright, Missionary Pastor

It has been a very interesting month, but I praise the Lord that He has gotten me through even in the midst of a world-wide pandemic. It hasn't stopped the proclamation of the truth of the Word of God. God is also good..ALL THE TIME.

I want to thank the Lord for everything He has done through this ministry in the past six months. I can say with humility that we are starting to become a Worldwide Ministry. Actually, this ministry has become a worldwide online ministry. As of this writing, as reported to me by pastors and preachers, 4,439 people have been saved in the past six months. They come from the following countries: Kenya (3,591), Malawi (280), Tanzania (238), Uganda (237), Burundi (39), South Sudan (23), Zambia (9), Philippines (8), Liberia (7), Sierra Leone (6), China (1). This is because that there is a hunger of the Word of God in these countries, not only from the message series, "Turning The World Upside Down." but also from other messages requested by the pastors to be used in these countries. So far, this is what has been reported to me, and I think the Lord for His goodness because it is He that give the message. We are just His messengers.

Here is an update on the translation word of the Study Book into different languages to be used: Spanish - Trastornado El Mundo - on March 26, I was able to get the Spanish translation started and in nine days, it had been finished. I have sent it to the Radio Stations in Nicaragua and shared it with friends in Chiapas, Mexico to be shared so that t\people will be saved.

Kirundi - Guhindura Isi Bikomeye Cane - The title in Kirundi is literally translated "Changing The World Is Very Important." On March 26, I had entered into an agreement with a brother, Nestor Havyarimana, to help coordinate the translation of the book into Kirundi, the national language of Burundi. It was completed by Pastor Enoch Hatugimana and his team at Universal Design in Bujumbura on March 22. So far, the draft copy for the book has been printed and is ready to be published. Brother Nestor would like to

have it published in Burundi with a quantity of 2,500 copies. This would be a great start to reach all 18 provinces with the Word in the Kirundi language.

Swahili (Kiswahili) - On March 25, the Swahili translation was sent to me by email, and is in the process of being proofread to make sure that it is accurate.

Kisii (Ekegusii) - Pastor John is also doing the Ekegusii language translation with a group which started on Monday, and he told me that it will be ready next Monday, and he will send it to me by email.

Luo - This is continuing in progress despite the nation of Kenya on lockdown due to coronavirus.

Mexico

Gene Gaberielson, Missionary

Greetings to all of you. May the Lord bless each of you in your service to our God.

It is with a thankful heart I share these thoughts. Beginning in 1974, your committee accepted the request for me to serve as Foreign Missionary on Designated Funds from the Southside Missionary Baptist Church of Sacramento, California. My membership was transferred to the Faith Missionary Baptist Church of Concord, California in 1985 and the committee has continued to accept their request to the present. I have appreciated knowing and working with the brethren serving as Secretary-Treasurer and Standing Missionary Committee members during these years.

Beginning in the fall of 2018, my wife Linda and I began planning for a transition to retirement by phases as certain areas of church planting were passed on to others in Mexico, as several construction projects were brought to a specific stage or completion, as our liaison work was transferred to other individuals in the churches and we were able to thank the supporting churches for their encouragement and help, if possible in person or at least in printed form.

Although Linda had several health problems, she was stable and eager to help in this transition. Due to a fast infection which her body could not overcome, she passed on December 30th. Her burial service on

Feb. 8th was in Sacramento, California and the Memorial Service was in North Highlands where she had been baptized and was a member at the time of our wedding.

Following that, I was able to be in services at my sponsoring church and was given time to present the transition plan in printed form and with explanation. I asked to be able to continue as missionary but not to request re-recommendation from the association. It is my understanding that the church accepted the transition plan. As a courtesy, I explained it would be good to inform the office in Texarkana of these actions.

In closing, please accept my thanks for the condolences extended by Bro. Stewart and others of the committee. Please pray for wisdom as I work through these changes in personal and ministry activities. May the Lord guide His people in these difficult times.

Colorado Church Planting

Everett Ledbetter, Missionary

Considering all things that are happening and have happened for this year, the month of May has actually been a good month. We were able to have two backyard worship services. In each case, my neighbors attended from their yards. They did not come to our house, but sat outside and listened to the sermon. Pray for these families as hopefully restrictions begin to ease here and we begin meeting inside again. The restrictions in Colorado are still very tight on churches. Churches are opened, technically, but only allow 10 people. Restaurants, this weekend, just began to open back up. Not only are the restrictions tight from the government, but the perception of the community is still very tight. In our area, people are still living in extreme fear of the virus. We are doing our best to attempt to balance our communities feelings and trying to forge forward.

This month, we were also blessed to be able to attend both the pre associational Missionary Committee and Baptist Sunday School Committee meetings this year. It was a blessing to spend the time in fellowship with my preacher brethren. We are so thankful for another year of support through the office of Secretary of Missions of the ABA.

We have always been thankful for each

church and individual that sends financial support our way, but this year has taught us even greater appreciation. We realize that there are challenges that each church is facing, and we appreciate the faithfulness of offerings even more. We still have challenges that we face every month like our housing, insurance, and car repairs, but our God continues to be faithful. Thank you all for your prayers and faithful support.

Hope, Indiana

Scott Bourland, Missionary

The month started with the blessing of getting our sound system installed. Brother Branden Johnson and his pastor, Brother Rob Ballard, came up from Auburn Georgia and got us set up.

Branden led out in the purchase and then installation of the system and it is perfect for our needs. I feel blessed to have such great equipment to use for our Lord.

At this point we do not have any instrumentalist, so we use mp4 files and we are having some great song services. Please pray for God to raise up people to play instruments and lead us in the singing.

Missy is currently running the sound and the projection and she is doing a great job. Some others have expressed interest in helping in this area. Pray for good solid people to fill this important role.

Finally Able to Meet in the Building: We had a full month of parking lot services, but on May 10th we were able to open the building and have services in doors. We spaced out our chairs in groups for each family unit in such a way to provide 6 ft. spacing. We averaged 26 in May with a high of 33.

Please pray with us that these who are attending will become John 8:31 disciples.

Signage: We got a really nice decal for the front door to advertise our name and time of services, but you cannot see it clearly from the road. We bought a banner that we have considered hanging up on the marquee, but we are unsure how that will look. It would be nice to get something more permanent, but this is not our permanent location. We are hesitant to spend a lot of money and not be sure we could use the sign in our future location. Pray for us to have wisdom.

Yah-ta-hey, NM 87375

Jerry Baker, Missionary

As with most of you, the month of March necessarily created new, different and challenging avenues as far as “church” was concerned here on the Navajo Nation. Although needful, we struggled with the new “church” environment when we realized the health risks of continuing without healthy and wise decision making. Suffice it to say, it broke my heart to contact our members, advising them we would not be having “church” services until the coronavirus was no longer a threat. The dreaded virus changed the method we were ALL accustomed to for worship, serving, and carrying on the work of the Lord. And, it appears Covid19 may continue dictating congregational worship for an unspecified period of time. In light of this change and in spite of our attempts, as of the writing of this report it almost seems like forever since we had a normal, regular church effort to serve and worship the Lord.

We can't help but wonder if we will once again return to the “old paths”...our “old ways”...to the way we've “always done it before”. Or, could it just be that Twin Lakes Baptist might become more efficient “being the church” by adopting a few “new ways” as we slowly but surely are allowed and encouraged to gather for corporate worship, teach SS, attend Sunday and Wednesday evening services and enjoy the many phases of “normal” church life? Until then, Connie and I immensely enjoy seeing and hearing God's Word proclaimed by many of our ABA pastor-friends online along with the efforts of Bogard Press and Bro. Roger Stewart in providing excellent studies in the book of Revelation each week

Celebrating One of Our Own!:

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, March 15th was the last Sunday we held worship services at Twin Lakes. And even though we were all concerned about the virus, that Sunday morning proved especially encouraging for our church family. Not only did we surprise our adult SS teacher, Bro. Harold Belone, with a 70th birthday/fellowship dinner following our morning worship, but we also had 8 adult visitors, one of those attending for the first time. Another couple who had dropped out of church

several years ago was also present, and they are the ones who brought the first-time visitor! Many of you will remember Bro. Harold Belone. He and Ms. Bertha have been members since 2003. He has faithfully served as the adult SS teacher since 2009. We are thankful for the faithfulness of the Belone family. Daughters, Lanelle, Lindsey and Allison, were just teenagers when we first came to the Navajo Nation and are faithful in church.

Benchmark Baptist

Allen Schoeff, Missionary

I need not tell you what it represents to the world. However, to me it represents more than the Covid-19 Coronavirus. To me it represents opportunity. Someone once said that the Chinese word for danger and their word for opportunity are one and the same. I don't speak a word of Chinese, so I don't know if that is true or not, but it sounds good. I can tell you that while there is a real danger with the virus, it has created some unexpected opportunities.

During the "shut-down" I have read more books than at any one time since leaving seminary. This has been a blessing to me and to our mission. The level of my preaching as risen as a result of my reading. Additionally, I have focused more on the word of God than "worship services". As a missionary working with a small church group, I am often called upon to wear several hats and focus can become blurry. (I doubt that is much different from many pastors, it is just a reality.) However, because we have had to curtail, cancel, or change a lot of our planned ministries, I have instead written a study on angelology for our Sunday Bible study. I have taught on many subjects during the past 30 years but never on this subject. I am also in the midst of writing a study on the Holy Spirit. That one is not yet as developed, but I often wonder how much we as Baptist quench the Spirit by being afraid to have a little spirit ourselves.

Another opportunity during the "shut-down" that has continued to show up, believe it or not, is to share the gospel! In the last three weeks, I have had the chance to share the gospel of Jesus with four different people in three different States using three different digital technologies. Add to that the

continually upward trending number of people who are "tuning in" to hear our Facebook Live sermons, and I have to believe that God is using the pandemic to open doors of opportunity! I pray for vision to see the open doors, and boldness to walk through them!!

Just as technology has allowed us to continue sharing the gospel, it has also enabled us to connect to with other missionaries, ministries, and pastors throughout our association. Julie and I would like to give a HUGE shout of thanks and love to Pastor Eric Sutton and the New Home church family for inviting us to their virtual mission conference. They were a huge blessing to us, as they continue to be. It was a real joy to share time with them and the missionaries who took part in the online gathering. Also in April, Missionary Everett Ledbetter joined us via the Zoom platform and shared with our folks all about the work in the Metro Denver area as well as he shared about the IMPACT ministry. I am planting seeds hoping they will grow and that we might soon invite IMPACT to come to Fredericksburg! As always, we ask you to pray for the work here! I'm looking for a missionary that would like to join us during May. If you are interested, give me a call and let me know.

Bloomington Missions

Kevin Plaster, Missionary

Being a full month into quarantine church mode now is a bit strange. I think we all thought this would pass over in a few weeks and the reality has set in that such is not the case. We are starting to feel the pain of not meeting regularly without church family and receiving the energy that their encouragement brings to us. We can honestly say we miss our church family dearly. It is encouraging in this time to hear that our people feel the same way. They are anxious to get back to "normal."

When we realized this wasn't going to pass quickly, we began to implement some other things to help people stay connected. We released a church directory and encouraged others to reach out to someone new each day in an effort to stay connected. We added more weekly zoom meetings with couples and individuals so that we could keep that

connection and one on one discipleship going. Youth teachers began using zoom and other means to have time with their classes. A new ladies bible study was also started as a part of this new "slower paced" living that we are in. We know that in order to keep people connected through this time of disconnect we have to actively engage them in whatever way we can. This was a part of our discipleship program before the outbreak but we are thankful to have been able to amp it up.

Glenwood News

Ray Meigs, Director

I pray that you and your family are safe and doing well during this pandemic. God is still in control and He will use this for His glory.

Before this pandemic hit, we began a project of upgrading our tabernacle. The tabernacle is the most important building on our campus. It is where God's Word is preached and many lives are changed by His grace. We began this project by installing new LED light fixtures and replaying all the ceiling tile. Also, we built an accent wall on our stage and mounted new video monitors. Now we need to work on the sound and video.

Originally our plan was to have a ABlue Bucket Ice Challenge and to raise funds for the sound system. The Covid-19 pandemic came upon us and many churches have not met in several weeks. It appears now that our country is slowly opening up and churches will begin to have services in the near future, but our need is still present.

I am asking twenty-six individuals or churches to give \$500.00 toward this project as we can have great sound and video for the most important building on the campus. Camp season is upon us and we really need to get this completed. Will you help?

This is very special time in which we all need to be in prayer for the missionaries. Especially those who will be affected by the cancelling of the National meeting. Several who came for recommendations will not be able to be recognized by the Association. This does not make them any less a missionary, just that they will not be supported as they may have desired



Dean Grigsby

Business Manager Report

I am thankful and humbled to be elected to serve the churches of the American Baptist Association as Business Manager for Bogard Press for another year. God blessed us greatly in 2019 with improved sales and cash flow. I believe God was preparing us for the difficult times to come.

In March the COVID-19 pandemic began to impact sales at Bogard Press. During March and April, total sales were down 46% versus the same time last year. Our employees have done an outstanding job of keeping costs minimized to combat the decrease in sales, so we can continue to serve the Lord's churches during this difficult time. We have been able to keep our operations open because the ministry of Bogard Press is essential. The reason we are essential is because the Lord's churches we serve are essential.

The answer to the adversities we all now face will not come from doctors or government. The answer will come from God answering the prayers of His people in local New Testament churches who are faithful to Jesus, His gospel and His commission. During this time, 2 Timothy 1:7-9 has been an encouragement and comfort to me: ***For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.***

Please pray for God's grace, His churches, and for us as, as we seek to fulfill God's will and obey His Word through this unprecedented time. As we continue this journey, we can have the same confidence the apostle Paul had when he wrote to the church at Corinth: ***Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ.*** 2 Corinthians 2:14 I am looking forward to how God will bless the faithfulness of the churches of the American Baptist Association.



Kyle Elkins
Editor in Chief

The Through-the-Bible series for Sunday School continues to be a blessing to so many people. We praise the Lord for this; however, recognition is due to two faithful and dedicated writers. Dr. David Robinson writes the study material for the Adult Quarterly, and Dr. David Harris writes the New Testament Adult Lesson Commentary. Dr. Robinson will write the first half of the Gospel of Matthew for spring quarter 2021. This will be his final writing assignment. Dr. Harris will write the summer quarter 2021 for the second half of the Gospel of Matthew. This will be his final writing assignment. Both men expressed the time has come to step aside from writing.

Dr. Robinson began writing for the Baptist Sunday School Committee in the early 70s. He began writing the Adult Quarterly around 2000-2001. During this time, the Adult Quarterly experienced tremendous growth in units printed each quarter. Brother Robinson has influenced many teachers and students of the Word through his writings. He has written for twenty-nine years.

Dr. Harris began writing for the Baptist Sunday School Committee in 1984. He wrote the Adult Quarterly until 2000. Dr. Harris began writing the New Testament Adult Lesson Commentary in 2014.

Not many realize the commitment required to take on the writing assignments for these quarterlies. Basically, one lesson per week must be written, edited and any final corrections made before sending the manuscripts to the Editorial Department. This comes after much study and prayer in preparing to write the lessons.

I have known both men for many years. Dr. Robinson was one of my instructors at the Missionary Baptist Seminary in Little Rock, Arkansas. I have appreciated him and his dedication to Bible study since the first day we met. Dr. Harris pastored in Texarkana for several years, and through his writings and correspondence, I have come to respect and appreciate him as well.

On behalf of the BSSC, thank you both for your years of service to the churches of the American Baptist Association. May God continue to richly bless your ministries.

**FINANCIAL REPORT
WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST INSTITUTE
March/April 2020**

GENERAL FUND					
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$1,864.56	EXPENSES:		
INCOME:			Utilities	\$ 1,355.77	
ALABAMA			Misc.	3,312.76	
.Magnolia Springs -Theodore, AL	400.00		Office	223.86	
Schillingers Rd. BC -Mobile, AL	150.00		Instruction	4,500.00	
			TOTAL EXPENSE	\$9,392.39	\$9,392.93
			NEW BALANCE		\$10,588.88
GEORGIA			BOOKSTORE FUND		
Northside, BC	-Vienna, GA	200.00	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$ 2,277.80
Traders Hill	-Folkston, GA	70.00	Income:		
			Bookstore Sales	\$ -0-	
FLORIDA			Press Sales	\$ 2,367.44	
Okeechobee BC	-Okeechobee, FL	170.26	Contributions		
Calvary BC	-Panama City, Fl	100.00	Landmark BC Monticello, FL	200.00	
Oleno BC	-HighSprings, FL	200.00	Total Income	\$2,567.44	\$2,567.44
Sunlight BC	-Pensacola, FL	100.00	TOTAL AVAILABLE		\$4,845.24
			Expenses:		
MISSISSIPPI			Utilities	\$499.36	
Central BC	-Gulfport, MS	60.00	Postage	\$443.25	
Mics:			Print Shop	\$573.22	
TOTAL		\$1,450.26	Supplies	193.88	
			TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,709.71	\$1,709.71
DESIGNATED FUNDS:	H.H.Strickland		NEW BALANCE		\$ 3,135.53
Magnolia Spring BC	-Theodore, AL	350.00	BUILDING FUND		
Frankfort BC	-Russellville, AL	200.00	Calvary BC -Panama City, FL	500.00	
Newark BC	-Elkton, MD	200.00	Traders Hill BC -Folkston, GA	50.00	
Cumberland Cove BC	-Monterey, TN	50.00	David Gonnella	120.00	
First Baptist BC	-White City, FL	200.00	TOTAL INCOME	\$670.00	
TOTAL		\$ 1,050.00	EXPENSES:		
COMMITTEE OF 100			Regions Bank	\$1,090.52	
Terry Alexander	- Pensacola, FL	20.00	Transfer	\$3,200.00	
Kitchen Sales	-Pensacola, FL	18.00	Interest Income:	4.95	
Transfer from Savings		4200.00	Building Fund	\$6,905.77	
TUITION/REGISTRATION					
Registration		\$ 00.00			
Tuition		\$ 15,578.45			
TOTAL INCOME		15,578.45			\$18,116.71
TOTAL AVAILABLE					\$19,981.27

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:

When I look back over the years we have been involved in the printing of good Biblical materials for study helps, I am amazed at how much has been done. This is especially true due to the fact that there was always limited resource. However, every time there was a real need for funding, it was always a way found. It truly has been a learning process. I made a lot of mistakes in the early years but all of us were determined to make it a success. Some of what was produced was not professional quality, it was and continues to be used in the study of the scriptures.

Where the ministry will go from here, only the Lord knows. I and my wife, are dedicated to doing everything we can to continue to produce good Biblical materials both in English and Spanish.

My greatest concern, is when we are no longer able to do the work; **Who will step up and continue the ministry?** I can only pray and trust the Lord will raise someone that will share the passion and vision we all have had here since 1989.

New Equipment:

I reported a couple of months ago that one of our main presses went down through a surge in power. The boards to fix the machine cost more than the unit was worth, not counting the expense of having a tech come in and do the work. I have been looking for a replacement ever since. However, the cost of the same press, even a well-used one, was more than we could afford. I did not want to make a mistake and get something that I could not use. I took advice from a friend and waited. He called me one day and asked me to take a look at a press in Gulfport, MS. I went and made the decision to purchase the unit. It was a 2000 Heidelberg just like the one I had. The shop had purchased the unit new and was wanting to sell it. I am happy to report that it is on the floor and running. The

cost of the press was \$2500.00. The ministry really needs help in paying for the press.

If several churches or individuals would chip in a small offering, it would go a long way in taking care of this expense.

New Production:

One of the most productive books we have ever done is the "Trail of Blood." This ministry was the first to produce this book in the present format as well as design the cover. The first books were produced in 2002 and it has been reprinted several times. This includes both the English and Spanish versions. We are now in the process of a reprint. 2000 units will go on the shelf by the end of the week.

Thanks:

I again want to thank everyone and every church that have a part in this ministry. Your offerings are so much appreciated.

May the Lord bless and keep you all.

Publication

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

H.H. Strickland; editor

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