

# West FLORIDA BAPTIST News

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Volume XXIX

May/June 2021

Number 6

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. H. H. Strickland

The Spring Semester of 2021 is now over. It has been a very unusual time for the school. In our recent ABATS meeting, almost every school was struggling with the same situation. However, in our case it appears to more acute. The one thing that it has caused us to do, at West Florida, is to retool our outreach. While plans had already been in the process of instituting on-line courses, it had not been completed. With the coming of Covid, it became absolutely necessary that a means to reach students other than the class room, was necessary. It was no longer an option but it was absolutely necessary. Other schools, who are blessed with a faculty or students who are skilled in the process, are truly ahead of the situation. We did not have anyone who could put together a method for this outreach. However, our registrar stepped up and made a great effort to learn how and what to do. He did a tremendous job and virtual classes be-

came a reality. Therefore, the classes were able to continue with an outreach beyond our facility.

Plans are being made to reopen with in house classes in the fall. It will be as though we are starting all over again. Having no returning students, we will begin with a first year class. No one is just sitting around folding their hands and waiting. We all must be proactive in our plans for the future. I have already received several inquires concerning classes for the fall. This one thing is for sure, things will not be the same. The mind set of so many people is forcing us to make necessary changes. While we plan on returning to in-house classes, the virtual or online classes, are here to stay. While it may not be what we are accustomed to, it offers us a tremendous opportunity to reach out in a way that we have not done before. We will be able to reach more students with Biblical studies and training than ever before. Circumstance often forces changes whether we want to or not.

One of the disappointments that we have experienced is that we had no organized closing ceremonies. This was always a tremendous time for all of us. The fellowship, the preaching of the Word of God and the pre-

sentation of the certificates, and degrees, was always a blessing. Not only does the faculty miss out but the students miss out on a very important time in their educational journey.

I want to personally thank each church and, or individual that continues to support this ministry. We have been able to meet all of our obligations with all bills current. Our treasurer has done a tremendous job in assuring that things are kept up and are correct. As I reported at the local association recently, several changes have been made so that some of the things that happened over the past three years will not happen again. The system, which I was given, no longer works. Accountability is an absolute must. Guidelines have been written and adopted and are now in place. These guidelines are going to be enforced. This is for the protection of the school as well as the personnel involved.

Please pray that we will have a great summer of recruiting students and preparations for the fall semester. Our travels have begun and I covet your prayers as the wife and I travel over the summer.

May the Lord richly bless you all.

## SEE YOU IN CHARLESTON, WV

### Please visit booths 3 and 4

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



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

**Religion and Science**

Years ago, when I worked in the Louisiana State Penitentiary, I had a discussion with an inmate that profess that he could not believe the Bible was the word of God. He profess to totally believe in science over the Bible. In our discussion, we came to the conclusion that our difference was that, where there was an apparent difference in teaching, he would accept science over the Bible. It was my belief that where there was an difference of statement, I took the Bible as the authority and not so-called science. Thus we approach this matter with that same response.

The conflict in religion has been prevalent in every generation. Most of the time, these conflicts have been peculiarly sharp and divisive because they involved two groups

each of which claimed uniqueness, infallibility and certitude. Religious institutions have also had their battles with most social, political and economic organizations. However, the wars of infidelity and heresy have never rivaled the controversy between religion and science. Often Roman Catholicism has escaped most of the serious aspects of this controversy for two reasons. In the first place, pre-Reformation science was primarily the work of the cleric. The scientists themselves, had good reason to present their views in such a way that no real conflict would appear. In the second place, Saint Thomas precluded that the analyses of mundane theology prescribed any serious dichotomy between science and religion. In the specific area of revealed theology it was presumed that science had nothing to say. Thus, revealed theology was beyond science in any sense of the term.

With the emergencies of modern science, came many question that were deemed to be a threat to established theology. Among

these questions, or implications was the fact that in most cases, science appeared always to have been the victor. Why have there been periodic revivals of attack by religious leaders upon scientists and their theories? Why did the emergence of each new science pose the threats anew? These and many other avenues of conflict have kept the matter at a focal point.

The principle problem, as it appears in the early stages, was that no real bases upon which to establish a fundamental concept of which is right and which is wrong. Surely those who know the dogmas should not depend upon scientific methods in order to establish the authority of the dogma. It is fruitless to try and establish a bases of proof where the two are incompatible. Science does not attempt to establish theology dogma nor does theology dogma prove or disprove science.

Most of the early dispute came from the Medieval method of establishing dogma both in religion and science.



David Gonnella, Th. D.

## GOOD NEWS FOR NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS

The corona-virus, which limited our instruction to online this last year, is now in the rear-view mirror. This means that we plan to offer in-class instruction once again beginning with the Fall Semester with classes scheduled for day and night. This is good news indeed as many students prefer the direct contact with professors and fellow students that traditional classes offer.

It does not mean that we will no longer offer virtual class learning. For those who do not live in our near Pensacola or whose schedule prohibits attending in person we will offer classes on the internet and Zoom. We are committed to making a seminary education possible for all who really want it.

There is good news for new and returning students. Most of the classes offered will be for first-year students. At the same time, we will offer a good slate of classes for upper classmen and Master's and Doctoral students. Whether you are just starting or you are continuing your seminary education there will be something helpful for you.

There is good news also for military veterans. Our seminary continues to be approved for VA training including our Master of Divinity programs which are necessary for those who want to be counselors and chaplains.

The time to enquire about your seminary education is now. If you wait days will turn to weeks, weeks to months, months to years, and

so on until it is too late for you. All the information you need can be obtained by calling the seminary office at 850-455-4417. Fall registration will open on August 13<sup>th</sup> with classes commencing on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

Classes can be taken for credit or audited. One can be full-time student, part-time, or take whatever number of classes that fit your need and schedule.

There is also a wide range of people who can benefit from a seminary education. Those called to the ministry can gain the knowledge and credentials they need from faculty members possessing advanced degrees and ministerial experience. Those who are pastors can extend their usefulness to the Lord by gaining the qualifications necessary to teach in a seminary when they can no longer to keep up with their pastorate. Sunday School teachers can gain additional knowledge in the Word of God by taking courses targeted to the subject matter of their need.

Each person reading this should ask the Lord this prayerful question: "Should I train for greater usefulness to Your cause at West Florida Baptist Seminary?" Then simply do whatever the Lord impresses upon your heart.

A SPECIAL NOTE: We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the churches and individuals that have continued the regular support of our ministry, and to those who have given special offerings in recent months. Your generosity has sustained us through a very difficult time and we thank the Lord for you.

In Mr Well's book, he presents four points of controversy that he calls the "locus of controversies." The first of these was waged of the authoritarian procedure which had characterized the Medieval approach. It had been standardly accepted by the church fathers that doctrinal issues would be ultimately resolved by finding appropriate clerical support. Where there were any questions of religious dogma, the cleric would have the final say. He goes on to state that; "The emergence of Protestantism cast this whole method into dispute, at least among the new dissenters. When it became clearly specified by scientists that no matter of fact could be logically settled by authority, this had an inevitable consequence.... Where should the church draw the line? If the reliability of the great religious writers of the past was doubtful on matters pertaining to geology, astronomy, or biology, was there any reason to believe them on matters of faith?"

Most of the modern day rejection of true religious dogma is based upon this same principle. The whole matter is one that draws two conclusions. One, that the premise is flawed in so much as one cannot settle the matter of these specific issue from theology alone. Neither can it be solved purely for a scientific point of view. The Bible is not a biology book. But where it does speak on the subject, it is absolutely true. The Bible is not a book of astrology, but where it does speak it is absolutely true. And so it goes with all the subjects considered.

The problem is that most of the argument appears to stem, not from what is truth, but from what people have come to accept as truth. When one makes a close evaluation of the writing of these so-called religious father, it can be discovered that they erred greatly when it came to true theological matters. Thus, it gave rise to the controversy and gave impetus to those who found it convenient to disbelieve the truth.



**Glen Davenport, Th.D.**

Note: This outline will e given in two part.

We hear so much about wickedness now-a-days; so much so, that we are being forced to accept it. Ofttimes, we hear people in 'high places' defending wicked behavior. So, what is this about?

A. WICKEDNESS is expressed with adjectives such as as evil, sinful, immoral, base, gross, low, heinous, abominable, hellish, and many other words like devilish, Satanic, nefarious, malicious, evil-mindedness, corruption and many other painful terms.

B. SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS cases frequently arise from 'high places' even as in 'low places'. It extends from the White House, to the poor house; from the country preachers to the elite bishops and higher. Those who are NOT guilty are those who have fought a good fight against it.

C. SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS was named in Ephesians 6:12-13.

1. This wickedness is not a fight against 'good people'.

V12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood,

2. Spiritual wickedness is a fight against higher powers:

V12 ... we ... against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

3. We cannot destroy 'spiritual wickedness. It is here to stay. So, we have to DEAL with it. You know the old saying: "You can't beat City Hall". We have to DEAL with it. We are advised:

A. (V13) take unto you the whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day

B. And having done all, to stand.

"Able" means "having the possibility"

"Withstand" means "to resist"

"Evil day" ...

Before I define this term, let's read from the only other writer of Scripture who used it, (Amos 6:1-7)

1 Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came!

2 Pass ye unto Calneh, and see; and from thence go ye to Hamath the great: then go down to Gath of the Philistines: be they better than these kingdoms? Or their border greater than your border?

3 Ye that put far away the evil day, and cause the seat of violence to come near;

## ALL WICKEDNESS IS SPIRIATUL WICKEDNESS

4 That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall;

5 That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David;

6 That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.

7 Therefore now shall they go captive with the first that go captive, and the banquet of them that stretched themselves shall be removed.

"Evil day" - The evil day for Israel was 'the day of captivity'.

The KJV uses these words to define it: NT:4190

'bad, evil, grievous, harm, lewd, malicious, wicked'

I fear: this day is upon us.

### TEXT & MESSAGE: Ephesians 6:10-20

V10. Finally, means: we are about to reach "the end of our rope".

This word implies: It is time to suit up - right NOW!

NOTE: I'm thinking of the time when King Saul was about to send 'little David' out to meet Goliath. Remember how he tried on the Armour of Saul?

1 Sam 17:38-39 "And Saul armed David with his Armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail.

39 And David girded his sword upon his Armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him."

My brethren, means: We are in this trap together as "brethren" - or should I say: "like sitting ducks"?

Be strong in the Lord,

We must NOT do as the Israelis did. We must not look for safety in the mountains or in our vault of riches. We must be 'strong in the Lord'!

And in the power of his might.

A. This "power" is not 'dunamis'. It is not the power to explode.

B. This power is not 'exousia'. It is not the power of authority

C. This power is not 'megaleiotes'. It is not superbness, I.e. Glory or splendor:

KJV - magnificence, majesty, mighty power.

D. This is not "arche". It is not the power to negotiate through magistrates.

E. This "POWER" is kratos; a primary word meaning "vigor" ["great"]

KJV - dominion, might [-ily], power, strength.

We are instructed to go into the dominion of the Lord. Suit up with HIS armour!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Philippine Mission Development

Wayne Stringer, Director

The month of March was a very good month, offerings were very good. Number 14, Berean Missionary Baptist Church should be completed sometime in July. Emanuel MBC had their ground breaking and has begun digging the footings. God has blessed with all the funds for both Emanuel and Berean with \$ 2,628.66 toward project #16. For the month of March we received **\$6,321.27, one of the best months we have had since our beginning.** We have not determined just who number #16 will be, there are several interested, but it will depend upon which church has all things required to comply.

We are looking forward to the National Meeting. Our Sponsoring Church and several individuals have joined together to sponsor a Lunch on Wednesday of the meeting to show our appreciation to all the churches and individuals who have made this great Ministry work and include others might be interested in seeing what PMD is all about. If everything works out Pastor Abner Tuazon, who is pastor of Ind. Calvary MBC the Co-Sponsor of PMD in the Philippines. He will be speaking by the internet and will be sharing how important PMD has been to the growth of God's work through the churches associating with the American Baptist Association of Churches.

Thank each and everyone of you that are praying and supporting this great ministry, God loves you and so do we.

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**Calvary Baptist Church of Sherman, Texas** is very excited about our new Mission project.

We request you prayerfully consider supporting this work with your prayers and financial support. The Veazey's plan to be on the field this October, so we have decided not to spend a lot of time on deputation. We believe time is short and people need to be reached with the Gospel as soon as possible.

Please click on his announcement that is attached to the email. We hope to raise all the financial support the Acts 13 Priority needs before October. If you would like for the Veazey's to come and share with your church their exciting vision please let us know.

Charlie Ellison

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### Searching for a pastor

Greeley Missionary Baptist church in Greeley, CO is actively searching for a pastor. More details to follow.

## Oakridge Missionary Baptist Church (Maud, TX)

### Seeking Pastor

Oakridge Missionary Baptist Church (Maud, Texas) was established in or around 1900. We are a small church but our members are faithful and dedicated. OMBC is seeking a God called Pastor preaching and teaching the inspired and complete King James version of the Word of God and believes in closed communion. He must agree with and practice the American Baptist Doctrinal Statement and Church Covenant and have an unending love for God and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the saved Brethren and the unsaved. He must meet the requirements in Titus and 1 Timothy. He must be willing to relocate locally. A weekly salary will be provided but he should also be willing to work a secular job, unless retired.

Job Description: The Pastor of Oakridge Missionary Baptist Church serves as a spiritual and pastoral leader. He seeks God's vision for OMBC. He will preach the word of God from the pulpit and be a preacher, teacher, and shepherd of the congregation. Additionally, he shall lead in evangelism and discipleship of believers and non believers in our church and community. He is to supervise and lead in the pastoral care of our members. He is to lead the flock by example through his Christ like character, personal integrity, and individual discipleship.

Please email [OakridgeMBC2624@gmail.com](mailto:OakridgeMBC2624@gmail.com) with your cover letter, resume

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### 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>\$2,375,648.05</b>
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Interstate Salaries	\$57,062.60
Foreign & National Salaries	\$50,065.29
Designated	\$34,631.26
Undesignated	\$11,471.96
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$153,231.11</b>
<b>BALANCE FOR SALARY/EXPENSE</b>	
	<b>\$2,528,879.16</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Interstate Salaries	\$74,411.80
Foreign Salaries	\$22,724.39
National Salaries	\$22,839.20
Designated	\$34,631.26
Salaries & Expenses of Sec-Treas. Office	
Office Salaries	\$12,364.29
General Office	\$2,678.52
Automobile Expense	\$608.61
Sec/Treasurer Exp	\$80.39
Postage	\$19.70
Total Office	\$15,590.73
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$170,197.38</b>
<b>BALANCE FORWARD</b>	<b>\$2,358,681.78</b>
<b>DEFICIT FOR MAY</b>	<b>\$(16,966.27)</b>

**News:** We enjoyed a busy, yet fruitful, month in May. It began in Yelm, WA, at Outpost MBM with Interstate Missionary Devin Wood. Mother's Day was spent in West Texas with Northside MBC, Snyder, and First MBC, Hermleigh. May 15<sup>th</sup> took us to Landmark MBC, Edwards, IL, while May 16<sup>th</sup> found us at Surrounded Hill LMBC in Newport, AR. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> we were in South Louisiana with Magnolia MBM in Covington and their Sponsoring Church, Pearl Hickory MBC, in Pearl River.

**Names:** We mourn the loss of Roselade Isma (May 2, 2021), wife of National Missionary to Haiti Jean Isma, sent out by the Westwood Missionary Baptist Church of Winter Haven, FL. Jean and Roselade had recently adopted a son who is now 15 months old. Roselade was a dear woman of God who was always ready to share the Gospel or break out into a song.

We also mourn the loss of Noemy Goulding (May 11, 2021), wife of long-time Foreign Missionary to Costa Rica, Brother Walter Goulding, who is sent out by Poplar Head MBC in Ludowici, GA. Brother and Sister Goulding have spent most of their lives ministering to the people in and around San Jose, Costa Rica. At the time of this report Brother Goulding remains in a Costa Rican hospital suffering with COVID-19 but is improving. Please pray for both missionary families.

**Numbers:** We rejoice over the numbers reported to our office by the missionaries for May: **401 Professions of Faith** and **63 Baptisms**. This brings our respective associational year totals to **3673** and **492**. Praise the Lord!

**Notes:** If you are in Charleston, WV, for the ABA Messenger Meeting, we invite you to *Missionary Share Time*, Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 PM in the Theater; the *Missionary Committee* meeting, Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 AM in the Coliseum; the *Missions Program*, Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 PM in the Coliseum.

**Needs:** We are reminded that, in addition to the above-mentioned losses, there remain other prayer requests. During May National Missionary Marcus Nyenehtue's sister passed away in Liberia; National Missionaries Jose Bernardo and Abel Dimatulac both spent time in a Philippines hospital with COVID-19; and, National Missionary Roger Babelonio in Cambodia was sent back to the Philippines for surgery. Our missionaries carry great burdens, but our God offers great grace.

**Monterrey, Colombia, S.A.**  
*Carlos Julio Mendoza, Missionary*



New Work Starts May 2 in Ibague

We were looking to rent a house in Ibague but the owners would not rent it to us because they are strong Catholics and will not allow us to preach the Gospel there. 15attend / 2visitors

**Fusa BM:** We lease this second floor. The owners did not have many demands. We only sign a document with a guarantor for \$ 500 per month for one year. The owners attend a Pentecostal church and were very happy to have the Gospel preached there. Glory to God. On May 2, we will have the first service of the new work in the city of Ibagué. 2 for Baptism / 1 visitor  
Monterrey BM 21attended

We pray on our knees to God that we will soon have the money to buy the property for the new work here in Ibagué and not pay more rent. It would be the fifth church with a building in Colombia. I thank the Lord for allowing me and my family to help with God's Work. Glory God, for all those who have been behind the work in Colombia and my ministry.

Sister Elda and the girl Linda Valeria, came forward to ask to be baptized. Since I have been focusing on Fusa and travelling to Ibagué to start the new work,

Bro. Edgar Lopez has been filling in as pastor in my absence. We are asking Grace MBC in Bogotá, who sponsor us, to give Bro. Lopez the authority to baptize.

ZOOM up to  
20 Families

Next August, we are expecting brothers Roger Stewart and Robert Ledford and H.H. Strickland, to organize Monterrey MB and Fusa MB., As independent churches. Amen.

The radio program is a blessing and a help to the local Church to carry the message of Salvation, there are many who call thanking us for the messages of Salvation. Glory to God.

### L.A.M.B. Ministrie

*Jim Gage, Missionary*

Together, the inability to touch each other's lives, the incapacity to participate in collective worship, as well as many other adjustments have left us scrambling to learn ways to function in this bizarre world in which we now live. However, Latin American Ladies Auxiliaries from Ecuador, Colombia, Spain, and the United States determined to encourage their spiritual lives decided to take advantage of the technologies presented to them and held an online two-day spiritual retreat. Those that could physically meet did so, and the rest attended via ZOOM. Also, every Monday and the first Saturday of each month, these ladies have been meeting to pray and study God's Word. The meetings have been a source of strength in these unfamiliar times.

May God continue to bless them as they bless us and the work in Latin America.

### HOME GOING OF A GREAT LEADER

When a great man dies, for years the light he leaves behind him, lies on the paths of men. - Henry Wadsworth Sitting Bull, Geronimo, Cochise, and others were influential Native American Leaders. This past month, we honor the memory of Juan Pablo Colino, a Spiritual Leader of the Piapoco's and pastor of one of the 23 churches on the Sarvacurie reservation. He had a small house in Cumaribo that he let us use to hold our Jungle Bible classes. Several men from the Westwood MBC had helped with some improvements making it functional for our courses. He was an influential leader who

encouraged pastors and leaders to travel many hours, crossing the Vichada River from their reservation to attend our classes. He wanted to be a member of our church, and plans were to travel there and establish a Baptist church. Indeed, we are thankful for his leadership and will surely be missed. Please pray for the family and the work there.

### Russia

*Jodie Vesely, Missionary*

Thank you for your continued support of our ministry for the past several years, including this last crazy year. Leaving St. Petersburg last July, we had plans to return to our home in January 2021. God had other plans. On March 15th we received some difficult news, that onset a series of events through which God revealed and made clear to us some of His plan for the next phase of our ministry. We will not be returning in person to Russia for the foreseeable future. It was sudden and hard for us, but God has been preparing both our hearts and minds for this transition for a couple of years.

Although this past year has been challenging, God has used it to develop both us and His church in Russia for the next stage. We will continue our Russian ministries. Through the pandemic God has paved the way for us to regularly minister, and in some ways even more fruitfully, during the move to online meetings. We will continue to lead the church in Russia as we wait for God to move on a man's heart to step up and pastor the church. Bible studies still happen throughout the week, and Jodie still volunteers online with a Russian organization, reaching out to help sick children seeking to learn English.

One aspect that God has given great encouragement and excitement in is the English outreach ministry. For the past year, we have been hosting our ministry online, and it has flourished. Two wonderful things that have come from being in America and hosting online is that 1) we have been able to reach people beyond St Petersburg. We have regularly had people joining from different parts of Russia allowing us to share the gospel across Russia all online. 2) We now have the freedom to share our testimony and the love of Christ absolutely freely without the concerns of being kicked out of our home. It has

been so uplifting for our spirits to know how freely we can share with Russians about the hope they can find only in Jesus.

We understand that this type of mission work is new, but God is blessing it already. The amount of growth and leadership the church in Russia has shown during this transition has encouraged us greatly. Our English ministries are growing and are all about Jesus. Because God called us to Russia and allowed us to learn the language, form relationships, and delve into the culture, He has uniquely equipped us to minister in this way. We have been very busy, but it feels so good to be doing God's work.

Another way God graciously prepped our hearts and minds for this transition was laying the burden for counseling on both of our hearts. Beginning in Fall 2019, Gabby started college again to pursue a secular degree in counseling. Around the same time, Jodie also felt God laying a burden for him to minister to missionaries and pastors through counseling.

Upon receiving the news that God was closing the door to us physically being in Russia, we reached out to Lynn and Brenda Raburn about desire to work with pastors and missionaries. As the Raburns prepare to retire, Chase and Kelli Reynolds are taking over the work that Lynn and Brenda have done so faithfully for many years. We will work alongside the Reynolds to offer counseling services and provide financial coaching and personal income tax advising to missionaries and their families and pastors and their families. We have the support of both the Raburns and Reynolds.

As we prepare for this aspect of the ministry, Gabby will finish her master's and test to be a certified licensed counselor through the state of Texas. Jodie has a bachelor's in accounting and is being certified as a Ramsey Solutions Master Financial Coach, completing Comprehensive Income Tax and Clergy Tax certificates, and receiving a certificate from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in counseling. Along with formal schooling, Lynn Raburn is pouring into us his personal experiences of counseling missionaries and pastors over the years. We are very thankful for him being willing to share with

us all his wisdom he has gained through years of service.

As we are still missionaries, we will still need to be sent out. Our sending church, Greater Heights Baptist Fellowship, has continued to support us through all the transitions, and will continue to be our sending church. We are so very thankful for all the prayers and love they have always showed us.

Also, because we are still missionaries, we will still need support from our churches. God has been so faithful to us through our partners. We appreciate each church and individual that has prayed for us or sent us financial support through the years. We plan to be back on the deputation road over the next few months, raising support, and updating our partners in person.

On a personal note, we could use some prayers for our family as we make this transition. Because of the pandemic and government tensions, we are unable to get visas to return to Russia. We left not knowing it would be the last time in the only home our children can remember, and it has been difficult for us to adjust. Please pray for our children as they did not get the opportunity to say proper goodbyes to people, places, and pets. There have been a few tears shed, but God has been so so good to us. We are thankful for His comfort and love for us.

Financially speaking, because we are unable to return to Russia and sort through and sell our things, the most cost effective thing for us to do is ship as much of our apartment as we can to America. We have chosen the the cheapest way that is reliable, by cargo ship, but it is still expensive. Along with that, we are purchasing a house and used vehicles. If you feel led to give to any of these expenses, all support can be sent to the same address as before with the memo or note "Vesely-transition."

If you have any questions about the specifics of our ministry, please do not hesitate to reach out and ask. We will answer any question that we have an answer to at this point. Soon a public announcement will be made about our ministries. If you are on our Facebook ministry page for Russian Bear Ministries, please continue to look there. If you are not on that ministry page, contact Jodie to be added. Additionally, regular re-

ports will continue to be published. If you are not receiving reports in the format you would like, email, Facebook, or in the mail, then please contact Jodie with your preferred method of receiving reports.

### Romania

Mike Rogers, Missionary

It has been a busy spring here in Brasov, we have celebrated Easter twice, a wedding, several birthdays and a birth, all while dealing with rapidly changing weather (low 70's and then a foot of snow) and covid restrictions (Friday-Sunday 8pm curfew and businesses closed at 6). We had a couple of new visitors this month, in addition to a young couple asking about baptism and church membership. Please be in prayer for them and the decisions they need to make. We updated the electrical system in Codlea, built a shed and have received estimates on the new carpet.

We are looking forward to welcoming our 5th grandchild to the family as Sam and Ashlyn are expecting baby number 2. Juli will be going back to spend some time with family and celebrate some birthdays and Josh and Alex's wedding reception. Pray for traveling grace and safety for her.

### Spain

Daniel Estrada, Missionary

#### ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE WORK...

In the past month after one year of the pandemic here in Spain, people are refusing to follow Christ, and are scared to attend church, but we continue to be faithful to God. We are doing our part and letting the Lord bring the fruits and good results of the work done, in His own time and own way.

**BIBLE CLASSES ONLINE...** By the grace of God, we keep teaching by zoom every week two times a week to the church in Barcelona. We are giving classes to the Bible Baptist Institute in that area. Every Tuesday morning, we record a class to send it to the In-stitute to support and help to prepare men and women who are serving God in other churches. It has been a great blessing to us to be able to do this.

**SWEDEN WORK...** We continue having contact with the families in Sweden. Especially with Tessy's family. Right now we are not holding Bible lessons online

because of an issue that Tessy's father is passing through, but soon we will return to teaching them by zoom.

We ask you to pray for our trip this summer, and for my son Oseas who is going to be teaching. Pray for Brother Horacio who will be helping Oseas.

We are planning to attend the ABA and visit as many churches as we can. But, in the process we ask you to pray for Andrea, Emmely's friend that is coming to the States with her. We would like for her to be saved during this trip, or for this trip to have an impact on her life. God is able and amazing. We trust upon His promises and hope to see her come to Christ.

### Thailand

Danny Jones, Missionary

**THAILAND MISSIONS:** I am hoping to return and begin building the dormitory for the seminary in Udon Thani as soon as possible. An anonymous donor has pledged to match any funds that come in up to \$15,000 towards this project. So far, \$2500 has been given. Would you or your church consider helping us with this endeavor? Pastor Pradit has reported that he and the students have been evangelizing in the village of Wang Sam Mo where 30 people accepted Christ. In April, the Udon Thani Baptist church hosted the annual youth camp with 90 in attendance. Five people were baptized at the church last month. Pray for the work in Thailand and consider helping us with the building project!

The Westwood School of Missions has purchased some new equipment that will be ready to record and broadcast our classes online in the Fall semester. We already have students who are signed up for on-campus classes next semester and others who will be attending online. Because of covid, the school did not have normal classes this year, but we are looking forward to reopening and are excited for the 2021-2022 school year!

Personal Update: I would first like to give an update on my wife Rachel, and I want to thank everyone for your prayers concerning her health. She was finally able to see the specialist in dysautonomia in Clearwater, FL this month. The doctor gave a very positive prognosis, that with medication and rehab, she should be able to eventually regain most of her function though this will be a slow process.

Tara, our oldest daughter got her driver's license and will be graduating High School this year. She is working as stage manager at the Winter Haven Theater to accrue volunteer hours for a scholarship. She has been a great asset in working as our broadcasting technician at the School of Missions and has helped me in the publication ministry also.

Tiffany, who is 14, is an aspiring graphics artist who has now published two books through the BTC publishing ministry. Laura, 11, is our little ballerina. I am proud of all my children as I watch them grow and serve the Lord.

### Thailand

*David Leek, Missionary*

April was an extremely busy; yet, great month! My Pastor and I had the opportunity to attend the 2021 World Missions Seminar in North Little Rock, Arkansas together! It was hosted by Faith BC in North Little Rock & their Pastor Lynn Raburn. We were able to enjoy some refreshing worship, preaching, & teaching! Breakfast & lunch were provided by several Churches; the food was delicious! My Pastor & I also had the opportunity to fellowship & talk about a range of things that allowed us to get to know one another much more as well! I want to thank him & the new Sending Church that the Lord has provided; Pleasant Hill MBC, for covering the expenses for the both of us; it was such a refreshing week! There were a range of topics that are always beneficial to hear, & be exposed to again & again! Our gratitude to each of those that took part & gave of themselves that entire week! The Staff @ Faith NLR was phenomenal! Great snacks too; thank you ladies & gentlemen of Faith NLR!

I was honored to be able to present my burden to Thailand to the following Churches in April, & want to thank, Pastor Jones & Roquemore MBC in Henderson, TX; Pastor Evett & Providence MBC in Corsicana, TX; Unity MBC in Denison, TX was without a Pastor at the time I was allowed to visit them, but my thanks to Sister Beverly who arranged for me to visit them; Pastor Wallace & First MBC of Kenansville have long been a supporting Church. Pastor Wallace & the Church requested me to come to Florida for a meeting with them in April. I really enjoyed being with them once again; &, although it

was a physically challenging trip, it was amazing to see what the Lord did during my visit there! I began to have some vehicle issues that interrupted my schedule somewhat. The Lord knew in advance, and I want to thank Brother Buddy, Sr.; and Brother Buddy, Jr. and First MBC in Kenansville for being such a blessing! It never ceases to amaze me and how the Lord provides through His people and Churches! They diagnosed the problem with the car, and it was nothing that was of major concern at the time! Thank you both!

### South Pacific

*Walt Emry, Missionary*

Maggie has a ministry of making baby items. Every time we learn of a new baby coming (of which there are many) Maggie begins her task of crocheting some new baby sets, or blankets of which she is particular and good at! She uses the colors and yarn that is available here which can be somewhat challenging at times. Everyone is so amazed and grateful that she actually makes them for their baby!

Emergency Visa: We have tried a couple of times to apply for our resident visas. Both times they said it would cost 100,000vt each (that's about \$1000.00 USD each). We didn't have the money for that, so, we went ahead and got another visitor visa, which cost about \$120.00 USD each. It was good for 7 months. Our visa was set to expire on the 29th of April and it was time to re-apply again. If it wasn't for the borders being closed due to Covid we would have been expected to leave the country, but we are not able to leave yet. We found out we could get an emergency visa, due to Covid19, which is free and lasts for 3 mo. If we're not able to return to the US in three months we will need to apply for our resident visas.

The government process keeps changing all the time. A huge Thank you to those who have given funds toward our visas.

Fatukuru M.B.C. of Ifira Island, has a weekly visitation program and I have been involved with that since the onset. We have visited many households and I have been the designated devotional giver. I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting with the families. The last time I was with Fatukuru in regular service one of the people we visited came to

church! PTL! It was a big step for him.

Thank You! to all that have contributed to our truck repair. We now have a new windshield and clutch. PTL! It still needs more repairs to the front end and brakes, but it is now road worthy and I can be legal for the coming fiscal year. The road worthy sticker lasts from March to March!

### Argentina

*Scott Manees, Missionary*

On the 21st of the month we had a large spike in listeners to the podcast. During the month we have given out flyers to several people and are not sure where the new traffic is from, but are excited when people are listening. Many times analytics can be more discouraging than encouraging in the moment when you are sharing all of your heart in a message and it appears that only a few heard it. We have to remember that we are responsible for sewing the seeds and watering them and God is responsible for the increase. It has been a great blessing having these flyers ready to give to somebody that we meet. I keep several in my Bible case when I am out and about. The Lord has given us several opportunities to share with people!

### Do you have a Bible at home?

This was the question that I asked the butcher two weeks ago. The Lord opened up a moment to share again with one of the butchers that I had mentioned to you all before. He told me that he had been going through some of the things on the flyer that we gave him previously. When I asked him if he owned a Bible, he said that he did not. I told him, "we will take care of that today!" Within 5 minutes he had a Bible in his hands! I could tell that he was genuinely touched by this. We can see the Lord working. This was a moment where God had changed our original plans for that evening and opened the door for me to talk with this butcher whom I have had other like conversations with in the past. Sometimes we don't understand why our plans change but we try to stay vigilant for the open doors God provides along the way. Sometimes God gives us the exact right words to say at the very moment it needs to be heard. Please continue to pray for the people with whom we are speaking and pray that the Lord gives us both wisdom and timing in our words!

## Interstate Missions

### Lighthouse Ministries

*Toby Cribbs SR., Director*

POSSIBILITY: The governor was visiting the state penitentiary and chatting with a few inmates as he walked down a corridor of cells.

“What are you here for?” He asked one prisoner. “I was framed. They convicted me of embezzlement, but it was my business partner who plotted the whole thing and got all the money.”

“And what about you?” he asked another “Armed robbery-but it was a case of mistaken identity. Some of the witnesses picked me out of a line up, but I swear the real robber was somebody who just happened to look like me.”

One by one, the inmates he spoke to declared their innocence-until he came to the last man on the cell block. “Perjury” the man answered. :I did it sure enough. I made a terrible mistake, and now I’m paying for it, fair and square.”

The governor turned to the warden and ordered the man released immediately. “But why?” the warden asked, amazed. “Because he is a crook” the governor said loudly.” “He admits it. He is a bad example, contaminating the minds of this whole block of innocent men, and he needs to be removed.

My wife and I attended the Tennessee Missionary Baptist Association at Hopewell Baptist Church, Cunningham, Tennessee. The meeting was well attended. We had good singing and great preaching. I resigned as Clerk and Treasurer after 22 years. Will it did not end, They elected me as the Assistant Clerk and Treasurer.

We also attended the Georgia State Association Meeting at Poplar Head MBC, Glennville, Georgia. We had great fellowship and singing. The preaching was up lifting.

On Sunday twenty-fifth we were at Liberty MBC in Hinesville, Georgia. I gave and up date of the Ministries.

We had some of the members from our Sponsoring Church, Hillside Baptist Church,

Knoxville, Tennessee come down and work in the office.

We picked up eight cases of King James Study Bibles from Rock Of Ages Prison Ministries.

We are asking for God’s Churches and Believers to pray earnestly that God will send in a Missionary or Missionaries to help in this Ministry. This is God’s Ministry. A husband and wife team would be great. This is the greatest Ministry I have ever been in. It is great to see those that have led a life of CRIME to turn to Jesus.

### Missionary Ambassaor Ministries

*Christopher Cartwright, Missionary*

No matter what the language, the message is still the same. We praise God for the message going in English, Spanish, and now in Luo of Kenya and Tanzania. The messages I had been preaching in John 12 this past month or so, has really opened my eyes to the realization of needing Him and to help others to see Him spiritually and walk in newness of life.

Adier, adier, awchonu ni ka koth cham ok olwar e lowo, mi otho, to osiko mama kodhi achiel kende. To ka otho, to onyago kodhi mang’eny (Johama 12:24)

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. (John 12:24)

De cierto, de cierto os digo, que si el grano de trigo no cae en la tierra y muere, queda solo; pero si muere, lleva mucho fruto. (Juan 12:24)

**Continuing to Learn the Dholuo language:** Amosi. Idhi nade? Adhi maber. Erokamano odwada. (Hello. How are you? Im fine. Thank you brother.) Japunoj mar Muma Maler. (I am a teacher of Bible.) Duong obed ne Nyasaye (Glory be to God). Opak Yesu Ruoth (Praise the Lord) Luoruok dhi nade (How is the evangelism going?).

As you can see, I am learning the Dholuo language as part of my outreach to the people of Southwestern Kenya and Northwestern Tanzania which number roughly 6,000,000. So far, I have made about seven videos on Facebook Live using the MUMA 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.

We continue to make videos in the Luo language which are on Facebook live every week. I make at least 1 or 2 videos per week, and these videos are being used by the Luo pastors in SW Kenya. Pastor Christopher Otieno Kich has just recently made evangelism in the little village of Nyaminaoko in which 63 people wee saved in the first three days of June. We praise God for this opportunity, and we pray that Pastor Christopher and his team will go to Mbita town on Rusinga Island within the next week to plant a new Baptist church there. Christopher did a two day evangelism event two weeks ago, and some were saved. The videos continue to be like a John the Baptist so to speak being a forerunner of a possible Mission Trip to Luo land. Those who are saved ask the Pastors how can this “misungu” (white man) speak the Luo language. I explain how I do it, but I also tell them that it’s a blessing from the Lord. The people are very happy listening and watching me teach in their language.

### Acts 13 Priority

*Wesley Veazey*

In Acts 13:1 5 the Scripture records God=s calling of Barnabas and Saul, and the Church at Antioch. His call to Barnabas and Saul was to go and preach the Word of God. His call to the Antioch Church was to “Separate me Barnabas and Saul@ or send away the two God called preachers “for the work whereunto I have called them.@ All parties concerned were obedient to God=s call and the remainder of the Book of Acts records the spread of the Gospel and the planting of Churches in obedience to Christ=s Great Commission. Hence the name of our ministry is Acts 13 Priority.

God has called me to go and preach. He has also called the Calvary Baptist Church of Sherman, Texas to be my sending Church. This great Church and Pastor Charlie Ellison have endorsed me to go and preach wherever God will open the door.

God on our lives for several years, and that He was preparing us to be ready to answer His call. In November 2020 we sold our house and moved into our 22 foot travel trailer. We worked to become debt free while continuing to serve the Lord at Memory Lane MBC in

Palestine, Texas. This awesome mission minded Church has also witnessed the hand of God on our lives as He has prepared us to go. They have loved us and we have loved them as we have labored together for the Lord Jesus Christ.

God has given us both a vision and a burden for this ministry. A Vision to preach the Gospel wherever God opens a door of opportunity. This vision includes the possibility of planting more than one Church for His honor and glory. This will require a mobile ministry with my wife and I living in our travel trailer on the field of labor.

A Burden that time is short for the Lord's Churches to fulfill our Savior's Great Commission. God has placed an urgency on my heart to move quickly to begin this new chapter in our lives. This being said, and if the Lord wills, we plan to return to the Navajo Nation in late July to investigate a possible "open door" for ministry. If this opportunity materializes we will labor there to plant a Church and disciple them. While laboring we will also be looking for other areas to reach from that location. We believe that we could possibly work with more than one congregation on a rotating schedule. Our focus will not be on buildings, but on preaching, baptizing, and making disciples. We are praying for God to make us very sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading. We believe that there is much work to be done in the Southwestern United States. Debbie and I both have a heart for this region because we are both native New Mexicans.

Please prayerfully consider partnering with us in this great work. If you have questions, please contact me. Cell: (903)404 5888. E mail: wildwesvz65@hotmail.com

### Port Byron, NY

*Don Mavis Hagen, Missionary*

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ. The last day of April brought us 50 mile per hour winds and snow. It is the Finger Lake region of upstate New York. Lake Erie and Lake Ontario have no mercy with their lake effect snows.

April was a good month for Church services and fellowship and coming together to worship our Lord. We had our local Association in Rome, NY. It was a sweet

fellowship. It was good to see the Brethren after a long winter. After the Meeting we headed on North to our Sponsoring Church, First MBC in Moultonborough, New Hampshire. It is always good to go there and meet with our Church. We visited with several church folks in their homes. We last saw them in August of last year, entirely too long. On our way home we stopped to see Brother and Sister Gray and daughter Kristen in Stratford, New York. Pray for this family as Brother Sam and Sister Sharon have some serious health issues. I trust God will see them through this thing. Upon arrival at home we were greeted with 3 inches of snow. What can I say.

Please pray for Randy and Jude. They are 2 of our senior folks. They have been married 56 years and now Randy is having some very serious health issues. Jude tries her best to care for him, but it is taking a toll on her health as well. We love these folks. Our prayer is God will do a great work of healing and comfort in their lives.

We had 2 new visitors this month. Praise the Lord. It was a blessing to us all.

All is well at our house. Both Mavis and I had our 6 month checkups and both are good reports.

Pray for us and the work here. Thank you in doing so. We love you and appreciate you.

### Antioch BC

Dexter, MA

*George Dever, Pastor*

We have been challenged as most churches have with Covid-19, and have not had many children attend services, due to the governor's mandates. As we move forward, I ask that you pray for us. There is much work to do and it seems like time is passing by. Please remember the work here, the community we serve in, those without Christ, and me and my family.

I ask if you would consider helping with our needs for the building: a roof-water leak, painting the sanctuary, carpeting the sanctuary floor, and purchasing chairs. Our pews are deteriorating and in need of replacing.

Also if you would consider helping with my wife's medical bills. When she fell and

broke her wrist; the ER visit, Surgery and follow-up visits totaled over \$30,000.

Thank you for the offerings, cards, letters, and e-mails of encouragement. They mean so much to us.

### Benchmark Baptist Fellowship

*Alan Schoeff, Missionary*

Last month at the end of March we went out door to door hanging door hangers inviting families to join us for Easter Sunday. Six people volunteered to help and we handed out nearly 1000 invitations. God rewarded our efforts! We had eight first time guests to celebrate the Ris-en Savior. One man, Alex, and his son were two of our guests. These are two of the people that I took "fishing" with me in March. One of our guests, Karen, has now been back every service. I am still working on developing more of a relationship with Alex. He needs a friend, pray God will allow me to be that friend!

**Every time you stand on the top of a mountain,** you are overlooking a valley. It was awesome having so many first time guests for Easter Sunday. It is a great blessing that some of them are still returning as guests, but there was a deep valley as well. Two families are in the process of moving, one family completed their move at the end of April and the other will complete their move on Mother's Day. Losing seven people is not much if your congregation one or two hundred but when it is 35 or 40 that is a large loss. We will miss these families. Pray that God will bring more to fill their roles.

**Despite that valley, there were other mountaintops!** Sunday night after Resurrection Services, I had an opportunity to make a quick trip to Indiana to visit Julie. It was only three days but it was a blessing that God used to refresh my soul. I also got to see our children and our grandchildren. Then at the end of April I made a second trip to Indiana. This time to welcome home our son, Sgt. Wesley Schoeff. Wes is now safe in the USA after serving a year abroad. He will be home in VA, Lord willing, on May 8. And the best news is that he will be escorting my wife home for her summer break. Please pray for their safety.

**As spring is full upon us,** I would ask you to pray for one special need. Last year we

had to shutter most of our planned outreach. People, both in the church and in the community, were understandably apprehensive about making new contacts and building relationship because of the virus. We are cautiously reimplementing and reinvigorating our outreach for this spring and summer.

### **Heritage Baptist Mission**

Haleyville, AL

*Allen Barton, Missionary*

Being a missionary during a pandemic has been one of the hardest things I have ever had to endure as a missionary on the field for the Lord. Having to essentially “do nothing” as a man trying to plant a scriptural New Testament church not only seems, but is very counter intuitive!

However, I am blessed to be able to report that our wait is finally over! This month we were finally able to go out and knock on doors in our community! What a blessing it was to be able to go out into the high-ways and hedges again! And, we have already begun to see results! We have had visitors almost every Sunday since our door to door visitation!

While Covid-19 is still not a thing of the past, it has decreased enough in our area that we are finally able to do what we have been called to do here...be witnesses for the Lord. Pray for us as we continue to work diligently here in Haleyville to reach people for His glory.

On a side note, the annual 911 Festival is planned to take place June 4th and 5th this year. This will bring 2 to 3 thousand people right to the steps of the church as they gather to hear the headline bands that will be playing just across the street. This will be another tremendous opportunity for us to witness to this city as we will be present to talk with people and hand out flyers and Bible tracts.

Colorado Church Planting

*Everett Ledbetter, Missionary*

The past few months I have been sharing with you about a group of people that we have been working with. We have been in-person with this group on a few different occasions and have been able to preach to them. We have also been having weekly Bible Studies and Worship services via Zoom. Each

week they have been faithful to attend and we have even seen visitors attend our Zoom services. These visitors are their family and friends that they have invited. As a result, we are transitioning to work along side this group to reach their community. Later this summer, we will make the move from Colorado to Topeka, KS. This is a great door that the Lord has opened to us, and we feel that we must walk through this. As the Lord has opened one door, He has effectively closed the door in Colorado. Things were a huge challenge without covid, but covid took it to a whole other level. Colorado has been a blessing, and a challenge. We have labored very hard here with very little results. We did see 8 souls saved during our almost 5 years here. We are beyond thankful for the churches and individuals that have faithfully supported us, and we pray that you will continue to support us both as we finish things here and make the move to Kansas. Our lease obligation runs through the summer here in Colorado and we will continue to need help with that. Our sending church will be recommending us for salary in June at our national meeting. Prayers are appreciated as we follow the Lord through these changes.

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. At this point, we have 72 teens and adults registered to serve the Lord in Columbia and Ashland, MO. If your group would like to possibly join us, contact me asap to see if we have space for your group. Please be in prayer for the week of IMPACT, that we would see souls saved.

### **Church Plant**

Flagstaff, AZ

*Shawn Welchmann, Missionary*

We praise the Lord for seeing us through another winter as the snow season has finally come to an end!

Flagstaff received well over 120 inches of snow over the past six months and we are glad for warmer weather ahead! Our family is doing well and everyone is healthy. We thank God for his continued provision.

We had a wonderful Easter Sunday as we celebrated our risen Savior with our Flagstaff Family MBC family.

We have been extremely busy planning for what looks to be like an exciting summer. God is working here and we have several opportunities to continue to work and love on our city.

Our church here is continuing to grow spiritually. We have seen massive growth and a hunger for the Word and our people are continuing to ask questions and grow in their relationship with the Lord.

Because of this, we are working extra hard to continue to grow numerically. We know it is all in the Lord's timing, and we will continue to show the love of Jesus to everyone we encounter.

We are beyond excited to host our first two interns this summer! We are thrilled to have them come and hit the ground working alongside us as we teach, host camps, evangelize and so much more and we are so thankful for their sacrifice to come and help us. Attached to this newsletter is a letter from one of our interns. Please take the time to meet Andi and begin praying for her!

### **Twin Lakes Baptist Missions**

*Jerry Baker, Missionary*

On Easter Sunday, for the first time in over a year, our church family gathered after morning services to share a fellowship meal together. Because of you-know-what-virus, we were not real certain of how many would remain after services. But, to our surprise, not a single person left, an abundance of food had been prepared by the members, and even our guests remained to enjoy the fellowship together.

We offer up praises to the Lord for the encouragement in realizing that we averaged 24-26 in attendance **each** Sunday of the month. This is a significant increase from a year ago!

Last month we reported that one of our young ladies had presented herself for baptism. Unfortunately, we had to postpone that service twice in April, both times due to the pump on the baptistry malfunctioning. Hopefully, the parts for repair will arrive soon and Lanell can be baptized...she is anxiously awaiting!

Thank you, for continuing to pray for the Lord's work among the Navajo people.



Dean Grigsby

## Business Manager Report

I am pleased to report that Summer 2021 sales of literature from Bogard Press through the first Sunday of the quarter have already eclipsed the total sales for Spring 2021. 2021 VBS sales are much better than 2020, but still one-fourth of what we would have historically had at this time. While post-COVID sales are still significantly lower overall, it is a blessing to see the churches beginning to get back to some sense of normalcy. Praise God who has delivered us through this trial!

I am reminded of a little boy who worked all day to carve a ship model from a block of wood to give to his father. He fell asleep, with little success achieved from all his carving. That night, his father came, removed the block of wood, and put in its place a real wooden ship which had been carved to perfection. The next morning the little boy, surprised and amazed, presented the gift from his father back to his father.

Such it is with us, who are saved. We strive to do our best and present ourselves as models our Heavenly Father will appreciate, but our lives seldom resemble that of our Perfect Model, Jesus. Yet, in His grace, God carves us into a product that can be given back to Him and used to make a difference in the lives of others.

While we continue to walk through trials and troubles, we can be assured that God will revive us, deliver us from our enemies in His strength, and perfect all that which concerns us. *Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me. The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands...* Psalm 138:7-8 Praise God for His infinite mercy and grace!



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

Teens in your church will want to check out the newly designed BTC Teen Student Book. Your teens will enjoy lessons presented in a format that is more appealing to their age group.

Each lesson begins with the Lesson Text and Lesson Aim. The first activity of each lesson is to help guide the students into thinking about the lesson. This activity can be done by students who arrive early while waiting for the class to begin. The next activity is the Ice Breaker. This activity is led by the teacher to warm up the students prior to getting into the lesson itself.

The content always remains the focal point of each lesson. The content breaks down the Lesson Text for students to help them build their lives on biblical truths.

The layout of the quarterly has been totally redesigned. A smaller column allows key definitions to be added. Additional Scripture readings are placed at appropriate locations next to the main content of the lesson. Food for Thought brings home the biblical principle and allows the teacher to emphasize the application of the Lesson Text and Lesson Aim.

Throughout the lesson context, the student will be presented with questions that will lead to deeper thought about the principles being taught. The section entitled The Heart of the Matter helps the student to apply the principles of the lesson to his life.

The Devotional Reading appears at the end of each lesson and not at the beginning for a reason. The Devotional Reading relates to the upcoming lesson. This encourages students to set aside time through the week to spend in the Bible.

Teachers of the BTC Teen Student Book can still rely on the Adult BTC Quarterly and the Sponsor's Guide for additional teaching helps. The new design takes effect this coming June in the summer quarter, 2021. Call 1-800-264-2482 or visit us at [bogardpress.org](http://bogardpress.org) for additional information on this quarterly and other study materials provided by Bogard Press.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST INSTITUTE**  
**March/April 2021**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>					
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$20,076.60	<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
			Utilities	\$ 1,358.21	
<b>INCOME:</b>			Misc.	2,750.00	
ALABAMA			Office	597.62	
Magnolia Springs -Theodore, AL	400.00		Instruction	2,950.00	
Schillingers Rd. BC -Mobile, AL	725.00		TOTAL EXPENSE	\$9,159.36	\$9,159.36
			<b>NEW BALANCE</b>		<b>\$9,359.36</b>
<b>GEORGIA</b>			<b>BOOKSTORE FUND</b>		
Northside, BC	-Vienna, GA	200.00	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$ 3,223.83
Traders Hill	-Folkston, GA	200.00	<b>Income:</b>		
			Bookstore Sales	\$ 37.36	
<b>FLORIDA</b>			Press Sales	\$ 324.57	
Okeechobee BC	-Okeechobee, FL	167.24	Contributions		
Oleno BC	-HighSprings, FL	200.00			
Calvary BC	-Panama City, FL	100.00	<b>Total Income</b>	\$361.93	<u>\$361.93</u>
Sunlight BC	-Pensacola, FL	100.00	<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE</b>		<u>\$3,785.76</u>
			<b>Expenses:</b>		
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>			Utilities	\$690.85	
Central BC	-Gulfport, MS	30.00	Postage	\$-0-	
Mics:			Print Shop	\$425.23	
TOTAL		\$2,122.24	Supplies	\$65.40	
			<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$1,181.48	\$1,181.48
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS:H.H.Strickland</b>			<b>NEW BALANCE</b>		<b>\$2,604.28</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	\$7,559.17	
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	
Spical Offering	- Pensacola, FL	900.00			
Kitchen Sales	-Pensacola, FL	-0-			
PPP Loan		\$6,625.00			
<b>TUITION/REGISTRATION</b>					
Registration		\$ -0-			
Tuition		\$ -0-			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		\$11,117.24			
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE</b>		\$31,193.84			

## 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.

### First Baptist Church of White City in Fort Pierce, Florida

We are a small church looking for a Pastor who can lead us and who has the energy to help us grow. We are looking for a man who is doctrinally sound and who is bold and strong in the faith. We believe that God is the final authority on all things and we follow the King James Bible only. We have love for one another. We are mission minded and have hearts for service. A salary, parsonage, and utilities will be provided. If you are interested, please call Katie Stoltz at 772-529-2091 or email at stoltz425@gmail.com

**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 printing ministry continues to move along. While things have slowed down somewhat, materials are continuing to be produced. Some of the work for this ministry is now being spent on relaying out of the oldest printed quarterlies. Things have changed so much since the work first began, it is imperative that the materials be re-tooled so as to work properly with the new equipment. When we first began publishing the materials, we would have to do a print out and then create a layout book from the print. None of those procedures are now used. With the new programs, we have been able to do so much more in less time and effort. This is especially true in the book preparations. While we are still using a very old program, "Page Maker," it allows us so much more flexibility in pre-press preparations. I would like to have the more up-to-date version, "End Design," but the cost has been too much. With the new

program, the book, along with the graphics could be done in a single set up. Now they have to be done separate. The area that I struggle the most is with the graphics. Many times the pictures are not of the quality that we need and I am unable to make the corrections. People who can use programs such as "Photoshop" are able to produce the graphics that really look good. I am really deficient in this area.

### New equipment:

When the change was made in binding, from the GBC to the wire-o, it was difficult to find and purchase the right equipment. Three new punches were purchased and all three broke within a few weeks. A heavy duty electric punch was purchased but it came with the wrong die. It was only recently that a used die was purchased. It has proved to be a blessing in the book binding. The time that was spent punching the books has been cut in more than half, and that doesn't take into consideration the effort that was used to pull the punch lever.

### New Productions:

When this ministry began in 1989, none of us had any idea where it would lead. Once

the effort was made to produce the Spanish books, it seemed logically to move into the literature. Once the effort was underway, a goal was set to complete the ten-year cycle. With the new production of the two quarterlies of Luke, the New Testament cycle has been completed. It has become more difficult to get the translations but there are still some that are willing to help in this area. Personally, I would like to see the Old Testament completed before I am no longer able to do the work.

### Many Thanks:

I would never forget the churches and individuals that continue to support this ministry. I realize that, one of the reasons why we have not been able to get someone to come and help in the shop is that we are unable to pay for their work. As I have said many times, no one receives money from the sale of the books that are produced in the shop. Every dollar that comes from donations or sales of the materials go right back into the ministry.

Thank you all so much and may our great Lord richly bless you for your faithfulness.

### Publication

wfbi News is published each month except July by the West Florida Baptist Institute and is owned solely by the West Florida Baptist Institute.

Subscription is free and a copy may be obtained by writing, e-mailing or calling the

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.

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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PERMIT NO. 329

West Florida Baptist Institute  
6812 Lillian Highway  
Pensacola, FL 32506-3954