

West FLORIDA BAPTIST News

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. H. H. Strickland

Greeting:

This edition of the *wfbi News* is just a little late because of our trip to Colombia. I will give a more detailed report on the trip in the next edition.

Work continues to move forward as we prepare for the coming semester. Our registrar is working hard to ensure that classes are accounted for and that the students that are interested in enrolling will have their proper choices. It has certainly been a very interesting year. Following the close of the 2020 semester, we have not been able to hold in house classes. However, with the opening of the fall semester of 2021, we are going to open up to in house classes. In essence, the fall semester is already under way. We had just a few days delay due to my scheduled trip. Now that I am back, the

classes will be opened for students.

While we are planning for the in house classes, it is very obvious that we must continue the virtual classes. We were really not prepared for what we have experienced. We had talked about forming an online segment but it had never been developed. When I needed the help to do that, it was not available. Promises are often easy to make but then it is another thing to have them carried out. We have learned to trust in the Lord more than ever. Our registrar went to work and learned about zoom and he has done a great job is getting us up and running with the program. Last semester, this was the only classes that were available. I have commended him often for all the work that he has done over the past year and half.

The finances have remained steady. However, due to the loss of the enrollment, the finances have suffered. We felt that there was no choice but to seek financial help. Due to the delay on our part, we lost out in the disaster loans, which could be forgiven. We were able to get an SBA loan, which must be paid back.

Our treasurer is doing a fantastic job in keeping everything up to date. With what has happened and what is happening now, it takes more than one individual to make sure that everything continues to progress.

The one thing that I have learned is who really means what they say and those who are just talk. Individuals that I had great faith in, have simply vanished. All there talk about supporting the school was nothing more than just talk. However, God is good and this work is depending on Him and not on people or churches. It is always good to have people around you that can be trusted. However, there comes times when you can be disappointed in these same people. You cannot allow those who discourage you to gain control, but we must lean on the Lord and allow Him to deal with those who seek to hurt and destroy.

I would thank every church, individual and associations that have come to our aid over the past year. Every special offering is so much appreciated. Every church that has chosen to partner with us is welcomed. I praise the Lord for every one of these.

**PRAY FOR THE FALL SEMESTER AND
ALL OF OUR STUDENTS AND
FINANCES**

From a
Woman's Point
of View



By: Loretta Pritchett
lorettapritchett@yahoo.com

Just A Smile

Recently I read a devotional story from "Our Daily Bread" book, pointing out how one woman would smile at everyone she met.

Like the lady in the story I also smile at people I don't know all of the time. But when we were mandated to wear masks it was brought

to her attention that no one could see her smile and this bothered her a lot.

Still she decided to smile anyway hoping people would see her smile in her eyes.

Now there is actually a bit of science behind that idea. The muscles for the corners of the mouth and the ones that make the eyes crinkle can work in tandem. It's called a Duchesne smile, and it has been described as "smiling with the eyes."

I had heard about smiling with your eyes, but never thought much about it until now. So I decided to practice this idea to see if people could tell if I was smiling or not under my mask, and it actually worked.

When the mandate was lifted and masks came off I counted to wear mine.

One day in the grocery store I was going down the aisles and everyone kept moving to one side to let me pass. Actually I believed they thought I wasn't vaccinated and let me pass by. However, I smiled and the people smiled back at me proving they could see my smile in my eyes under the mask.

Next I went to the vegetable department and saw it was very crowded and people were actually frowning at one another. One woman actually gave out a big sigh and I smiled and laughed. Curious of what I did, she asked me what was so funny. Laughing, I said I know how to clear the aisle, looking at me with a smile she said "the mask?"

Smiling and shaking my head yes, I said "it works every time." As I went on down the aisle I looked back to see her put on her mask.

Now I don't recommend you try the theory, but I'm saying it works. But the smile will make people smile back and you are perhaps letting others see a friendly face making their day a little bit better.

If you read Proverbs 17:22

it reminds us that A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Enjoy your day, smile it may lift someone's spirit.

Philosophy of Religion

In the previous discussion on the subject of "Religion and Science", the matter of conflict was introduced. There is a series of ideas called "controversy," that is used by some writers to attack the biblical view point relative to a number of subjects such as God, the origin of the earth and the scriptures themselves.

In each case, the attack is based upon a theory, if it may be called that, that the Bible is an unreliable source of information, proof or evidence. When any argument approaches a subject where the premises reject the evidence that may be presented, then the argument is mute. There is nothing upon which to discuss the matter. What must be settled first is what authority might be acceptable and which may not. This is where most people who truly believe the Word of God are left out. There is no understanding

of where some of the critics are coming from or how they have arrived at their conclusions. This debate will never be settled so long as the unbeliever assumes the position that the proof offered by the believer in the true word of God is viable and truthful.

The second "locus" of controversy as presented by Mr. Wells involves the matter of epistemological procedure. This is the theory of arriving at a conclusion which goes to the very heart of knowledge. It also involves the idea of origin and how things are perceived to come into being. It is in this area that the greater debate has ensued. Those who are unwilling to accept the principle of an intelligent design are never going to accept any idea or proof presented from a book they deny and a God they reject.

The one real objection to the presentation of Mr. Wells, is that he focuses almost solely on the doctrine of the Catholic church and there often warped since of understanding of the scriptures. It is no wonder why he goes totally off on his assumptions when he never investigates nor considers the position or arguments to true Bible believers. Those, who

have held so faithfully to the truths of the Word of God, have never been allowed to enter the arena of debate.

Mr. Wells begins his presentation on this matter with this statement.

"The magnificent scheme of Saint Thomas remains a paradigm of this method. The Protestants were protected from entering into this point of debate by their rejection of Saint Thomas and of the reliance on the human metaphysical system. The method of science, on the other hand, requires observational data as the starting point of all rational investigation."

It is easy to see the points of error from which he proceeds. If science requires a platform of data before reaching a conclusion, then where does that platform of data come from. It has been shown over and over again that this platform of data has been contrived from total imaginary figures, assumptions and inaccurate data. If there must be solid data before reaching a suggested conclusion, then where did the data come from? In the origin of things, there is no data outside of the Word of God. All



David Gonnella, Th. D.

Clearing Up Misconceptions

In any organization misconceptions can and do occur. The main reasons this happens are; [1] someone misunderstands what has been said, [2] someone doesn't listen carefully, [3] someone is not clear with what they say, and [4] someone maliciously starts a lie which is believed by others.

No matter the reason, misconceptions can cause conflict and damage to an organization. Therefore, whenever possible, misconceptions ought to be corrected. Those of good will accept clarification and come to a better understanding. Therefore, we wish to bring light to two misconceptions recently floating about at our seminary and among both our friends and enemies.

The first misconception has to do with how our seminary is supported. As *WFBI* has, from its beginning, been associated with the American Baptist Association (ABA), some feel that the ABA should send financial support to us and that it is their duty to do so.

From its inception over 100 years ago, the ABA has never given financial support to any of the 30+ seminaries that either are, or have been associated with it. This is because of the nature of the relationship of the seminaries to the ABA. The ABA does not own nor in any way control any seminary. The seminaries, including ours, are independent and are ministries of individual churches.

Our seminary relies on the following sources of support: [1] Tuition and fees which are kept as low as possible for the sake of students who have little in funds, and [2] the offerings of churches and individuals who give monthly or otherwise.

Allow us to observe that if every church in or near Pensacola that has benefitted from our seminary (the training

of their pastor and/or church workers) would become a regular supporter of the seminary our income would take a sharp increase. *If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?* -I Corinthians 9:11.

How much is it worth to your church to have a pastor who is sound in the faith? How much is it worth to your church to have Sunday School teachers who can teach the Word of God with fidelity? How much is it worth to your church to have deacons who know their proper role in the church and can faithfully execute it?

The second misconception is that we should not require a dissertation for the awarding of doctorates. In fact, some of our doctoral candidates have left our seminary over this very issue, being misled by those who do not know as much as they profess to know.

For those who may not know, the dissertation is a book-length paper on a subject related to the field of the candidate's study. It is reviewed by faculty and administration for content, accuracy and form. It is purposely not an easy project, but causes the candidate to do his or her best work. My doctoral dissertation was not accepted until its third submission. The president of the seminary where I took my doctorate had his own received only after his fifth submission. The doctoral dissertation has long been one of the requirements of credible educational institutions.

Some have said that they know of seminaries that will award a doctorate with course work only and without a dissertation. Such a degree would not be worth the paper on which it is printed and doctoral candidates should not be fooled by schools that have lowered standards which cheapen the value of the degrees they issue.

Inclosing, allow us to give some free advice: When in doubt, check it out. Don't always believe the first thing that you hear. Verify.

other data has been compiled after the fact. There has never been, nor will there ever be, data of origin proven beyond doubt before the

Word of God speaks. Simply attaching billions of years into a theory, does not lend itself to validity.



Glen Davenport, Th.D.

TEXT: Heb 11:1

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

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

INTRODUCTION:

A. Faith - defined

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I. FAITH Is Not Mere Imagination.

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

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

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

ADAPTED FAITH

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

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

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

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

A. According to Jesus’ thinking, -

“If God said this, you would believe Him.

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

B. Why would one believe God?

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

C. Why would one NOT believe in Jesus?

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

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

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

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

2. *John 5:33-39*

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

A. He must do the works of God!

John 14:11-14

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Baptist Sunday School Committee

The Baptist Sunday School Committee is searching for a Promotions Director. The Promotions Director is responsible for the promotions and marketing of Bogard Press products and services for the Baptist Sunday School Committee (BSSC). He oversees the Promotions Department, coordinating and leading interactions with churches and customers the BSSC serves. The Promotions Director reports directly to the Editor-in-Chief and works closely with the Business Manager to develop and implement marketing strategies, goals, and plans for the promotion of Bogard Press products and services. The Promotions Director should be affiliated with a church of the American Baptist Association. Interpersonal skills and leadership are necessary to work with the leadership of the BSSC, employees, and churches to define vision and goals and to work to meet agreed-upon goals and plans. The position will require some travel to promote the products and services of Bogard Press. Candidates with experience or degrees in marketing and/or information technology are preferred, but not necessary. Please send resume to Mark Clements, mark.clements@bogardstore.org or Dean Grigsby, dean.grigsby@bogardstore.org. If you have questions regarding this position, please call Mark Clements at (214) 763-7385 or Dean Grigsby at (903) 278-6465.

Shady Grove MBC seeking pastor: Shady Grove is prayerfully seeking the man God has chosen and prepared as our new pastor. We are a small, doctrinally sound church in rural Lincoln County, Arkansas. (near Star City) Looking for a KJV only pastor that believes and 100% supports the ABA Doctrinal Statement. Must fully meet requirements set forth in Timothy and Titus. If you are led to, please contact me for more information and to possibly come preach for us. Steven Stone (870)370-2474

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

Seeking a Pastor in Colt, Ar: New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church in Colt, Ar is currently seeking a pastor. For more info please contact Tommy @ 8702707060 for more info thanks and God bless!

Searching for pastor Old Glaise MBC, Jackson county Arkansas: Old Glaise MBC is searching for a full time pastor due to pastor recently resigning. We are interested in hearing multiple candidates and fill ins until pastor is chosen. Located in rural Jackson county north central arkansas, 8 miles north of city of Bradford, 15 miles south of city of Newport. contact Anthony Breeden 5015939946 email breedenanthony@gmail.com

Greeley Missionary Baptist Church is a small congregation seeking a spirit lead man of God that teaches the entire Bible (KJV). We are a small congregation of 30-35 members seeking the will of our Lord. Our search includes by-vocational or full time.

Greeley is located an hour north of Denver. We are members of the local Rocky Mountain Missionary Baptist Association. Please see our website and go to the searching for a pastor page. greeleymbc.org

Victory MBC, Cheyenne, Wyoming is seeking a pastor. Please return your resume to: Victory MBC, 2202 Cheyenne Place, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001. Questions may be directed to Brother Jim Mayberry (307)631-3971 or Brother Russel Pafford (307)635-0925.

Belleview MBC in Ethel Arkansas is searching for a pastor. We are also looking for someone that is willing to fill in on Sundays until we can find a Pastor. Contact Larry Childers at 870-946-5075.

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

Seeking Missionary to Send to Barstow, CA: Life Point Baptist Church (Early, TX) is looking for a God-called missionary to go to Barstow, Calif., to lead the Landmark Baptist Church through a season of revival by reaching out into the community, spreading the Gospel among the residents there, and discipling individuals into a true faith in the Lord.

If you feel God is leading you toward this work, please email a cover letter, resume and three references to lelandacker@gmail.com. The cover letter should include why you feel God is leading you toward this work and what ministry approach you think would work in Barstow.



*Secretary/
Treasurer
Missions*
Roger Stewart

MISSION NEWS AND VIEWS

FOREIGN MISSIONS

STEWART REPORT

Beginning Balance	\$2,341,152.84
RECEIPTS:	
Interstate Salaries	\$60,473.12
Foreign & National Salaries	\$56,243.34
Designated	\$39,689.99
Undesignated	\$10,045.51
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$166,451.96
BALANCE FOR SALARY/EXPENSE	
	\$2,507,607.80
DISBURSEMENTS	
Interstate Salaries	\$76,042.00
Foreign Salaries	\$23,409.87
National Salaries	\$25,271.60
Designated	\$39,686.99
Salaries & Expenses of Sec-Treas. Office	
Office Salaries	\$13,259.08
General Office	\$4,872.69
Automobile Expense	\$437.29
Sec/Treasurer Exp	\$732.74
Postage	\$7.95
BSCC (Note pads)	\$508.63
Total Office	\$19,818.38
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$184,231.84
BALANCE FORWARD	\$2,323,372.95
DEFICIT FOR JULY	\$(17,779.88)

News: I am truly honored to serve the Churches of the American Baptist Association as their Secretary-Treasurer of Missions for another year. Thank you for your confidence in the job I am trying to do for our Lord, His churches and their missionaries.

Names: Gena and I were privileged to be with Hyde Park Baptist Church, West Monroe, LA, Sunday, July 25th, where Brother Ed Button, Chairman of the Standing Missionary Committee, met us to present Sister Ann Luellen a plaque honoring the

many years of service Brother Jeff Luellen gave the Churches of the American Baptist Association on the Standing Missionary Committee. Brother Brandon Jones is doing a great job leading this very mission-minded church and I appreciate him making that day a special day for each of us.

Numbers: For July 2021 the recommended missionaries of the ABA reported 474 Professions of Faith and 71 Baptisms. Praise the Lord for these new converts and disciples of Jesus Christ!

Notes: Travels during the month of July were rather extensive. Gena and I began with the holiday weekend filling in at our parents' church – First Landmark MBC, Clarksville, AR. We were soon in route to the NELMBA [Northeast Landmark Missionary Baptist Association] in Upstate New York. While in New England, we visited Green Mountain MBC, Rutland, VT; First MBC, Moultonborough, NH, which is the Sending Church for three ABA missionaries – Don Hagen, Abel Dimatulac and Joshua Dimatulac. We also visited Antioch MBC, Dexter, ME, where Interstate Missionary George Dever serves; and, Mohawk MBC, Rome, NY, the Sending Church for Interstate Missionary Daniel Branscum. New Horizon MBC, Port Byron, NY, and Interstate Missionary Don Hagen hosted the NELMBA and did an outstanding job. We appreciate the incredible kindness and generosity shown us by all our churches in the New England states. On our way home we took a slight detour and spent one morning with Interstate Missionary Rodney Burdette in Rouzerville, PA, and the Macedonia Mission Builders framing their new building. Needs: Please remember in your prayers the Abel Dimatulac family in Philippines. Brother Dimatulac unexpectedly passed away on July 4th. As many know, Brother Dimatulac was a long-time, faithful missionary recommended by the ABA. He will be missed. Brother Joshua Dimatulac, Brother Abel's son, who is also an ABA recommended National Missionary, will do double duty and cover for his father until a new pastor can be called and installed.

L.A.M.B.

Jim Gage, Missionary

The Necessity for Cooperation.

A. Need for strength received from fellowship. We need the strength and the Spiritual food received from the fellowship with others of the Lord's people. This need is true even on a larger scale with churches of like faith and order getting together. Those who attend the associational meetings come home with new Spiritual strength and a better understanding of the white field unto harvest. As members of the Lord's churches, one should not wait until elected as a messenger to go to an association.

B. Need for mutual understanding among the churches concerning doctrine and practice.

C. Need for the assistance of other sister churches in carrying out the commission in missions and Christian education.

The Missionary Baptist Church "Puerta Estrecha" has an opportunity to begin mission work in Cucuta again. They will have to meet in their homes at present. There are several now ready to be baptized. The church has endorsed Bro. David Mercado as a missionary. However, they ask sister churches to help them in this endeavor since their financial situation is minimal.

Since Bro. David has a vision impairment, Westwood MBC sent a braille typewriter. This equipment should be a great asset to help Bro. Mercado.

GUAMO YOUTH CAMP UNDERWAY: Two were saved in first meeting We are excited about the new youth camp that Missionary Edgar Rubio and his sponsoring church, 1st Landmark in Clarksville, Ark and 1st MBC Cave City, Ark. are working hard for future campers. Youth camps are great ways to evangelize our youth and win them to Christ. Prayers and support are needed.

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

We have been working hard, delivering tracts through the streets and parks, some reject the tracts for covid 19 and others receive it with distrust. People do not welcome us into their homes for fear of infection. Thank you for continuing to pray for this new work. On the radio show, I continue to preach every day from Monday to Friday. Children who receive by wassap forward to their families and friends. Glory to our God and the brothers who help with their prayers and money for this ministry.

meetings we had last July the 10th and 31st. We had two good special guests' preachers. Bro. John Sanders, vice president of the ICP. And pastor, John B. Bryant, East Side BC. Jacksonville, TX. They Both brought great encouraging preaching. My son David did good job translating for them.

COLOMBIA MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION: Thank God for the excellent virtual meeting of the Colombia MB Federation (Association). "FEBAMCO". We continue supporting two national works. Please keep praying for our associational work.

Spain

Daniel Estrada, Missionary

Thank God we are doing fine, God has done many great things during the month of July. We are passing through Mexico and visiting some churches, brethren, and friends in Christ.

VISITING MEXICO... Praise the Lord we were able to come and spend some time with our relatives in Mexico. God is still on the throne and doing almighty things. Praise God, while we were in Aguascalientes State, one couple; Laura and Jose, who are 88 and 85 years old, received Christ in their hearts. It was a huge blessing to see how they understood the message and were saved that day.

God knows better than us. He knew that we needed to spend sometime with our family in Mexico. We were also able to preach at Mexico City with another Brother who is pastoring a church there.

ALAHRUINDELA TORRE WORK...

Oseas ,my son, is back in Spain taking care of our services. We thank God for it. What a blessing it is to have him serving the Lord in Spain. Brother Horacio continues in the Lord, and we ask you to pray for him and his family. They just recently received their new one-year resident permissions. Please keep praying for Andrea to be saved while we are in USA.

Romanian Missionas*Joshua Mackrill, Missionary*

Looking back on God's blessings: As we look back on this past month we reflect on all

the blessings that the Lord has given us. We were able to accomplish so much and were blessed by so many who were able to come over here from the States to help with work which we needed to get done. We pray that God will bless each one who played an important role in seeing this project come to fruition!

Last month we also celebrated Amy's birthday! We spent some time at the Black Sea in Constanta, Romania and enjoyed getting to take some time to spend together as family and celebrate Amy. She is such a blessing, not only to me as my godly wife and ministry partner, but also as a godly mother of our three daughters. God has truly blessed us and we are thankful for everything that He has done for us!

Faith Baptist Church Zarnesti: This past month at Zarnesti we began on our courtyard renovation project that we spoke about in our previous newsletter. We were blessed to have Bro. Eddie and Bro. Tim Turner from Landmark MBC, MT. Enterprise, TX, come over and help us with this project.

Without their help, the support of Landmark MBC, the Morgan family, Bro. Jimmie and Sis. Sharon Nixon (Jennifer Morgan's parents), and Bro. Kevin Hutcheson we would not have been able to accomplish what we did.

We also want to say a very big thank you to all of the churches who have given generous love offerings toward these renovations. This past month Adams Chapel MBC, Chidester, AR and Evergreen MBC, Marston, MO also helped out financially towards this special project. So many others have given as well and we are so very thankful for your generosity!

God blessed this project not only with wonderful fellowship and the accomplishing of the work, but also many opportunities to witness to folks who were interested in what we were doing. Please pray for their salvation

Romanian Missions*Mike Rogers, Missionary*

God continues to bless here in Brasov, this past month has brought us both highs and lows in many areas but through it all God has been faithful. We began the month celebrating



On the radio show, I continue to preach every day from Monday to Friday. Children who receive by wassap forward to their families and friends. Glory to our God and the brothers who help with their prayers and money for this ministry.

Bogotá, Colombia*Gilberto Pinzón, Missionary*

PENIEL BAPTIST MISSION : Due to Covid-19 emergency, we continue having virtual services and Bible Institute classes by Facebook live and Zoom from home. Also, we continue having daily devotions by WhatsApp. Several listeners report hearing in South, central and North America.

About 12 people from our Mission have had covid and recovered from it. Thank God for his care, love and mercy.

Please pray for several of our members that have family problems and others are unemployed. Lord willing, we will reopen services this month, with all the protocols the mayor of the city require for churches.

Thank God for the pastors and leaders'

Independence Day, it was a wonderful time of fellowship with people from our English service with lots of great food and laughter. We have been blessed by Fernando and Sarahi who were university students finishing their masters here in Brasov. They have been coming since last December, they both made professions of faith and requested to be baptized. We have been trying to schedule it so that their family back in Ecuador could watch and hear their testimonies and as it all came together they found out that their new jobs would force them to move to a different part of Romania. Our thoughts and prayers go with them. I am thankful for the visitors we have had this past month, our attendance has been up and down with summer vacations and various illnesses keeping some of the regulars out of services. Pray for us as we continue to reach out with the Gospel to the people of Brasov.

Sosuth Pacific Missions

Walt Emry, Missionary

Back in the States: Our plan was to return to the States at the end of August or September, but our daughter sent us a message, saying Maggie's mom wanted us to call her. Maggie called her and she told her she had been in the hospital twice with high BP and that she had fallen. Maggie's mom is 87, so it was at that point we decided to start making arrangements to come back. That was June 21st.

A God Thing: That same day I went down to the Air Vanuatu office. (At this point there are only TWO flights per month going out of Vanuatu; two to Australia, two to NZ and two to New Caledonia). The next flight out to Australia was June 30th. I asked if there was still room on that flight, she said yes. So then I started making arrangements to go to the U.S. from Australia. The problem was no flights were available going east. We HAD to go west.

First we had to go to Qatar, then on to Seattle and then to Spokane. We had to take two 14 and a half hour flights back-to-back. But here's the "God Thing!" While initiating the plans to come back (I hadn't said a word to anyone yet, not even our kids) I got a message from Pastor Kirk Parnell of Loveland, CO who said his church voted to

send us money to come home to see our family. God knew exactly what we needed and when we needed it! God made everything else just fall in place. We serve an AWESOME God! We made it back on the 4th of July.

A Wonderful Send Off: The night before we flew out, the pastors and leaders of the churches we have been working with the last three years, and some others came to our house. We had great fellowship together! One of the men that hasn't been in church for quite some time said he would start going back to church. Also, another lady that hasn't been in church for at least two years has started attending again. The Deputy Prime Minister is a member of one of the churches and the pastor said he also will start coming back to church. *PRAISE THE LORD! God is still working in the hearts of His people!*

Argentina

Scott Manees, Missionary

When we sent our report in June we were dealing with new lockdowns and things being closed. Schools were closed, extracurricular activities were halted. However just as tight as things were closed up in June things opened back up in July

National Holidays: We celebrated 3 special holidays in July. One of the days celebrates the founding of the province of Cordoba, which is the province we live in. Then for the 4th of July we celebrated our United States Independence Day. Then the 9th of July is Independence Day in Argentina. We celebrated each of these by adding new flags to our collection. The top two flags pictured are the US and the Argentine Flags and the lower two flags are the Texas and Cordoba flags. Each of these places have a special place in our hearts.

Winter Vacation: Scott mentioned above that we were able to rent an AirBnB and spend a few days outside of the city. Where we live we do not have a yard. So whenever we are put under lockdown by the government there isn't many places for the kids to play. When we heard the lockdown was to be lifted for vacations we took that opportunity to escape the city. (By the way: Driving by Kilometers Per Hour is very intimidating.) The kids really loved being able to go outside without masks and play as much as they

wanted during our get away. It was even safe enough for Joanna to go outside by herself. Freedom and safety is such a precious thing that many take for granted. Music classes resumed when we returned from our trip we were happy that things remained open. All of the children's band and violin classes started back up and in person classes resumed. Things aren't quite the same as they used to be before the pandemic but we are trying to take any opportunity the Lord allows us to get to know people and share the gospel.

Special Offerings: I want to thank everyone that has sent me special personal offerings. I have received them and will try to send out some thank you notes. Mailing a letter here is quite a process so I hope to maybe get them all taken care of at once. If not I will try to catch up on letters when we go on furlough. Thank you for all the encouragement, love, and support you have shown us.

Thailand

David Leak, Missionary

The Lord allowed the privilege of presenting Thailand For Christ to Shady Grove MBC; Pastor Jacks, in Monticello, AR on June 6th; Friendship MBC; Pastor Gatlin, in Henderson, TX on June 13th; Longview MBC; Pastor Rogers, in Longview, TX on June 16th; Providence MBC; Pastor Evett, in Corsicana, TX on June 20th (invited back a 2nd time!); & Springhill MBC; Pastor Westbrook, in Springhill, LA on June 27th. Thank each of you for the privilege & honor of being allowed to preach & present my burden for Thailand!

The Thai government is considering lifting the required quarantine by/on November 1st; therefore, I've prayerfully prayed & counseled with my Pastor to change my planned return date to the month of November at present. If this quarantine is lifted; it will save me, at the least \$1000.00. Please pray. Thank you!

The English classes at the Heart to Heart Foundation Office at one time boasted from 40-50 students, and we pray to return to *at least* that number. Since we are required to teach English; both to receive and maintain our Visas, it's a great outreach tool! The Seminary and English Classes will be taught simultaneously; Lord willing. I will have to

begin the visa and work permit process anew when the time to return draws closer.

Dtawm Rosendal will still be able to assist me with the required Health Insurance to be able to return to Thailand. So far, I've a quote of \$300.00 per month. It also covers Covid 19; which the Thai Government requires as well and a Covid-Free Certificate upon my return to Thailand. She also told me that the requirement for the 10-14 day Thai Government required quarantine will most likely not be lifted (when we talked some time ago), & she knows of more reasonable rates to accommodate me upon my return to Thailand.

Japan

Shim Kamoda, Missionary

The Tokyo Olympics have become history. According to a newspaper survey, 70 percent of respondents said they were happy that Japan was able to hold the event. The OBP evangelism pin arrived on the opening day of the Olympics. Road racing went through our town and we wore pins and went to cheer. A large crowd was flocking to the side of the road. The foreign team dominated the top ranks, but I was thrilled to be able to support the sports of the Olympic Games. Unfortunately, almost all stadiums were played with no spectators and therefore did not preach near the stadium. However, the pins are distributed to JBA churches and used for evangelism. We are waiting for the arrival of the Gospel of John and the Romans. We will distribute it when it arrives. (2) University student, Kawayuki Esteban, attended the service from the district where the evangelism leaflets had been distributed between the declarations of emergency. He needs the assurance of salvation. Also, Rena, who recently became a Christian, invited a friend of hers to worship. She is Sayaka Okafuji. On Sunday when they visited, Bro. Hashimoto preached a sermon at the Youth Fellowship and gave his testimony at worship. (3) The 56th JBA Adult Bible Camp was held and I was honored to preach the Gospel. Many people have re-dedicated. This summer I was allowed to virtually speak a message to campers at the Pine Springs Baptist Camp in Texas. I was also allowed to virtually give a lecture and preach a sermon at the Philippine Missionary Baptist Youth Fellowship (PMBYF). I attended this

fellowship as a student 30 years ago. I was thrilled to attend this fellowship with the young people who gathered at our church this time. I talked about Christian meditation.

I am writing this report between Sunday School Bible Camps. This camp is also protected and blessed so far. In this way, we can continue to work in evangelism in Japan and around the world because of the mercy of the Lord and the prayers and assistance of many supporters. I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

South East Asia

Rusty Teer, Missionary

4th shut--down but students keep coming!!

We got through the first week of July in school with things going well, and then everything got shut down, again! We're back online with secondary school.

Education here had been getting worse before all this. Our students and teachers need your prayers. Some families stayed home the first day of the shut-down but I think we still had as many as 16 students and parents here. I was feeling a bit nervous about folks that walk by and look at our carport class. It is a blessing to be able to serve these families and have a community for everyone to spend time together. God has shown us during COVID that this house is the center of ministry. Please keep praying that we will be able to keep meeting here at home and that we will have wisdom in how best to keep serving and presenting the Gospel to them. So far, covid is mostly in the central region.

Since April 1, 2021 we have had 586,451 infected, and 4,896 dead. Out of 70 million people, 13.8M have the 1st vaccine jab and 3.9M have gotten the 2nd.

Foreigners 60 can get in line for the Chinese vaccine. Pray for our safety and for wisdom to make good choices.

We can't thank you enough for reading and taking our prayer requests before the Lord daily. We can't remain here and do anything of value if our Father is not leading and we are not following His lead.

2021 Outreach Bible Project

Tokyo, Japan ,

Journey to Tokyo:

One year ago, I thought we would be in Tokyo right now, passing out the books of John & Romans and sharing the Gospel of

Jesus Christ with the people we would meet. All those people from every tribe and nation of the world who had come to the Olympics to see the Games, but that was not to be! To have the Olympics postponed last year was disappointing, but to have them cancelled to spectators and guests this year was heart breaking. We had a team of fifty people who were ready and waiting to go. All the plans were in place, and I was very excited that we were going to be working with our churches from across Japan. It is not very often that we get to work with other ABA churches in a foreign country, and this would have been a special treat for us.

But with the mandate of no spectators or guest, I knew the project from the US side was done. I knew I needed to inform everyone that we would not be allowed to go and that the trip must be cancelled, but it was still tough. This was one of the hardest things I have had to do in years. And even when I knew I had to do it, it was almost impossible for me to hit send on that email.

Shortly after sending that email, we started working on plan B. Speaking with the Japanese Pastors, Pastor Shin Kamoda and Pastor Nobukatsu Amari (with the help of Kunihiko Oba and ABA Media) we talked about what could be done. The Pastors of the Japanese Baptist Association met together and decided to go ahead and do the Bible Project in their own hometowns. We have about 18 ABA churches spread across Japan, and they will be doing Bible and Pin Outreaches in their local communities. This way they will not need to travel into Tokyo (the hot spot for the covid virus) and they can do a better job of following up with the people they minister to.

We shipped 2,000 evangelism pins and 10,000 John & Romans scriptures to Japan for the churches. Please be in prayer for the Churches of Japan as they minister to their friends, family, and neighbors during the time of the Olympics.

Well, it is one year later now, and most people are sitting at home watching the Olympic Games on television and I hope you are praying for the churches and people in Japan. But God did not call me to sit at home. He called me to go into all the world and that's what I plan to do. The week-end of August 5th – 8th I will be in Toledo, Ohio at Jeep Fest. My friend Scott Seigman has been praying about doing an outreach at this event for years and since we can't go to Tokyo we may as well go to Toledo! We will have about 45 people on the streets Friday and Saturday sharing the Gospel and ministering to the people we meet.

Interstate Missions

Lighthouse Ministries

Toby Cribbs Sr., Missionary

THE FIRST THING: My wife and I took a trip to celebrate our 59th anniversary. We visited our daughter Sarah and family in Missouri and my brother Howard and family in Colorado. We had a great time. Traveled over 3000 miles.

THE SECOND THING: We are praying that God will send a Missionary or Missionaries to help in this Ministry. A husband and wife team would be perfect. It is the best ministry I have ever been in. Lives have been changed by Jesus. Some are in church, some teaching Sunday School. Many write and say they can answer questions in Sunday School.

THE THIRD THING: We will be calling some of our Churches that support this ministry this month, and make appointment with them. You may call me at 423-496-7116 or 423-548-0078 or email cribbstoby@yahoo.com.

THE FIFTH THING: We sent out 25 letters of our Resource Materials to Chaplain.

THE SIXTH THING: We have added 13 new Studies to Program Two, and One to Landmark Bible Institute.

THE SEVENTH THING: We mailed out one Macedonia Bible Study and two certificates.

EIGHTH THING: New Jails and Prisons Crawford County Jail-English, In. We are sending studies into 790 Jails and Prisons.

Hope Mission

Scott Bourland, Missionary

Over the years, my office has been in some unusual places. The back porch, the furnace room, and on many occasions the dining room or kitchen table. This is actually one of the nicer spots that I have been in. This little shed was an art studio for the previous owner of our house and has served well for my current office. However, I always look forward to the building that will provide for that need permanently.

Another Amazing Offering: We received an offering of \$20,000.00. The offering was

from Berean MBC in Dearborn Heights MI. We are so grateful for their generosity, while also saddened that it came at the expense of them closing their doors. I admire their heart to honor God with these funds even though it was at a very difficult time for them.

It truly seems to me that God is setting the stage for us to purchase land and/or building. The need is real and our growth justifies taking that step.

I am so thankful for all those who give regularly and in special offerings knowing that the moment is coming when hundreds of thousands of dollars will be needed.

We are on the lookout for any opportunity to buy land or a building. I am confident that God will open the perfect door in his perfect timing if we watch and pray.

Continued Door to Door: We took up where the youth left off last month and continued to go door to door in Hope. While many have concluded this method is ineffective, I have never ministered anywhere that we did not get to lead people to the Lord and see them come into the church as a result of door to door.

I want to thank Brother Don Dumas, who came from our sending church and helped me do two hard days of door to door work. I also want to thank Luanne Steinker, a member of our work in Hope that is 84 years old, for joining us on door to door. Also, my faithful wife Missy and Dave Young another member of the mission here.

I continue to ask various members to participate and take them with me for training. The next step will be to pair them with one another and have them go out two by two.

Kansas

Everett Ledbetter, Missionary

July was a month for of trials and triumphs. We were blessed to be able to find a home in Topeka, and put a contract on the home. Anyone that is aware of the current housing market knows that was a huge blessing in itself. During the month, the overall process of the bank requirements and the process of trying to get to closing, proved to be a stressful one. In the end, the Lord blessed us with the ability to finally get to closing. We are scheduled to close on August 2nd. We are praising the Lord for this process.

Since we are still living in Colorado until the end of August because of our lease, we have continued having Zoom worship services with the Topeka group. We have been blessed with the people being faithful to attend even in Zoom. We have averaged 10 adults, with a high of 12 and 1 first time visitor. This is huge. We are excited about what the Lord is building.

The Lord also made it clear the name that He wants to call us. After much prayer and research, He led us to be called Shining Light Baptist Church. Our theme verse, of course, is Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Our move is scheduled for August 26th. Please join us in prayer for the expenses of the move. Not only the truck, gas, but also getting everything transferred to Kansas. Any one time offerings to help with these expenses, may be sent to our sending church designated "moving expenses."

The Lord has also blessed us in our personal lives. We were able to be in Colorado for another round of Kim's medication for her MS. She received that the end of July and has almost completely recovered from the toil it takes on her.

One other blessing. I was told not to post this on facebook, but nothing was said about this. Me and Kim learned this month that our first grandchild is expected to be born in February. We are tremendously excited about being grandparents. Pray for Matthew and Rebecca Ledbetter during this time.

Benchmark BF

Alan Schoeff, Missionary

Fantastic Family Fridays! We started a summer outreach program two years ago and it was a great success. Last year, we put that ministry on hold. Well, this year it came back with a good success. I would like to say thank you to our sending church for helping us with this ministry. They had two summer interns who came down each week to help me go door to door hanging door hangers. We then held a family night each Friday, as the name suggests. The attendance from the community started out a bit slow, but by the time of our last event on July 30 we had

gained good momentum. As a result of our outreach, we have two ladies who have been faithfully attending and I believe God will soon lead them to become members. God blessed us with good weather that allowed most of our scheduled family night to be held outdoors, but we were flexible and the one night it rained we just moved our cornhole game inside!

Family Fun Days! July also saw our two of our grandkids come for a visit. That was a good time and Nina and Poppy sure were renewed in our spirit to spend time with them and their mom. It involved games and fishing and ice cream and Nerf wars and lots of other times building memories. It also required two days of recovery as Poppy still has some lingering fatigue and malaise from *the virus*. Please pray for this issue.

July also saw us helping another missionary! I am excited to report that we were able to take men from the mission here in Fredericksburg to Rouzerville, PA to help missionary Rodney Burdette and the cadre of mission builders build the new church house for Liberty Baptist! I love helping build church houses and God has blessed with opportunities to do so around the globe. But for our men here, this was a first!! Please pray it is not the last! One particularly fond picture is that of me with Bro. Tommy Baker.

July offered me an opportunity to bless one of our members. Bro. Brian Myers is one of our most faithful men. He owns his own lawn care business. A tree branch fell on one of his mowers and damaged it. God gave me the tools and talents to fix the damaged mower, but first, I had to get my YouTube degree on starter solenoids. A shoutout to Bro. Jeremiah Mattingly for helping me test the circuit to confirm my suspicions that that was the problem. And a huge thank you to the Mattingly Family singers for blessing the mission with their talents as they visited here on the 11th.

Twin Lakes BM

Jerry Baker, Missionary

July was a difficult month for us personally and took a toll on our minds, hearts and bodies. One of Connie's brothers tragically

lost his life in a head-on collision with an 18-wheeler. A close friend died suddenly following a surgical procedure. A cousin of Connie's passed away. One of our church members either suffered a stroke or possibly a seizure which has left her with severe memory problems and weakened body.

Another church member had knee replacement. In addition to the losses in our family and the medical issues our attendance for the month was down significantly while families were on vacation. May I just express a huge note of gratitude for those who have sent cards and letters as well as calls and texts. Our sponsoring church and friends sent love offerings to assist with unexpected travel expenses. We remain deeply grateful for the many expressions of love and concern during this difficult month. You never cease to be our "stretcher barriers", carrying us with an outpouring of love and prayer when it seems as though the load becomes too heavy.

Unfortunately, it became necessary to cancel church services the 4th of July due to major sewer problems both inside and outside of the church building. We discovered the problem late that Saturday afternoon. It took me 3 days to dig up the sewer line (by hand) and make the necessary repairs. That seems to put a different slant on "being instant in season and out of season." A work project for July even had to be postponed. We had so much rain in a two week period of time that our road washed out in 3 different places, twice!

However, we would all agree that there is always a silver lining when problems and heartaches arise. We need only to wait on God's rainbow and flowers from the refreshing rain to be reminded that He is in control of all things. His promises are sure and we move forward.

Heritage BM

Allen Barton, Missionary

We were blessed to be able to have vacation Bible school again this year at Heritage! We didn't get to have it last year because of Covid-19. What a blessing it was to be able to spend time with these kids!

We started out planning a one day VBS, but decided to go ahead and do the entire

week. We are so glad we did! The attendance grew throughout the week, as many of you know it usually does. While we did not have the attendance we are used to due to Covid concerns in our area (our county is listed as a "high risk" area), we had a pretty good turn out considering.

We were also blessed by our congregation taking ownership again this year of our VBS. While we did have some help from our sister churches with decorations and supplies, our members stepped up and did the work of decorating, teaching, music, crafts and snacks! It is so wonderful to see our church growing both in number and in Spirit!

July was an awesome month here at Heritage! We added four new members by scriptural baptism this month! The first three are the Martinez family...Ruben, Jaybrina and Kiara all were added to the church!

Then, a young lady that was visiting with Bro. Wesley and Sister Katie, Ali Lake, was saved at youth camp and came forward for baptism and church membership. What a blessing after such a long "dry spell!" God is still moving and is still growing His church here in Haleyville, AL!

Acts 13 Priority

Wesley Veazey

On The Field In New Mexico We are officially on the field. We arrived at the Two Grey Hills Missionary Baptist Mission property on Saturday morning July 17th and were greeted by Missionary Rusty Denny on his birthday. Our travel trailer will serve as home base for Acts 13 Priority while we seek God's direction for a particular field. During July we were blessed to have visitors. Mike & Nancy Bernard from Calvary BC in Sherman, our Sending Church, spent a couple of days with us on the field. We assisted the Two Grey Hills MBM with their VBS and enjoyed teaching and working with the Navajo people in this area.

Antioch MBC

Dexter, MA

George Dever, Pastor

Thank you for reading Antioch's report. With Covid-19 mostly behind us, we are getting back out in the community inviting folks and getting reacquainted with folks that have attended in the past. We understand

that in some ways it is like starting over after a year of restrictions. I am happy to say that most of the members have been faithful in returning to services. Whatever happens with our attendance is in the Lord's hands. We know that God is in control and He will bless our efforts and Antioch understands that attendance is not a gauge of faithfulness to God, obedience is.

Five of the members, myself included, attended the ABA national meeting in Charleston, West Virginia. We drove to the meeting and had a great time fellowshiping with God's people. We came home with a rejuvenated heart for missions. As you can imagine what the discussion was about on our drive home, yup, missions.

After the national meeting, Antioch was blessed with Brandon Rutherford and his family visiting us for a few days. Our youth group supports Brandon in his ministry, Ride For God. Brandon encourages churches to reach out to the youth in their neighbourhood by building a skate park. There are many kids on skateboards that have no place to ride and are many times left out of the day to day activities that other kids are involved in due to looking differently, having different interests, and sadly are neglected by society.

I want to thank all the churches, families, and individuals that have been supporting us. We do have prayer requests that I would like for you to keep in mind: for the lost in our communities to come to Christ, continued faithfulness from the members of Antioch, and for God to shine upon our efforts. There are a few needs that I would like for you to consider: we are renovating the sanctuary with new flooring-carpet and painting the sanctuary.

Missionary Ambassador Ministries

Christopher Cartwright, Missionary

Sir, we would see Jesus (John 12:21)

Senior, quisieramos ver a Jesus (Juan 12:21)

Jaduong, wadwaro neno Yesu (Johana 12:21)

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.

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)

This verse has become the "theme verse" for this year and it has impacted me and my ministry to reach others for salvation only through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Turning The World Upside Down Book First Printing Distributed: Praise the Lord that the Turning The World Upside Down book in the Luo language has been published and also distributed in Migori County in Kenya in July. Also, more people have come to know the Lord through the publishing and distributing of the book, and we are praying to have more books published.

Also, the first book that I wrote and published, COME AND SEE: Encounters with Christ in Cana of Galilee, has been translated into the Luo language, and I am in the process of editing and seeing what needs to be done before this one will be published in Migori town. Once the editing and necessary work is done, it will be published just like the TURNING THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN publication. Please pray that all can be accomplished before I go to Kenya for my Missions Trip in November.

Ministry Reaching People Throughout The World: The series of TURNING THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN has made quite an impact in the world in the past year that it has me a little bit overwhelmed. As of this writing, the pastors and preachers have reported to me that 51,432 people have been saved in 18 countries which are as follows: Kenya (33,394), Burundi (8,390), Malawi (4,341), Tanzania (2,550), Uganda (1,259), South Sudan (486), Zambia (382), Democratic Republic of the Congo (225), Philippines (128), Nicaragua (106), Liberia (84), Ghana (65), Nigeria (14), Rwanda (7), Sierra Leone (6), Vietnam (1), and China (1), and the USA(1). Even churches have been formed and planted through the preaching of the teachings from the series.

Port Byron, NY

Don Hagan, Pastor

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.

Mavis and I and Judah are planning a vacation to see our #2 son and his family in Montana this month. We haven't seen them since 2011. Pray for our safety on the highways please.

Note: I want to thank every missionary that sends out their reports. It is getting difficult to get enough reports to fill the space for the News, especially for the interstate missionaries.

Missionaries, please post your reports, if you want them republished for others to read.

Thanks



Dean Grigsby

Business Manager Report

In a ministry with many leaders, there must be a common focus if excellence is to be achieved. The primary purpose of Bogard Press is to serve churches and assist them in fulfilling the Great Commission by providing relevant, high-quality literature that is true to the Word. Accomplishing this first requires all who serve to have a heart for others, not seeking personal agendas, but instead ... *the profit of many, that they may be saved.* 1

Corinthians 10:33

This vision also requires dedicated and faithful stewardship. We have been entrusted with a great ministry by the churches of the American Baptist Association. We want our stewardship of that trust to be more than average; we want to pursue the standards given by Jesus: ... *For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.* Luke 12:48

As we pursue the vision to serve churches, we want to empower our employees to trust their experience and be creative in providing great products and services. But in addition, we want to build relationships with churches, not just provide tools. We desire to ... *be fellowhelpers to the truth.* III John 8

As we have begun this journey, God has led us through many obstacles, including a pandemic. I was encouraged by a conversation with a lady from a church who has been without a pastor for several years in a difficult area of service; a church who had sent us love offerings to help through us the pandemic. They have endured more hardships than many, but they have remained faithful, and God has recently blessed them with salvations and baptisms. She shared that the trusted tools from Bogard Press had been a great help to them in sharing the truth.

We desire to help you share the truth of God's Word. Please continue to pray for us as we serve and grow with you. *Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

Ephesians 3:21



Mark Clements
Editor in Chief

Eliud Kipchoge holds the world record in the marathon. When he was asked about the discipline it takes to shatter world records in running, he responded, “Only the disciplined ones in life are free. If you are undisciplined, you are a slave to your moods and your passions.” While he spoke concerning athletics, Eliud exposed a reality that also pertains to the children of God: Only those who submit to be conformed to the image of Christ are truly free.

Beginning September 5th, the Adult Study Guide will lead students on a journey through the book of Exodus. The aim of the study is to help students understand how to be free from the slavery of sin and to be submissive to the changes God wants to make in their lives. Exodus tells the story of God’s supernatural deliverance of His people from bondage in Egypt through the leadership of Moses. God had wonderful plans for His people in the Land of Canaan but they needed deliverance first.

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” (Galatians 5:1 KJV)

We cannot become everything God created us to be in life or eternity unless we first come to terms with our own bondage to sin and admit our desperate need of rescue through faith in Jesus Christ. I pray you have been set free from the bondage of sin by the blood of Jesus! If so, have you ever asked yourself why God saved you?

Now that Christ has come into your life you have been freed to do everything you were created by God to do but were hindered from doing by sin. Now, you are free to walk in joyful obedience, achieving eternal goals by the power of the Holy Spirit within you. God still wants us to be disciplined in our pursuit of Him, but in submitting our wills to His will, we find true liberty and power over sin. Sanctification is hard work, but the joy of living free is worth it!

As you prepare to study through Exodus in Sunday School, we at Bogard Press are preparing materials for VBS ’22 – “The Mighty God” – and beginning to work on VBS ’23. I am excited about the future here at Bogard Press and am looking forward to serving the Lord’s churches in this way.

**FINANCIAL REPORT
WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST INSTITUTE
MAY/JUNE 2021**

GENERAL FUND					
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$9,159.36	EXPENSES:		
			Utilities	\$ 1,286.42	
INCOME:			Misc.	2,878.04	
ALABAMA			Office	238.00	
Magnolia Springs -Theodore, AL	400.00		Instruction	3,270.00	
Schillingers Rd. BC -Mobile, AL	250.00		TOTAL EXPENSE	\$7,672.46	\$7,672.46
Victory BC -Moblie, AL	157.00		NEW BALANCE		\$4,681.46
GEORGIA					
Northside, BC -Vienna, GA	200.00		BOOKSTORE FUND		
Traders Hill -Folkston, GA	200.00		BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$ 3,619.35
			Income:		
FLORIDA			Bookstore Sales	\$ 5.30	
Okeechobee BC -Okeechobee, FL	167.56		Press Sales	\$ 1,377.00	
Oleno BC -HighSprings, FL	200.00		Contributions:		
Calvary BC -Panama City, FL	100.00		Landmark, Madison, FL	\$ 200.00	
Sunlight BC -Pensacola, FL	50.00				
			Total Income	\$1,582.00	\$1,582.00
Mics:			TOTAL AVAILABLE		\$5,201.35
TOTAL	\$1,724.56				
			Expenses:		
DESIGNATED FUNDS:H.H.Strickland			Utilities	\$644.82	
Magnolia Spring BC -Theodore, AL	800.00		Postage	\$9.70	
Frankfort BC -Russellville,AL	200.00		Print Shop	\$1,020.00	
Newark BC -Elkton,MD	200.00		Supplies	-0-	
Cumberland Cove BC -Monterey,TN	50.00		TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,765.59	\$1,765.59
First Baptist BC -White City, FL	200.00		NEW BALANCE		\$3,435.76
TOTAL	\$ 1,450.00				
COMMITTEE OF 100			BUILDING FUND		
Terry Alexander - Pensacola,FL	20.00		Calvary BC -Panama City,FL	\$500.00	
			TOTAL INCOME	\$500.00	
Kitchen Sales -Pensacola, FL	-0-		EXPENSES:		
			Regions Bank	\$283.72	
TUITION/REGISTRATION			Interest Income:	-0-	
Registration	\$ -0-		Building Fund	\$61,903.64	
Tuition	\$ -0-				
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,194.56	\$3,194.56			
TOTAL AVAILABLE	\$12,353.92	\$12,353.92			

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-tolled 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 an very old program, "Page Maker," it allows us so much more flexibility in pre-pres 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 time 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 the 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 will to help in this area. Personally, I would like to see the Old Testament completed I am no longer able to do the work.

Many Thanks:

I would never forget the church 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

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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 months edition. Mission reports are alternated so that all may have the opportunity to be published.

H.H. Strickland; editor

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