

West FLORIDA BAPTIST News

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Volume XXII

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From the President



H.H. Strickland

The Spring Semester is now underway. My, how the vacation time has come and gone so quickly. I have enjoyed the time away from the

structured classrooms but I have not enjoyed the pain that I have had with my finger. I appreciate all the prayers for me and I am happy to report that, so far, it is healing fine. I will no know if there is any permanent damage until I begin to try and work with it.

The enrolment is progressing and, at this point, we do not know how many we are going to have. We all were expecting some increase but if something doesn't happen soon it will not happen. Several had called and talked to me about classes and we were anticipating they might come. I continue to hope for the best.

The one thing that I have been really burdened about over the past year or so is the income for the general fund. Bro. Rogers has done a traffic job in taking care of the finances and making sure that everything was paid and current. However, he can only do with what he has to do with. In other words, if the funds are

available, he can do a good job but if the funds are not there he has to determine what will get paid and what will not. I wish he did not have to make that decision.

Therefore, we have set a goal this year to help in this situation. We are asking that more churches please consider joining the very faithful supporters of WFBI. Our goal is to raise the general fund offering \$1,000.00 per month. This would put us around the \$2,000.00 mark per month. We would not be so dependent upon special offerings or on more to enroll. The last thing that we want to do is raise the tuition. The registration fee was raise last year but we have tried to keep the hourly tuition charge the same. I would rather have more come at a lower cost than to charge more and see fewer students enroll.

From all of us who are involved in this ministry, we are asking more churches to consider supporting this ministry. So much of my efforts have been spent on raising funds for the print shop and I do so much appreciate those who have helped in this effort. However, in some ways I feel that I have not put as much emphasis on the general as needed.

The Lord has given us a core of faithful supporters and for these we are eternally grateful. They have stayed with us for many years and I thank God for them all.

There are three phases of this ministry that are supported by churches and some individuals.

1. The general fund for WFBI.
2. The printing ministry.
3. My personal support.

Several churches and individuals have sent special offerings for me over the holidays and We are so thankful for you. One offering could not have come at a more opportune time. I want go into details but I thank God for His gracious provisions. When we cannot see the answer, He is always there caring for us. Thank you so much brethren for every expression of love for me and the work here at WFBI.

Our Spring travels will begin soon and I am looking forward to getting out among the churches once again. God's people are so gracious in receiving us as we travel. My first trip will be to Mexico again to represent the work there and display our Spanish productions. We have one new book to present this year so far and others are in the preparation. I hope to be in Texas to visit the Sunday following this meeting in February. If you are located somewhere between Pensacola and Del Rio, TX and you would like to have me come by on Sunday February 21, 2010, please contact me at the school.

May the Lord bless you all.

Financial goals for 2010
Raise the General Fund
\$1,000.00 per month.

From a
Woman's Point
 of View



By: Loretta
 Pritchett

Black-eyed Peas and Cornbread

Every year people all over the world have a New Years tradition. In the South it is eating Black-eyed Peas and Cornbread to bring good luck. Many parts of the country have resolutions to make and try and keep through out the year. I am sure there are many other traditions that I don't know of, but you can be sure they were followed through on New Years Day.

I'm not sure if I believed that I would have good luck all year by eating Black-eyed Peas and Cornbread or just doing what my mother and grandmother had always done as a tradition. But every year my mother and grandmother would make sure a pot of peas were cooking and the cornbread ready for the sopping.

When I married I kept up the tradition by making this meal every New Years. My children if they didn't see the pot on the stove on New Years Day would ask, "What happen to the Black-eyed Peas?"

I figured after all these years, that with my family all moved away from one another, they would have forgotten all about the tradition. Not so!

I made a big pot of peas and a lot of cornbread on New Years and the day after, all three of my sons were asking for me to save them a bowl. ;-) Guess maybe they never forgot.

As for Susan, our daughter, I am not sure she still follows the tradition. If she does I am sure she had a big pot cooking and had cornbread a plenty.

As this year kicks in what tradition will you be upholding? If nothing else I pray it will be to remember God and give thanks for everyday of the New Year.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Philosophy of Religion

Religion and Science

"The Fundamentalist has compounded his own problem in the science-religion battle by his insistence upon the adequacy of the Bible for every problem. The self-inflicted limitation reached its extreme when the biblical literalist maintained that no book other than the Bible needed to be read. This put him in the compromising position of having to find his botany, geology, physics, chemistry, and psychology out of this same little book. He was required, further, to credit Moses with possessing a Ph.D. in every field known to man. Even if Moses had been as well read as this, the history of science would have made it clear that refresher courses in a modern university would certainly be in order. If the religious person wishes to hold to the view that his religious insights timelessly important, he would do well not to ground them on science, which is always time and culture bound. The Protestant Fundamentalist who wants an inerrantly authoritative Bible will have to decide on a more limited area of authoritative domain if he is not to lose the whole book as a consequence of advances in science. A comparable set of problems has confronted the biblical literalist in the area of the Bible solves all problems, the devout Fundamentalist has had to support the medieval economic theory implied in the New Testament story of the workers in the vineyard, the Pauline blessing of slavery, and the politics of patriarchal tribes. . . . In all of this the Fundamentalist has battled windmills with religion which grows progressively less tenable and less appealing in persons of moderate intelligence. What is so sad

about the situation is that it could have been avoided, not by denying the authority of the Bible, but by limiting the domain of its authority. The religion beliefs in a God or an immortality could enjoy a relative timelessness if they were divorced from empirical matters, and constituted, rather human normative judgments which lend meaning and direction."

When these thoughts are reviewed, it is easy to see where the one writing is coming from. In one sense, he attempts to evaluate the Bible as an acceptable book in some areas while denying that it has any value in directing the affairs of man.

It is certainly true that there are areas of expertise in which the Bible does not speak. The Bible is not a scientific book, but where it does speak scientifically it speaks correctly. The Bible is not a history book but where it does speaks historically, it is absolutely correct. The Bible is basically a book of God. It reveals what God has done for man and what He has for man. It reveals where man comes from, why he is here and what is his destiny. There is no other book that does that, There are some books and writers that try and speak for the Bible but none are capable of determining the basic ideas. Apart from the human ability, man cannot determine spiritual things apart from the help from the Lord. The Holy Spirit of God has been given the authority of God to help cause men to be able to understand the things of God. Spiritual things are not understandable apart of the work of the Holy Spirit.

The one thing the unbeliever does not understand is that they need the Lord before they can understand the things of God. The critics of the Bible, the rejecter of the idea of God simply cannot come to grips with the idea that they are incapable of understanding. This can be seen in the last statement presented. "The religion beliefs in a God or an immortality could enjoy a relative timelessness if they were divorced from empirical matters, and constituted, rather human normative judgments which lend meaning and direction."

The one idea that should be remembered is that the Bible should be speak for reli-

ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

H.O.M.E.

Helping Our Missionaries Educate

Our last report mentioned the need for more offerings to meet the need of the Missionary Families that need it. It is our desire to do what we can to meet the need. We have many Churches who support this ministry to make it possible to help these very deserving families. The total need we have is about \$20,000, so far we have received about \$13,000.

From the start of this program we have helped Missionaries in 11 countries! This has been accomplished from many different Churches supporting this ministry.

Would you please consider taking a special offering to help us meet all of their needs? These families are worthy of our support in this very special need.

We are so thankful for your support of this ministry. Please continue to share this ministry with others. We will be glad to set up an appointment to come and supply more information about the H.O.M.E. Ministry.

Northside Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Warren Rainwater

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Gulf Coast Baptist Institute 2010 Spring
Mission Conference

2010 Annual Bible Conference is January
25-26, 2010

Theme: Isaiah 6:8

"Here am I ; send me."

Place

Unity Baptist Church

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Monday, January 25, 2010

Message: Jimmy Lancaster

Supper 5:00 p.m.



In Loving Memory of

Pastor Yates

January 9, 1930 - December 22, 2009

and

Mrs. Alice Frances Yates

February 24, 1928 - November 29, 2009

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igion and science should speak for science. One should not determine the other. If the scientist would speak for science and leave the religion to those who know what they are talking about then there would be little or no controversy at all. If those who know the things of God simply leave the science to the scientist then the controversy would certainly be less.



Glenn Davenport

PLAYING WITH BIBLICAL WORDS

TEXT: Matt 7:7-14

“7 **Ask**, and it shall be given you; **seek**, and ye shall find; **knock**, and it shall be opened unto you:

8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

INTRODUCTION:

There are three little words within this text that teach a lot about dealing with God. First, I'll give you the words with its Greek spelling and transliteration. Then I'll try to explain them.

- ASK - (aitew) - aiteo -
- ASK - (erwtaw) – erotao -
- SEEK – (zeteo) - seteo -
- Knock - (krouw) - krouo -

Word study is a wonderful way to gain knowledge of the Scriptures. There is an obvious need for ‘word study’ when the same word is used two or three times in the same text. Having clear understanding of words with various meaning helps to prevent ‘getting wires crossed’. ‘Getting wires crossed’ causes a man to say one thing when he means something else.

I. ASK – *aiteo* is to be distinguished from other words that are translated ‘ask’

A. *Aiteo* most often suggest the attitude of a supplier. The petition is from one who is lower in position than the one to whom the petition is made.

1. The Biblical example is a son to his father as found in my text: Matt 7:9, 10.

Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

2. Another example is one of a subject to his king.

“And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus

the king’s chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king’s country.” (Acts 12:20)

3. My third example is one of the priests and common folk - making request to the Governor.

“And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voices of them and of the chief priests prevailed.

And Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required.” (Luke 23:23, 24)

4. A fourth illustration is one of a beggar to a ‘passer-by’.

“2 And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.” (Acts 3:2-6)

The lesson is to show us how to approach God with our complaints as well as with our requests.

Perhaps we will approach Him sometimes as a son to a Father! Perhaps we will approach Him as a subject to a governor or as peasant to his King!

Perhaps we are simply begging for help from a stranger.

Either way, we should understand to whom we are making our requests and know when there is a difference.

B. Erotao – most often suggests that the petitioner is on a footing equal or similar to the person to whom he makes his requests.

1.. This word is used when a king is making a request from another king.

31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.” (Luke 14:31-32)

2. It is used of a PHARISEE who desired CHRIST that he would eat with him - an indication of the inferior conception he had of Jesus.

a. This is called – “Sticking your foot in your mouth”

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“36 And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee’s house, and sat down to meat.

37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee ...” (Luke 7:36-40)

b. This is what can happen when one does not understand the meaning of superiority.

37 And as he spake, a certain Pharisee besought him to dine with him: and he went in, and sat down to meat.

38 And when the Pharisee saw it, he marvelled that he had not first washed before dinner.

39 And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness.

40 Ye fools, did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also?” (Luke 11:37-40)

c. Other examples can be seen in John 9:43 and in 18:19.

The Biblical lesson we should gain from these examples is this: Men of equal stature can talk face to face but it is not wise for a Pharisee to exalt himself to the level of a king.

Another lesson worthy of our study is to know that our Lord, Jesus, never used aiteo in matters of making requests of His Father. The consciousness of His equal dignity, His power, His prevailing intercession, - speaks out in this, that as often as He asks or declares that He WILL ASK, He ALWAYS used the word **EROTAO** – implying He and the Father are EQUALS.

Here are some references: John 14:16; John 16:26; John 17: 9, 15, 20. Aiteo is never used.

II. SEEK – (zeteo) – simply signifies a search. (Looking again to the text)

“7 Ask, and it shall be given you; **seek**, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and **he that seeketh findeth**; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

A. The value placed upon an item will affect the way we search for it.

“45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.” (Matt 13:45-46)

B. Sometimes we search in all the wrong places.

5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

6 He is not here, but is risen: “ (Luke 24:5-6)

C. Sometimes it takes a long time to find what we’re looking for. “25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.

27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;” (Luke 2:25-31)

A Biblical lesson to be gained here is; some things are definitely worth the search – no matter how long it takes to find it nor how diligence that is required. Sometimes – what seems little to one is humongous to others. The way of Salvation can be hard to find but it’s worth the search!

“14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” (Matt 7:14)

III. KNOCK – (krouo) – means to strike or rap. It is used in the New Testament of one knocking upon a door.

A. A literal application is like this:

“And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda.” (Acts 12:13)

B. A figurative example can be found in Rev. 3:20

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”

CONCLUDING QUESTIONS

I’ve noticed a difference in the way people know at the door.

Consider a ‘bedroom door’. How do you knock upon a bedroom door?

Consider a ‘bathroom door’. How do you knock upon a bathroom door?

How do you knock upon a stranger’s door?

How do you knock upon a friend’s door?

Another thought to consider – How do you respond when someone knocks on your door?

How do you approach Jesus?

To find what I’m talking about:

1. ASK – Inquire of the Saviour

2. SEEK Him while He can be found!

3. KNOCK and the door of Salvation will be opened unto you!



MISSION NEWS AND VIEWS

CLOUD REPORT

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 693,168.89
RECEIPTS:	
Interstate Salaries	\$ 96,328.28
Foreign & National Salaries	79,189.54
Designated	43,081.76
Undesignated	39,124.78
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$257,724.36
BALANCE FOR SALARIES	\$950,893.25
DISBURSEMENTS:	
Interstate Salaries	\$ 88,275.67
Foreign Salaries	17,184.00
National Salaries	35,547.00
Designated	43,081.76
Salaries & Expenses of Sec.-Treas. Office	
Office Salaries	11,239.52
Sec.-Treas. Travel	274.22
General Office	5,401.86
Automobile	1,628.53
Nov Daily Postage, box rental/permit fee	391.20
TOTAL OFFICE	\$19,269.34
TOTAL DISBURSEMENT	\$203,357.77
BALANCE FORWARD	\$ 747,535.48
Total Surplus 011/09	\$54,366.59

GENEROUS... With a thankful heart, I praise God for the very generous mission offerings given in December. The dear people of God willingly gave for missions in December a total of \$257,724.36. The Special Thanksgiving Mission Offerings totaled \$268,809.66. On behalf of the missionaries and their sending churches, I joyfully thank you with a grateful heart for every mission offering given to help the missionaries proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. For the month of December, 743 mission offerings were received from 35 states and 3 foreign countries.

GRACIOUS... Thank you, brethren, for your gracious words of encouragement. In my travels in behalf of missionaries, the kindness of the brethren is a special blessing to Sandra and me. In the year 2009, I was privileged to speak 81 times in services and traveled 55,242 miles. Thank you, pastors and churches, for every opportunity given to me to preach the Word of God and to present mission reports.

GLORIOUS... In view of the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13), it is my prayer that we shall intensify our efforts to preach the gospel to the world (Mark 16:15). For December, the missionaries reported 1,065 professions of faith, 1,729 sermons preached and 4,893 visits made. Since the messenger meeting, the missionaries reported 7,607 professions of faith. Praise God for His blessings! As we begin the New Year 2010, please pray for more men to answer the call of God to preach the Word of God. Pray seriously, sincerely, and significantly. "Then saith he unto his disciples, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers unto his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38).

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Kenya

Chuck Fernandez, Missionary

As we look back and review 2009 we can clearly see God's grace upon our mission work here in Kenya. The following statistics paint a picture of our efforts of planting and watering with God giving the increase. We thank God for allowing us to be a small part of His great work!

Professions of Faith... 473: We have shared God's plan of salvation in thousands of homes to at least seven different

tribes from the mountains of Kenya to the desert, from Lake Victoria to Lake Turkana. Our hearts desire is simply that many people would come to a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ by becoming a child of God through salvation. During the last year not only have seen many come to Christ but we have truly seen transformed lives as a result of the love and power of God.

Baptisms... 107: We were privileged to be able to scripturally baptize over 100 new converts who wanted to follow the Lord Jesus in Scriptural Baptism. Hundreds more were baptized by the four Pastors we have been working with in 2009.

New Church Plants... 4: In 2009 we have been able to participate and support new Church plants in Western Kenya. Two of these Churches are located on Mt. Elgon. They are the Landmark Baptist Church of Kipsigon and the Landmark Baptist of Cheptaburubu. The other two Church plants are Landmark Baptist Church of Namarambi and the Landmark Baptist Church of Mawe Tatu. Two plots have been purchased and three tents have been raised for the people to meet under. While there is much more work to be done it has been a blessing to be part of what is a place of prayer, preaching and power.

New Bible Studies... 4: Last year we have also started four new weekly Bible studies. One in a village called Sekhindu, another in a village on Mt. Elgon called Kaperawa as well as two in Eldoret. These Bible studies are producing much fruit. Not only in the way of new converts but also by maturing the saints of God.

In addition to evangelism, baptisms, Church planting and Bible studies. We have also distributed hundreds of Bibles and thousands of tracts. On a humanitarian side we have provided food, water and clothing and given medical care to hundreds. 2009 was one of the greatest years of our lives because we serve a great

God. Through His loving kindness, grace and care we have felt His very presence on a daily basis. Terry and I thank God for each and every person who partnered with us to reach the lost by spreading the love of God through the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Without your prayers and financial support none of this would be possible. We now turn our attention to the task that lies ahead of us in 2010 and depend on the strength and power of God Almighty to do what he has called us to do.

Moldova

Mike Rogers, Missionary

Hrusova... The work in Hrusova continues, we have had some visitors and we continue to pass out tracts and invitations. Igor and Rodica are leading a bible club for the kids on Saturdays and preparing a Christmas program as an outreach to their parents. Please continue to pray for us and the relationships that are being made as we work to share the gospel in the village of Hrusova.

Christmas... Christmas time in Moldova has been interesting, many of the traditions here are different than in the USA or even Romania. Only a few people here celebrate Christmas on the 25th of December, most follow the tradition of the Russian Orthodox church and celebrate on the 7th of January, but for us the challenge remains the same, reminding them that we are celebrating the birth of Jesus! Our Lord and Savior who came to give us eternal life. We rejoice with those who truly understand the reason for the season.

Family... We are all thankful for the prayers, letters and gifts we received. We missed Ryan and Mike more than ever on Christmas morning but enjoyed watching Josh and Sam as they searched, bibles in hand for their stocking. God blessed us with a white Christmas (about 2 feet of snow) and some Moldova friends to bring in the New Year with.

France

Jason Clark, Missionary

December ended up not going at all like we had planned. I had planned to start the bible study the first Friday in December.

God had other plans however as Angie became sick December 1st with the flu. She ended up being sick for over three weeks. After the flu subsided she had a horrible cough that seemed to last no matter the treatment. She finally was able to get out the weekend before Christmas to do some Christmas shopping. The cough still persists, but it is a lot better. As a result we postponed our bible study to January 8th (Lord willing).

We did have several opportunities to minister. We invited a young lady from Belarus, who lives in Limoux, to our house. She was very much in need of fellowship with other Christians. Yelena is her name, she is saved and has been attending the church in Carcassonne when she can find transportation. We were able to give her comfort and advice as well as fellowship. However, in as much as we ministered to her she has also been a blessing to us. I was also able to minister by leading the prayer meeting a few times for the pastor in Carcassonne. He is near the age of retirement and I am glad to be able to help as well as have the opportunity to speak. We helped sing Christmas carols at a nursing home and I was blessed to bring the devotional at the English Carol service.

We did enjoy a wonderful Christmas as a family. Our thanks go to Ebenezer Baptist Church, Mercer Baptist Church, Sulphur Springs Baptist Church, and East Somerset Baptist Church for their generous Christmas offerings to our family this past month. We pray God's blessings to all this new year.

Kosova

David Helmick, Missionary

Wonderful Welcoming

We walked out of the airport to see cardboard signs waiving and friends waiting with smiles and tears. Welcoming hugs and embraces were plentiful. How different this greeting was compared to the first time we came to Kosova. God had kept them well, while we were gone and in the days following our arrival we would experience how much God had kept their hearts too.

We began looking for a house to live in

from day one. Kelli and I started looking for a home in our old neighborhood. When our former neighbors saw our van they came out to the street and waved us to come to their house for a visit. When other neighbors saw our van parked on the street, they came to visit as well. Soon we were drinking coffee and tea, which preceded a small meal. Everyone asked if we were going to move back to our old home. That wasn't our plan. There were water problems in the basement of the former residence, but our neighbors insisted that the land lord had repaired everything in hope that we would return.

Kelli and I looked at a few other homes, but an agreement for rent and contracts just couldn't be reached. By the end of our first week, we made the decision to return to our old house. Neighbors, friends and fellow believers overwhelmed us with their help with moving all our stuff from storage. Two young men, Blerim and Auron, came everyday for three weeks to help in any way they could. The weather turned wintery that first weekend of moving. We received 11 inches of the white stuff and the home, which hadn't had any heat in it since we departed, was absorbing the cold as fast as we tried to heat it. These concrete un-insulated homes take quite a while to heat up. Our neighbors helped us to get fire wood and stow it away for winter. Soon our home began to come back to life and we were enjoying living in our old neighborhood once again. I cannot fully express the love I have for my Savior after He showed us how much He has done in the lives of the people we have known in Peja.



The Helmick Family

Costa Rica

Walter Goulding, Missionary

For one year, The Way held only an afternoon worship service. We now have Sunday School at 3:00 and Worship Service at 4:00 o'clock. Before beginning to use the literature published by the Baptist Sunday School Committee, I felt that the adults needed to understand some basic doctrines on the church that Jesus built.



That series was completed in December. We just began studying the basics of Christian living – how to become a spiritual child of the King. If we are to become mature children of God, I believe that we need to learn to, “Enter ... at the strait gate” and walk the “narrow ... way” (Mat. 7:13-14). The adults are to begin using the Adult Spanish Sunday School Quarterly in March. Please pray (1) for more teachers, and (2) that several will understand the need to move their membership and get to work with us.

Thailand

Brent Rosendal, Missionary

Nationals... December was a busy but good month here in Chiang Mai. The first 2 Sundays of the month, we had guest preachers. Samson, one of Antioch’s missionaries, and Johnson, a Bible school student, preached. They’ve filled in before while we were in North America, but this was the first time that I was able to hear them preach. I was proud and excited as one of our main goals is to train nationals to take over the work here in Thailand.

Outreach... Christmas isn’t a recognized holiday in Thailand. Since Christmas fell on a Friday, we were able to have a Christmas evening outreach at our church. We had about 5 first time guests and all the different groups of the church – children, teenagers, men and women – did something special for the outreach. Some kids

recited Scripture, the adults sang specials and the teenagers did a skit. Afterwards I was able to share about the meaning of Christmas.



Adults Singing

Sleepover... The day after our Christmas outreach, Tawm took all the kids from church bowling and afterwards they came and slept over at our house. We had kids sleeping all over our house, in tents and in the back of our truck too! Rusty shared a devotional with them. This was a great opportunity to build stronger relationships with all the young people. We were excited that our neighbor joined in too and he seems really interested in Christianity.

Belize

Nicky Barnett, Missionary

Beverly and I spent the Christmas holidays in the States with our family in Alabama. The vacation time and family time was great. I had the opportunity to fill in for Brother Danny Carter at the Grace Baptist Church in Jasper, Alabama. We always enjoy being in the services with Bro. Danny and Sis. Kathy. The church there has been faithful supporters of our work in prayer and offerings, and especially the group of kids in the picture below. The last two times Bev and I visited the church they have given us an offering. They are a great group of children and are faithful in learning about and supporting.

News From Victory Baptist Church Santa Cruz... The Victory Baptist Church in Santa Cruz continues to average 45 in worship on Sunday morning. We had 15 additions to the church last year and five of our students in the Belize Missionary Baptist Institute are from this church. Please pray with us as we seek to train a pastor for this church and also pray for the spiritual growth of the people there.

Please Help With This Need!... My sending church has voted to purchase the property in Belize. The cost of the building and 4 acres is \$90,000.00. The church is asking for your help with this debt. If you can help us with this it will be very much appreciated!

Japan

Japan Missionary Baptist Seminary

JMBS sponsors an annual Bible Conference every November. The 2009 Conference was one of the best. Dr. George Garner, the Director of the Blessed Hope Foundation, was the featured speaker. His subject was “How to explain your faith to family, friends, and coworkers.” He did a tremendous job. The Japanese people were very encouraged in this area of defending and explaining their faith. The Blessed Hope Foundation paid the travel expenses for Tim so he could serve as the translator. Dr. Garner also lectured on Apologetics three hours each night for the rest of the week to students and graduates in the JMBS classroom. Tim did the translating. Dr. Garner has the gift to tailor his message to fit the audience. He was a great blessing to us in every place he spoke.

Ukraine

David Bostick, Missionary

December always brings lots of celebrations. In Ukraine it was no different. Debra and the Ladies Bible Club would like to thank the Ladies Auxiliaries from Heritage BC Tyler, Waterview MBC in Richardson, Salem MBC in Rusk, and the ladies from our sending Church for their financial support in helping with their Christmas party and for the purchase of the book “Lies Women Believe.” Your special love offerings were a tremendous blessing to these ladies who have been faithful to come to this Bible class.

The UHM Christmas program was different this year in that all the children from all four villages were bused to one location along with their families for their Christmas pageant. Over 100 people were in attendance and it was an awesome program. Please pray for these four villages.

December also brought our first winter

snow for the season. We experienced colder temperatures and more snow than we did last year. We are gearing up for a hard winter. Please keep us in your prayers.

We ended the month with a UHM Staff Christmas party. Debra and Julia also celebrated their birthdays the last week of the month. As we ring in the new year, we ask that you please join us in prayer for continued blessings for 2010. We also ask that you please pray about how God can use you in the work here in Ukraine. May God's blessings be upon you all in 2010.

Southeast Asia

Rusty Teer, Missionary

Out with the old year they say. We cannot go back and relive it, but we can look over last year and count the blessings of the past. Each year God has blessed by giving us more and more opportunities to share Him in places where He opens the doors. It is now over a year that we have been working in the Eastern regions. A few doors that were closed in the north have opened slightly. We have handed out hundreds of tracts in schools, presented the Gospel and I have slept in dozens of villages where I was working with the nationals. Who really knows what all God did this year through our willingness to go wherever He leads. His policy I believe has given me peace about what He is doing and caused me to not worry about the harvest that He will reap when He is ready.

We had a great time at Christmas going back to a school where I had worked the previous month. We were able to share books with them about the real meaning of Christmas. Yes they already know about Santa and getting gifts, but we talk about the reason we give gifts is because God started it by giving us His Son. We have to discuss the pre-incarnation of Christ this time of year because there is a feeling of superiority in Buddhism because they believe "Buddha is older than Jesus". As you can see everyone on earth tries to reason away Jesus in one way or another. We simply want to present a clear opportunity to accept the truth. We thank God for calling and bringing us to this place of ministry with Him. He sustains us daily. Thank you for letting Him work through you by praying daily and supporting

monthly. Your encouragement is warming to us no matter where we are serving Him.

Fusagasuga, Colombia

Carlos Julio Mendoza, Missionary



We faithfully continue laboring in the Lord's Vinyard. The picture shows the spiritual services and the physical work in the Fusa Mission. As offerings come in, we continue with the construction of the classrooms, fellowship room, and the two restrooms.

We thank God for your love, prayers and support during last year and pray for your continue support for the Lord's work in Fusa this New year.

We pray to God in the name of Jesus Christ for Dr. H.H. Strickland and family and that God will grant many blessings in the year 2010

In our nativity services, we had ten first time visitors and eight of them made professions of faith in Christ Jesus for the salvation of their souls. They are going to listen to our daily teaching and preaching of the Word of God on the radio program.

Belize

Joel Dillahunt

HAPPY NEW YEAR! The new year will bring a big change for us and Belize missions. Promise Land MBC in Hamburg, AR will be our sending church as of January 1, 2010. Promise Land had been very active in our ministry for the past several months and we are excited to partner with them. We have been good friends with Bro. Michael Reese and his family for many years.

Please direct any support and correspondence to: Promise Land MBC, 765 Ashley 70 Rd, Hamburg, AR 71646, 870-853-5941.

Thank you Greenacres for your support and prayers since May.

Thailand

Rodney Burdette, Missionary

Christmas is always a busy but exciting time for the church here in Udon. The people here enjoy learning about the Christmas story and participating in putting together Christmas plays and singing Christmas songs. Udon Thani has given Christmas a lot of attention this year with decorations everywhere but nobody here knows what it is really about. The mainstream such as malls and larger stores have made it as commercial as America does with no mention of Christ except for the songs on the radio at the mall which 99% of the people do not understand. Still our opportunity is to use this as a door to share with the people what really happened that wonderful Christmas Eve. We will be going caroling this year to all the places the church members want to go sharing what Christmas is really about. It seems so different here in Thailand during the holidays seasons when we would usually spend the most time with our families but it allows us the opportunity to reach out to people that otherwise may not give us the time or attention otherwise.

Well, another year is coming to an end and all is well. We have learned a great deal about this culture and the Language and are geared up now for the work ahead. There have been some difficult hurdles to get over but from them I know that we will be stronger in the work that God has called us to. As we look with a vision in to the future we know that God has a great plan for the Thai people. More than ever we need your Prayers as we begin to take on more responsibilities. I remember when all I wanted was to know this language and culture and now sometimes I say it used to be so much easier. All in all things are going well and I am enthusiastic about the future. Thailand is truly an awesome field to labor in. Please pray for the salvation of the Thai people. Thanks for your faithfulness!

Indonesia

Chase Reynolds, Missionary

On November 19th we finished packing our stuff, said goodbye to friends in Bandung, and took off for the Gold Coast

of Australia. Our purpose... pick up our new visas, spend Thanksgiving with friends, rest.

We were blessed to spend quality time with two special families: the Millers and the Raburns. Chris Miller is the missionary pastor at Hinterland BC. We thoroughly enjoyed spending time with him, his wife Christine and their kids Kaitlyn and Sam.

The members of Hinterland BC were gracious and very generous hosts! They provided us a beautiful beach-side-apartment to stay in and cared for our family as if we were one of their own.

A truly special grace was to spend time with Lynn and Brenda Raburn. They have been a vital part of preparing and encouraging us in this work from the beginning. It was very helpful to spend time with, talk to, and be ministered to by this caring and seasoned couple.

Our visas were delayed, which resulted in us staying an extra week. A special thanks to East Somerset BC for providing the funds for us to stay in the same apartment for the extra week. That time turned out to be the most restful and restorative.

We finally got our new visas and left Australia truly rested and renewed. We are now in Sentani, Papua (formerly know as Irainia Jaya). We are in process of getting settled here. We will be based out of here until we have established a place to lie in the interior, and even then, we will maintain a home here.

We have now been in Indonesia over a year. We want to thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement! We pray you are having a wonderful and reflective holiday season!

South Pacific Missions

David Bennett, Missionary

We are still in a battle with my Immigration Permits, those that are against me are now putting pressure on member of the work here. They are being told that if they continue to associate with me, they will not receive any Government aid. We are getting to the bottom of this. They have asked for Brother Rainwater to come in June 2010. They want to have all day meetings for three days, so that all

questions may be answered. I know that he will need financial help with his ticket and other expenses. I cannot tell you how important it is that he comes to Tanna, the people need more reassurance that we are still going forward and have no intentions of stopping.

We have many pressing needs and will try to send a container in 2011, we need to raise the expenses for this. The World-Wide Literature Project in Hamburg, Arkansas needs help in raising the funds to get this container to Vanatu. I am in need of funds about \$8,000.00 (tariffs, taxes and shipping) to get the items to Tanna. We have some rather large projects to complete. We need materials and men to come and rebuild the large school building above Kings Kross. Cyclone Ivy was very hard on this building and was leaning badly. We straightened it up and not very long ago an earthquake leveled it. We have been able to save some materials, but will need to replace some.

We continue to work on song books in village languages. The people are growing spiritually, what a tremendous blessing it is to watch it happen. I want to express my thanks to each of you that support this work of God. I realize that through your prayers and offerings you make it possible for me to follow God's will, thank you so much for you help.

Japan

Shin Kamoda, Missionary

A Baptismal service was held for Brother Siichi Kamoda in November. A pool was filled with water in the next room to our chapel. Attendees at worship service witnessed this baptismal service. I taught them the meaning of baptism, before its administration. After taking a series of Bible lessons, Seiichi gave his testimony showing his knowledge of the Savior and willingness to follow Him. It is a blessing to welcome him as a member. He is faithful in church attendance and willing to serve the Lord in whatever capacity he is able. Please, pray for his continued spiritual growth.

Great Evangelistic and Revival Services... As the services approached, believers took opportunities to witness to friends and neighbors. Seekers were

present at each service and heard the Gospel. Pastor Kida did excellent works of preaching to trust in Christ and exhort us to dedicate our lives to Him. One made a decision to follow the Lord in Baptism and number of believers redicated their lives to the Lord. Praise the Lord! Another prayer was answered!

On Sunday at noon, everyone enjoyed a potluck lunch. Like every Baptist church, we enjoy eating good food and fellowship!

Overwhelmingly thankful to all of you... The Lord answered to our prayers in numbers of ways to glorify His name through this mission work. Numbers of churches and individuals responded to needs and worked with us. I believe numerous prayers were offered in behalf of this mission work in Japan. Contacts through letters, cards and e-mails etc. meant a lot to us. My family and I pray for every prayer partner to receive God's richest blessings now and in this coming new year.

India

Asheervadam Sankya, Missionary

Greetings to you in the mighty, matchless and highly Exalted Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Bro. Sankya after 8 baptisms.
Lone Cedar India Mission.



Baptism at Singadigunta, India



Baptism at Venkatapuram, India

The pictures here are the last 2 months yield in the field. They are included to draw the attention of the readers to pray for future work in fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord.

Interstate Missions

Dexter, Maine

George Denver, Missionary

Maine winter has made December a difficult month to leave the warm house to go out witnessing. We have had some extremely cold weather with wind chills reading -35 degrees. Even with the cold weather, Antioch still had visitors in our services, and we thank God for them. Ignoring the winter weather, the mission performed a Christmas play, written by Sis. Pansy Robinson, called Candy Cane Christmas. The play combines the legend of the candy cane with favorite Christmas hymns. Also, my family hosted church Christmas party. Everyone had a great time of fellowship and laughter while playing charades, eating delicious food, and watching the missionary and others sing karaoke. So, while the weather has made traditional witnessing difficult, the mission has been finding indoor ways to spread the word.

The past year has been productive. The work started a building fund, added three more Bible studies along with Wednesday nights in Dexter and Sunday nights in Baileyville, increased the size and changed the structure of the youth Sunday School

classes, and one joined the work through Baptism. In addition, Antioch had to decide if we would continue meeting in the building on Silvers Mills Road or find another location. I was proud of the way the church handled themselves showing a Christian Godly attitude when one was not shown to them. Also, we started supporting another missionary on a monthly basis. God has blessed our work this past year.

I would like to extend a thank you to all the churches that has supported us and for the prayers that have been offered up for us and the work. A special thank you goes to our sponsoring church Dry Bayou Missionary Baptist Church and her pastor Brother Bobby Bradford for their tremendous support. Thank you for all that you do for us.

Please pray for us in this coming year that when God opens doors we will go through them to be a witness for Christ.

I ask you to take our work under consideration for support this year. The winter can be draining on expenses. The heating cost for my house runs about \$400 to \$500 a month, and our winter season runs between October and April. There is also the increase of at least \$100 more per month for gasoline for our vehicles. The cost is usually \$400 to \$500 a month, but in the winter, it increases to \$500 to \$600 a month. If you are able to financially support us, we would truly appreciate it. But, please do not forget to pray for the work.

Navajo Missions

Jerry Baker, Missionary

Just cannot believe December is history, and what a glorious month it was! Once again there is far more news to share than space allows, but we will try to hit the highlights. For those who come each summer for the VBS ministries, at times you may feel like your efforts are in vain. We've always taken the position that we may never know the impact of those trips, but are confident they are far-reaching into the Navajo Nation. That thought was confirmed this month when a 14 yr old girl began coming to church as a result of this year's "shoebox project". As I was driving

her and her brother home after services, I began asking questions about her salvation. She proudly told me she had already been saved. My next question, obviously, was "When?" She shared with me that after VBS at Twin Lakes Elementary last summer, she went home one evening and asked the Lord to save her! WOW, what affirmation that in our working together to reach the Navajo people for Christ there are undoubtedly countless stories like this one! Brittany and her brother, Adam, are part of Sunday School now because of mission-minded hearts! Another great story to share is that of Ms. Geri, one of our members. She is a charge nurse at the local hospital and attended a staff Christmas luncheon. During that meeting, the supervisor asked each person to choose a letter from the alphabet that would best describe themselves and to then share with the group why they chose such a letter. Ms. Geri chose the letter "L" and told them because she hoped she was "likeable", "loving", and she "laughed" a lot. She went on to say that she also had the "Lord" in her heart and then shared the plan of salvation with the group! What a unique opportunity to share Christ with her co-workers! One new member continues bringing her brother's family to services and another lady is now bringing her adult brother. A couple of our ladies were able to help deliver Christmas gifts at the schools, happy to share with this project! Our church family enjoyed a great time of fellowship when we gathered for dinner one evening at a local restaurant. It was a joy to be able to surprise everyone by picking up the tab for their meals. Our Navajo family is so appreciative of all you do in support of this ministry!

Swedesboro, New Jersey

Stephen Keith, Missionary

Average For December... December's average was up because of our first ever Christmas Eve Service with 105 in attendance. We averaged 66 for the month of December. I feel compelled to remind everyone that just because God is sending us people doesn't mean that every person that is a part of Grace has a strong foundation in Jesus Christ. The majority

of the people who come out and attend Grace are "unchurched." Discipleship, as you know, is a process it's not something that happens over night. I praise God for the people He sends us but just because our numbers are sometimes good doesn't mean we are even near self-supporting.

Grace Helping During The Holidays... Grace was able to help two families that were in need this year. I am proud that we were able to show the love of Christ to some families during the Christmas season.

Baptism... We were blessed to baptize two this month! People are attending worship and responding to God's Word! Please pray for every person who is following the Lord in baptism. Baptism is the first step in learning and discovering who we are in Christ.

A New Small Group... We have been blest in receiving some new families. One thing we are going to focus on in the year 2010 is the family. We will be starting a new couples small group at the end of January. Please pray that God would lead some of our couples to be involved! Satan is attacking the family. If Satan can get his foot into the door of the family then he has gotten his foot into the doors of the church.

Finances... Please pray that God would continue to lead our people to take care of the financial responsibilities that we have with the mortgage, ministry, utilities and also the overall goal of taking care of itself through the people of God and the power of God.

First Snow... New Jersey had its first major snowfall in years this month. We had at least two feet of snow on the ground. It was amazing. Sadly, we had to cancel our Sunday service before Christmas due to the poor conditions but we made up for it on Christmas Eve with a powerful service.

Houston, Texas

Charlie Ellison, Church Planter

Growing through New Births!... LifeBridge is experiencing growth both through Spiritual and Physical births.

- Tommy and Aaron were baptized because they had experienced the Spiritual Birth.
- Madalyn and Jentry were dedicated to the Lord after experiencing the Physical Birth.

• We continue to see new faces in all our services. In Dec. we set a new average attendance record of 52.



Lighthouse Ministries

Toby Cribbs, Missionary

Greetings from Tennessee. I hope all had a Merry Christmas and are looking to a Happy New Year. I want to thank all of those who support this ministry. I appreciate each one that supports this ministry. May God bless you in giving. I want to thank all those who gave a personal Christmas Love Offering.

Special Christmas for inmates... I was able to give Christmas Cookies to inmates in Polk County Jail, Benton, Tennessee and Fannin County Jail, Blu Ridge, Georgia. I gave out (80) boxes Cookies. Thanks to Bro. Terry Richard for offering (\$50.00) and anonymous gift (\$25.00). I also gave out and set out 1400 Christmas cards to the inmates.

Rock Slide.... They have started hauling rock from the rock slide. The work goes very slow. They say that the road should open in January but it looks more like March. So for the next three months I will be traveling round triop of 140 miles to Polk County Jail, Benton, Tennessee I leave my house at 3:30 P.M. and get back at about 10:00 P.M. each Monday night.

Tri-State Jail Ministry... In Polk County Jail, Benton, Tennessee, I am having rally good services. The men all take part in the singing. They will call out the song they want to sing. Most of them have memorized the number of the page the songs are on. After the service I give them time to have a testimony or praise reprot. I have several here doing our studies. Fannin County Jail, Blue Ridge, Georgia the services are going well. Many of the men will ask questions

after our study. At both jails they were happy and glad to receive the Chrstimas cookies. They were also glad to receive the Crhstimas cards I hadned out so they could mail them to their family and friends. The men all take part in the singign and are asking question about some things they have read during the week.

Will you please help?... We have a running bill with Staples office supply. Each month we pay them \$100.00 but also charge about from \$100 or more. We owe them \$1000.00. Will you please help us pay this off?

Berean Bible Course... This month we enrolled (15) in this course. Each December those who have no done a study in three months I removed their names from the course. I removed 136 and i now have 40 doing this course.

U.S. Prison Ministry...

This month we enrolled (117) and had (3) to finish and re-instated (1). Each December I remove those who had not done a study in three months. I removed 1350 names. I now have 218 in this course. I had (14) finish Old Testament Studies, (10) New Testament Studies.

Landmark Bible Institute... I have three men in this course that have not done a study in five months. I removed their names and now have seven in this course.

Special Project... We received (34) of our Enrollment Study Course forms back that we sent to Chaplains and inmates that requested them for other inmates. I also included these Enrollmetn Study Course forms in mailing to inmates thate are doing our courses and ask them to hand them out. I have recieved many of these back that they have handed out. This shows that these inmatates are concerned about others knowing Jesus and His Word.

Our Biggest Need... I need a missionary to come and help in this Ministry. The missionary would have to raise his personal support. If someone would come and visist and see what is involved in this ministry, they will be impressed and see the great need. The inmates are hungry for the Word of God. It is a pleasuer to teach and preach where the people are glad to listen and learn.



Wayne Sewell

This is the Season

Let me take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy new year. I pray that as God gives us another year, we may use the time wisely and that each of us will dedicate our time and abilities to the Lord who redeemed us. John wrote in 3 John verse 2, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." We know as saved individuals our soul prospers because we are eternally saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. May each have the health to serve God faithfully this year because He has already redeemed our souls. May God richly bless each one throughout this year.\

As the new year begins, let me introduce you to a new product line in the store. It is a laser engraving machine from P. Graham Dunn. This company produces many gift items that are ready to be engraved while you wait. We have pen sets, picture frames, plaques, desk sets, puzzle boxes, money clips, knives, handbag mirrors, stone jewelry, desk accessories, photo albums, clocks, cutting boards, magnets, dog tags, candle holders, glass plaques, crosses, and lithographs.

This machine allows the store staff to engrave a name, date or verse on any of the items sold by P. Graham Dunn. A couple of weeks ago, a customer came in with a quote that had greatly impressed her. The customer picked out a plaque, and the staff laser engraved the plaque with the quote the customer brought into the store. The customer left very excited to have the quote to place in her home. She had been to two or three other locations to get someone to paint the quote on a plaque. Each store had said they could not do the quote. She commented on how pleased she was with the job done by the machine and staff in the Baptist Book Store.

Another feature with this product line is the ability to do fund raisers. A church or youth group could sell an item, we could engrave the items and share the profit with the church or youth group. We have never been able to do this in the past. Please contact the store if you are interested in a fund raiser or just purchasing a personalized gift.

The product line includes items that are excellent for wedding and anniversary gifts. A lady came into the store and wanted something for a sixtieth wedding anniversary. She selected a photo frame. We engraved the couples name and their wedding date on the frame. The sixtieth anniversary was also engraved on the photo frame. She left with a gift that was perfect and personal for that anniversary. In the past there was not anything we could have provided the customer with that specific information.

The Vacation Bible School seminars will begin with the Publishers Vacation Bible School Seminar at County Avenue Baptist Church in Texarkana, Arkansas the last Saturday in February. Then through March and April, seminars will be held in various locations. Please check our website, www.abaptist.org for the times and locations of the seminars.



Larry Clements
Editor in Chief

The Danger of Assumptions

A couple of months ago I made a huge mistake while deer hunting at the Montongo Deer Camp in Drew County, Southeast Arkansas. The mistake was to miss a nice buck deer because of assumptions—wrong assumptions. On Thanksgiving morning I was in the deer woods on my stand with my rifle and assumed I was prepared. About 7:15, a nice buck came out of a pine thicket, but he was much nearer to my stand than I assumed he would be—only twenty-five yards away. Because he was so close, he heard me shuffling around and shifting my gun to see him better. He was a legal buck, but when I pulled up my rifle and looked through the scope everything was blurry. I could not see a thing. I assumed the bezel eye focus on my rifle scope was still adjusted to my eyesight from last deer season—I assumed wrong. Meanwhile, the buck deer decided not to wait for me to focus the eyepiece, and trotted away, out of sight. I never saw him again. Two wrong assumptions had cost me a nice buck.

To make an assumption means to believe that something is true or will happen without evidence to prove it. When a person makes an assumption, they take the outcome for granted. So, when people assume something will happen, they seldom have an alternative plan if their assumption is wrong.

Making assumptions can be disastrous in more ways than just missing a deer. Assumptions can be an embarrassing thing in church work. When a Sunday School teacher assumes his classroom is clean, orderly and ready for class, he may be in for a rude surprise. When the Sunday School Superintendent assumes teachers are arriving prepared and on time, he may be completely wrong. When another teacher assumes she is so familiar with the lesson she doesn't need to study or assumes the visual aids will be easy for the pupils to assemble and understand, she may fail to communicate important spiritual truth to her students. When a pastor assumes the teachers will visit absentees and new class members, no one may visit them and a golden opportunity will be lost. When the chapel director assumes the snacks she brought her children are still in the cabinet or refrigerator for the next session, she may be caught flat-footed with nothing for the kids. Wrong assumptions are dangerous—kind of like assuming a gun is not loaded. To be safe, you better make sure. To be effective as a teacher, pastor or church leader, you better prepare ahead of time and take nothing for granted!

My wrong assumptions in the deer woods caused me to miss a nice buck—but it was no big deal and I can always try again. Whereas assumptions and lack of preparation or follow-up for pastors, Sunday School teachers and church leaders, may have eternal consequences. James Walker shared a valuable truth when he coined the slogan, "Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance!" I learned a lesson in the deer woods on Thanksgiving—don't assume anything and prepare well for everything! That admonition will work in church as well as every area of life.

Speaking of being prepared—sample kits for summer Vacation Bible School, *Soul Survivors on Danger Island*, are available for purchase now. I am thankful for many VBS directors and teachers who begin early preparation. For more information, call (800) 264-2482 for a free catalog or look online at <http://bogardpress.org/vbs2010/>. VBS Seminars will be hosted by churches in various parts of the country, beginning with the Publisher's Seminar at County Avenue Baptist Church in Texarkana, on Saturday, February 27. For information on a VBS seminar near you, look at the website above and click on *VBS Seminars*. Assumptions may be dangerous! So prepare well and don't assume anything! Maybe you will be rewarded with a trophy buck or something much better!

**FINANCIAL REPORT
WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST INSTITUTE
DECEMBER - 2009**

GENERAL FUND

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD

\$661.35

INCOME:

ALABAMA

Baumhauer RD. BC-Theodore, AL 50.00
Magnolia Springs-Theodore, AL 200.00

GEORGIA

Northside BC -Vienna, GA 30.00

FLORIDA

Bethel BC -Pensacola,FL 25.00
Calvary BC -Panama City,FL 50.00
Central Arcadia-Arcadia,FL 125.00
First BC -Silver Springs,FL 25.00
Galilee MBC -Milton, FL 20.00
Milestone BC -Cantonment,FL 80.00
New Home BC -Clarksville,FL 15.00
North Side MBC -Ocala, FL 30.00
Okeechobee -Okeechobee,FL 102.76
Spanish Trail BC-Pensacola,FL 133.36
Fellowship BC -Pace, FL 70.00
Cypress Creek -Kinard, FL 408.81

Mics:

Kitchen Sales -Pensacola, FL 0.00
Vince Foster 100.00
James Long -Orlando, FL 100.00
TOTAL \$1,156.12

DESIGNATED FUNDS:H.H.Strickland

Baptist Chapel -Grand Bay,AL 550.00
Fellowship BC -Pace,FL 220.00
Eastern Avenue -St.Cloud,FL 100.00
Frankfort BC -Russville AL 90.00
Galilee BC -Milton FL 100.00
Landmark BC -Dothan AL 40.00
Landmark BC -Madison, FL 100.00
Newark BC -Elkton,MD 100.00
TOTAL \$1,300.00

Designated Funds:

Herman Rogers 50.00

TUITION/REGISTRATION

Tuition \$ 405.00
Registration \$ 30.00
TOTAL INCOME \$2,941.12 \$1,941.12
TOTAL AVAILABLE \$3,602.47

EXPENSES

Utilities \$ 656.40
Building Repairs -0-
Office 35.25
Misc. 403.18
Insurance 68.00
Instruction 2,650.00
TOTAL EXPENSE \$3,812.83 \$3,812.83

NEW BALANCE \$ (-210.36)

BOOKSTORE FUND

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD \$4,216.22

Income:

Bookstore Sales \$ 43.40
Press Sales \$153.69
Contributions
O'Leno BC \$ 50.00
Pinehaven BC 50.00
Galilee BC 15.00
Landmark 20.00
Total Income \$332.09 \$332.09
TOTAL AVAILABLE \$4,548.31

Expenses:

TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,841.83 \$ 2,841.83
NEW BALANCE \$ 1,706.48

GENERAL FUND BALANCE \$ (-210.36)
BOOKSTORE FUND BALANCE \$ 1,706.48

PASTOR NEEDED

It would be greatly appreciated if you would run the following article in the West Florida Baptist News for our church:

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in Milton, Florida is seeking a pastor. If interested, please contact:
Carol Watford @850-623-3008 or
Colleen Lord @ 850-994-5700.

PASTOR NEEDED

Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida is looking for an ABA, KJV pastor to lead our church. Please send resume to robinsnow456@ cox.net or 828 N. 77th Avenue. Pensacola, FL 32506

If you have any question call Robin Snow at 850.456.7938

PRINTING NEWS

News: News: The information regarding the replacement plates for our Jet Plate System is still uncertain. I had received information there was a system that would work in our equipment but that may or may not be the case. I have been told that the systems were not compatible. If that is the case, then we are back to nothing. I am really at a no-pass over this thing and no one seems to have the answer. The people who sell the equipment have no idea what this does to ministries like us. We simply cannot write this thing off on our taxes, purchase another unit and go on. Trying to replace \$16,000.00 is no easy task for us. However, it is a tremendous asset to be able to make our own metal plates, but we simply cannot afford such a large loss.

Some better the news: I am recovering from the accident last month. I do not know

if there will be any permanent damage yet. I wont know that until I get back to using the hand fully. Right now I am somewhat limited as to how much I can do. The printing must go an and htat is what we will be doing. Something have changed after the fact. I no longer clean the press the same as I did before.

GOALS: Uriel Pina has now returned from El Paso. He flew in on Saturday and has already enrolled in classes. We will be getting together to determine what needs to be done frist and then work from there. I am sure that the production in the printing will lickup again. I thank those who contrubuted to the cost of his tickets. You can never know how much he has come to mean to our work. He has learned so much and is eager to learn even more. I look forward to the time when I can tell him what book we need and he can go do it without my help. I tried to get him to bring someone with him but he just laughed.

NEW PRODUCTIONS: Following the new production of the book entitled "Un

Estudio Historico del Origen y Temprana Expansi3n de la Iglesia Neotestamentaria" by Dr. James Mikell, we were able to go to press with the reprint of the book intitled "A Study in the Revelation." I was really glad to get to this project. I had found so many mistakes that I was ashamed to offer it for sale. It has now been redone and will be ready for distribution very soon. The binding will begin this week. It has a new look and I really hope that people who purchase it will enjoy the presentation.

In the coming weeks, several new books are being planned. We have so much to do but that is really a great situation to be in. I appreciate so much all those who have allowed us to help them in getting their work into print.

SPECIAL PRAYER: We are still much in prayer that someone will come and help us in this ministry. There are so many tremendous opportunities awaiting anyone who could put in the time to learn the work. God has so blessed that the tremendous growth has far exceeded our expectations.

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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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