GIBF’S NEW MODERATOR
By Kevin Folger

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank the preachers of the GIBF for the opportunity to serve the Lord as the new moderator of this great fellowship. When I say great, I do not mean it is because we are some mighty or powerful political force which causes the world to sit up and take notice. We are not a political movement. Our position of the old paths Baptist faith is not popular in our culture or even among many so-called Baptist preachers. The number of preachers who identify with us is not all that great. I would guess that there may be five hundred preachers across the world, who if asked what group or fellowship of preachers best fits their philosophy and Biblical position, would say the GIBF. So, when you consider the physical numbers, it is not all that impressive.

However, have you ever noticed that the things that impress man do not necessarily impress God? I think of the story of Gideon and his band of three hundred. Gideon started out with a pretty substantial group, but God said that He was going to purposely winnow the numbers down. That way when victory did come, no

HEARTLAND BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE GROWTH: PAST – PRESENT – FUTURE
By Sam Davison
President, Heartland Baptist Bible College

As I have occasion to write articles about Heartland Baptist Bible College, sometimes I think I feel just a little bit of what many missionaries feel when they write letters to report on their work from the field. Surely many missionaries desire to send a good report of fruit, growth, baptisms, and everything looking up. However, oftentimes reality is that the going may be slow and sometimes seemingly backwards. At such times, the missionary does not wish to sound negative or complaining; they don’t wish to sound whiny. In articles and letters, it is not always possible to get a good read on the heart and emotions of the writer. The reader’s attitude often affects the interpretation of what is read. Having said all that, I assure you that this is not a negative article. No whining here, and certainly nothing about which to complain. This article is about Heartland Baptist Bible College and the growth of the school considering the past, present, and future. (How’s that for creativity?) The article will also give me the opportunity to philosophize just a little.

Concerning the past, I need not elaborate at length. In the fall of 1998, we began with 134 students, which qualifies as a near miracle considering all that was dealt with in order to open the school. When you consider we did not know we would have a campus until the second week of July, and then to begin with 134 students on the 31st of August, was nothing short of amazing. It is well known that the enrollment increased year by year so that in the beginning of only our sixth year (2003), we enrolled 445 to begin the fall semester.

The point I wish to stress is that from 1998 to 2003, the increase was not a result of a “strategy for growth.” While we did engage in strategic planning sessions in 1999 and 2001, those meetings had more to do with quality than quantity. The word spread; pastors and prospective students visited the campus, and God, yes, God, touched lives and hearts. I know no one that feels like we “made it happen.” We all believed we were blessed to watch God make it happen.

...continued on page 4

GIBF Has Great Meeting in Albany, Oregon
By Dr. Terry Williams
Boulevard Baptist Church, Burleson, Texas

The Global Independent Baptist Fellowship Fall Meeting was held at the Harvest Baptist Church of Albany, Oregon on September 20-22, where Rev. T.J. Smith is the pastor. The meeting was a wonderful time of great singing, preaching and fellowship. Pastor TJ Smith and his church are to be commended of doing such a great job hosting the meeting. The meals, the friendliness and the all around hospitality were a great blessing to everyone. The Albany, Oregon area was so beautiful and the weather was so perfect – as if God prepared everything for our fellowship meeting.

God’s timing is always so perfect, from the first service on Monday evening to the last service on Wednesday night the power of the Holy Spirit was evident. The music was a tremendous blessing featuring the church choir combined with choirs from two sister churches. The music was conservative and lifted up the Lord Jesus and the Cross of Calvary. The preaching began on Monday night with Bro. Dave Hardy preaching about “Authority” from Matthew 4:5-6. Then on Tuesday morning Missionary Robert Lewis preached.

...continued on page 3
FROM THE EDITOR
By Rich Farinella

Recently a friend inquired about the origins of the GIBF. I was able to dig out the very first issues of the Baptist Times to read over the determinations and moves of this new fellowship written by several involved participants. It was as if I were breathing a breath of fresh air in the midst of the stale overcast of current theological surrender and practical degradations. Thank the Lord for what He is doing today in our midst! By the way – every back issue of the Times will be available through the GIBF website at www.GIBF.org by the time you read this. This will bless pastors and missionaries on foreign fields who find it difficult to get copies of back issues.

One reason the Global Independent Baptist Fellowship was formed was to provide a fellowship of preachers who are clear about opposing the blurring of the ecclesiological and separational kind of nonsense so prevalent in religious circles today. While that is just one aspect of this new fellowship (the negative purpose of origin), that doesn’t characterize what we are for. You would have to come to a meeting to see for yourself the spirit and attitude of encouragement, preaching, church planting and missions that characterize a GIBF meeting. The reports in this issue on the last GIBF meet-

ing give a splendid portrayal on how things went in Oregon. Hopefully, God will grant us comparable meetings in the future.

New GIBF leadership was elected in Oregon; Kevin Folger – Moderator, Dennis Fountain – Vice Moderator and Marshall Stevens – Secretary. Dick Webster announced Robert Lewis as an addition to the GIBM team to aid in communications. It is also encouraging to report the advancements of the Global Independent Baptist Missions (GIBM) in the business meeting. $525 monthly support was raised from attending pastors. New directors were appointed: Mario Monette, Scott Naill, Keith Shumate, Robert Stevens, Russell Tyree and Kenneth Walters.

On to Florida for the next national GIBF Meeting! You’ve never seen a church so excited and on-board with preparations to roll out the red carpet than Bro. Bruce Turner and Westgate Baptist Church in Tampa. February 21-23, 2005 promises to be a warm and wonderful time of encouragement and blessing. Check out the details in the ad on page 6.

A big “thanks” is in order for Bro. Robert Lewis who manages the GIBF website - www.GIBF.org. Clicking onto the site will give access to such pages as minutes of past meetings, Global Baptist Times, GIB Missions, regional contacts, GIBF mail sign-up, future meetings, purpose statement, Articles of Faith and elected leadership. Email addresses for present GIBF leaders are as listed:

Moderator: Kevin Folger - pastor@clevelandbaptist.org
Vice Moderator: Dennis Fountain - defountain@juno.com
Secretary: Marshall Stevens - King1611@AOL.COM
GIBMissions: Dick Webster - libertybaptistlwe@juno.com
GIBF Communications: Robert Lewis - RobertLewis@cox.net

GIBF’S NEW MODERATOR continued from page 1...

man could say that it was his doing, but rather could only point to Heaven and say, “Look what God did.” I think of that story when I think of this fledgling fellowship. There are some that probably would mock our positions and our ability to do anything of lasting value. Just like the Sanballats and Tobiah’s of Nehemiah’s day mocked him and those who were willing to follow him in the reconstruction of the wall of Jerusalem. Nehemiah and his people were not distracted or discouraged from the great work that God had given them to do. They realized that it was not by them that the task was accomplished, but it was through God and His favor that it was completed. I, for one, am thrilled that it is not dependent on my ability, personality or power to get the job done, but rather it is dependent on the omnipotent power of our God to accomplish His work through us.

Some people may ask, “Why is a fellowship necessary?” Let me preface my response by...continued on page 3

Pitch In!
A small town announced the annual blessing of the king to their humble hamlet. Notice went out to all citizens that they would all be able to pitch in by offering their most expensive wine in a large vat to be used at the reception of their dignitary. One by one the townspeople contributed the gift of their cherished bottle. The day of the celebration the entire city was shocked to find that when they dipped out of the vat, they found nothing but water therein. We’ve heard of water turning to wine, but never wine turning to water! How embarrassing to discover that everyone thought of the same way to save their personal stash – pour in a bottle of water. One bottle wouldn’t matter... would it?

Do you get a blessing from the Global Baptist Times? Then pitch in! We’ll be able to do much more with everyone contributing and you’ll be able to extend your influence. We are now stepping into our fourth year of publication of the Baptist Times. We have learned a lot about preachers, missionaries, and great fundamental works in operation around us each and every day. As we continue to grow each year in subscription numbers, and to further increase the quality and availability of papers sent out, the cost of maintenance increases. An average edition will see about 2,500 papers printed. Every issue sent out is a step of faith. Please consider making a one time donation with the envelope provided within the pages of this issue. Don’t forget to include the names of other preachers or full time Christian workers you know who would like to receive their complementary subscription. ($15 per year for all others.) Anything will help. Please consider a donation... a real one. Pitch in!

Charlie helps out with publication, accounting and mailings.

The “Brown” Bible
Local Church Bible Publishers printed a limited edition bible in honor of my dad, Dennis J. Brown. It sells for $75 with $40 of that price going to Heartland Baptist Bible College, designated for church planters. This Bible has the Scofield text, great cowhide cover, (Brown, of course!), and dedication page in honor of dad’s love for church planting. This is another way to help a church planter.

The “Brown Bible” will be made available at this year’s Home Missions Church Planting Conference held on campus at Heartland Baptist Bible College January 9 – 13, 2005. If you desire a Bible, but cannot make it to the meeting, you can order one by mail at:

Yakima Bible Baptist Church
6201 Tieton Drive
Yakima, WA 98908

Thanks for your burden for church planting.
-- David J. Brown
GIBF Has Great Meeting in Albany, Oregon continued from page 1...


On Wednesday morning the great old-fashioned preaching of pastor Rich Farinella continued on the subject of “Such a Time as This” from Esther 4:14. Pastor Bob Gass brought a great message on “The Biblical Foundation of Music”, from Colossians 3:16-17. Evan-

GIBF’S NEW MODERATOR continued from page 2...

saying that we, the preachers of the GIBF, know that God’s ordained institution to reach the world is the church. There is only one type of church that is sanctioned and approved by God as found in the pages of the New Testament. That is a local, visible body of baptized believers who are adhering to Biblical doctrine and are determined to fulfill the Great Commission. So, the extreme Independent Baptist preachers say that if that is the case why do we need a fellowship? I answer that by saying that in the New Testament you find influence from one church to the next. Paul was a man of influence and his ministry was one of church planting and discipleship. He was a powerful preacher and used his life to influence others across the vast Roman Empire. Not only did Paul use his influence in the church, but he also used his influence to encourage young preachers like Titus and Timothy. Every church and every preacher has some influence and should use it to further God’s work of church planting both locally and globally.

Paul made this statement in I Corinthians 15:33, “Be not deceived, evil communications corrupt good manners.” He knew that if you associate with the wrong crowd you will be negatively influenced. We all tell our people that they need to practice separation, to be careful about the negative influence of the world so they can be pleasing and acceptable to God. Yet how can a preacher stay straight and true unless he does the same thing personally, as well as in the critical realm of his fellowship? Even if you are a preacher, evil communications do corrupt good manners. If you run with the disobedient and worldly crowd and those who reject our historic and Biblical faith, it will affect you. I think one of the reasons we are seeing some of the great Independent Baptist churches of the past move to the non-denominational crowd is because preachers that are coming on the scene have been negatively influenced by the worldly popular, market-driven mentality of the Bill Hybels, Rick Warrens and such.

I have specifically chosen to be careful in my associations. Recently, I had a man preach for me who I can never have in my pulpit again. It was not because he did a poor job preaching or even anything he said while he was preaching. It was because when we fellowshipped after the meeting, I could tell that he was moving in a wrong direction. It was subtle, but I could tell the way he was leaning. I realized at that point that he had already determined the direction in which he was going to go. I do not want to stand before the Lord someday and have to answer for my lack of discernment in bringing a wrong influence into the church.

So, the reason I have chosen to hang my hat with you men is because together we are a potent influence for good and for God. I want my grandkids to be raised in a Biblical church and I want them to know the songs in their hymn book. I want my people to be influenced by good men who hold the same positions as their pastor. I want to use my influence in the lives of other young preachers to walk in the Old Paths which is the good way!

It is my prayer that our fellowship stays effective in the realm of being a positive influence with being Fundamental and Baptist. Preachers are going to shift; some will move to the left. I would like to encourage as many as I can in my lifetime to stay the course and stand in that good, old path where our Baptist forefathers have stood since the beginning.
HEARTLAND BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE GROWTH: PAST – PRESENT – FUTURE continued from page 1...

As we began this 2004 fall semester, for the first time we did not see an increase in the enrollment. The enrollment was 442. No panic, and certainly no big let-down. In fact, we could see it coming, having had our largest graduating class in the spring and evaluating the number of applications for the fall. Also, each year we have experienced increase, we never went around with high flies, slapping each other on the back saying, “We did it!” and “It worked!” We thanked God for those He sent and had school. That is precisely what we are doing this year. We are enjoying a good school year with a wonderful student body. Concerning the future, there is one question I am asked often. “Bro. Davison, did you hear of a Bible college starting . . .?” and they name several places where new Bible colleges are beginning. My answer is that I am aware of the proliferation of Bible colleges being started in churches here and there around the country. Then the question is asked as to whether or not the new schools appealing to prospective students will affect the enrollment at Heartland. Of course I really cannot predict what effect, if any, the new colleges will have. I would guess that they may have some students that would have at least strongly considered Heartland Baptist Bible College, but that is only a guess.

This is where it is important, in my opinion, to have a proper philosophy about future growth. We know how Heartland Baptist Bible College got from 1998 through 2004. The working of the hand of God has been so very evident; so evident, in fact, that I refuse to sit around ring ing my hands about whether we will continue to grow. Nor, God willing, will we fall into the desperation trap and develop a competitive mentality that could not be pleasing to the Lord. We want folks to be aware of the presence of Heartland Baptist Bible College and we desire that prospective students know of the spirit of the school and what she offers. High-powered marketing will probably not be a part of our strategy. God has gotten the students to us that we are supposed to work with, and we have all confidence that He will continue to do so. We will work hard; we will continue to accept the challenge of former school president Terry Randolph to strive for excellence and we will encourage pastors, missionaries, youth workers, and prospective students to visit and prayerfully consider Heartland Baptist Bible College. We will trust God to send us just the students He desires us to train. If that means more growth; wonderful. If it does not mean eye-popping growth, that is His business. Continued numerical growth (while we expect it) is not a must for success. Faithfulness to God and trust in Him is a must!

Kenneth Walters Visits The Ukraine

Dear Friends,

I just returned home from a teaching trip to the Ukraine. We (Neil Cadwell & Carl Lenderman) left on September 2 arriving in Khmelinitskiy on the next evening. We spent the week at Grace Baptist Church preaching on Sunday and then Monday through Friday taught the Word at Slavic Baptist Institute to a good group of students from three area nations. Classes started at 8:30AM and ended at 4PM. The age of the students ranged from the early twenties to one dear man age 66 years old. The music in the School as well as the Church was magnificent. On Saturday evening I spent a good deal of time talking with the Pastor of Grace Baptist Church. We talked of the days when Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union and how they met in houses in small groups so as not to alert the police. We talked about the persecution they endured. They are still troubled that they at any time could again lose their freedom to worship the Lord in public place such as in their Churches, youth camps and street meetings and tent revivals.

On Sunday afternoon Brother Carl and I took a walk into the city with the guidance of our interpreters, saw what was the town square where when under the Soviet thumb, they held their May Day parades showing off their military might. A statue of Lenin once stood in the square, now removed and into a remote, back side grass and weeds overgrown part of the public park. I thought, how many millions of deaths and untold suffering he is accountable before Almighty God. Later at that night at Church, I heard the choir sing, “I Love To Tell The Story” and I thought of the terrible message of Lenin and the wonderful message of the Gospel now being spread throughout the Ukraine. What a blessing.

There is much fruit from the Slavic Baptist Institute and trained in the Word preachers are now spreading out throughout the area nations pastoring Churches, starting churches, and winning Ukrainians to Christ.

There was and still is such a hunger for the Word of God. The average pastor has little to no theological training and the Slavic Baptist Institute serves as a valuable tool for training the preachers of that part of the world. We ended the week by preaching twice on Sunday, September 12. The people treated us royally. My heart is stirred for the Ukrainian people.

I thank the Lord and Southside Baptist Church, the Church I pastor for giving me the opportunity to go and spend the time serving there.

Regional GIBF Meetings

Texas GIBF Going and Growing

The Texas GIBF met for the first time last March at Landmark Baptist Church, Red Oak, Texas. Over thirty pastors and missionaries, along with members and guests were present. Bro. Chad Spence (featured in picture) was ordained and appointed as associate pastor with Bro. Shumate, current senior pastor. Bro. Keith Shumate was the first elected moderator for the Texas fellowship. Bro. Charles Trull was subsequently elected as the Vice Moderator. Three consecutive meetings were held in June at Bible Baptist Church in Ennis, Bro. Dennis Webster, pastor, September at Twin Cities Baptist Temple in Wake Village, Bro. Charles Trull, pastor and December at Bethany Baptist Church in Lubbock, Bro. Kevin Ob rien, pastor.

Regional GIBF Meetings in the Northeast

Grace Bible Baptist Church in Vernon, Connecticut hosted the Northeast Regional meeting of the GIBF on November 4th and 5th. The turnout was outstanding with preachers from seven states and the Province of Quebec attending.

The format allowed for preaching on Thursday night, all day Friday and Friday night. Delicious meals were provided by the church family. The emphasis throughout the meeting was not only on church planting and missions, but on being able to stand faithful during difficult times. It was a very encouraging meeting and great expectations were voiced concerning future meetings of this nature. The next one will be hosted April 7 & 8, 2005 in New York City, by Pete Montoro and the Open Door Bible Baptist Church.
GIBF Meeting - Albany, Oregon

Sounds Good to Me
By Missionary Mike Haley

II CORINTHIANS 14: 7-8
And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?

We all understand the purpose of Paul’s letter to the Corinthian people. He is dealing with problems in the Corinthian church and in this particular chapter with the problems that had arisen in the church over the use of tongues. The illustration he used here could not have been better. The key words are “distinction” and “uncertainty.” He was demonstrating to the Corinthian believers that the gift of tongues, the Biblical use of tongues, will always “sound” right because it will be a language clearly understood, that communicates the gospel, edifies the church, and exhorts the Savior. He further illustrated the point by saying that if a man blows a trumpet, and something about the sound of the trumpet is “uncertain” no one will prepare for the battle because he is not sure if he is hearing the right sound — the one that serves as his signal to prepare for battle.

I think everyone would agree that what we heard at the September meeting of the GIBF was definitely a distinct and a certain sound and one I recognized as the right kind of sound in the day that we live in. And may I say that it certainly stirred me up for the battle. Hallelujah!! The preaching, singing, praying, and testimonies could not have produced a more certain sound and I believe that every soldier of the Lord walked away encouraged, and strengthened in the things of God. This was the first national meeting I had ever attended and the spirit of the meeting, the hospitality of Brother Smith and his people, and the red-hot services sure was refreshing. On Tuesday morning the Lord whispered this verse in my ear and spoke these thoughts to my heart.

I felt compelled to share them with you in hopes that they will encourage you in the Lord and encourage others to come to national GIBF meetings in the future so that we can hear the right things to exhort us in these days of uncertainty.

Inspiried By The Sounding Of The Trumpet
From the outset of the meeting, preaching was the priority. I want to praise the Lord that we still have a place to go to and men who will stand in that place and sound out the Word of the Lord. We live in a day when preaching has become secondary, entertainingly professional, and powerless. Oh how God anointed and blessed the preaching of His Word as men of God stood and blasted out the great truths that are so needed in our day of drift and decline. I was inspired and my burden was renewed to go back to my place and PREACH THE WORD.

The gospel message of the saving power of Jesus Christ still needs to be heralded forth to everyone who is lost without Christ and in our meeting one could certainly hear the clear and distinct message that we must seek the salvation of the lost, stand against the tides of compromise and ecumenicalism, and preach the everlasting truth of God’s Word until Jesus comes again.

Identifying With The Sound Of The Message
We are all aware that the beat of the drums of new evangelicalism, modernism, and ecumenicalism are getting louder and stronger and that many Baptist pastors, missionaries, and Christian people are being deceived into thinking that if the gospel is to be effective in this modern day it must somehow find a way to harmonize with the ideals of these movements. Spirit led, educated, Bible believing men understand that we simply cannot dance to this tune if the true gospel of Christ and the cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith are to be preserved. Brother, there was no difficulty in discerning the message that emanated from this meeting. I am thankful that I could say a hearty “AMEN” to every message and that I could identify with what I heard as being the pure and un-compromised truth of God. I was especially blessed to hear this message sound out without the off-key din of self-righteous, uncompromising, pharisaic, hypocrisy. Preaching “the truth in love” is still the Biblical standard that should govern us as we stand against what is wrong in an attempt to preserve and further that which is right. Brother Davidson did a wonderful job in the closing message of the week to illustrate (glad he can preach — no hope for him as an artist — amen?) that great truth and to remind us once again that we will not help those who walk in error by joining hands with them. I appreciated the balance and the harmony of his message. I recognized the melody right off. It is an oldie but a goodie that says, “Hate the sin and love the sinner.” I believe the Lord has that one on the most favorites list don’t you?

Appreciated The Source Of The Preaching
When I was pastoring, before God led us to serve as missionaries in Romania, I did not frequent fellowship meetings very often. It was not that I did not long for the fellowship. I was starving for it. But I just grew weary of all the “man-made agendas” and the “political schemes” that seemed to take precedence over Bible preaching. It just seemed that it was a difficult thing to go to a fellowship meeting and hear good fashioned Bible preaching. The source (content) of the preaching at this meeting was the good of B-I-B-L-E. What a joy it was to sit and hear gifted and skilled men of God stand and bring forth truth from the Word of God line upon line and precept upon precept. This type of preaching feeds, refreshes, challenges, convicts, and inspires men of God. Paul told Timothy, “Preach THE WORD!!”

A Sovereign Sound — A God Blessed Movement
I believe the GIBF is a God blessed movement. The sound I heard from the meeting was a sovereign sound. In other words — you could hear the Lord in it and feel safe to be a part of it. It was His message, His ideals, His agenda, and His business that was voiced at the meeting in both the preaching and the singing. Praise the Lord — let’s keep it that way. Amen? I so pray that our fellowship continues to be a fellowship with the right message and the right mission. May we sound out an alarm of sincere help and concern to those who are drifting away from the Biblical truths we hold so dear. Let us never be guilty of doing ill-spited harm and hurt. God help us to cry out with the message of hope for those who are lost and dying without Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Oh that we might remain faithfully committed to the mission, the co-mission that is, to win souls, disciple them, and plant strong Baptist churches. May we preach “no other gospel” than the true gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and let us endeavor to do all we can to work for Him, with Him, and through Him, as He builds His church. I don’t know about you, but it sure sounds good to me. Amen?
"...I Will Build My Church..."

West Gate Baptist Church is excited to host the February meeting of the Global Independent Baptist Fellowship. We are in full planning mode with a desire that you will enjoy a meeting planned for your encouragement. There will be great Bible teaching, conservative and uplifting music, and a staffed nursery for all services.

Plan to come early and stay late, enjoying the gorgeous scenery and warm temperatures to refresh yourselves.

Deep sea fishing on Thursday, February 24 and golf on Friday, February 25 will complete a great week.

The first fifty pastors to pre-enroll will have their golf or fishing trip fully paid.

See you in February.
Bruce E. Turner

GIBF Meeting Hotel List
February 21-23, 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Homestead</th>
<th>(813) 243-1913</th>
<th>$59.00/night</th>
<th>5401 Beaumont Center Blvd. East</th>
<th>Tampa, FL 33634</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Studio Plus</td>
<td>(813) 886-5253</td>
<td>$89.00/night</td>
<td>4711 Memorial Hwy.</td>
<td>Tampa, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micotel</td>
<td>(813) 739-2244</td>
<td>$69.00/night</td>
<td>5405 North Church Ave.</td>
<td>Tampa, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courtyard by Marriot</td>
<td>(813) 925-8887</td>
<td>$95.00/night</td>
<td>4014 Tampa Rd.</td>
<td>Oldsmar, FL 34677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampton-Rocky Point</td>
<td>(813) 289-6262</td>
<td>$129.00/night</td>
<td>3035 Rocky Point Dr. North</td>
<td>Tampa, FL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the Mailbag

Hey Brother Rich:
I really enjoyed meeting you at the GIBF Meeting in Albany. I’m praying that the Lord so works that we can get you over here in our part of Romania sometime. Brother, I enjoyed your message. Thank you for preaching from the heart. Man the fellowship meeting really did me good and provided a needed charge for our return back to Romania.

Lord bless you, brother. We love you in the Lord!! As the Lord brings us to mind pray for us over here in Romania. We sure are excited to be back. It is 3:15 am here right now and I am suffering from reverse jet lag. Can’t sleep. Ah - Praise the Lord for plenty to do - Amen?

Looking Unto Jesus, Brother Mike Haley

Greetings in Christ’s Name, I don’t know if you recognize me, Bro. Farinella, but I just wanted you to know that I was thrilled to receive the Global Times today. As you can see, I am now in the North East but I am still in Gospel Music Evangelism and doing some interim work here in New England. I really enjoy reading about things and people I know. If I owe you anything, please send me a bill.

NORMAN H. FRINK, Harmony Real Estate
Dear Baptist Times,
I wanted to write and let you know how much I appreciated your article on ‘The Calvary Chapel Movement’. I pastor in Ames, Iowa, and being a college town, we have to cover about every flavor of religion that is possible. I would like it if you printed an inside view of a different group each issue. Thank you for your research and effort with this article.

Pastor Randy Abell
Heartland Baptist Church
Ames, Iowa
Bro. Abell, thanks for the note of appreciation. All recognition for the fine article goes to Bro. Rench, who did a good job of researching and reporting. We are glad to include any articles of interest and research that preachers send to the Times. -- Editor

Dear Sir:
We have recently changed our e-mail address from to... I enjoy the Baptist Times and don’t want to miss the letters from the preachers and missionaries. Please make the necessary changes so we will continue to receive both.

In His Service

To suppose that the eye with all its innvable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selections, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree.

-- Charles Darwin, Origin of Species, 1859
The Pastor’s Wife  
Ever been stuck in the mud?  
By Vickie Jett

Before we became the deans at Heartland Baptist Bible College, my husband pastored for nearly twenty years. Nine years were spent in Wyoming in the mountains where it snows nine months out of the year. Our first March there, we experienced a “spring thaw.” After months of frigid cold, frequent blizzards and about six feet of snow on the ground, this Texas girl was ready for spring! A Sunday came where the sun was shining and the blustery breeze had some warmth to it. Elated, I decided to walk to the church, which was just a half-block away down a dirt driveway. Putting our three-year-old son, Joshua, into his red Radio Flyer wagon, I loaded it with my Bible and purse. The drive looked dry to me, so off I set walking in my new dress shoes pulling the wagon behind me. Before long I realized that the road was muddy, but undeterred, I plowed ahead. However, it became harder and harder to lift my feet and step. Looking at my feet I realized that the mud was building around my shoes and step. Looking at my feet I realized that the mud was building around my shoes and step. Looking at my feet I realized that the mud was building around my shoes. The wheels became so caked in mud that my shoes were invisible inside the huge mudballs my feet had become. I was stuck! In frustration, I responded in the most logical way… I started crying; and of course my son then started crying! My calls for help went unanswered because he was laughing so hard. I suppose the spectacle of me stuck in the mud, my hair flying straight out in the wind, hanging on to a wagon half buried in mud, and my face contorted worse than my toddler son’s was quite a sight! I don’t remember how he rescued us; I only remember throwing away my shoes as we cleaned up again and then DROVE the car to church. My desire was right, my destination was right, but I went about it the wrong way and got stuck!

Through my years as a pastor’s wife, and now as Dean of Women, I have often felt the same way. Ladies were struggling with serious problems, and I wanted to help. Plowing forward, I only became more and more dragged down in the muddy weight of my own failures and efforts. I didn’t know how to help the ladies with the problems they were dealing with. I believed the Bible had all the answers, but I didn’t know what the answers were, where to go for the answers, or how to get them to implement it personally in their lives. My own stress level rose as I tried vainly to help them in my own flesh and knowledge, even igno-

I am not alone. People today are in trouble and are desperately looking for answers but are doing it the wrong way. While that may be expected in the unsaved world, unfortunately it is also true in the Christian realm, even among the Bible-believing Independent Baptist movement. They act as though God’s Word is inadequate or irrelevant to today’s society and problems. Believers are stuck, frustrated, and have lost direction. They often turn to modern Christian counseling which attempts to combine the Bible and secular psychological ideals. When Christians supplement scripture (God’s way) with psychology (man’s way), they give value to the psychology. Much of what is promoted and practiced today as Christian counseling is actually a compromise. However, since these are opposites, they cannot mix! Christian ‘experts’ and manuals are not the Bible, yet Christians often seek them first. They are trying to do a right thing, but the wrong way.

The right way is Biblical counsel which puts faith in God’s counsel alone. God has given us all the answers needed in the Bible. II Peter 1:3, “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

Biblical counseling is simply implementing intensive discipleship. It is in choosing to accept God’s love and His Word as the answer for all problems that people are delivered from the quagmire. Psalm 69:13-14, “…O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation. Deliver me out of the mire, and let me not sink: let me be delivered …”

We congratulate Mrs. Vickie Jett on the accomplishment of securing her Ph.D. in Biblical Counselling with Bethven Biblical Counselor’s Seminary.

Attention pastor’s wives: Any articles that you could send our way for this column would be greatly appreciated. Please e-mail them to Editor@BaptistTimes.org or by mail on disk to P.O. Box 570, Woodinville, WA, 98072. A photo of yourself would also be nice. Thanks for your participation!