

# BAPTIST TIMES

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February 2005

## DYNAMIC PREACHING

By Kevin Folger



I love good preaching. Being reared in a fundamental, Independent Baptist church, I was blessed to hear preaching that was spirit-anointed, dynamic and biblically sound in doctrine. At Cleveland Baptist Church, where I grew up and now pastor, I was privileged to hear some of the greatest preachers of the twentieth century. B.R. Lakin held revivals here when I was just a boy. Since Akron Baptist Temple was our mother church, I was able to hear Dr. Dallas Billington as well. Dr. Vick, Dr. Woodworth and Bill Dowell were some of the other great preachers I heard while growing up. Of course, my pastor was Dr. Roy Thompson, and that was like having thunder in the pulpit every service.

I understand the importance of preaching in our church and want people to know that there will always be someone in the pulpit *preaching*. On January 23, our region was hammered with terrible weather. About nine inches of snow had fallen and the temperature Sunday morning was in the single digits with wind chills well below zero.

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## A BALANCED MEAL

By Sam Davison President, Heartland Baptist Bible College



To begin, I wish to thank the Global Baptist Times editor for this space to address the pastors concerning the life of Heartland Baptist Bible College. I commend Pastor Rich Farinella for the excellent work in producing this publication. I, for one, do not want to take this effort for granted, nor the privilege.

Recently, I was meditating, which is a most productive exercise of the mind. On this occasion, the subject of my meditation was our students at Heartland, particularly those who will graduate in May. At church and on campus, I kept saying to different ones, "Now this is your third year, right?" One after another said, "No, Pastor, this is my last year. I graduate in May." My reply was, "No way!" With this on my mind, my meditation was about how swiftly four years (in some cases, five) pass. Then I was almost overwhelmed

by this question: Have we given them what they need? To think hard on this question sends a great wave of responsibility over my soul. They come to school, and in such a short time they leave. They came trusting us with four years of their life that they will not be allowed to recall and try again. It is one thing for us who teach, preach, and administer to remind the students of their responsibility all the while they are at HBBC. But it is another thing to come to grips with our responsibility to give them our very best, and not cheat them out of the best preparation we can provide. Obviously, we feel we can always improve. But absolute perfection is not the issue; a heart to give the students our best *is* the issue.

As I continued to meditate upon this, I thought of a well-balanced meal: red meat (Amen!), mashed potatoes (with gravy), corn, green beans, cabbage, and stuff like that. Some green salad and fruit salad would also be in order. Hot rolls, also. Apple pie and homemade ice cream should finish it off in good fashion. There you have the basic food groups and the variety of nutrients that contribute to your health and strength (and weight problems). With the energy received, I go about my way with little thought for which food did me the most good. They all did something for me.

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## A BIBLICAL AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF HOME MISSIONS

By Richard MacQueen - Church Planter



Excerpts taken from a message preached at the January '05 Home Missions Conference

In trying to set the tone for this message, I must confess to you, that although I have been involved in church planting my entire ministry, God has recently impressed upon me, how much more I could have accomplished for his glory, if I had been more focused on the principles of the text we shall examine.

Before we get into our text, I would like to address some points about missions in general, and look at this subject from a historical perspective. I say missions in general, because in reality we only have one mission. The Lord Jesus commissioned His church to propagate His gospel to every creature, by preaching and baptizing believers, and teaching them to observe whatsoever things He had commanded them.



The execution of this commission is spelled out clearly in Acts 1:8. "...**BOTH IN...**"

Over the last few months I have been researching the history of missions, and the more I researched, the more amazed I became of all that God has done, through so little; or through what one might say were less than ideal conditions. Though the bulk of what I have learned could not possibly be presented at this time, a brief summary would be very helpful in understanding some of the present

concepts regarding the starting of churches, and in some cases the lack thereof. If we studied history more carefully, we would repeat mistakes far less. Consider, if you will, that after the rapid spread of the gospel during the apostolic era, which was initiated by persecution, missions activity as we know it today was more or less dormant for the better part of the next sixteen centuries.

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**FROM THE  
EDITOR**  
**A Missions  
Emphasis**  
*By Rich Farinella*



We have more of an urgency today to spread the gospel here in the states by the New Testament plan and program of starting new churches than I can ever remember. Chalk it up to the trend of home mission conferences springing up and thriving all over the United States, an outreach effort of individual churches, Bible college focus, or just plain revival among God's people. Whatever the reasons, we rejoice as the task of reaching the world beginning at home moves to the forefront of our desire and efforts. This issue of the *Times* features this home missions emphasis with articles such as Richard MacQueen's classic "Perspective on Home Missions" and the pictorial report of the January Home Mission Conference, in Oklahoma City. Even in reporting on a Mexican mission field, parallels of home mission work are noted in Dan Lydick's report on a mission trip south of the border. And let's not forget to mark the offer of the new church planting resource book Bro. Lydick



edited which is now available at \$20 per set which can be purchased through Heartland Baptist Bible College.

Amazing strides in Russian missionary efforts are related by Missionary Jeff Williams' article on Independent Baptists in Russia. And talk about strides! – our own Global Independent Baptist Missions organization has surged ahead with the mission advisors meeting held in Cleveland last month and reported in this issue. We are eagerly anticipating their blueprints to be presented at the next GIBF meeting in Tampa, Florida, February 21-23, 2005.

All in all we are happy to be busy about reaching this world for Christ. Whether at home or abroad, being involved in obeying the Lord's commission to go into all the world, preaching the gospel to every creature – has got to be the grandest, most exhilarating occupation in all the world!

In Addition, February is the month we list the financial supporters of the *Baptist Times*. We are truly grateful for every contributor who, through generous and faithful support, make it possible to enjoy this publication. Needs and visions for the future of the newspaper

will be considered at the Tampa meeting. The powers that be tell me that by the time you receive this we'll have the new website with the past issues of the *Times* available to anyone with internet access to our GIBF.org – a great asset for our foreign missionaries! Gratitude here is in order for Bob Reed who has tirelessly worked on getting the web presentation up and running. Thanks, Bro. Reed.

By the time you get this paper the Tampa meeting will be in full swing. Bro. Bruce Turner and the fine folks at Westgate Baptist Church promise to offer the finest in preachers



meetings available today. See about the meeting on page 6. See you in Tampa, if the Lord tarries His coming!



**A BIBLICAL AND HISTORICAL  
PERSPECTIVE OF HOME MISSIONS**  
*continued from page 1...*

It could more aptly be described as **mission migration** rather than **mission thrust**. Groups of believers migrated to different countries through various forms of persecution, ranging from banishments on the milder side to cruelties and martyrdoms on the harsher side. These groups of believers known by different names, searched for lands where they might serve God freely, while they looked for a better country.

Persecution was not the only factor that curtailed missions activity, there were other obstructions; take for example their very limited communications - no e-mail, no mail period, no cell phones, no land-lines, no telegraphs, just heralds and messengers, no televisions, no news media (amen,) no newspapers, no publications, no printing presses, and therefore no Bible translations into other languages. They also faced very limited travel options compared to today - no planes, no trains, no motorized ships, no cars, no trucks, no bicycles, only very primitive modes of travel were available to them. These two limitations produced a third - limited fellowship. Churches in these centuries barely knew where other Bible believers were, never mind fellowship or cooperate with them in joint endeavors. There were no associations, no conventions, no fellowships, until the mid 1700's when a few began to take shape in England, and some of these to the churches extreme hurt.

Yet for all this, like a deep and mighty river with a slow but strong and ever-flowing current, God used these peoples to push the light of the glorious gospel through the pervading darkness of the middle ages. Thank God the gates of hell have not and will not prevail against the institution of God's church.

At the very end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century William Carey a Baptist, burst on the scene in England and would subsequently become known as the Father of Modern Missions, he wrote and stirred the Baptist brethren of England with his treaty entitled "An Inquiry into the Obligation of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathen." As a result the Baptist Missionary Society (the first of its kind) was organized out of a church in Kettering, England, Oct 2, 1792. In 1793 Bro. Carey was appointed a missionary by the society, and set sail for India. Thus Modern Missions as we somewhat know it today was birthed.

Meanwhile, here in America in the year 1800, the Boston Female Society for Missionary Purposes was formed. This is said to have been the first society in this country of a purely missionary character. In 1802 the Massachusetts Domestic Society was founded, in 1807 the Lake Missionary Society (upstate New York), in 1822 the Baptist Missionary Convention of the State of New York, in 1832 the American Baptist Home Mission Society.

What I found particularly of interest, was the

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fact that these were all as their names mostly imply, Home Mission Societies. Their primary focus was toward the Black Race and to Native American Indians. At the turn of the century as these societies emerged, they started using the terms **foreign** and **home missions** to distinguish the type of missions thrust they were focusing on.

In regards to America's involvement in foreign missionary service, allow me to quote a portion of an article found in the Baptist Encyclopedia - compiled by William Cathcart, regarding the Triennial Convention. "In 1813 American Baptists, who till then had been chiefly confined to home missionary work, without any general organization, were aroused as to their duty in respect to foreign missions as by an electric shock. News arrived that Mr. and Mrs. Judson and Mr. Rice, part of the first company of missionaries sent out by the American Board (Congregationalists), after leaving this country, through the study of God's Word had embraced Baptist sentiments, had been baptized at Serampore, and now appealed for support to their Baptist Brethren in the United States."

In short on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 1814 the Triennial Convention was formed, entitled such for its delegates were to meet three times a year, for the express purpose of propagating the gospel to foreign heathen lands. It later became known as the Baptist General Convention for Missionary Purposes, this organization split in 1845 (nearly 20 yrs. before the Civil War) chiefly over slave owning issues. The Southern states formed the Southern Baptist Convention, while the Northern states that remained with the Baptist General Convention became known as the American Baptist Missionary Union

Both the Northern and the Southern states in their respective associations continued the work of both foreign and home missions, and earnestly spread the gospel.

On the Southern front at the turn of the century, the convention was headed for tumultuous times, as in 1900 the Texas Baptists became divided over the issue of church sovereignty verses convention sovereignty, those favoring local church sovereignty formed the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas. Similarly, in 1901 the State Association of Missionary Baptist Churches was organized in Arkansas over the same issue. This ultimately led to the forming of a national association in 1905 called the General Association of Baptist Churches. In 1924 this association gave way to the American Baptist Association under which it has operated ever since. (The Missionary Baptist movement traces its roots to this association.)

It should be noted, that all this happened about 25 years before the Southern Baptist Convention furthered their **centralizing controlling practices** through the adoption of their **cooperative program**, which basically caused many other splits including the forming of the World Baptist Fellowship, which in turn split and formed the Baptist Bible Fellowship in 1950. Many of us are

familiar with the B.B.F.'s history. I personally thank God for the many men that surrendered to preach and went to New England to start churches during the sixties and seventies, as well as to other parts of our nation. There was a great excitement concerning church planting at that time, men would graduate, pack up all their belongings (that oftentimes could fit into a mid-size car,) and go to a place and start a church. **Unfortunately, many of these blessed men had adopted the mission philosophy of "one and done".** God called



them to a city, they started a church, God blessed their efforts, a strong church was formed, and young men would hear them in meetings as I often did declare in one way or another, such things as "Whewwww, I'm sure glad that part of my life is over," or "I wouldn't want to do that again". The result of this attitude, has led to a spiritually impoverished state in the New England area. As many of these churches (not all mind you) have been swept up in the progressive movement that is sweeping our independent Baptist ranks. Even if some of those same churches tried to start a church today, that which would be produced would hardly resemble what their church looked like when it began twenty or thirty years before. Having now given 2000 years of mission history in a nutshell, save for one little period I will mention in a moment a few thoughts.

First, have you ever considered why so many preachers here in America believe they are called to a city, while so many foreign missionaries describe their call as being to a country or to a people? When as I stated at the beginning **we all really only have one mission.** Remember the first time the terms foreign and home missions started to be used, was by mission societies. Some of them female mission societies. Many of these societies solicited funds from churches, put the funds in a joint pool, established a salary for the missionaries they commissioned, and that they appointed, as well as their replacements, **and considered themselves the establishing agent of the churches planted.** The scriptures make no such distinction. We are to go to every creature, and we are to operate in multiple directions at the same time. **"...Both in Jerusalem, and in Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."**

I'm not here to argue with anybody over their calling to a particular place. I know that God places many a man in a place to pastor. I believe in the call of God. I believe that the call of God is a call to preach wherever God may direct, more than it is a call to preach at a particular city. Paul charged Timothy and said *"I charge thee therefore before God,*

*and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."* And a few verses later - *"But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."*

Consider the following examples - Acts 13:2 *"As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."*

Notice that the scripture states, **"for the work whereunto I have called them"**, and not to **the place** that I have called them. What was this work? It was the one and only work God has commissioned His churches to be doing - the work of the Great Commission. Going everywhere, preaching to everyone, baptizing those that believe, assembling them in order that they might be taught to observe all things whatsoever He had commanded, and in the process of time, organizing them into an independent church with an elder ordained over them. This is the pattern of N.T. missions exhibited by the early churches. This is the pattern we expect our overseas missionaries to follow, but in many cases do not apply to our stateside churches.

Acts 13:49 *"And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region."*

Acts 14:6,7 *"They were ware of it, and fled unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about: And there they preached the gospel."*

Acts 14:21-23 *"And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed."*

This is the pattern that was used to start and establish churches in the scriptures. As Paul began his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey one of his chief concerns was, as the scripture states in Acts 15:36, *"And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do."*

The scripture narrative on what they found was as follows, Acts 16:4,5 *"And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily."*

After this chief concern was satisfied, Paul desired to repeat this pattern in other regions, He looked to Asia, but was forbidden to go by

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## HOME MISSIONS ON A FOREIGN FIELD

When the subject of Home Missions comes up, we here in the states look no farther than our borders.



However, recently several of us found this principle applies in every country around the globe.

Early last fall, Bro. Jose Ramos asked me if I'd be interested to go with him and a few other preachers to tour and preach in several churches on the southern coastal area of Mexico. We would be in a different church and town every day, two of which were out of his church in Yakima, Washington. Eventually, Bro. Rich Farinella, a deacon from his church (Bro. Rob Gascoigne) and his son David, myself, and Bro. Jose Ramos left Seattle early Monday morning, January 24<sup>th</sup> arriving in Puerto Vallarta shortly after noon.

I had never been in Mexico, and did not know what to expect. I did have great expectations in viewing this mission field, but what we all experienced was far beyond what we even imagined. I had heard many horror stories of Mexico, but of course these involved encounters with border towns. Far into the interior, in the states of Jalisco and Colima, with the direction of Bro. Ramos, we were able to go places, preach, and communicate with people which would have been impossible due to the language barriers. We found these people to be gracious, friendly, and very softhearted.

Even in tourist town of Puerto Vallarta the first night, we meandered down narrow cobblestone streets in our



rented van for several miles to a young Baptist church. Due to the difficulty in finding the church, we were an hour late. Many had left, but after knowing of our arrival, they all came back to this church out in the open air, with dirt floors, dim lighting, and tarps for a roof. After Bro. Ramos and I both preached in these primitive conditions, many of the congregation came forward and kneeled in the dirt with their good clothes, all happily giving God their very best.

We traveled the next day for about 6 hours to the little community of La Concha, Jalisco. Here a young preacher, Fernando Antonio, and several of his people met us at his humble home (outdoor kitchen with wood cooking stove) to serve us a wonderful meal before the services. This young preacher had been an interdominational preacher, but became convinced in the Scriptures of Baptist doctrine. He had met another preacher out of Bro. Ramos' ministry a few hours away in the town of Tomatlan. At that time that pastor,

Jose Navarro, pastored a mission out of Bro. Ramos' church in Yakima. Upon the authority from Templo Bautista in Yakima, Bro. Navarro then baptized Bro. Antonio. Thus began this work in La Concha. (Home missions in the country of Mexico!). Again, it was an open air service, with dirt floors, however, on property the church owned, with plans for building in the future. Bro. Farinella preached, and most of the church came forward in the invitation, kneeling again in the dirt in their good clothes.

That night we drove to Colima, in the state of Colima, a city of 500,000. After leaving Puerto Vallarta we saw only a handful of white people except us, even in Colima. This church in Colima was a mission work out of another church in Colima pastored by a missionary from the states. Again, it was an open air service with a metal roof, but a mostly concrete floor. Bro. Ramos preached this service, and there was no interpreter for us. A unique experience to say the least. Several were again at the altar, two for salvation. One was an older gentleman who was visiting for the 1<sup>st</sup> time. Also, a very special couple we met there had moved from Victory Baptist Church in Tecoman, Colima to help plant this work with the Pastor. He accompanied the singing with his guitar, and he and his wife sang wonderful, Godly music. He was blind, but had such a great spirit. Additionally, the food we ate in Colima and most places was sensational. The Mexican food in the states will never be the same.

Thursday night we were in services at the church in Tecoman. This was the only long, established church with fine facilities that we attended, but pastored by a good Mexican man. Bro. Farinella preached, and David Gascoigne gave his testimony as Bro. Ramos interpreted. Four were saved that night. They also baptized five that night (two of those were ones who just received Christ). This church really "A-mened" and were such a blessing to us all, and my how they sang.

After sacrificing by staying at a classy Hotel on the beach in Manzanillo, Colima. We opened the window with the waves splashing on the shore. The temperature was perfect, just a slight breeze, stars shining, and no bugs. We also had the beach to ourselves as the Hotel was almost empty. It was such a great trial, but someone had to do it.

Probably the greatest blessing was on Friday. We drove back to Tomatlan, Jalisco for special ordination services that night. The pastor there, Bro. Jose Navarro was called to preach out of Bro. Ramos' ministry in Yakima. He had left a good paying job here in the states to go back to his people to preach the Gospel under very primitive conditions. Also, Bro. Antonio from La Concha had come with several of his people to

be ordained along with Bro. Navarro. The interrogation was thorough, much more so than mine ever was. When finished, we had no doubt about these men being sound Baptists. We even tried some trick questions, but their resolve and convictions were firm. Also, since the church there is on the edge of town, a man in the church used the van to bring 3 loads of people to the services. They are the only Baptist church in the county, and Catholicism

seems to have little influence there. They packed this little building. I was to preach "The Charge", but due to the number of visitors, Bro. Ramos

preached a message on Salvation first. As the invitation was given, 17 people responded for Salvation. After they trusted Christ, each one gave their testimony. As they gave their testimony, four others trusted Christ right there in their seats. It was overwhelming! Later after the services, another teenager trusted Christ who had been helping with the children. This church needs desperately a van or bus. We believe he can reach his whole area if the transportation were available. If you could help with this, please contact Bro. Ramos or myself. We are trying to raise the needed funds for this need.

We then proceeded with the ordination services. It was so special, and both churches unanimously voted to ordain these men of God. I preached the charge as Bro. Ramos interpreted, and it was truly one of the greatest joys in my life as these people hung on every word. After the services, Bro. Ramos had brought new top of the line Spanish Bibles for both men with their respective names imprinted on them. They were overjoyed, and Bro. Antonio, who had been praying for a new Bible, was almost in tears. He, beaming, proudly showed it to his wife, his people, and anyone who would take interest. Both Bro. Farinella and I plan to bring teens and/or our men down in the future to help with the building of the new, much larger auditorium Bro. Navarro is constructing. The potential is so great.

This was truly one of the greatest experiences of my life. Though we were exhausted arriving back home, it was a good exhaustion. Our vision has been expanded. We saw home missions works in all parts of the world. At every church we saw missions boards filled with letters of both home and foreign missionaries. Each church understood the principle of "Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).



## DYNAMIC PREACHING

*continued from page 1...*

The roads were not in good shape. As a result, we were not able to run our buses and our drive-in attendance was down considerably. However, I believe that even though the weather hindered many from attending, God was still in the service and lives were changed by spirit-empowered preaching.

If you want to know why our country is a mess today, why homes are falling apart, and why the sexual revolution has taken over our culture, look no further than the churches of our country! The typical evangelical church will not confront the sinful issues in this post modern culture. Preacher, what is your church known for? Is there power in the pulpit? What motivates your preaching?

If we are not careful, we will begin to think like the world - the only thing that matters is the size of your congregation. I heard a preacher once say, 'God is more concerned with the sort of church than the size of the church.' What he meant was: God is not looking strictly at the numbers, but at the doctrinal position and the spiritual integrity of the congregation. Truly, there are some market driven churches that have swelling numbers, but their impact for Christ, as measured by holy living within their membership, is non-existent. In such churches, you will never hear a negative sermon. It isn't that what they preach is wrong, but they refuse to preach about what is wrong.

What is the need of the hour? We need churches that have proper doctrine and power in the pulpit. We need churches that are led by God. We need preachers who believe the Bible, who walk with God throughout the week, who spend the necessary time preparing a heaven sent message, and then who deliver it with the power of the Holy Spirit.

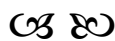
One of the things I love about the Global Independent Baptist Fellowship is that when we get together, we know that we will be challenged by red hot preaching. As I look at the guidelines for hosting a GIBF National Meeting, I see that those who are asked to speak must adhere to our fellowship's doctrinal position. In a day when many are minimizing doctrine, we are a group of preachers who realize the importance of doctrine. Doctrine unifies those of like-minds and separates those who don't agree. We cannot have a good fellowship when we disagree about doctrinal issues. The importance of doctrinal agreement cannot be overstated. It is what makes our fellowship sweet and the preaching hot!

Let me encourage you to clear your calendar and attend one of the national meetings of the GIBF. You and your church will benefit by this investment of time and money. We need to encourage one another, and our churches need preachers who are refreshed and challenged. Those two things happen at the GIBF. You will be challenged in your work as you walk with God, and you will be refreshed by the preaching.

Please join me in praying for these upcoming meetings:

- *February 21-23* – Westgate Baptist Church in Tampa, Florida ñ Bruce Turner, host pastor
- *May 9-12* – Heartland May Fellowship Meeting on the campus of Heartland Baptist Bible College in Oklahoma City
- *September 19-21* – Buchanan Avenue Baptist Church in Sioux City, Iowa.

I look forward to seeing you at each of these meetings.



## CUSTOM "QUALITY" WOODWORKING

*Pulpit, Score-tables, Bookcases and Much More*

Bro. Mark Lovell has been a member at Woodin Valley Baptist Church since 1994. He has served the Lord in many capacities and has been a blessing in many ways! The Lord



has given Bro. Mark the carpentry skills and tools needed to build a number of items around WVBC like fine wooden lecterns (pulpits), "heavy-duty" superior score tables for the



Christian school and a number of props to use for VBS, activities and cantatas. He has a great knack for woodworking and an unmistakable eye for high quality. Best of all, his woodwork can be custom built to fit needs at a price that doesn't require a loan! Wooden pulpits and furniture can be very expensive, but Bro. Mark can meet and exceed the offered quality for a fraction of the cost.

Bro. Mark can be contacted at (360) 668-0880 or email - [Jumps@aol.com](mailto:Jumps@aol.com). He would enjoy the opportunity to communicate with you directly to help in any way possible.

## A BALANCED MEAL

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When a student graduates from Heartland Baptist Bible College and heads out to the gospel ministry, I pray he's had a four year balanced meal, every part of the experience contributing to their ability to have a productive life.



The Bible classes will all help. The theology courses are a necessary part of the diet. The classes involving practical aspects of the Lord's

work are vitally important. Chapel services should add major inspiration to work hard and be faithful and true. Dorm life and campus life can also be a help (though some may be out of school years before they realize it).

Another major part of the balance meal, and one that I am personally greatly concerned about, is *church life*. I want our students to receive all they need from the pulpit. We want them to carry a music influence from the church that will be healthy for their whole ministry. Our desire is that they taste of a model Sunday school, bus ministry, children's ministry, and soul winning program, and that every ministry offered at Southwest Baptist Church will contribute to them in a positive and nutritious way. We want them to see that a "big church" can be a loving, caring, and friendly church. We want them to see that missions is the heartbeat of God and must be the same to His church. I pray they will be nourished by being a part of a church that carries on its business without strife and pettiness.

Yes, the four years pass so quickly. I purpose along with our Executive Vice President Jeff Copes, our faculty and administrators, and all our directors that we will not rest from the effort to give HBBC students what they need for the work ahead. I want to meet former students and graduates out in the field and be able to shake their hands and look them in the eye with a clear conscience. In no way do I believe that "we have it all together" and that there is not room for improvement; but the desire is that we give our students our very best so that they will go out nurtured and strong for the work of the ministry.

Yes, meditation is a healthy exercise. From that day, I have been even more grateful for the privilege of investing in our students and making the investment together with so many good pastors and servants of God.

Pastor Sam Davison  
President, Heartland Baptist Bible College







## Global Independent Baptist Fellowship

FEBRUARY 21-23, 2005



**Host Pastor and Wife**  
Dr. Bruce E. Turner  
Reva Turner

**Host City**  
Tampa, Florida



**Host Church**  
West Gate Baptist Church

## "...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 preaching, 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 your golf or fishing trip fully paid.

See you in February,  
Bruce E. Turner

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Visit [westgateministries.com](http://westgateministries.com)  
for hotel, golf, and fishing information.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
7:00am		Continental Breakfast	Continental Breakfast
9:00am		Arlo Elam Tommy Thompson Dr. Larry Clayton Dr. Tim Green	Kerry Nance Bob Lewis Doug Anderson Jeff Ables
2:45pm	REGISTRATION	GIBF BUSINESS MEETING LADIES MEETING Reva Turner Grace Hardy	Your Church Music Avoiding Legal Pitfalls Timothy Benefield Attorney Drew Gardner
7:00pm	Missionary Speaker Evening Speaker Dr. Dave Hardy 	Missionary Speaker Evening Speaker Evangelist Lou Rossi 	Missionary Speaker Evening Speaker Dr. Kevin Folger 
9:00pm	Meal served in gymnasium	Meal served in gymnasium	Meal served in gymnasium

Schedule subject to change -- Visit [www.westgateministries.com](http://www.westgateministries.com) for the most up-to-date information

### GIBF Meeting Hotel List February 21-23, 2005

**Homestead**  
(813) 243-1913  
\$59.00/night  
5401 Beaumont Center Blvd. East  
Tampa, FL 33634

**Studio Plus**  
(813) 886-5253  
\$89.00/night  
4711 Memorial Hwy.  
Tampa, FL

**Hampton-Rocky Point**  
(813) 289-6262  
\$129.00/night  
3035 Rocky Point Dr. North  
Tampa, FL

**Microtel**  
(813) 739-2244  
\$69.00/night  
5405 North Church Ave.  
Tampa, FL

**Courtyard by Marriot**  
(813) 925-8887  
\$95.00/night  
4014 Tampa Rd.  
Oldsmar, FL 34677

## AN IRAQI THANKSGIVING

Last November Midlands Bible Baptist Church was honored to host Bro Bob Lewis and his Iraqi "Timothy," Bro Ronny George, pastor of Baghdad Bible Baptist Church. What a joy to hear, first-hand, the testimony and report of God's amazing grace shed on the needy place and people of Iraq. It is truly a work of God that has taken place and is taking place in that country.

Wednesday noon (Nov 24) gave occasion for a number of area pastors to enjoy a lunchtime of food and fellowship with Bros. Lewis and George, and that evening we invited those who could to transfer their church's mid-week services to our place so that their churchfolk could also have the opportunity to hear and meet Bro George. It was a tremendous service -- a time of rejoicing and apropos thanksgiving -- thanksgiving from American believers for Iraqi believers who are committed to the Great Commission and who routinely endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ; and thanksgiving from Iraqi believers for American prayers, generous offerings, missionary

endeavors, and military sacrifices. (It was right and good that the American national Thanksgiving holiday was the very next day)!

In the photo are those pastors whose churches joined us for the service. Left to right in the picture are...Bros. Bob Lewis, Tim Hewitt (Onawa, IA), Reggie Moffett (Omaha, NE), Ronny George, David Moore (Papillion, NE), and myself. Those who had joined us for lunch earlier in the day included these men plus Bros. Merv Goodrick (Lincoln, NE), and Raymond Wicks (Plattsmouth, NE).



To add blessing to blessing, it was a great privilege for my family and me (for which we thank Bro Lewis) to have Bros. Lewis and George in our home for the entire Thanksgiving holiday. We shared

the traditional "pig-out" feast of smoked turkey and ham and all the "trimmings" (Bro George says we Americans eat too much!), together with reading a historic account of the circumstances and events surrounding the First Thanksgiving in November of 1621 (it was a learning experience for Bro George who requested a copy of the reading), and time of tablegames and football. It was a Thanksgiving holiday we will never forget. What a blessing!!

I count it a real honor to have a part in the ministries of Bro. Ronny George of Baghdad Bible Baptist Church, and Bro. Bob Lewis of Global Resource Group. I highly recommend either or both of these dear men to any of you pastors interested to share in their work.

You may contact Bro Lewis (and through him, Bro George) by way of his email address -- [BobLewis@cox.net].

Dave Lydick  
Midlands Bible Baptist Church  
Bellevue, Nebraska

## CHURCH LISTING

### Alabama

- **Evangelism Missions, Inc.**  
Dr. Braxton Baker  
P.O. Drawer 550  
Thorsby, AL 35171  
(205) 646-0808

### Alaska

- **Victory Baptist Church**  
Pastor Joe Carson  
2520 E. Tudor Road.  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
(907) 868-7654

### California

- **Bible Baptist Church**  
Pastor Larry Oberro  
2432 E. 18<sup>th</sup> Street-  
National City, CA 91950  
(619) 267-3761
- **Lancaster Baptist Church**  
Pastor Paul Chappell  
4020 E. Lancaster Blvd.  
Lancaster, CA 93535  
(661) 946-4663
- **Mira Mesa Bible Baptist Church**  
Pastor Willie Del Rosario  
9920 Scripps Lake Drive, Ste. 101  
San Diego, CA 92131  
(619) 434-2116
- **Santa Maria Valley Baptist Church**  
Pastor Jerry Scheidbach  
1310 W. Betteravia Road  
Santa Maria, California 93455  
(805) 347-9887  
jrz@gte.net

### Connecticut

- **Grace Bible Baptist Church**  
Pastor David G. Davis  
85 Prospect Street  
Vernon, CT 06066  
(860) 872-3831

### Idaho

- **Jerome Bible Baptist Church**  
Pastor Mike Karch  
132 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave East  
P.O. Box 87  
Jerome, ID 83338  
(208) 324-2804

### Indiana

- **Cornerstone Baptist Church**  
Donald Mitchell, Pastor  
10701 E. 56th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46235-8848  
(317) 823-6891
- **Lighthouse Baptist Church**  
Pastor Daniel W. Tidd  
16950 East Raymond St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46239  
(317) 359-4275

### Kansas

- **Grace Baptist Church**  
Dr. Rex Fuller, Pastor  
101 D Street  
Washington, KS 66968  
(785) 427-3284
- **Shawnee Mission Baptist Temple**  
Pastor Kevin L. Metsinger  
12230 West 75th Street  
Shawnee, KS 66216  
(913) 631-5149

### Kentucky

- **Grace Baptist Church**  
Pastor Lawrence Richardson  
735 Lenin Rd  
Madisonville, KY 42431  
(270) 322-3381
- **Maranatha Baptist Church**  
Pastor Ricky A. Clark  
152 Stateline Rd.  
Oak Grove, KY 42262  
(270) 439-6055

### Mississippi

- **Lighthouse Baptist Church**  
Pastor Wallace Strawn  
111 Pierce Town Road  
Fulton, MS 38843  
(601) 862-5809

### Nebraska

- **Fellowship Baptist Church**  
Pastor Merv Goodrick  
1515 W. South St.  
Lincoln, NE 68522  
(402) 477-7541
- **Lighthouse Bible Baptist Church**  
Pastor Rick Franklin  
3902 Howard Blvd  
Columbus, NE 68601  
(402) 562-8815
- **Midlands Bible Baptist Church**  
Pastor David H. Lydick  
2407 Chandler Rd. E.  
Bellevue, NE 62005  
(402) 731-5932

### Nevada

- **Ponderosa Bible Baptist Church**  
Dr. Mike Ranspot, Pastor  
P.O. Box 21044  
Carson City, NV 89721  
(775) 841-5141  
Presently meeting at 851 E. William

### New Mexico

- **Highland Baptist Church**  
Pastor Aaron Denson  
300 E. Wolfcamp Dr.  
Hobbs, New Mexico 88240  
(505) 392-8226

### New York

- **Open Door Bible Baptist Church**  
Pastor Pete Montoro  
P.O. Box 5264  
Astoria, NY 11105-5264  
(718) 728-4410

### North Carolina

- **Fellowship Baptist Church**  
Pastor Steve Triplett  
11416 Albemarle Road  
Charlotte, NC 28227  
(704) 545-9668

### Ohio

- **Cleveland Baptist Church**  
Pastor Kevin Folger  
4431 Tiedemen Rd.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44144  
(216) 671-2822

### Oklahoma

- **Bible Baptist Church**  
Pastor Bob Weger  
1712 SW "C" Avenue  
Lawton, OK 73501  
(580) 357-1304
- **Eastland Baptist Church**  
Pastor Troy Dorrell  
1835 South 129th East Avenue  
Tulsa, OK 74108  
(918) 437-4707
- **Jenks Baptist Church**  
Pastor Paul Foster  
P.O. Box 1106  
Jenks, OK 74037  
(918) 693-4605
- **Victory Baptist Temple**  
Pastor Leonard Sissons  
8627 East Main Street  
Midwest City, OK 73110  
(405) 737-2624

### Oregon

- **Harvest Baptist Church**  
Pastor T.J. Smith  
2660 Marion S.E.  
Albany, OR 97321  
(541) 967-0577

### Pennsylvania

- **Christ Independent Baptist Church**  
Pastor Vic Rivera  
1618 Womrath Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19124  
(215) 288-5667

### Rhode Island

- **Blackstone Valley Baptist Church**  
Pastor Randy Lewis  
40 Pine Swamp Road  
Cumberland, RI 02864  
(401) 766-8024  
www.bvbcministries.org

### South Carolina

- **Southside Baptist Church**  
Dr. Kenneth Walters  
1229 South Anderson Road  
Rock Hill, SC 29730  
(803) 324-0627

### Texas

- **Twin Cities Baptist Temple**  
Dr. Charles Trull, Pastor  
216 Wake Village Rd.  
Wake Village, TX 75501  
(903) 838-8228

### Utah

- **Faith Baptist Church**  
Pastor Chuck Beickel  
2430 N. Fairfield Rd.  
Layton, UT 84041  
(801) 771-4652

### Virginia

- **Landmark Baptist Church**  
Pastors Jim Sumpter, Don Sumpter  
4000 Creighton Road  
Richmond, VA 23223  
(804) 643-7711

### Washington

- **Allen Creek Baptist Church**  
Pastor Monte Roe  
8727 60th Ave N.E.  
Marysville, WA 98270  
(425) 422-9295
- **Bible Baptist Church**  
Pastor Charles Bonner  
20 Tibbling Rd.  
Selah, WA 98942  
(509) 697-8897
- **Bible Baptist Church**  
Dr. Marvin McKenzie  
12307 Canyon Rd. E.  
Puyallup, WA 98373  
(253) 535-3165

- **Lakewood Baptist Temple**  
Pastor Dennis Fountain  
10650 Military Road, SW, Suite 1  
Lakewood, WA 98498  
(253) 584-2500

- **Woodin Valley Baptist Church**  
Pastor Rich Farinella  
5400 228th St. SE  
Woodinville, WA 98021  
(425) 481-1075

### Canada

- **L'Eglise Biblique Baptiste**  
Pastor Robert Stevens  
4815 Rue Gaspel  
Rock Forest, Quebec J1N 2G2  
(819) 564-1278

To advertise your church in the listing, please send your information, along with a \$60.00 per year contribution to: Baptist Times - Church Listing, PO Box 570, Woodinville, WA 98072.



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**Lancaster Baptist Church,**  
*Lancaster, CA*  
*Pastor Paul Chappell*

**Calvary Baptist Church,**  
*Temecula, CA*  
*Pastor William Rench*

**Santa Maria Valley Baptist Church,**  
*Santa Maria, CA*  
*Pastor Jerry Sheidbach*

**Bible Baptist Church,**  
*National City, CA*  
*Pastor Larry Oberro*

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*Greely, CO*  
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**Grace Bible Baptist Church,**  
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**Faith Baptist Church,**  
*Wesley Chapel, FL*  
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**Cornerstone Baptist Church,**  
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*Pastor Frank Wood*

**Triumphant Baptist Church,**  
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*Pastor Richard Vogsberger*

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*Buchanan Ave. Baptist Church,*  
*Sioux City, IA*  
*Pastor Dan Thornton*

### Mississippi

**Lighthouse Baptist Church**  
*Fulton, MS*  
*Pastor Wallace Strawn*

### Missouri

**Berean Baptist Church,**  
*Springfield, MO*  
*Pastor Jeff Ables*

**Bible Baptist Church,**  
*St. Joseph, MO*  
*Pastor Gary Williams*

*Springfield, MO*  
*Evangelist Tom Mcgath*

### Montana

**Liberty Baptist Church,**  
*Helena, MT*  
*Pastor Rick Demato*

**Rocky Mountain Baptist Church**  
*Kalispell, MT*  
*Pastor Dan Lydick*

### Nebraska

**Fellowship Baptist Church,**  
*Lincoln, NE*  
*Pastor Merv Goodrick*

*Midlands Bible Baptist Church,*  
*Bellevue, NE*  
*Pastor Dave Lydick*

### New York

*Buckley Road Baptist Church,*  
*Liverpool, NY*  
*Pastor Dan Smith*

### North Carolina

**Fellowship Baptist Church,** *Charlotte, NC*  
*Pastor Steve Triplett*

### Ohio

**Cleveland Baptist Church,**  
*Brooklyn, OH*  
*Pastor Kevin Folger*

**Calvary Baptist Church,**  
*Ashland, OH*  
*Pastor Harry Strachan Jr.*

### Oklahoma

**Eastland Baptist Church,**  
*Tulsa, OK*  
*Pastor Troy Dorrell*

**Southwest Baptist Church,**  
*Oklahoma City, OK*  
*Pastor Sam Davison*

### Oregon

**Harvest Baptist Church,**  
*Albany, OR*  
*Pastor T.J. Smith*

### Rhode Island

**Blackstone Valley Baptist Church,**  
*Cumberland, RI*  
*Pastor Randy Lewis*

**Global Resource Group,**  
*Cumberland, RI*  
*Robert Lewis*

### Texas

*Fundamental Baptist Church,*  
*Alvarado, TX*  
*Pastor Raymond Smith*

**Landmark Baptist Church,**  
*Red Oak, TX*  
*Pastor Keith Shumate*

**Liberty Baptist Church,**  
*Lewisville, TX*  
*Pastor Dick Webster*

*Burleson Blvd. Baptist Church,*  
*Burleson, TX*  
*Pastor Terry Williams*

### Washington

**Allen Creek Baptist Church,**  
*Marysville, WA*  
*Pastor Monte Roe*

**Bible Baptist Church**  
*Puyallup, WA*  
*Pastor Marvin Mckenzie*

**Calvary Baptist Church**  
*Roy, WA*  
*Pastor Walt Stowe*

**Valley Baptist Temple**  
*Auburn, WA*  
*Pastor Russ Tyree*

**WoodinValley Baptist Church**  
*Woodinville, WA*  
*Pastor Rich Farinella*

*Yakima Bible Baptist Church*  
*Yakima, WA*  
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*Bellingham, WA*  
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### Canada

**Eglise Biblique Baptiste**  
*Rock Forest, Quebec*  
*Pastor Robert Stevens*

**Eglise Biblique Baptiste**  
*St. Hubert, Quebec*  
*Pastor Mario Monette*

**L'eglise Biblique Baptiste**  
*Granby, Canada*  
*Pastor Jean Deragon*

### Romania

**Missionary Gary Matheny**

### Individuals

**Kenneth Stertz**  
**Jerry Stewart**  
**Navi Bola**

*A full financial report for the fiscal year ending 2004 will be submitted at the February G.I.B.F. meeting in Tampa, Florida, at Westgate Baptist Church. Over 960 churches receive benefit of getting the **Baptist Times** compliments of these churches or individuals listed above who support, most of which maintain the paper on a regular monthly basis. All but a minimal part time employee expense goes to the cost of printing and postage for the **Global Baptist Times**.*

*All literary contributions and editing are offered on a voluntary basis.*



## Global Independent Baptist Missions News

### Mission Advisory Board Meets in Cleveland

The newly elected Board of Advisors of the GIBM met in Cleveland, Ohio January 6-7, 2005. The meeting was called by the recently elected GIBF moderator, Kevin Folger. Much time and energy was devoted by the thirteen men present to the missionary endeavor of the GIBMissions, which was started by Dick Webster. The board ratified Robert Lewis as Executive Assistant.



### Stepping up to the Plate for Missions

Dr. Robert Lewis,  
GIBMissions,  
Assistant to the Director



*Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. - 1 Corinthians 9:24*

The time has come for us to step up to the plate and swing the bat for missions. We have had discussions, debates, and documents. Many of us know more than we practice and certainly some have said more about missions than they have done. As a group we are facing a real test. We have acquired reasonable counsel, a strategic plan and the Lord is supplying the personnel. After the in-put and advice of credible men like Kevin Folger, Bruce Turner, Dennis Fountain, Dick Webster, Marshal Stevens, Russ Tyree, Dave Lydick, Larry Clayton, Kieth Shumate, Scott Naill, Mario Monette, Bob Stevens, and Kenneth Walters, we should be able to formulate a policy for missions work which will not violate the local churches. The choice is ours. We now have the opportunity to help the churches and missionaries who are willing to pay the price to be on the same page with us, or we can drop the bat and let them do the best they can with the circumstances they face. Many of us sense a real need for a missions office which will be able to

give full time attention to the missionaries which are approved by the churches like our churches. We don't want to approve them, nor send them, we just want to help them.

Surely there are some churches that do not need our help. Praise the Lord for that! Our goal is to help those pastors and missionaries who *do* need and want some help with their missionary program. We are praying that the great majority of you, our preacher friends and brethren, will join with us in this great missionary enterprise. It can be done and it can be a great blessing for us and the next generation of people who are on our page

The risk may seem as great as it was when Paul went to Athens, or when Judson went to Burma, or when Donnelson went to China. Somebody had to join together with them and many other stout hearted souls of the past and say, "we are with you . . . you can count on us." We cannot live in the past. Someone is counting on us for today and tomorrow. Hopefully, it is with this thought in mind that you will review the proposed budget of the GIBMissions Office which will be presented at the GIBF Meeting in Tampa, February 21-23. We have a great team with men on the bases. Let's hit a home run.

*...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us... Hebrews 12:1*

## Independent Baptists Make History in Russia

By Jeff Williams



Independent Baptists have obtained full legal recognition by the Russian Government as of November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004. This is the end result of thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours of prayer over an eight-year period. Bible Baptists now have the opportunity to be in full compliance with all of Russia's Religious laws.

"Getting registered is the challenge, after that maintaining the legal status is not difficult."  
– Ekaterina Smyslova (Head of Legal Counsel for Bible Baptists in Moscow, Russia).



The American understanding of civil law is that we, as citizens, have the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness". Therefore, anything not expressly forbidden by law is legal for us to do. In Russia, the exact opposite is true. Only rights specifically granted by law exist. In Russia you have to provide the paper that proves you have the right to do something.

I had just been approved as a missionary to Russia in the fall of 1996 when a new law was passed in the Russian Federation aimed at curbing missionary activity in that country. For eight years several missionaries prayed and worked to see the day when we could use this very same law, which had been passed to prevent our ministry and turn it to our advantage. On November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004 that day finally arrived.

Upon receiving the news in Iskitim, Russia, we had a great time laughing and rejoicing with the ministry team God has gathered around us here. The Iskitim Church was the first Independent Baptist Church to ever be legally recognized by Russian authorities. This same church also spearheaded the effort to obtain full legal rights for Independent Baptists all across Russia.

"This is amazing! For the first time in our thousand year history Gospel-Preaching-Baptists have been recognized by the



Sergei Gennadiovich

government" – Sergei Gennadiovich (church-planting missionary from Iskitim, Russia in Siberia).

Jeff Williams  
Missionary to Russia  
Sent from the Boulevard Baptist Church in Burleson, TX: Terry Williams, Pastor

E-mail: [will2russia@hotmail.com](mailto:will2russia@hotmail.com)

## BAPTIST TIMES

### Announcing the forth annual Baptist Times Literary Award

The *Global Baptist Times* is offering the **Baptist Times Literary Award** to a college student who submits an article dealing with Baptist separatism - a stance and doctrine that is diminishing in importance among Independent Baptist ranks. The article is to be no longer than 900 words and submitted by the last day of March. The selected winner will have his/her article published in a following issue of the *Times* and be presented with a \$200 honorarium during graduation week.



Jackie Sargent - last year's winner.

## A BIBLICAL AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF HOME MISSIONS *continued from page 3...*

the Holy Ghost (it was not God's time, later Paul evangelized all over Asia using Ephesus as a base - Acts 19:10). He looked to Bithynia, but the Spirit suffered them not. He then received clear direction through the famous Macedonia vision that is often used to illustrate the call of God in the preacher's life.

### **Yet this was not a call to a place but a call to preach, throughout an entire region.**

*Acts 16:10 "And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them."* Preaching to the whole region of Macedonia, which included stops at Phillipi, Amphipolis, Apolonia, Thessalonica, and Berea, from which then he when to Greece and the region of Achaia.

Later on Paul wrote to the Corinthians stating his desire to reach beyond them *2 Cor. 10:15,16 "Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly, To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand."* He stated his call to the Gentiles to the Galatians, *Gal. 2:7,8 " But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)"*

In the Bible they were called to preach, they were called to peoples, they were called to regions. Now in our calling, I certainly believe God directs us to cities, gives us peace about a specific place, but I believe oftentimes subconsciously or unconsciously we are short circuiting the work God would have us to be doing and leading our churches to do in whole areas, states, and regions. To the point where we think it completely natural to describe our call to a particular city, while we listen to a missionary state his call to an entire country or people. Naturally then **our work will be limited** chiefly to our city, while his to an entire country.

This can evidently be seen in the measuring of progress of ministries. Often when we talk to missionaries we generally ask such things as, how many churches have been birthed; how many nationals have been trained; have they been ordained to pastor some of the new works; where are you going to go next, and the such-like.

Yet when we measure the progress of our stateside ministries, or more specifically our city side ministries, we often talk about our church (singular) and its growth, how many have been saved at our church, how many have been baptized into our church. Or we discuss the growth of our building facilities, or the

growth of our monetary mission programs. It is really quite strange when you think it about, that some churches invest tens of thousands of dollars, yea some, hundreds of thousands in missionary support, to carry out the Great Commission "overseas", but never do themselves get involved in spreading the gospel in the geographical areas that they can reach "here"!

I think unconsciously, we many times hold two sets of standards for the one and self same mission - the propagating of the gospel to every creature.

Now let me refer to that little area of missions that was briefly alluded to earlier - that being the time here in America from the founding of the colonies in the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Do you remember Mr. Cathcart's comment "In 1813 American Baptists, **who till then** had been chiefly confined to home missionary work, **without any general organization.**" Another way he could have said this was without any centralizing controlling societies. Why? **Because the churches themselves bore the responsibility to propagate the gospel** throughout the colonies. Mr. Cathcart writes in his encyclopedia concerning the topic of Home Missions: "In the early history of the Baptists in this country **most of our pastors were home missionaries.** It was a common custom for the settled shepherd of one flock to make a tour through several counties in his own Colony or State, or through other Colonies or States, preaching the gospel almost every night in barns, private houses, school-rooms, or public halls. Months were spent frequently in this apostolic occupation. And many churches were founded and hosts of souls converted by these gratuitous labors of our saintly fathers in the faith. All the original colonies were frequently traversed by **this almost extinct order of heaven-blessed home missionaries.**"

He wrote this approximately in 1890, and he states, "**...this almost extinct...**" What would he say concerning the state of things today, a hundred plus years removed? Let me introduce you to just two of these pastors that did the work of an evangelist, and made full proof of their ministries.

In 1766, a Baptist church in Haverhill, MA. was organized by a preacher named Hezekiah Smith. He had just recently finished a preaching tour in the Southern states, traveling 4,235 miles on horseback and having preached 173 sermons. This was his only pastorate, but when he died in 1805 it was one of the strongest Baptist churches developed north of Boston. I quote from Henry C. Vedder in his book entitled "A Short History Of The Baptists"

"He was more than the faithful pastor of this church; he was a missionary to the regions beyond. At that time there was a great religious destitution in the newer towns of New Hampshire and Maine, and the few Baptists scattered here and there were as sheep without a shepherd. Up to the outbreak of the Revolution, Mr. Smith made many horseback tours through these regions, preaching the

gospel and gathering converts; and it is said that at least 13 of the churches organized in those states owed their existence to his labors and counsels. In his later years, as well as his strength permitted, he was equally earnest and effective as an evangelist. **At this time there were no missionary organizations among Baptists, and what evangelizing was done was carried on in this independent way. Hezekiah Smith was a whole state mission society himself,"**

Aaron Leland is another example, he came to the town of Chester, VT. in 1786, and after two years of labor saw a church organized there consisting of 10 members. Henry Crocker tells us in his book "The History of Vermont Baptists":

"...at the end of five years the church numbered fifty members. Five years later it reported 142 members. In 1799, a precious revival began, and in four years 186 were added to the church by baptism... The labors of this apostolic preacher at this time were arduous in the extreme. He scoured the country for miles around, seeking converts, and encouraging Christians, and organizing them into churches. Through a forest path he reached Jamaica, twenty miles away, and worked with that people and organized a church there. The records of the town of Rockingham show that he was the recognized shepherd of the Baptists of that town. At Cavendish, Andover, Grafton, and Springfield, he visited and gathered converts into the Chester church. At Londonderry he preached in a saw mill. Members from these distant places were received as branches of the Chester church, and were encouraged with the assurance that, as soon as they had reached the membership of twelve, they might if they wished, be organized as independent churches... (The account goes on to show that the day came when four churches were set off and birthed in one day.) The membership of the parent church was reduced from 253 members to 79. A rare record this, four churches set off in one day from a mother church."

Today we have all the tools, that our ancestors did not, but often times we lack what they had that allowed God to do so much with so little; a sense of urgency concerning their mission, a day by day understanding that they would give an account with the one with whom we have to do, and a heart that was rent and broken over lost souls, which they possessed because they were in touch with God's heart and view of this world!

Where are the Hezekiah Smiths of our day? Where are the Aaron Lelands, Where are the Elisha's that will weep over the lot of their people? Where are the men of God that will rise up and lead the churches to pray, to preach, to go? I say they are here, if we will but let God get hold of our hearts and draw them nigh unto His. Brethren, what this country needs more than anything else is for some men of God to lead their churches in having a renewed sense of urgency concerning our one and selfsame mission.





## The Caleb Club

By Dr. James Wilkins

– There is a new “senior saints” ministry, led by a seasoned preacher and servant of God, Dr. James Wilkins. Bro. Wilkins says, “If the God of Heaven was able to take Abraham, whose body was dead (Rom.4:19), and use him to start a family and fulfill His purpose on earth, then He, Who is not a respecter of persons, can use an old man with half a heart to start a spiritual club for our senior saints – The Caleb Club.”



The Club is named after Caleb, who at the age of 80 was willing to enter into combat in order to establish his nation. He took a prominent role of leadership and became famous for his battle cry “Give me this mountain!” This club will challenge and train mature members to do the work of the ministry through prayer, fasting, witnessing, discipleship and giving.

The Caleb Club is not for all senior saints, but all older people will be welcome and can attend any function as an associate. The club member is an elderly saint who is not content to just pass time, but who has a desire to learn how to be effective in serving the Lord. In order to become part of the Caleb Club one must agree to certain principles and participate in different areas of service.

### Three levels of service

The first level of the Caleb Club is the 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Level. There are basic lessons which will establish a healthy prayer life in members, which in turn, will strengthen the local church. The member will agree to:

- Set an exact time or times for daily prayer
- Become part of a prayer support group
- Become part of the pastor’s intercessory prayer team
- Make a list of sinners (from the area) to pray for by name each day
- Keep records of victories

Although there are other activities for those in the 11<sup>th</sup> hour level, Bible study and prayer are the main thrust.

As people grow, there are other opportunities to progress into the second and third levels. They will be trained to be part of a witnessing team or support member. They will be developed in mentoring or discipleship. Mission trips will be necessary before being promoted to higher levels. Clubs will adopt a “Titus” (Bible College student) to support.

Dr. Wilkins will help train and set-up Caleb Clubs. For those interested, or if you would like more information, please contact him at:

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The 50 years of ministry experience has enabled Dr. Wilkins to author many books and tapes on soul-winning and discipling, all of which can also be acquired through the above contact information.

## JANUARY HOME MISSIONS CONFERENCE IN OKLAHOMA





## The Pastor's Wife Getting Unstuck From the Mud. By Vickie Jett



Do you know anyone who is in trouble and floundering in the mud? Perhaps

- 1) wandering, lost and alone
- 2) hungry and thirsty
- 3) trapped, depressed, suicidal
- 4) in the bondage of sin and darkness
- 5) sick, afflicted and near death
- 6) emotionally unstable; experiencing extreme 'highs' and 'lows'
- 7) enduring storms and tempests

Chances are you know someone (maybe even yourself!) who would find themselves on this list. People are in trouble! Is the Bible relevant for today's problems? Of course it is. As a matter of fact, this list came from **Psalm 107** where God is addressing people who are in trouble. These are Christians (verse two - "the redeemed"), who may be actively working in church (verses 23-24), but their soul is melted due to trouble. They have lost direction and are close to a nervous breakdown.

Sound familiar? Yes, the problems described are as common to believers today as they were when the Psalm was written. God clearly gives a two-fold answer for these problems in this psalm. The first answer is found in verse twenty, "*He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.*" People are to look to God's Word **first**; it has the answer to **all** these problems. Yet we may be tempted to find help first through "experts" or even through medication. It is in obeying the "water of the Word" that people are healed, delivered, and lead fruitful lives. The Bible is *profitable for doctrine* (truth), and it will give us *reproof* (what's wrong), *correction* (what's right), and *instruction in righteousness* (how to

do it) according to II Tim. 3:16.

The second answer is found in verses twenty-one and twenty-two, "*Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.*" People in trouble need to learn to fall in love with the Lord. God created us to love Him, but He doesn't force it on us; it must be voluntary. He lovingly woos us and gives us His love story (the Gospel.) He confirms His love to us by surrounding us with His care and provisions. In return, God requires a sacrifice; no, not a sacrifice for our sin, but a **sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving!** This is necessary in order to be in His will (I Thess. 5:18). If we follow the examples given by David (a man after God's own heart) and Daniel (beloved of God), we find we are to offer a sacrifice of praise three times a day. Daniel "*kneeled upon his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God...*" (Dan. 6:10). It was so important to him that he was willing to die rather than stop. The psalmist David also prayed evening, morning and noon (Psalm 55:17).

Heb. 13:15 says, "*By him therefore, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.*" If we learn to give thanks continually, we will love Him continually. The habit of thinking right thoughts will result in good physical and mental health. Depression and negative thinking are overcome as we "*put on the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness*" (Is. 61:3).

Okay, but how do we do this? Here's a suggestion: on a 3 x 5 index card, write the date at the top, then write "morning," "noon," and "evening," leaving three blanks after each one. In the blanks, write down three things for which to thank God for. It may be something He has done for you, given you, or that you

can see. Continue doing this every day at the appointed times. Try not to repeat anything, but continually be looking for new things to list.

This must be done regardless of the present troubles or circumstances. In my own life, I learned this principle during the difficult years when two of our teenage children were diagnosed with advanced cancer and fought for their lives. Yes, it can be hard, but remember it is a **sacrifice**, which takes effort on our part.

In Wyoming, we had the opportunity to watch people pan for gold in the mountains. To accomplish this, they took a shallow dish and scooped up some mud from the shallow edge of a stream. Swishing the water and mud around, they poured out the dirt and looked for flecks of gold. Amazing to me, gold was often found, along with other precious stones! Understand, however, the water was ice cold, and the person panning became wet, muddy and tired from the stooping and arm movement. But to find a nugget of gold! That made the effort worthwhile. It's the same with looking for the treasures of God when we're in trouble. It may take a little effort and even discomfort, but the treasure is worth the hunt 'in the mud' in order to give a *sacrifice of praise*.

Psalm 107 concludes with all who are "*wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving-kindness of the Lord.*" People must **choose** to accept God's Word and His love as the answer for all their problems. As the psalm promises, God gives leadership, relationships, satisfaction, healing, calm, freedom and **deliverance!** UNSTUCK!

**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!



Report on a Mexican Mission Trip

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