

West FLORIDA BAPTIST News

6812 Lillian Highway * Pensacola, Florida 32506 * (850) 455-4417, Fax (850) 455-7474

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Number 1

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. H. H. Strickland

Greetings in the Name of our precious Savior; The summer months have been extremely frustrating in some ways. People are concerned for their

health. Some have lost loved ones and friends to the virus and, at this point, there is no end insight. I and my family have been blessed that we have not been affected, health wise, to all of this.

Plans have been made for the opening of the fall semester 2020. Needless to say, it is going to look at lot different than in the past. The trustees recently met and discussed the option of opening for the semester. The one option that could not be considered was not opening at all. With the loss in offerings, this would place a tremendous financial burden on every-

one that is associated with the school. However, the plans that were agreed upon will ensure that we will open in one fashion or the other to accommodate every student that desires to receive a Biblical education or to continue their education.

I have spent most of the summer trying to get things in order in the print shop. There was a change made in press units along with the production of new material. I am still working on these items and it will not be completed before the fall.

I have been asked several times as to where we stand on the new building. The project is not dead but it has been delayed because of circumstances beyond my control. Efforts are being made to pay down the line of credit that we acquired in order to purchase the land and building for the new facility. The offerings that have been given and those that continue to come in are being used for that purpose. Everyone here agrees that the building is much needed. Many believe that a new facility is long over due. All the engineering work has been done and

some of the permits have been pulled. There have not been contracts awarded. The first thing that must be done is to have the site work done. This has really been a difficult area to work around. It has become so expensive due to the regulations that have been imposed on new buildings. I truly believe that the Lord is in control and at the right time, we will see this project begin to progress.

I want to thank every individual and church that has “stayed by the stuff” and continued to support this ministry. I realize that sometimes people want things done quickly but there are times that quick is not the best. The trustees are still completely dedicated to seeing the project through and they are committed to doing whatever it takes, short of running ahead of the Lord.

Thank you my brethren for every gift, prayer and word of encouragement that has been given to me. It has been a very difficult year for me and the ministry but the Lord is still in control and I have committed all these matters into His hands.

PLEASE RECEIVE A SPECIAL OFFERING FOR THE NEW PRESS

Balance: \$1400.00

From a
Woman's Point
 of View



By: Loretta Pritchett
lorettapritchett@yahoo.com

Pray For Our Country

By the time you are reading this article, prayerfully I will be home recovering from Gall Bladder surgery from July 9th. , please keep me in your prayers.

While waiting for my big day I thought about everything happening in our country today. How sad it is to hear and see all the damage that is taking place daily to destroy our wonderful free-country that our forefathers fought for.

Our history is being torn down by these people who are carrying hatefulness and bitterness in their hearts over a topic that has no bearing upon racial issues at all. Yet all the education they had or presently getting is being wasted by the false tales or teachings that some people make up in their minds that actually don't exist.

All of the statues that were built here from our forefathers who fought for all this freedom we now have obtained over the years is being torn down because some one person has determined are racists and should be taken down because of his or her opinion, are inexcusable.

They feel another statue should be placed there of their choosing and destroy because they want their hero to be recognized and destroying is tearing down God's world.

Let me tell you this, God gave us this freedom because He created us in His

likeness and He can tear down your new buildings faster than you can build them.

He allowed this freedom, and the men who built these statues to honor our men who fought for this freedom.

Placing one statue for another isn't going to solve any of this stuff happening today. This hateful attitude by all Races is very wrong and when God has had enough, we will know what His wrath is all about.

God is coming and maybe sooner than we think. I suggest we bow our knees in prayer and pray for His wrath to not take us out the way it appears to be happening today.

Right now we are being destroyed by the fires, earthquakes, volcano eruptions, people fighting one another, and most of all a Virus that has no cure and is likely to take out more people in this world.

Is this what we want to live like, a nation filled with hate and bitterness.?

I pray not because it will only get worse as we continue to destroy God's creation. I ask you to pray for our country!

**Philosophy of
 Religion**

The Problem of Modernism

The truth of the matter is, when it is determined that the scriptures are in fact infallible, the truth and facts, raises the validity of the scriptures. Words given by a Holy and Righteous God to Holy and righteous men to be written down so that those who read and understand can learn why they are here and where they will spend eternity.

Man was not created by man therefore, he cannot possibly give man the answer to his problems. On the other hand, the Divine Creator of all things can provide man with all that he needs to determine what he needs for this life as well as eternity. Men have no capacity to save men, only a Divine Savior can do that.

The second question is must like that of the first in so much that it is the opposite in thought and yet with the same answer. If believing in infallibility raises the status of the scriptures, certainly not believing them or denying the idea of infallibility demeans

the book. The simple truth regarding this question is that one cannot stand on both sides of the issue. The scriptures are either infallible or they are not. They cannot be both. It must be one or the other. Truth cannot be a mixture of truth and error. In reality, error destroys truth. Therefore, if the insights of the scriptures are not truth then they are in error. If, on the other hand, they do not contain error then they contain absolute truth. I am then reminded what John wrote when he stated; "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free....If free then free indeed."

The opposite of that concept is that those who accept error are not free but are enslaved to the error.

The bottom line in this whole matter is that regardless of what men may think, write or propose, it will never change the truth of the scriptures. If one is willing to stake their eternity on principles, does it not seem reasonable to place them on the principles of truth rather than the endless rambling of men. Man has never found to answer to the problems of the world apart from what we are given in scripture, and he never will. He may very well reject them, but he will never change them. He may deny them, but he will be answerable to them.

One of the amazing investigations regarding Philosophy of Religion is to take a look inside so called modernism. Modernism can easily be defined as "a rejection of the basic principles of the Bible." Modernism certainly cannot be deemed to be new on the scene of philosophy. Men have always questioned the authority of the Word of God since the words were first given to Moses. Even before there was a written script, the instructions of God to man were questioned or ignored. However, in modern thinking, the matter of truthfulness has never been more questioned.

One should be reminded of the passage in Judges where it states, "In those days there was no king in Israel and every man did that which was right in his own eyes," (Judges 21:25). These are probably some of the saddest words recorded in the scriptures. However, while men in the thinking of today, might not so state or write such a statement, the ideas that are being promoted have the same results. Men simply do not have a desire to know the truth or believe God.

The masses of people have fallen all over a man who has made great claims that a new day is upon us, change is on the way, and



David Gonnella, Th. D.

Fear, Faith and Foolishness

We are now six months into the Corona-virus. How have God's people responded? How have you responded?

The main issue in any situation is not what is happening to us. The main issue is how we respond to what God knew would happen to us and allowed to happen to us.

God knew before He created the universe that the Corona-virus would sweep over the world at this time. He also knows how severe it will become and how long it will last. These are all things we cannot change. The Lord may allow men to find a vaccine tomorrow or He might withhold that from men for awhile. He might even withhold that knowledge forever. After all, there is still no vaccine for AIDS or the common cold.

So how should we respond to this situation? The Apostle Paul in writing to the young pastor Timothy said this: *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love and of a sound mind.* – II Timothy 1:7.

The first thing we should realize is that God does not want us to respond with fear. Fear is the antithesis of faith. When we trust God we do not worry about things we cannot control. This does not mean that we do not take proper measures to deal with the situation but that we are not paralyzed by fear so that we are unable to function in a normal fashion.

I offer as an example the church of which I am fortunate to be the pastor. When the Corona-virus broke out the governor of our state issued an executive order barring churches from holding services

with more than 9 people present. We continued to hold services with no restriction on how many could attend. We did take prudent measures and instituted protocols to minimize the risk. However, we were not going to tell anyone that they could not come and hear the Word of God and from a legal standpoint we did not recognize the governor's authority to limit the attendance in our services. An executive order is not a law. Governors do not have the power to make laws. That is the function of the legislature.

To this date we have had no cases of COVID-19 in our membership. We believe the Lord has protected us because we obeyed His command to "forsake not the assembling of yourselves together" while taking careful precautions.

Now we should not be foolish. We should not stand on a railroad track and expect God to protect us from an oncoming train. Likewise we should not lick our hands after opening a restroom door. As long as the Corona-virus is prevalent we should maintain proper hygiene and refrain from risky behavior.

How should we respond to the Corona-virus? Not with fear but with faith - faith in the power and love of God that as we serve Him the best we can, He will help us and protect us.

Suppose we do come down with COVID-19? Then the Lord will either heal us through prayer and medicine or He will use the virus to gather us to Himself. The length of our lives and the manner of our departure from this life is in God's hands. Let us serve the Lord and leave it there.

NOTE: We have a young preacher student that is need of a sponsoring church. His family is struggling financially and it has been difficult for him to continue his schooling. It would be a tremendous blessing for a church to sponsor him and help with his tuition. He has a desire to come back this fall but it is

in question because they cannot afford the cost.

Offerings can be sent to the school designated to him. I would rather not mention his name but I can assure you that the church that would help would be put in touch with him.

Thanks:

men are going to be better off than they have ever been. People have literally hung on every word and stood in awe at his profoundness. Yet when the good men stand and proclaim the truth of the eternal word of God there is nothing but scorn and disdain. Men are so easy to believe men and yet are so eager to question the things of God.

One of the saddest things that might be observed in religion today, is the movement to bring these things of the world in the worship of God. In most cases, the things of the world are not compatible with the worship of God.



Glen Davenport, Th.D.

THE STUDENT OF THE SCRIPTURES

INTRODUCTION;

Learning comes natural for all people and animals. We can't help but learn. We come into the world knowing nothing. We aren't called students unto we enroll into some kind of uniformed class of study. At that time, we will be studying things that our teachers think will be good for us. If we will commit ourselves to the task, understanding the value it will have in the future, we will study more and gain more. We become students. However, far too many people stop their formal education when their term of schooling is done. Learning won't stop but the quest for knowledge will. From that time forward, we fumble around and pick up what we need when we need it.

Oftentimes, when one realizes his need for more education, he will take up some kind of 'trade school', such as masonry, or nursing, or preaching. **PREACHING?** I dare not put preaching in the category of career management because true preachers are called of God and chosen, not for their skills or knowledge, but for a service.

Matt 22:14

For many are called, but few are chosen.

The call that will turn a common man into a preacher is unique.

I Cor 1:26-27

26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

Testimonies of 'callings' are about as unique as fingerprints. No two are alike but the end result is the about the same. God may find His man in a hay field or in a factory, in a hospital or in the Army, when he is young or when he is old. God knows what He needs and He knows who can fulfill the tasks.

The writer of the book of HEBREWS pointed out; God has used various means to get His message to us. Sometimes the Word was passed from man to man. At other times His word was communicated through the 'oracles of God' but now- a-days we have the Bible, God's written Word. Here is where we, as students, meet our challenge. The Preacher once said:

Ecc1 12:12-13

12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Here is a fitting proverb. "You cannot teach that which you do not know". Therefore the student must, or should I say: will want to study the Scriptures.

TEXT: II Tim 2:15-17

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

17 And their word will eat as doth a canker

I. Study!

A. Study is the 'key' word. If you don't know how, learn how.

B. It is a commandment. God has called. He has the right to issue orders.

C. It is imperative. Pressing, ... of the utmost necessity, ... vitally important, ... mandatory

II. To Show Thyself

A. You are standing before God!

B. You're standing before His people.

1. Make your best presentation. Dress right, Talk right and be careful with illustrations and gestures.

2. Prove, demonstrate, show yourself to be true, authenticate your calling

III. Approved Unto God

A. It has noted in **Matt 22:14**

For many are called, but few are chosen.

B. There is an implication that some are NOT APPROVED. ... not acceptable.

C. The choices and all decisions belong to God.

God accepts no bribes or 'sweet talk'.

IV. A Workman; A Teacher

A. God desires educators, instructors in the Scriptures, illustrators in speech, and demonstrators in Godly living.

B. Your labour has great value. **I Cor 15:58**

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

C. You have a great reason to keep up 'the good work'. Gal 6:9

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

V. A God-Called Man Needeth Not To Be Ashamed.

A. God's Word is true! ... dependable and is accompanied by His Holy Spirit.

B. God's man has the challenge to *rightly dividing the word of truth.*

CONCLUSION:

Some may be called 'Masters' or 'Doctors' but none can ever climb higher than a 'Student'.

The Master or Doctor who is not a Student is a high-minded. self sufficient babler; unworthy of the 'call'.

ALWAYS - BE A STUDENT!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Glennwood News

Ray Meigs, Director

Normally I would take this month's report to let you now what a great camp season we were having. I would have told you how many campers we had in attendance along with the number of professions of faith and how many young men surrendered to the ministry. Sadly, during this time of pandemic, almost all camp activities have been shut down.

Our Governor has not allowed overnight camps, but in this phase of reopening, we have been able to conduct day activities. To that end, we have hosted four lifeguard classes conducted by the American Red Cross. These have been beneficial to those taking the classes and it allows me to share the work of Camp Glennwood and gain exposure in the community. Also, we have scheduled a Day Camp for Cub Scouts. Keep us in your prayers that we will be useful in sharing Jesus Christ with those groups.

SENIOR DAY: It has been a couple of years since we have been able to host our Senior Day event. This is a time of fellowship and spiritual renewal for our seniors. This year's event will be held on September 19 at 10:00 a.m. Activities will include a fish fry and a special message by Bro. Roger Taylor, pastor of Victory Baptist Church, Madison, MS. We will also have a concert by the legendary Blackwood Bothers Quartet. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Please let us know if you or your group will attend and I hope to see you there!

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST MINISTRIES

Joe Roberts, Director

It has been quite some time since I made a report concerning the Ministry. There have been many changes that have taken place since the last report. I shall attempt to give a report for each division of the ministry.

Because the scope the IMBM is far reaching, the ministry has been divided into several divisions for it to be able to function efficiently. Each division could be a "stand-alone" ministry within itself but each one is subordinate to IMBM with IMBM being responsible to Mayfield Drive Baptist Church as the sponsoring church of the entire ministry itself. This provides for greater accountability and transparency.

International Missionary Baptist Presentations (IMB Presentations) IMB Presentations is the division pertaining to the video podcasts production and distribution. Bro. John Scott Roesch of American Baptist Church located in Melbourne, Florida, is the Director of this division. The International Missionary Baptist Podcasts is the production side of this division while the distribution side is the Presentations.

Bro. Roesch has been doing an excellent job with his division. He now produces the videos that we record through the live broadcasts and the videos from the speakers for the radio station. He edits these and makes them ready for distribution for the social media platform accounts we have scattered around the world. This type of production is far different

World-wide Literature and Missionary Supplies

Joel Meredith, Director

Warehouse News: Please excuse the delay of this report. We are in the process of collecting hymn books, Bibles, Bible study books, hygiene supplies, pianos, sound systems, pulpits, communion tables, chairs (stacking and folding), guitars, school supplies, marker boards and black boards. These items have been requested by missionaries and pastors in the Philippines. We are asking churches to help us with these needs.

We have been asked to ship a container of pews to Tanzania for Livingston Lambert. The pews will be delivered here, proceed for custom and shipped to Tanzania within a couple of weeks. This is the only way we can handle pews because of lack of storage space. We have been asked to send pews to the Philippines for a church that is now under construction. Should there be pews available, we can take them and ship them out quickly if there is a call for them.

Opportunities for deputation by missionaries has slowed to near nothing. With covid 19 back on the rise, the near future doesn't look much better. This virus has reared its ugly head in our community. Several churches and individuals have sent offerings to this ministry and asked that they be used where best needed.

than that which is required for the internet radio station. We currently have 13 social media accounts to which he can post our podcasts.

Bro. Roesch has also taken the You Tube channel that was sponsored by American Baptist Church, Melbourne, FL, and converted it over to an IMBM You Tube channel. The feeder for many of our videos is through the Gospel of Christ Channel that Mayfield Drive Baptist Church has. He either pulls the videos from there or we send them to him via Drop Box. He is also one of our speakers on the radio station, so he is constantly making videos of his own at American. These are also put out as our podcasts.

International Missionary Baptist Publishing (IMBP) I have the oversight of this division. There have also been many changes in this division. I have turned the day-to-day management of the Podcast production and distribution to Bro. Roesch, and I have now turned the management of the radio station to Bro. Jamie Roberts. This has allowed me to turn my attention to the two remaining divisions, Publishing and IMBBI. Just a few weeks ago Bro. Toby Cribbs sent us a great number of materials that he has used in the Lighthouse Ministries and Jail Ministry. He has given us permission to convert those materials into a digital format.



*Secretary/
Treasurer
Missions*
Roger Stewart

MISSION NEWS AND VIEWS

STEWART REPORT

Beginning Balance	\$2,158,325.64
RECEIPTS:	
Interstate Salaries	\$5,900.02
Foreign & National Salaries	\$5,530.52
Designated	\$42,581.02
Undesignated	\$15,588.26
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$163,599.82
BALANCE FOR SALARY/EXPENSE	
	\$1,321,925.46
DISBURSEMENTS	
Interstate Salaries	\$73,707.80
Foreign Salaries	\$22,770.80
National Salaries	\$24,739.20
Designated	\$41,406.69
Salaries & Expenses of Sec-Treas. Office	
Office Salaries	\$12,447.07
General Office	\$2,126.85
Automobile Expense	\$289.34
Sec/Treasurer Exp	\$414.68
Postage	\$508.305
Total Office	\$15,828.55
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$178,410.48
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	\$2,143,514.98
Deficit for July	(\$14,810.66)

News: Gena and I found ourselves back on the road in July doing what we do: recommending the missionaries and reporting to the churches. We are often asked, "Do you like to travel?" The answer is an overwhelming, "Yes, we love it." With a heart for missions and missionaries we look forward to a new experience with the missionaries, missions, pastors and churches each week.

Names: July began with a trip to central Florida for the **100th Session of the Florida State Association** hosted by Gant Lake MBC in Webster. ABA missionaries present were Timothy Sims (*Thailand*), Temple Meek (*India/Florida*), Brandon Rutherford (*USA*) and Brett Bell (*Florida*) plus many other church-sent missionaries not endorsed by the Missions' Office but doing great works for the cause of Christ. While there, we presented ABA Missions to **Gant Lake MBC** where David Slone is pastor and Ed Button [*SMC Chairman*] is senior adult pastor and **Bay Lake MBC** in Groveland where Darrell Sheeley is pastor. Additionally, it was my distinct honor to preach the Mission Message at the Florida association and for that I am thankful.

On our return trip we stopped in Wetumpka for the **Alabama State Mission Development** meeting at **New Home MBC**, pastored by Eric Sutton and where I was blessed to bring the message. At that meeting we enjoyed fellowshiping with Interstate Missionary Paul Armstrong and SMC Committeeman Ron Ballard. The next day found us with Pastor Aaron Parrish for Sunday AM services at **Oak Wood MBC** near Russellville, AL.

Numbers: For the month of July 2020, ABA Recommended Missionaries reported **167 Professions of Faith** and **7 Baptisms**. July began a new associational year but if we consider the work these same missionaries since their endorsement in June of 2019 the numbers are **5889 Professions of Faith** and **461 Baptisms**. *Praise the Lord!*

Notes: Further travels in July took us to **Pleasant Hill MBC** just outside of Overton, TX, where Pete Thompson is pastor; **First Baptist Church of Northern Heights**, Kansas City, MO, where Ryan Miller serves as pastor and Candelario Espinosa is sent out as missionary; and, **El-Bethel MBC**, Belton, MO, where Greg Kelley is pastor.

Needs: Please pray for the missionaries! Without a doubt, the greatest need today is your intercession on their behalf. COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc around the world and as hurricane season approaches matters may only get worse. These men serve faithfully and preach unashamedly; surely, we can pray for them regularly.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

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

Despite the Government ban on visiting families and open temples, we continue with the Gospel preaching to the Colombians and to Christians. We are teaching and admonishing them to trust God in all things. Col.3:16.

We broadcast the Gospel message from Monday to Friday at 4:00pm and on Sundays we do virtual services at 10:00am and 7:00pm. Quiroga MBC, Fusa BM, Monterey BM and a family in Ibague City are all present at the virtual services on Sunday.

I witnessed to the family Sierra. They made professions of faith in Christ. We praise God for spiritual results. We also have Virtual Seminary with 10 students on Monday, Wed, and Friday at 7:00pm. We are uploading 15 min videos on Facebook with the Gospel message about the importance of being saved and the assurance of salvation in Christ Jesus.

My wife works with the Ladies Auxiliary. They are having their first virtual meeting. All of my family is involved in the Lord's mission work and I am so thankful to God for them.

Please pray for Pastor Ledford of Madison Fl. He is having another surgery in September.

Bogotá, Colombia
Gilberto Pinzón, Missionary

Praise God for His grace and mercy, my health is progressing every day. I continue

having controls, and specialist appointments every month. Thanks for your prayers. God continue to bless you greatly. Amen

PENIEL BAPTIST MISSION: Today is the 126th day of quarantine here in Bogotá, caused by covid-19.

For the last 19 weeks we are having virtual services from home, Sundays and Wednesdays, by Facebook live.

I am preaching a new series about missionary work, for the last seven weeks. Please pray for visible and encouraging results.

We also, stream classes of the Bible Institute: Bible Analysis and Homiletics, Monday and Tuesday at 5:00 PM, By Facebook live and Zoom, every week. We have new class visitors and friends.

I, also, continue having daily devotions, through WhatsApp. About 500 people listen to God's Word in North, Central and South America, one more of our listeners, Rolando Amundarai made a profession of faith. Praise God.

Tithes and offerings are a little down because several of our members continue without employment and others have lost their jobs. We have had to supply with food and money to help pay renting, electricity and running water to several of our mission families. Please pray for them and for us to continue helping.

SPECIAL NEED. Please, please, continue to pray for my former pastor for more than 35 years, Joe Harper. He is one of my dearest friends and heroes, he loves God, his family, missions and missionaries with all his heart. The First BC, in Port Salerno and him have supported World Missions, especially in Latin America for many years.

Russia

Jody Veasley, Missionary

Beginning Furlough: We have made it to America! After going through mostly empty airports with most businesses closed and wearing masks through several flights, we made it! Praise God! And then we quarantined for two weeks before going to our base in Brazoria County, TX. We are mostly booked for our furlough, and from mid-October until we leave, for the first time ever, we are just taking a time to rest, refocus, and plan for going back to St. Petersburg in January.

We have received so many prayers and blessings since being in St. Petersburg that we are just in awe of God and thankful for the love and care from our ministry partners! From churches stepping in to help with travel, furlough, and schooling expenses, to friends and family helping us to have a smoother transition to the States, the trip has been much smoother and easier so far than we could have ever imagined! Thank you!

We were blessed to have a few in-person church services before having to return to the States. We are also blessed that we have someone we trust to take care of home and financial matters in St. Petersburg while we are in the States! We are blessed to have our missionary partner, Holly Naimushina, help out with making sure the services and ministries keep happening while we are on furlough!

How can you pray Ministry:

Ministry: 1. Pray for the church in St. Petersburg, including Holly, while we are away, that they might grow in Christ together, continue serving together, and might be able to reach out despite the pandemic.

2. Pray for our furlough appointments, that we might stay healthy and those churches we are planning to visit might stay healthy so that we might be able to visit with them as planned.

3. Pray for more souls to be saved and disciples to be made. Personal

Personel: 1. We start homeschooling in mid-August. Pray that God might guide us all through that and that it would go smoothly and effectively.

2. As usual, we are taking care of medical check-ups and things while stateside. Pray specifically for some issues we had with our daughter, Haddee, while in Russia. Please pray that everything might be resolved while we are stateside so that we can return to Russia without having to feel like we still have unresolved medical issues.

3. Pray for our adjustment to American life. It changes more and more for us each time we leave, and the adjustments can be challenging. for us?

Romania

Kolt Mackrill, Missionary

Greetings from Brasov! We want to thank

you all for your prayers and support. This past month we have enjoyed the relaxation measures that the Romanian government has put in place and life here has gone back almost to normal. The church in Feldioara has enjoyed being able to meet back together indoors again. We have enjoyed sweet fellowship with our brothers and sisters in this church. I, Kolt, have been preaching in Romanian without a translator since our return here back in February. We thank God for His blessings. It has taken a lot of patience and diligence to get to this point but we are excited about the independence speaking in Romanian without translators gives us!

We are pleased to announce that the building project in Zarnesti is going well. Last month we completed the installation of the new roof and it looks great. This month we move forward on the installation of the new windows, doors, and roll shades. This month we will also install the exterior insulation and the indoor heating units. Thank you for your prayers and support!

Spain

Daniel Estrada, Missionary

In the Alhaurin de la Torre work ... We had the opportunity to share the word of God and then had a fellowship with the brethren after the service.

Also, we as a family had the privilege to celebrate Emmely's 18th birthday; it was an opportunity to share the love of God with her friends.

Thank God for this blessing. Emmely has been a strong worker in the ministry too.

We thank God for giving us our two children, Oseas and Emmely. Both of them love the Lord and serve Him.

Serving one another ... Using Zoom, we had the opportunity to minister and fellowship with some co-workers in Europe close to us. All of these brethren are from Latino countries and serve God in Spain and Ireland. From left to right after me, Avisai, Jul-ian, Pablo, and Hector.

We plan to visit them in the coming weeks to teach and preach to their congregations in Spain. We also hope in the future to visit our dear brother Avisai in Ireland.

Thanks to all of the people who prayed for my wife Eloisa, she is doing better. Her recovery has been slow because there were two surgeries in 15 days. It has been hard on her body, please keep her in your prayers.

South Pacific

Walt Emry, Missionary

Independence Day for the nation of Vanuatu is July 30th. They gained independence in the year 1980 from England and France. So this year was their 40th anniversary celebration. I went up to Independence Park where the main celebrations were being held. The main event was the Flag raising ceremony, which lasted about 3 hours, with the military doing some marching routines along with the band playing, concluding with a speech from the Prime Minister and the exiting of the military from the parade field. Included in the ceremony was a fly-over by the Australian Air Force. It was quite remarkable. During the Independence Day celebrations (which lasted 9 days) I took advantage of the crowd of people that came from other islands (in Bislama they would say: Fulap man emi kam lo Vila lo natafala aelan!), to pass out some booklets of John and Romans along with a tract that I had written. Out of all the people I talked to not many were from Port Vila. I ran across people from the islands of Malakula, Pentecost, Ambrym, Santo, Tanna, and I even met some students from the Solomon Islands. Not one person rejected a handout, and because of the contacts made, there might even be some open doors to visit other islands.

Romania

Mike Rogers, Missionary

We are thankful for another good month here in Brasov. The weather has improved, the Covid restrictions are easing and we continue to be enjoying good health. We are now allowed to legally have services inside with adequate social distancing and masks. Temperatures must be checked on entrance to the building and hands washed with antiviral gel but at least we are making progress towards "normal". This spring has been the rainiest in 60 years here in Brasov but it is now sunny and upper 70's, with many returning to parks and outdoor

recreation. The amount of covid cases is rising rapidly with Brasov county now having the third most cases of covid in the country. We enjoyed an increase in attendance with the initial opening up after the lockdown but things have slowed down this past month with people cautious about being out and in contact with others. We have been blessed with families with infants and so the nursery was redone this month and we changed all of the lights out for LEDs to be more energy efficient. Pray for us as we continue to reach out with the gospel here in Brasov.

Thailand

Danny Jones, Missionary

Returning from our very eventful trip to Israel in March, I believe that I contracted the corona virus during my stopover at JFK airport in New York.

Within days I was running a high fever and had passed it to my entire family as we were quarantined together. The following week I was admitted to the hospital. My greatest fear was when Tara, my oldest daughter, had to go to the hospital with breathing issues. We had fevers of 103°-105°F for over three months. Other symptoms we experienced were loss of taste and smell, painful breathing, fatigue, heart arrhythmia, swelling, burst blood vessels under our skin, rash, dizziness, and other issues I won't mention here. Our symptoms continued for over two months after we finally tested negative for the live virus, and we are still experiencing side effects. Our story was picked up by several news channels, magazines, and newspapers, and it was shared online millions of times. We received tens of thousands of messages from around the world from churches and individuals who were praying for us. I am humbled by the outpouring of love that we received during this trial in our life. Your prayers helped us remain steadfast in the knowledge that the Lord would see us through the circumstances, no matter the outcome. I am confident that we serve a God that hears and answers our prayers. I have always said "Saints on their knees keep missionaries on their feet." I believe that I and my family are alive and able to continue serving the Lord today because of your prayers.

I kept a journal over the past several months of how God has blessed and provided for us during our fight with the coronavirus. I am currently working on compiling this journal into a book entitled COVID19: Faith in Crisis that I hope to release soon.

Thailand

David Leak, Missionary

Thailand has extended the international flight restrictions indefinitely; so, my plans are ever changing & evolving. Presently, I'm planning to return to, "square one", & as soon as I have everything prepared, begin deputation. I've talked to both Brent & Dtawm Rosendal about allowing my current Visa to expire, & I can do so with the Visa, but I'm awaiting more information on my Work Permit, which will expire in December. Dtawm will let me know details about the Work Permit, ASAP. She is also assisting me with the required Health Insurance to be able to return to Thailand. So far, I've a quote of \$300.00 per month. It also covers Covid 19; which the Thai Government requires as well & a Certificate upon my return to Thailand. She also told me that the requirement for the 14 day Thai Government required quarantine will most likely not be lifted, & she knows of more reasonable rates to accommodate me upon my return to Thailand. The price; @ least for now, is around \$1000.00; much better than the \$2400.00-3000.00, that I've been reporting. I ask each of you to *please* keep these financial needs as a matter of prayer on my behalf. I'm in *dire need* of increased support as well. Thank you!

My plans for leaving Florida have changed because of these changing & evolving circumstances, so my departure date is, "up in the air", for now, at least. Dtawm Rosendal also mentioned that the Foundation is in need of me returning ASAP, in order to help. She said the Thai Government is becoming more restrictive & observant of the Foundation, so it's expedient that I return ASAP to Thailand; please pray for these circumstances, thank each of you!

Because of the extreme need of everyone's prayers, I'm sending the following out in this report once again:

Please keep me in prayer as I continue to pray about the invitation that the Rosendals

have extended to me to work alongside them in Chiang Mai, Thailand. I'm honored that they would consider & ask me, so it's been a very serious matter of prayer & consideration since Brent called me & asked me to pray about it in the latter part of last year when I returned from Ubon. I believe it to be a **great** opportunity & am seriously considering & also excited about the future! I will also be working independently to plant Churches. We will be helping one another as the needs arise at various times & stages of future works & outreaches. My burden for the Isaan Region still remains strong & heavy on my heart too, as well as those that I've already met there. I still want to make trips to Ubon to stay in touch with those contacts/friends there. The School that I'm in touch with; will, I believe, prove a very valuable contact point there, outside of Ubon. We are looking forward to a Prison Ministry that will also include ministering to the prisoner's families both during; and of course, after incarceration. The English classes at the Heart to Heart Foundation Office were @ one time boasting from 40-50 students, & we hope to return to at least that. Since we are **required to teach English; both to receive & maintain our Visas, it's a great outreach tool!** The **Seminary Classes** will hopefully be taught simultaneously along with the English classes. Please pray for Thailand For Christ; thank each of you!

Solomon Islands

Roger Watkins, Missionary

The month of July was spent translating more lessons and books into Pijin and simple English by request of the churches here. Also, we have seen the beginnings of a new church in the Henderson area of Honiara on Guadalcanal. Brother Timothy Malcana, pastor of the Joppa Missionary Baptist Church in Silalo, Malaita, has been Honiara working to pay tuition for his son, and had gathered together about 25 people for Sunday preaching at a house that has room for a meeting. They contacted Bro Freddie O'tao, pastor of Little Flock MBC, in Honiara to help them out, and Bro Absalom Manasseh who had been released from 28 days quarantine after coming back from Vanuatu went to work

with them. He baptized 3 on July 11, and will baptize 3 more this Sunday, July 26. They plan to get some poles and leaf to build a temporary building on the grass land of Henderson for a church building. They will organize out of Little Flock MBC of White River. Also, Bro Henfred Ofarara will be going to Balelea to teach the five churches there for a little over a week in the next few weeks. I would like to go, but I am having to build my strength and stamina back before I try.

In other news, the government here extended the emergency declaration for COVID19 for another four months, which means no visitors from foreign countries, and some restrictions from time to time for us here and the threat of shut down if any COVID is detected here.

The family is doing fine, and we have continued to expand our gardens for food production to cut the costs of feeding out family. We have 10 grandchildren living with us now, which is a blessing to see them out of the slums of Honiara and the crime associated with it and into a Christian home. Our needs are being met for the teaching of the churches, but I need a new set of tires for the truck, about \$2,000 for new tires and tubes and for new wood to replace the rotten deck in the bed.

These roads are hard on tires, and thankfully I do all of my own tire work, breaking them down and repairing the flats, and rotate them to get the best wear, but the stones and rock wear them down, so now I have 'baloney skins' for tires!

Japan

Shin Kamoda, Missionary

Greetings in Christ's name! On 28th June, we enjoyed our guest speaker, Bro. Tsugumi chi Hashimoto, 3rd year Seminary student, who preached the Gospel and challenged us not to be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. We renewed our commitment to trust and boldly witness Christ to the lost and dying world.

He is at a talented singer with the guitar. He shared his testimony in song, before his message. Our children and he went out for fellowship in the afternoon and came back for our evening worship service. Sunday school students were happy to interact with

him. This day was full of services and good fellowship which we all needed.

Our members cooperate to distribute our church news letters house to house and on the street. We interact with people out side doing some thing in front of their houses. Most of times, we greet them and hand them our paper to invite them to services. A lot of our paper are inserted to mail boxes. We get responses from recipients by SNSore-mail.

Bolivia

Darrell Robertson, Missionary

As in the rest of the world, confusion and frustration describes what is happening here in Bolivia. Last year ended with a failed election and riots and killings in the streets of all the major cities. Then 2020 started with mud slides in the area of our strongest church. Then, as all of you know, covid hit and every thing came to a screaming halt. In March, the government of Bolivia shut down all motor transportation afer 4 p.m. and no travel on the weekends; everybody was to be home social distancing. That only lasted one week then they went to total shut down. The military set up check points all over the city and we could only go out to the market one morning a week. The number on our Bolivian ID indicated what morning we could get our necessities and this lasted eleven weeks. The church was not able to meet for eight weeks during the rebellion and two weeks during the mud slides and now it has been twenty weeks during this covid shut down. All international flights were grounded until the 1st of May. I get a flight home on May 12th. I was invited to preach at the Washington State Meeting on July 17th. Unfortunately covid began to regain strength and the meeting was cancelled. But I thank God because after so many weeks of being unable to worship with other believers, the Happy Valley MBC in Whitefish, Montana, was meeting and going strong. They have had young people saved and some wee baptized. Makes me want to shout and jump every time I met with them.

I will be returning to Bolivia on the 4th of August 2020.

Please pray for my safe return because things could get sticky.

Interstate Missions

Lighthouse Ministries

Toby Cribbs, Sr, Director

THE FIRST THING: My left knee has been hurting and it makes it hard to walk. I saw one Orthopedic Doctor last week and will be seeing another soon.

THE SECOND THING: I have set up special account for FUNDS for the BOOK FINISHER MACHINE. We had an anonymous gift of \$200.00 given this month. We now have \$2400.00. Will you please help us to raise the \$5000.00 that we need?

THE THIRD THING: All the Jails and Prison are still shut down.

THE FOURTH THING: Ministries helping Ministries. We picked up ten cases of English Bibles (200) from Mt Pisgah Baptist Church Printing Ministry, Oliver Springs Tennessee and ten cases of Spanish Bibles (240). They have been donating us Bibles for over 25 years.. We picked up twelve cases of Brother Dennis Dills ,gospel booklets Clarksville, Georgia. He has been donating them to us for about fifteen years.

FIFTH THING: We had two finish our Landmark Bible Course.,(Michael Cheney and John Koop. We enrolled one new student Jackie Smith. We have two in this course. Every month Brother John Koop sends in Postage Stamps.

SIXTH THING: We mailed out to Chaplains 122 of our Resource List .The list lets the Chaplains know the material we have to help the inmates. This month we receive several request.

THE SEVENTH THING: We have for some time been praying for a Missionary or Missionaries to come along to help in this Ministry. This is the most rewarding ministry that I have ever been into. You need to come and see what we do and the material we have for the inmates. Lives are being changed. It is only by ministries like this. They need the GOSPEL.

Haleyville, AL

Heritage Baptist Missions
Allen Barton, Missionary

If you are like me, you are sick and tired of hearing about the pandemic and the Covid-19 virus. Yet, here I am typing up another report and having to mention it again.

Due to the pandemic and the surge of cases in our area, we have not been able to get out and knock on doors like we normally do at this time of year. This has been very discouraging, especially since I have a brand new missionary helper to go along with me now!

While we do our best not to dwell on the negative, it is sometimes hard, especially when it's time to give a report to our churches. No missionary want's to put in their report, "Well, we're still here, just not getting to do much."

While we have been hindered, we have not stopped! We are still meeting for every service, still sending out Sunday services on Facebook live, and we are still witnessing at every opportunity we have.

We have also had some changes take place personally. Our adoption of our little girls is final at last! It has been a long road, and we would like to thank you all for taking every step with us! We can't wait until we can be together and I can introduce them to you!

Also, I have had some health issues that has slowed me down a bit. I have seen the doctor and am on some new medication, so hopefully I will be back to 100% very soon.

Please continue to pray for us and even though the pandemic has hindered travel for us, we can still meet via Zoom, Skype, Webex, Facebook live...the list is endless. If you would like for us to present the work at your church, contact us and lets see if we can work something out.

Hope, Indiana

Scott Bourland, Missionary

Outreach: We have continued to use many forms of outreach, with personal witnessing from each individual being the strongest. We continue to do our mail out cards and so far there has been one or two households visit with each mailing. We want to thank those that have sent funds to help with the postage on these cards.

People are moving into ministry: We have already been blessed with our new members stepping up to serve. One young lady has

joined me in leading the singing, one of the men has taken over the sound and projection work, as well as creating the slides for projection. One of the ladies just naturally stepped up and started greeting by giving everyone a bulletin as they came in and welcoming them. At the end of August we are going to have a meeting and lay out several ministry opportunities for people to serve in.

It is not all Roses: By nature I major on the positives and tend to push the negatives away and I think that serves me well. So I seldom put anything negative in a report. As thrilling of a month as this has been, there have been hard things as well. The details don't matter, but I just want you to know that the enemy is not happy and he doesn't give up easily either. Keep in mind that young churches are very fragile as they are composed of very new disciples. Our need for your constant prayers cannot be overstated.

Two Grey Hills Missionary Baptist Church

Rusty Denny, Missionary

As many of you know, we are "shut down" on the reservation. Curfew is Monday through Thursday from 8PM to 5AM and from Friday 8PM to Monday morning 5AM. We are not allowed to have church services. Funerals are limited to 5 attending. We have had positive cases all around us but none of the members have had it "yet". The state of New Mexico has also been having many new cases as well. This has really made doing the Lords work at Two Grey Hills challenging in many ways. With the Navajo Nation discouraging people from visiting and intermingling, we are very limited. Since none have internet, we cannot have services on line as many do. I have been sending out newsletters to the members as I am able to do so. My health problems have made this difficult recently. **More on that later.** Work has progressed on the building but due to the restrictions that have been placed on travel, work has been delayed for the time being. I am confident that we will be able to finish the building when the Lord is ready for us to!

Twin Lakes Baptist Missions

Jerry Baker, Missionary

What uncertain, crazy and sometimes

stressful times the Lord's churches are experiencing this summer! For our church family we seem to be caught "betwixt and between" in trying to "reopen" with our Navajo church family having to face the "lockdowns of the Rez" on weekends. Unfortunately, we were unable to have worship services at the church from June 14th through the last Sunday of July due to the imposed rulings of the Navajo government. We remained in regular contact with our members both by phone and text. **HOWEVER, things quickly changed!** And, I'm not going to wait until the end of August to reveal how the Lord worked among the members of Twin Lakes Baptist!

During a "telephone poll" of our regular members, giving them the option of meeting for worship on the first Sunday of August, the vote was an excited and overwhelming "Yes, Pastor!" Even those who definitely risk it all by driving beyond the limits of the Reservation border stated their desire to reconnect for worship. On August 2nd we gathered, wore our masks, practiced social distancing, joyfully lifted our voices in songs from our hymnals, shared prayer requests, gave tithes and offerings, and worshipped the Lord as we gathered around the Word of God. **But, that's not all!!!** During the announcements, a motion and second were made from members that we also resume worship services on Sunday mornings AND add Wednesday evening services, effective immediately! At the end of morning it was easy to see the "smiles behind the masks" because of happy bright eyes. We also felt one another's hugs via "social distancing" from across the pews and aisles. By the way, it's perfectly "legal" for our members to attend church services on Wednesday evenings....no lockdowns except on weekends! For Sundays it was their choice, their desire and their unanimous vote to do so! Connie and I are just as grateful as our members. It's been a long, stressful summer, but we see light at the end of the dark tunnel imposed upon us! We ask that you remember us in pray as the church family at Twin Lakes presses forward to be who the Lord intends us to be and to do what He needs us to do. Please lift up our members in prayer. Some work in the medical

profession, two are in the school system, one works with the Census, one assists with homeless Veterans, one is in college and substitute teaches in the schools, and another is employed by the Navajo Nation government. Each of these are involved with jobs where being exposed to the virus is very likely. For three of them it became a reality and the 14 day quarantine was required.

Colorado Church Planting

Everett Ledbetter, Missionary

In many ways, July was a good month for us. We were blessed in several ways. First of all, we were blessed with an offering to purchase water bottles and water bottle labels. This will be a great help to our outreach during this time. We are thankful for the offering and those that helped design the labels.

We were also blessed with higher attendance. For two weeks, we reserved a park pavilion to have Sunday morning worship.

The first Sunday we were blessed with a **high attendance of 26 with one first time visitor**. A large portion of that attendance was due to Bro. Caleb Wood and Valley Landmark BC of Spokane visiting with us on their way to church camp. This was a huge encouragement to us. Anytime a pastor or church group visits with us, it is a real encouragement to us.

The next Sunday, we again had worship at the park, and we were blessed with **another first time visitor**. As I was setting up, I was able to invite him to join us and he did.

During this month, my wife was also able to get her MS medicine treatment. This was an answer to prayer. We were doubtful because of Covid that she would be able to get the treatment. This is a difficult time for churches and mission works.

During this time, we have seen our offerings from churches take a hit. We have two areas that we could use support in. Whether it be one time offerings or monthly offerings. We ask that you designate your offerings either "housing" or "insurance". Any offerings are a great help. If your church would like to hear more about our ministry, I am available to come and speak or for online meetings.

Misión Bautista Emanuel

Houston, TX

Gabriel Sanchez, Missionary

June was another month of uncertainty. During the first two weeks of this month, church members were getting some courage, and started to attend church services. Although our attendance was no more than thirty. Unfortunately, on June 26, governor Gregg Abbott issued another executive order to close some of the business due to an increase on the number of people contracting the virus. This announcement created another phase of fear among the population, and our Sunday attendance dropped again. But Praise the Lord! There are still some faithful members attending services. Our monthly averages were 20 for Worship Service, 17 for Sunday School and 8 for midweek service.

We continue to project our live services via Facebook, and archiving them for other people to view them in a latter time. Overall, God continues to display his mercy upon Emanuel and upon my family.

TESTED FOR COVID-19: One of my wife's co-worker tested positive for Corona Virus. For this reason my wife and I were required to be tested. We had to wait a week to get the results back. Unfortunately, I had to miss a midweek service. Brother Victor Gonzalez took over and presented the Word of God. Finally, on the 26 of June we got our results back. We were negative!

Bloomington Missions

Kevin Plaster, Missionary

Reach Camp 2020: I had the great privilege of preaching for the EBA REACH Camp this year in upper Michigan. It was a great week of fellowship with fellow Eastern Baptist Association churches and pastors. Though numbers were down this year due to COVID there were 6 souls saved by the end of the week! That's always a great way to light a fire in a preachers soul.

Ken Sibley- Gospel Illusionist: We also had the privilege of having missionary Ken Sibley visit with us and share his ministry of illusion. We always thoroughly enjoy his gospel presentation and we have seen souls saved from his efforts. We support Brother Ken on a monthly basis and it is so awesome

to see the people at Journey deepen their relationship with him. We have always taught our people missions is more than a check we send but it includes a relationship we build. Please pray for him as his summer schedule with VBS and camps had many cancellations due to the COVID pandemic.

Baptisms: Yet another thing that COVID had put on hold for a while was baptisms. Since we were not meeting from March -May in person we had a few who wanted to be baptized. When we returned to in person services many of our new or young disciples wanted to give their families a chance to see them follow the Lord in baptism. Some of their family members are older or at risk so we encouraged them to take their time and be smart about planning. We were so excited when Lisi and Spencer decided to go ahead and get baptized without family being present because they just didn't want to wait any longer. We still have 2 new believers who are waiting to be baptized. Pray that things will fall into place soon for this to happen.

Benchmark Baptist Fellowship

Allen Schoeff, Missionary

I AM GETTING EXCITED FOR REVIVAL!

The mission will host its first ever Faith Promise Mission Revival in just a few days. We have invited a few missionaries specifically to come visit and give a report. During the past few days we have been getting ready spiritually and physically for this special season of worship. We would welcome any missionaries who are in our area to stop in for a visit and share a few minutes with our church family about what God has called you to do. The revival starts on August 13 and runs through August 16th. Services Thursday, Friday and Saturday will start at 6:30. We will have a special family day picnic on Saturday before hand that starts at 4:30. And we will close our revival on Sunday, August 16, during our morning services. Please pray now for Brother Brant Lane who will be our evangelist. Of course, we are still practicing all the recommended precautions for the virus, but we are moving ahead in faith with Christ for His Kingdom's Glory.

I am saddened to report on the passing of Maggie. However, I am excited to share that

she is in Glory with the King of Glory. To most of the world her passing will not be noticed. To most of the world her absence much like her presence will not be felt. But to Sister Debbie Scott, Maggie's home going is a joyous occasion to be celebrated. Near the end of June, Sister Scott called me very concerned about Maggie's salvation. They are cousins and grew up like sisters. Eventually Debbie asked if I would be willing to drive down to Westmoreland (about an hour from the house) and meet Maggie. The ride down is another story for another day, but suffice it to say that when we arrived, I was ready to meet Maggie. And on that day, Maggie was ready to meet Jesus. As she lie in her bed, dying of cancer, she heard the gospel call, bowed her head, repented of her sins and asked Jesus into her heart. Sunday, Debbie shared this testimony. "If pastor Alan had not gone with me, my cousin would have died without Jesus." During the continuing COVID shutdown, I have found ministry to be overwhelming today the least, but for that brief moment I was overwhelmed with JOY. Not because of what I had done, which was little enough in deed, but because the name of JESUS was being glorified.

Missionary Ambassador Ministries

Christopher Cartwright, Missionary

I am writing this special letter to inform you of changes that have taken place in this ministry. I want to thank the Lord for what He has done through this ministry in the past 17 years. He has done a lot especially in the past 9 months. Now, to add to the good things happening, I would like to inform you that I have a new sponsoring church. My new sponsoring church is now Fairmont Baptist Church in Kettering, Ohio where Wesley Becker is the pastor. The church has just voted on July 15 to be my new sponsoring church. This church is very solid in doctrine and has a good relationship among the churches of the American Baptist Association.

Fairmont Baptist Church will handle my monthly mission support from now on, and for that, any support checks will need to be written to Fairmont Baptist Church but be sure to put my name on the memo line.

The address is:

Fairmont Baptist Church
P.O. Box 292977
Dayton, Ohio 45429

Please continue to pray for this mission ministry and that the Lord will provide for the needs of the ministry. Again, I thank the Lord for allowing Fairmont Baptist Church to be my sponsoring church, and I thank you for your prayers.

International Christian Publishers

Bill Johnson, Director

VBS by ICP is becoming a reality. Writers are completing their assignments and editors are reading manuscripts. Artists and designers are at work getting the first Vacation Bible School to be produced by International Christian Publishers a reality.

Translator Jacob Tubal is ready to translate the materials into the Burmese language. It will be the first time a full VBS curriculum will be available to help the children of Myanmar (Burma). If Covid-19 is past by summer of 2021, we should be able to supply materials for thirty thousand children in Myanmar. Jeremiah Abay is anxiously waiting to get started translating the *Lord of the Kings* into Tagalog language for the children of the Philippine Islands. Having grown accustomed to VBS over the years, the churches there will surely need materials for more than thirty thousand children.

Lord of the Kings will focus on the Hebrew captives in Babylon. VBS students will learn how God stood by these young men who were faithful to Him. God protected His people while demonstrating His sovereignty over all kings of the earth. Children will learn it is a good thing to give one's heart faithfully to worshiping and serving God, who is rich in mercy and love.

We are praying now that God will supply the needed funds to print these greatly needed Bible study materials for the children of the world!

UPDATE: Last month we reported printing 3,000 preschool *Character Code for Life* books in Myanmar. **Because we had ample funds the printing was actually 5,000.** It is a blessing to provide for the additional children!



Dean Grigsby

Business Manager Report

At Bogard Press our purpose is to serve churches by providing literature needed to assist them in fulfilling the Great Commission. During this time of COVID, sales are half that of the same time frame last year, but God has graced us with the ability to remain open to provide literature for those churches who are still utilizing it.

Our ministry has been much like a long-distance race. The race over these last few months has been difficult, but I am reminded of the words from Hebrews 12:1-2: *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, 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, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

During a competition, there is an ebb and flow of emotions and results. You never know what is going to happen. You never know who will step up and do something extraordinary. You never know who in the privacy of their training rooms have endured and are now ready to give the performance of a lifetime.

Over the coming months we can expect victories and defeats, highs and lows, and encouragements and disappointments. We must be prepared and willing to endure. We never know what may happen next or whom the Lord may place in our paths, so we must remain faithful.

The audience of heaven is watching. May we in the Lord's churches, focus on Jesus, put off the sin in our lives, and patiently run the race God has given us, ready to give the performance of a lifetime. May we focus on those things which are most important. *Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear...* Hebrews 12:28



Kyle Elkins
Editor in Chief

“Shackled by a heavy burden, ‘Neath a load of guilt and shame. Then the hand of Jesus touched me,
And now I am no longer the same.”

The leper in the text represented the worst that life had to offer. He was an outcast; he was socially and medically without cure. According to Leviticus 13:45, he had to wear torn clothing, keep his head uncovered, wear covering over his lower face and live as an outcast. Luke 5 relates that the man’s condition covered his entire body. A leper was truly a walking dead person. To avoid spreading the contamination of this awful condition, the leper had to shout “Unclean, unclean” so people could stay a healthy distance away.

This leper came to Jesus and begged Him for healing. Jesus reached out His hand and touched the leper. This was unheard of for anyone to touch a leper. Jesus expressed not only His willingness but also His compassion by saying, “I will; be thou clean.” Immediately, the leper was cleansed from his horrible disease.

The greatest blessing we have is something that no one else can do for us. Our bodies can be healed with medicine and time. Many things with which we suffer may be treated. Only Jesus can bring the cleansing we need from the dreaded guilt and penalty of sin.

At this point, one would think that the man would do anything Jesus told him to do. Instead, the man began doing exactly the opposite. In doing so, he made it more difficult for Jesus to minister in that area. The blessings we receive from the hand of God should lead us to obedience to the Word of God.

Rejoice because Jesus still touches lives that are burdened with sin. People who have “hit bottom” in their lives can feel the loving and compassionate touch of Jesus Christ. The leper teaches no one is outside the reach and cleansing of Jesus Christ.

FINANCIAL REPORT
WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST INSTITUTE
May/June 2020

GENERAL FUND					
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$10,588.88	EXPENSES:		
			Utilities	\$ 1,301.07	
INCOME:			Misc.	2,684.56	
ALABAMA			Office	39.72	
.Magnolia Springs -Theodore, AL	400.00		Instruction	3,110.00	
Schillingers Rd. BC -Mobile, AL	150.00		TOTAL EXPENSE	\$7,135.35	\$7,133.593
			NEW BALANCE		\$6,341.96
GEORGIA					
Northside, BC	-Vienna, GA	200.00	BOOKSTORE FUND		
Traders Hill	-Folkston, GA	70.00	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$ 3,135.53
			Income:		
FLORIDA			Bookstore Sales	\$ -0-	
Okeechobee BC	-Okeechobee, FL	220.43	Press Sales	\$ 512.99	
Calvary BC	-Panama City, FL	50.00	Contributions		
Oleno BC	-HighSprings, FL	200.00	Magnolia Springs, Theodore	\$ 140.00	
Sunlight BC	-Pensacola, FL	50.00	Landmark BC Monticello, FL	200.00	
			Total Income	\$852.99	\$852.99
MISSISSIPPI			TOTAL AVAILABLE		\$3,988.20
Central BC	-Gulfport, MS	60.00			
Mics:			Expenses:		
TOTAL		\$1,400.43	Utilities	\$643.92	
			Postage	\$364.16	
DESIGNATED FUNDS:	H.H.Strickland		Print Shop	\$2,500.00	
Magnolia Spring BC	-Theodore, AL	800.00	Supplies	163.24	
Frankfort BC	-Russellville, AL	200.00	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,671.32	\$3,671.32
Newark BC	-Elkton, MD	200.00	NEW BALANCE		\$ 317.20
Cumberland Cove BC	-Monterey, TN	50.00			
First Baptist BC	-White City, FL	200.00	BUILDING FUND		
TOTAL		\$ 1,450.00	Calvary BC	-Panama City, FL	250.00
COMMITTEE OF 100			Traders Hill BC	-Folkston, GA	50.00
Terry Alexander	- Pensacola, FL	20.00	TOTAL INCOME		\$300.00
			EXPENSES:		
Kitchen Sales	-Pensacola, FL	18.00	Regions Bank	\$1,426.75	
Transfer from Savings		4200.00	Transfer	\$3,200.00	
			Interest Income:	.09	
TUITION/REGISTRATION			Building Fund	\$6,900.15	
Registration		\$ -0-			
Tuition		\$ -0-			
TOTAL INCOME		\$2,888.43			
TOTAL AVAILABLE		\$13,477.31			

CHURCHES SEEKING A PASTOR

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church is in search of a pastor. We are a small church but are interested in growing and serving the Lord in our community and surrounding area. We are located 6 miles east of Ola, Arkansas.

Please contact Kenneth McCoy at 479-747-3760/email kenneth@arkwest.com or Don McCoy at 479-747-3403 for more information and to set up and appointment.

Northside Missionary Baptist Church of Ocala, Florida is currently seeking a full-time pastor. Applicant must believe that the Holy Bible is the inspired and infallible word of God, meet all the qualification of 1Tim. And Titus, preach and teach only from the King James Version, be a part of and in good fellowship with the American Baptist Association, be in complete conviction/agreement with the ABA Doctrinal Statement. Applicant is asked to submit a resume that includes educational background, previous positions, and reference contact information via email to Paul Merritt at secretarynmbc@gmail.com
 Christi Merritt, Secretary

South Louisiana Church Seeks Pastor: College Town Baptist Church of Hammond, LA is an old line Missionary Baptist church that is seeking a like-minded pastor. It presently has an interim pastor who wishes to retire due to age and health issues.

We are looking for a pastor with shepherd qualities. Preferably one with some Bible training, able to feed the sheep, willing to seek out the wanders and lost sheep, user of the King James version and one who loves to meet and fellowship with people.

Hammond is about 65 miles of New Orleans and the church has three acres of park-like property, a small but beautiful sanctuary, no indebtedness and an unstained reputation. It once had a nice size congregation, but attendance is drastically lowered. Therefore, a pastor would need to be bivocational. Pastoral support would increase as circumstances improve.

Interested men of God may contact Bro. Patrick Henagan at 52022 Fontana Lane, Independence, LA 70443 or Bro. Elester Raines at 48987 Galafora Rd. Tickfaw, LA 70466. If they prefer they may call

PRINTING NEWS

Printing News:

The printing ministry continues to progress. Some of the changes that have been made have proven to be a tremendous blessing for the work. However, sometimes the best plans do not always go the way that they are expected. That is when you have to just draw back and go at it again and hope that all will work out.

My greatest concern for this ministry is, "what will happen when I am no longer able to do what needs to be done, or who will be willing to come and learn the procedure and be able to insure that the ministry will continue?"

Years are fast passing by and I am no longer able to put in the hours that I once did. That does not mean that I am not going to continue the work, it just means that it might take a little longer to

complete some of the projects. It has taken me most of these years to even learn what and how to do some of the things that need to be done. I have made some really big mistakes but I would like to think that I have learned much from all of them. In some ways I feel that I am just now at a point to where I can produce a really good product. Just me of course.

NEW PRODUCTION:

By the time you receive this report, a new book by Dr. Glen Davenport will be off the press. I am not sure how many books he has written and we published. However, I am really glad to have a part in his writing ministry. His new book is entitled "A Study in First and Second Peter." It is 208 pages of open commentary on these two books. If anyone would like to order a pre-press copy, you can do so my contacting wfbi. The cost is \$10.00 per copy and the

mailing will be included.

APPRECIATION:

I always want to thank everyone who has a part in this ministry. Your support is so much appreciated. I also want to thank those who responded to the request to help pay off the new press. I have already produced two small jobs. However, much to my disappointment, it is going to need some work. I just hope that it will not be excessive. This kind of press is certainly not like the ones I learned to run years ago. Most of the operating system is electronic and requires more skill and knowledge than I have.

Once again, thank you so much and I ask that everyone continue to pray for me and my wife as we work together in this ministry. She is scheduled to have her right knee replaced on August 11, and I ask that you remember her in prayer. I will not be able to be with her.

<p style="text-align: center;">Publication</p> <p><i>wfbi</i> News is published each month except July by the West Florida Baptist Institute and is owned solely by the West Florida Baptist Institute.</p> <p>Subscription is free and a copy may be obtained by writing, e-mailing or calling the</p>	<p>office of WFBI. To be placed on the mailing list, simply call, write or email: 1-850-455-4417 or 1-850-455-7474 (fax). E-Mail at wfbi2@yahoo.com or sign up online at www.wfbi.net.</p>	<p>Articles should be in the office no later than the 10th of the month so that they might be included in that months edition. Mission reports are alternated so that all may have the opportunity to be published.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">H.H. Strickland; editor</p>
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