

# West FLORIDA BAPTIST News

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. H. H. Strickland

The fall semester is underway but with tremendous change. With the matter of the virus, it has been necessary for all of us to make major changes. I have been really concerned relative to the financial stability of the school. I have tried to make it very clear that without the school opening for the fall semester, it would be doubtful that we could support the financial load. The contributions to the school ministry have dropped over the past three years. The school has never been supported as it should, but there have been a good number of churches who believed in this ministry and faithfully supported us over the years. That number has dropped over the past few years and we have come to depend on student tuition in order to maintain the finances.

Therefore, if we were not able to open in the fall, it would mean that there would be no tuition. A decision had to be made as to how this could be achieved given the problems with the virus.

After a meeting with all of our instructors and the trustees and explaining the situation, it was agreed that we must open in some form in the fall.

Reality is sometime a very good teacher. Therefore, it was determined that we must open the only way that we could and that was through teaching over the internet. Our registrar has worked very diligently in preparing a program that can be used to enroll students and continue their teaching. We have contracted with Zoom and several classes are now ongoing and more are coming. Currently there are four instructors working on classes. I have begun recording separate classes so that they can be made available as more students enroll.

This process has also cost the school over fifteen-hundred dollars to make these classes available. We purchased a

new computer to handle the load. A tech took the time to install all the necessary components that were needed and it is working extremely well. My thanks to my grandson who did all the work and did not charge the school for his labor, We only had to pay for the equipment.

Several have called to see if we had any damage from the storm. I am glad to report that the facility did not receive any damage. The only damage we had was to some of the trees. I have spent several days trying to cut the limbs and move them to the road. It takes me just a little longer to do things like this any more so I have had to take my time. When you are the only one to do the work, you have to be patient. I really run down working in the heat after an hour or so.

Please accept my heart felt thanks for all those who have stayed with us and continue to support this ministry. It should never be about the individual but it should be about the work.

May the Lord richly bless you all.

**2020 Thanksgiving  
Mission Offering  
\$300,000**

From a  
**Woman's Point**  
 of View



**By: Loretta Pritchett**  
[lorettapritchett@yahoo.com](mailto:lorettapritchett@yahoo.com)  
**Matthew 7:7**  
**God Answers Our Prayers**

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find, knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”

This verse reminds me of a short devotional I read in my book of Chicken Soup For The Soul. A lady in Florida was checking out her yard and saw that the Palm trees needed to be cut and made ready for hurricane season. The leafs made big missiles for causing damage during the storm.

As she was leaving her house one morning she just briefly looked around and said a short prayer. “Lord could you send me someone to my house who could cut the trees back while offering to perform the work for a reasonable price.”?

Then she left for the day to do her daily routine forgetting all about the quick prayer she had ask God for.

That evening as she played with her children in the front yard a truck drove by her house and up the street.

As she played with her children and their dog the truck did a quick turn around and drove slowly up to her front yard and stopped.

The man got out of the truck and chatted with her for a few minutes about their dog and she suddenly asked him if he cut trees.

His reply was yes, and that he could do it right then if she needed him to do so. She asked his price and she said yes after hearing

his cost for the job. It was just the figure that she had come up with in her mind.

After the job was finished she asked him for his business card. As she read the card it said: “Respectful Tree Service, Doing God’s Work for 15 Years.”

As she finished reading it, she said a jolt ran through her body repeating the words, “I did not need any more proof that God had helped me that day.”

Some times we ask God for things and think He will never answer our prayer’s, but we forget He knows our needs and when we need them to happen. The Lord was listening to everything this woman had said that day and sent her the blessing she so desperately needed.

The lesson here for us is: ask God and allow Him time to answer your prayers.

Praying you have a great October and November coming up. Remember to be thankful this coming Thanksgiving.

## Philosophy of Religion

### “THE GAP THEORY” OR “RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD” “SCRIPTURAL OR UNSCRIPTURAL?”

#### Part One:

Note: These are few comments and are in no wise a complete presentation of this matter. It is only intended to give certain facts that may lead to further discovery on the part of any interested Bible student.

Ever so often the question continues to rise concerning what is referred to as the “Gap Theory.” Some Baptists have always been at the forefront in questioning the matter of “Biblical Creation.” The one thing that we all must agree on is that the creation of all things was done by God regardless how it may be described as occurring. It is not a matter of debate whether or not anyone chooses to believe in the reconstruction of the specific aspects of creation, but to call into question

the “Scripturalness” of ones teaching, simply because you may disagree, is another matter.

Almost without exception, every Bible believing Christian believes that God created all things. We should be totally without fellowship of those who did not believe in Divine creation. I have absolutely no fellowship with anyone who believes or promotes evolution.

What has been most confusing about the whole issue is that little, if any, answers have been given by the “creationist” as to how certain time, in respect to creation, is rectified. For one to totally deny that all scientific evidence regarding the earth, and specifically as it relates to age, is totally untrue, is not going to help answer or resolve the problem. The general rule, which is legitimate, is that both “true science” and the “Word of God” are both correct and believable until there is a conflict. This is where most separate. Those who put their total trust in science naturally assume that the scientific ideas are the correct ones to follow. Those who put their total trust in scientists, not necessarily science for there is a difference, naturally assume that the theory of the scientists is the correct one to follow. Those, who believe the Bible to be the infallible Word of God, take the opposite view. Where there is a difference in a supposed scientific theory and what is recorded in the Word of God, the Word of God is preferred. To most, where there is a clear distinction, there is no problem at all. When the Bible is specific concerning a matter, then there is no other alternative to be considered. However, where there is room for debate, and there should be an honest endeavor to find the best possible answer, specifically one which would be in harmony with the Word of God.

It is apparent that the teaching of the “gap theory” falls into this category. The only difference is, that this debate generally rises among Bible believers. Very few, if any, of the scientific community knows anything or has ever been introduced to the teaching of reconstruction. Therefore, they are not at the heart of the discussion. It is firmly believed that, if more scientists would, at least, consider this position, it would help to provide them with some avenues for answers, otherwise not available.



David Gonnella, Th. D.

## What Can I Do?

I really don't like writing articles like this. However, need compels me. The truth is that we are in financial difficulty and unless I can convince enough of you to help the situation will go from difficult to dire.

For decades our seminary has operated in a declining environment. Too many ABA churches in our region have closed and most of the rest are small and aging out. This means fewer supporting churches and fewer students. This also means some churches drop support because they are themselves struggling to keep the doors open.

Having said that, two years ago we were in the best financial shape of our history. We were even making plans to erect a new and much needed building to house our seminary. Since then we received a one-two punch that has left us gasping for air.

First, an individual who had been part of this ministry made it his business to destroy our school. I don't want to rehash it here. If you want to know more give me a call. However, some who did not bother to hear our defense dropped their support of us. They were not many but when you don't have many every supporting church is vital.

We had just stabilized from that problem when the coronavirus struck. Some of our faculty members and some of our students have withdrawn for fear of contracting the virus in a normal classroom setting. This means less tuition paid.

The silver lining is that we have accelerated our on-line class offerings. Even I am teaching two classes online. My daughter says I have finally been dragged into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!

Still, the result is fewer students and therefore less tuition. Hopefully the on-line program will grow and become a source of good income for us but that program is still in its infancy.

Please know that no one is getting rich here, at least not in this world's goods. Our faculty members receive \$10.00 per class hour, which is "small potatoes" for men and women with doctorates and master's degrees. Some of the faculty members do not even take their stipend but donate it back to the school. Our President, Dr. H.H. Strickland, receives a monthly salary of \$600.00 as voted by the Board of Trustees. Anything more than that he must raise on his own.

We love the Lord and we love training His servants. However, operating a seminary takes money and that is now in short supply here. The shortness of income does not result in a shortness of bills and expenses. They go on.

What I am getting to is this. We need your help. If you are not a monthly supporter please make it a matter of definite prayer and do whatever the Lord says to your heart. If you cannot support on a monthly basis please consider a one-time special offering to help get us over the present corona-crisis.

To the question, "What Can I Do?" I answer, I can ask for help from God's people and His churches. Now the question is posed to you. Please ask yourself, "What Can I Do?" Then by God's grace do it!

Before the discussion begins, a brief definition would be in order. The phrase "gap theory" means; "there is a time or intervention of time, between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. However, it is preferred that the designation of "reconstruction" be used in order to accurately describe this intervention of time.

This then, opens the matter for discussion. "Is the teaching of the idea of reconstruction Scriptural?" Over the years a number, especially some Baptist, have taken this matter to task and have tried to disprove it as "unscriptural." However, after reading the arguments,

or objections, I am convinced the more, that it is the best Scriptural position to take. These objections appear to be based, in some cases, upon the use and the facts of the flood during the day's Noah.

First of all, reconstruction is NOT based on some of the notes found in the Scofield Bible, nor any other commentary. In fact, anyone with a limited knowledge of the use of reference books could do the same research as was done in these notes. I would surely hope that those who believed in the reconstruction, would have more to rely upon than the Scofield notes.



Glen Davenport, Th.D.

## ADAPTED FAITH

TEXT: Heb 11:1

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

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

INTRODUCTION:

### A. Faith - defined

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### I. FAITH Is Not Mere Imagination.

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

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

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

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

A. According to Jesus’ thinking, -

“If God said this, you would believe Him.

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

### B. Why would one believe God?

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

### C. Why would one NOT believe in Jesus?

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

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

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

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

2. *John 5:33-39*

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

A. He must do the works of God!

John 14:11-14

B. He must establish His testimony in the New Testament even as God established His in the Old Testament.

C. He must appeal to our ability to imagine His death, burial and resurrection.

D. He must give us a desire to believe in the reality of the gospel.

### IV. When we have acquired Knowledge of Him and When we are able to Believe in the Biblical Account of His Work and Purpose -It’s up to us

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

*me, that the Father hath sent me.*

*37 And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.*

*38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.*

*39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS



James F. Harris, Jr, was born in Key West, Florida on March 7, 1948. He entered his eternal reward May 8, 2020. He leaves behind his wife of 48 years, Jean Sheffield Harris; his two sons, Todd Harris and Brad Harris; two daughters-in-law; and 7 grandchildren.

Bro. Harris served for 50 years in the ministry.

He was the pastor of Milestone Baptist Church for 31 years. He is a graduate of the University of Miami, the University of South Florida, and Florida Baptist College. He also served on the faculty of Florida Baptist College.

He was a gracious man who loved people and excelled at all he endeavored.

At the time of his death, he was pastor of the Milestone Baptist Church in Cantonment, Fl.



Pastor Joe Harper was born April 18, 1931 in Charleston, WV. He entered into his eternal reward on August 7, 2020.

Bro. Harper was led to the Lord by Charles Mask in Hollywood, FL, in 1960. He made his call to preach the Gospel known one year later. A graduate of the Missionary

Baptist Seminary in Little Rock, AR. Bro. Harper pastored several churches including the following: Geneva Baptist Church in Dequeen, AR; Fairplay Baptist Church in Benton, AR; Greenwood Baptist Church in Butlerville, AR; Central Baptist Church in West Palm Beach, FL; and First Baptist Church of Port Salerno, FL, where he was pastor for 41 years before his retirement in 2016.

He had a heart for missions during his pastorate at First Baptist Church of Port Salerno they raised nearly two million dollars to support various mission works around the world and here in the states. During his 58 years of ministry, he preached numerous revivals in the states and around the world, winning many souls to Christ.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Betty; his sons, Michael and wife Carol, Joe and wife Josette, Tom and wife Nancy, Paul and wife Pauline; his daughter Brenda and husband Christ Escobales; 2 nieces, Carol Castor; 12 grandchildren; and 4 great grandchildren.

**IV. When we have acquired Knowledge of Him and When we are able to Believe in the Biblical Account of His Work and Purpose** -It's up to us to believe the past and it's up to us, as individuals, to adapt our faith toward the future - something we know little about except through Biblical

prophecy.Can we do it?God requires that we accept His document of PROMISES even as much as we accept His HISTORICAL document of His mighty works.God requires that we accept the New Testament in equality with the Old Testament.



*Secretary/  
Treasurer  
Missions*  
**Roger Stewart**

## MISSION NEWS AND VIEWS

### FOREIGN MISSIONS

### STEWART REPORT

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$2,121,653.63</b>
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Interstate Salaries	\$118,743.20
Foreign & National Salaries	\$114,869.60
Designated	\$63,700.78
Undesignated	\$63,628.84
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$360,942.84</b>
<b>BALANCE FOR SALARY/EXPENSE</b>	
	<b>\$2,482,596.05</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Interstate Salaries	\$74,529.80
Foreign Salaries	\$22,766.58
National Salaries	\$24,389.20
Designated	\$63,905.53
Salaries & Expenses of Sec-Treas. Office	
Office Salaries	\$12,464.31
General Office	\$3,301.48
Automobile Expense	\$33,612.77
Sec/Treasurer Exp	\$426.19
Postage	\$490.00
BSSC	\$3,141.77
Total Office	\$53,439.52
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$239,027.63</b>
<b>BALANCE FORWARD</b>	<b>\$2,243,568.42</b>
<b>SURPLUS FOR SEPT.</b>	<b>\$121,914.79</b>

**News:** We often receive both sad news and glad news from the churches; September was no exception. To that point, we received notice that Landmark MBC, Bonner Springs, KS, recently closed her doors for the last time and sold its assets. ABA Missions, however, was the beneficiary of a \$183,969.00 offering from the people of Landmark in Bonner Springs. Please allow me this opportunity to express, publicly, our thanks and heart-felt appreciation for this incredible offering for the missionaries.

**Names:** I am happy to report that **Interstate Missionary Michael Weiler** (IN) is much improved from his recent automobile accident. In his own words, he thinks he will make a full recovery soon. On a sad, however, **National Missionary: Eduardo Magana** (Mexico), whom we reported quite ill with COVID-19 last month, passed away. Brother Magana faithfully served as an ABA Recommended National Missionary on Salary in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico, from 2011 until his untimely death on September 2nd. I served as his pastor from 2011 until my election as Secretary-Treasurer of Missions in 2019. Brother Magana was much more than a missionary, he was my friend and I will miss him dearly. Please remember his wife, Gabriella, and their three children – Anna, Samuel and Gabbi – in your prayers.

**Numbers:** With things beginning to normalize, ABA recommended missionaries reported **231 Professions of faith** and **22 Baptisms** for the month of September. *Praise God!*

**Notes:** September was quite busy for Gena and me. We took the new Missions' Office vehicle [2020 F150] as we visited Southside MBC, Star City, AR; New Home Baptist Church, Wetumpka, AL; Skyline Baptist Church, Madison, AL; the *Southwest Association of Missionary Baptist Churches* hosted by Pavillard MBC, Amarillo, TX; and, First Baptist Church, Sullivan, MO. It was a privilege to represent ABA Missions in each of these meetings where we were graciously received by all.

**Needs:** Though we have enjoyed two incredible months of giving in 2020 – April and September – we have experienced deficits in each of the other months. The annual *Thanksgiving Mission Offering* will certainly help ensure that the coffers remain full for the missionaries in the days to come. *Thanksgiving Mission Offerings* should be received by November 29th. If you would like a 2020 *Thanksgiving Mission Offering* video to show to your church family, please contact the Missions' Office.

#### Columbia Baptist News:

Lamb Ministries  
*Jim Gage, Missionary*

It matters not that we are in the middle of a pandemic, God has been noticeably clear in His Word that He wants us to go forth and spread the Word. LAMB MINISTRIES has been using the zoom platform daily to preach and teach the Word. A good number teachers and pastors participated in teaching the classes. As Christians, part of our duty is to try to reach as many people as possible in sharing the word of God. It is imperative that we be faithful even with our limitations. May we be about the Lord's work.

God hasn't finished with me yet. And until He calls me home, or comes for us, we continue to serve Him. However, starting a new work at 76 is interesting and challenging. Just about everything functions differently or not at all. That includes body, mind, and spirit. Suffering Succotash, as Daffy Duck would say, we are here in Colombia and have yet to hug our new grandson. This month, A grandson and a daughter had a birthday. Today, as I am writing this report, is the funeral of a dear church member, John Reynolds. Missionaries are separated from family and friends. We miss the close relationship and fellowship of our churches. Although you have suffered from the effects of this coronavirus, and are struggling to just stay afloat, you have continued your spiritual bond to us through your prayers and financial support.

#### Monterrey, Colombia, S.A.

*Carlos Julio Mendoza, Missionary*

Thank you for your prayers to God for my health. While I was in the hospital for 5 days, I took the opportunity to witness to the physicians and the nurses. I presented to them the message of salvation through our

Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Mark 1:2 I am home now recuperating from my illness. Please continue to remember me in your prayers.

We continue to preach the Gospel and teach God's Word on the radio daily and by Wasap, Facebook, and Zoom.

We sent a letter to the Government asking them if they will give us permission to congregate in the Church building for services. We are praying and waiting on our Lord for their answer.

We continue in prayers for CMBC, Pastor Reed and family, and family Jones in that God will keep them in good health. Also, we pray for all of God's Churches in the world.

Bro. Ledford is in good health, thank you for your prayers for his health.

We are so thankful to Pastor H.H. Strickland and family, for your prayers and continued faithful support for Monterrey, Colombia Mission Work.

God bless the United States and its president, we continue to pray for the protection of the ABA and all the Churches, pastors with their families around the world, from this coronavirus and my family in the United States and for us.

### Colombian Missions

*Gilberto Pinzón, Missionary*

Greetings again from Colombia in the glorious Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank God, my health is improving every day. I continue having controls, and several specialist appointments every month. Thanks for your prayers. God continues to bless and protect you all. Amen

**PENIEL BAPTIST MISSION:** Today is the 198th day of quarantine here in Bogotá, caused by Covid-19.

For the last 27 weeks we are having virtual services from home, Sundays and Wednesdays, by Zoom and Facebook live. Probably in four more weeks we will be able to reopen presentational church services. The Joya and Fautoque's families are having discipleship services in their homes twice per week. As result, Rolando Amundarai, a 22-year-old man received Christ as personal savior. Four more people are very open to the gospel and are interested to go to presentational services at church soon. Amen.

Please continue to pray for several of our members which need surgery, but because Covid-19 emergency, there are no medical agenda for that. Several others have lost their employment and others has no job at all.

Due to quarantine, we continue having our Mission Rally service once a month, but virtually. Pastor Jaime Pardo from Costa Rica, preached a great Missionary sermon through Zoom and Facebook live. About 600 people watched it.

**SPECIAL THANKS.** To the Oak Grove BC of Sheridan, AR. For the \$1,000.00 Love offering sent. May our Great God continue blessing in a very special way for their generosity and love for missions. Amen.

**SPECIAL NEED.** I need to get about \$12,000 to buy a second-hand car. I have put a lot of money through the years, fixing my old 2002 Nissan urvan van, and still not working well. I thank in advance for all your prayers and support for this urgent need.

### St. Petersburg, Russia

*Jodie Vesely, Missionary*

Despite this pandemic, we have been able to get into most of our partnering churches. We unfortunately aren't physically able to visit all 40+ of our partnering churches each furlough, but if we didn't visit you this time, then we will prioritize coming your way next time. Praise God for all of your continual prayer and financial support! We are currently in Seymour, IN. This Sunday will be one of our last appointments this furlough before being with our sending church.

Pray for Russia to reopen visa processing soon! Without visas, we cannot return to Russia when we would like. This is our biggest need right now! Our current plan is to return to Russia in January.

We were recently at a church that wanted to know if we were building churches. Yes! We are building churches! Actually, it is more correct to say God is building His churches through us. However, it is not in the way you might think. We are not building buildings for the church to gather in. Did you know a building the church gathers in is not the church? I know in everyday language we talk about the church building as the church, but it isn't. Do you know you can have church services in any building or even in a home?

Did you know you can even gather as a church outside? It is of overwhelming concern to me to teach my fellow believers that just because a church may be financially struggling through this pandemic and must sell their building, it doesn't mean that they must stop being a church. They are still a church until they choose to disband as a church. Our church in St. Petersburg organized as a church in our apartment on March 2, 2019. I can't think of a more Scriptural way for the church to gather, according to how the church was described as oftentimes meeting in the New Testament! Pray for God to continue to build churches and for Him to use this church in St. Petersburg to do so.

### Romania

*Kolt Mackrill, Missionary*

Another month has passed and we are so excited to share with you all that the Lord has allowed us to accomplish! This past month was extremely busy as we began the final renovation project in Zarnesti. Amy and I celebrated this past month our 10 year anniversary! We were able to go away for a week and get a little rest while we celebrated our anniversary. Also, in anticipation for this winter season we have moved into an apartment in town. The mission house is still just too cold in the upper living quarters and we wanted somewhere warmer especially for our girls as both Layla, 1st grade, and Eliza, Kindergarten, have started back to school this month. We want to say thank you to all of our friends who helped us make this move: Mike Rogers, Kevin Hutcheson, Jonathan Morgan, the Schrock family, and the Supeala family. We are so thankful to God for each of you who pray for us daily and support us monthly! Thank you!

We are pleased to announce that the building project in Zarnesti is complete! Last month we finished the installation of the central heating unit. Now we will be able to heat the building this fall/winter season! The interior has a few minor things which need done to help with the look; repair holes in wall of old chimney where the gas exhaust was, new coat of paint, and carpets...etc. We are so thankful to all who have given financially to the renovation project.

We know that God has big plans in store for this city! Please continue to pray with us for the city of Zarnesti! Thank you all for

taking the time to read our newsletters and pray with us and for us! God bless

### Solomon Islands

*Roger Walkins, Missionary*

The month of August was a rainy, wet month, keeping me indoors and at home as the roads are deteriorating. Travel, even to go 20 kilometers about 12 miles takes one and a half hours, so I do not travel much now. The month went by quickly with mostly writing and translating. I have finished translating the Baptist Way Book by Ben M. Bogard into Pijin, and continue working on Bible Analysis by Garner, the New Testament, What Baptists Believe by Foreman and God's Plan for Woman by Scarlett. I have finished 52 Doctrinal Lessons by Bogard in Pijin, What Baptists Believe by Foreman in simple English, Bible Analysis by Garner in simple English, The Golden Key by Bogard in simple English and several teaching lessons in a series I have written for the Solomon Island churches in simple English with Pijin and Pijin scriptures together question by question, using lesson material prepared by Bro Neil V. Morley for the Solomon Islands.

I worry too much about the situation in the US with the aftermath of the virus and the violence in the cities, and pray for you and the churches continually. It is hard to take seeing my country being ripped apart. Inside my heart I know that Christ's coming will be before I see 75 years of age, which is 5 years away.

Our finances are still within our needs, except for needing tires for the truck, which I must purchase in Honiara, and I pray we will have the funds in the next few months to do so. I will need about \$2,000.00 to purchase them. Also, I need to go to Honiara soon to put in a renewal for my passport and apply for dual citizenship for the Solomon Islands, and that will take another \$1,000. On a personal note, Janet and I give between \$500 to \$1,000 of my Social Security to our work here to be able to do all that we need to do. Our commitment, and our life is fully dedicated to this work.

I know now that I will not be able to return to the US anytime soon if ever. There will be no international flights in the future at least well into 2021 that will reach the islands, or go out of here, and most probably much

longer than that, because the airlines in the Pacific are drastically cutting back, and restarting money will be non-existent with no revenue now, and the destruction of the world economy, which is affecting us here now. True, it is not good news, but we can live here without money when the time comes, just as the natives here did in the not too distant past. Please continue to pray for us, and do not worry, The Lord will take care of us, and you.

### Spain

*Daniel Estrada, Missionary*

We would love to say God is on the move. God is still as powerful as in the Old Times. Why? well, we are seeing His Almighty hand working in bringing in new people little by little.

ALHAURIN DE LA TORRE WORK...

Praise the Lord, because He is bring in some new people to hear the word of God. In the last two months we had three visitors, that are starting to attend more frequently to church. Two are Spanish and the other one is from the Dominican Republic. God is good all the time, and we rejoice in the Lord for all that He is doing in this town where we are.

But, the great news is that one young lady, that we have been praying for a long time; and teaching, and preaching Christ, finally received, and accepted Jesus is her heart. Her name is Cesy, our hearts rejoiced with her decision for Christ.

Juan Diego, a Spanish man that is coming to church very often. Please pray for him and his spiritual condition, it looks like he is saved but we are not sure yet, we are checking and teaching him the Bible. He came in by himself. We know that The Holy Spirit brought him to church, and we ask you to pray for him as he continues coming faithfully to church.

### Argentina

*Scott Maness, Missionary*

We feel kind of like a broken record starting every report about the quarantine so we thought we would change this report a bit and start with some good news. There is another missionary family here in Córdoba, Argentina who have 5 children that were upgrading to a larger vehicle and asked us if we would like to buy their 7 passenger van. This was exciting news to us as we have

been talking about how we were going to get around after the quarantine finally lifts. While not always ideal, we did make public transportation work for us the past couple of years, but the "new normal" means we won't be able to travel like we once had.

We are so thankful that with the help of the offerings that have been sent in to our vehicle fund we are now in the process of purchasing this van. Thank you so much for your prayers and offerings! With the offerings we received we have what we need to not only pay for the car but also to cover the fees and other costs involved with the transfer of the title and other mandatory paperwork involved in the purchase of a vehicle here in Argentina.

**Latest Quarantine News:** And now about the quarantine... we finished the month of September on the 195th day of mandatory quarantine. The government of Argentina extended it this time until the middle of October. (We aren't going to hold our breath that they will actually lift it by then.) Besides the extension they also added a curfew. We are not allowed to leave our homes between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. except for essential travel. This is a pretty heavy restriction here in Argentina where supper doesn't normally begin until after 8. It is also around the time many churches here would typically start their evening service. However even meetings are restricted at any time of day to a certain number of people for the size of the building and a lot of restrictions so most churches have not been able to meet yet. And those few who have been able to meet went through a lot of strict protocols and paperwork to get the legal permission to do so.

### Cambodia

*Roger Baaelonia, Missionary*

Because of covid 19, I cannot go back yet to my missions field in Cambodia. But while I am here in my country, Philippines, I lead the seminary work as a Director of the Missionary Baptist Church Theological School under the Abiko Baptist Church, my sending church. Also, I am doing Bible studies in San Jose Antique and doing children class and home Bible studies in Banate, my hometown. I do some preaching too in local churches and missions who invite me.

These months of July and August 16 souls professes faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior through home Bible studies.

My prayer is that these families will be founded strongly in Bible teachings and follow Christ in water baptism. I am so happy that there is now a mission work by the missionary Baptist in Banate, my hometown, and in San Jose, Antique.

The Lord has answered my prayer. Even in this time of pandemic, the word of the Lord is not bound, but it accomplishes things in places wherein He sent it.

### South Pacific

*Walt Emery, Missionary*

As we continue the teaching and preaching of God's Word and outreach, there is one highlight that I want to share with you this time. Let me start by saying that there are many customs and traditions here in Vanuatu that we don't have in the U.S. So it's difficult for me to grasp onto. One of them is the celebration of circumcision! A boy can be up to 18 years old before he is circumcised. This tradition is mainly from the island of Tanna. There is usually a group of boys that get circumcised at the same time. So when the time comes, the group of boys are taken to a remote place and the procedure occurs. A man will blow a conch shell really loud so the mom's can't hear their boys scream and cry. Then after they are healed up there is a big celebration, which brings us to this report. I was invited to the circumcision celebration on the 29th of August. There were approximately 200 people there. At the celebration they invited me to be a participant. They put a lava lava around me, put paint on my face and put a leaf collar around my neck made and me take my shirt off. (A little embarrassing because I'm not skinny like them and I'm the ONLY white person there) In actuality what they did was make me an honorary chief. What an honor! I was part of the group that marched the boys into the center of everyone and presented them to the village. After the march-in, they removed the piles and underneath the piles in the ground is where they were cooking the food. After the food, there was a custom dance. I was even waved in to participate in the custom dance. I will post the custom dance on my youtube channel. (Not of me). I deemed it an absolute honor to participate in their custom.

### Romania

*Mike Rogers, Missionary*

The last month has been interesting with quarantine, local elections and beautiful weather. I am excited about all of the visitors we have had even with the fears surrounding Covid. We had a great time with the church barbecue, again lots of good food and fellowship. I am thankful for Ionuti who has offered to help out with the worship service Sunday mornings, be in prayer for him as he works to serve. Please be in prayer for us as we make plans for our upcoming Harvest Party, with masks and social distancing it is challenging to find ways to keep it fun and safe at the same time.

**Praise:** As I think of all of the things that didn't happen this year and I remember the teams, the camps and the International Missionary Retreat and I think of the people who have invested in me, my family and the work here. I am reminded of how thankful I am for Gods calling both to the ministry and to Romania. I am thankful that God has been able to use this time to help me to rekindle the "attitude of gratitude" for Him and all of those whom he has put into my life and ministry. I have taken for granted so many things that through the restrictions of Covid I am reminded that they are not my due, I don't deserve them nor am I owed, I am Blessed, by God and by each of you. Thank you! for your prayers, for your friendship, your love and your support.

### Missions SE Asia

*Rusty Teer, Missionary*

Fireproof:: It's been hot and steamy, but that didn't dampen the spirits at our kindergarten. We were taught fire safety hands on. Our kids are brave. I learned you want to be the first to use the fire extinguisher. Our COVID deaths remain at 59 with no local transmission so schools are mostly normal. Masks are not normal unless we have a meeting. Shopping and government buildings are 100% mask environments. When we were approved for our yearly visa I noticed that immigration was still distancing. Churches are still distancing as well. Neighboring countries are struggling with Covid causing an increase of sneaking across the border. It's a slow return.

I have had many good conversations with our neighbors, students, teachers, and

principal. Our Father has answered your prayers and opened many doors for sharing the Truth. I have really enjoyed chatting with new 7th grade students from many local schools where we have never taught, some students we haven't taught since kindergarten, students from other parts of the country, and some from neighboring countries. I'm looking forward to getting to know them better and share with them more and more about our wonderful Hope!

We appreciate your constant prayers and increasing faithful support. We cannot praise our Father enough!

### Japan

*Shin Kamoda, Missionary*

Hello, Brothers and Sisters in Christ! We pray you are doing well and receiving blessings from the Lord. Along the movement of Global Gospel Outreach, we continued to focus on outreach in August. A seminary student, Sister Mami Ono, joined our team for 2 weekends.

We went out to the streets to distribute our printed materials and met people. We invited children and their parents/grandparents to our V.B.S. event. We invited our friends, too. There were returning participants. This effort was successful to show a church is at work in this town. We heard some people thank us for inviting them. An elderly gentleman took his small grand daughter to participate in the event for the first time. His name is Mr. Kato who said he had graduated from a Christian University, but never attended church after that. I invited him to come again. Our event had three main programs. 1. Super ball scooping + Bible story "Noah's Ark" 2. Games, like "Knocking out Goliath". 3. Watching a "David and Goliath" video + message. Everyone who attended looked happy and thankful. As results from distribution of our paper, responses were received by phone and SNS. A man of Catholic faith started attending worship services on Sunday last 3 weeks. He seems to like our preaching and Bible study. He professed to believe Jesus as his savior. I pray he will be convinced Baptist doctrines are pure Bible doctrines.

J.B.A. Bible Day-Camp was a success. Over 80 participants, both children and adults, worshipped the Lord.

## Interstate Missions

### Lighthouse Ministries

*Toby Cribbs, Sr, Director*

**THE FIRST THING: PRAISE GOD:** The Lord's People and Lord's Churches did it again. They saw a great need and answered to the need. We have ordered the BOOK FINISHER. Praise God!! It took only ten months for funds to come in.

Household Faith BC-Murphy NC—Faith MBC, Sebring FL- Galilee BC, Milton ,FL Refugee MBC Murphy, NC—Providence BC, Gaston, SC.—South Union BC, Daingerfield, TX.

**THE SECOND THING:** New Jails—Prisons Tipton County ,Jail—Tipton. IN.

Estelle Unit, Huntsville, TX.

Hightower Unit, Dayton, TX.

M.A.D.C.O. Fredricktown MO.

**THE THIRD THING:** We picked, up 28 cases of King James Bibles from Mt. Pisgah B,C, Printing Ministries. in Oliver Springs, TN. (560 Bibles).

**THE FOURTH THING:** Chaplain Tim Wood Alcorn Co. Regional Corr. Fac. Corinth, Miss.

We shipped, him, 40, KJB, 30 Bible Dictionary-Concordance-100 Enrollment Forms-and one set each of our Bibles Studies.

Chaplain Mark Hess Mount Olive Corr. Ctr. Mt. Oliver, WV.: We shipped him 40 KJB-25 Bible Dictionary-Concordance-3200 Bro. Dills booklets-and 5 each of our Resource Material.

**THE FIFTH THING:** We mailed out (120) of our Resource List to Chaplains.

**THE SIXTH 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.

### Missionary Ambassador Ministries

*Christopher Cartwright, Missionary*

**Ministry Reaching People Throughout The World:** The series of TURNING THE

WORLD UPSIDE DOWN has made quite an impact in the world in the past nine months that it has me a little bit overwhelmed. As of this writing, the pastors and preachers have reported to me that 21,146 people have been saved in 14 countries which are as follows: Kenya (14,017), Burundi (3,093), Malawi (1,905), Tanzania (1,014), Uganda (559), South Sudan (202), Democratic Republic of the Congo (126), Zambia (79), Liberia (65), Ghana (54), Nicaragua (16), Philippines (9), Sierra Leone (6), and China (1). Even churches have been formed and planted through the preaching of the teachings from the series. In five countries, 52 churches have been planted: Kenya with 53, Burundi with 9, and Tanzania with 3, and Malawi and Uganda with 1 each. You never know what will happen when the Lord takes an idea and uses it for His purpose and for His glory.

**Missionary Ambassador Radio Ministry Still Continuing and Expanding:** The Missionary Ambassador Program continues to make an impact not only in Nicaragua, but also in Kenya. The Program has been launched on Radio Milambo in Migori in the Nyanza Region of SW Kenya on September 6 and it is transmitting twice a week on Sundays and Tuesdays at 5:00 PM Kenya time (10:00 AM Ohio time). Through the Program on Radio Milambo 103.8 FM, we have already been receiving responses since the launch of the Program. Francis Manema, the director of Radio Milambo, told me that people are receiving the Lord in several different villages in Migori County, as well as hearing testimonies from many others. Through the Program, several churches have been formed and planted as well. We praise God for being in control of everything and that the seed of the Word of God is spreading all over the area working among the Luo population which number about six million in Kenya and Tanzania.

### Hope, Indiana

*Scott Bourland, Missionary*

We are so happy to have the portable baptistry, because this month when we went to the river it got our attention.

We were so thankful to see 4 more follow the Lord in baptism. Grandpa, Grandma, and two granddaughters followed the Lord in

obedience. Please pray for all these new converts to steadily grow in their faith. Also, pray for the lost people that are showing up for services.

Each week there are 2 or 3 unsaved individuals in worship and a total of 6 that we are working with closely at this time.

With the virus we have been cautious with any type of door to door visitation. We did not want to make people uncomfortable that we might make them ill or that we did not care about that possibility.

We decided that we would go ahead and break out by canvassing. Rather than knocking on the door and attempting to speak to people, we are simply leaving a tract that was designed as an invitation to church, but clearly presents the gospel as well.

We have already done a few hundred and have the goal of using all 2500 before the end of the year. Although we did not knock on the doors, we did encounter some people in their yards and those conversations were very pleasant.

**Financial Growth:** We are not bashful about teaching what the Bible says about giving. Giving has been spoken of in some sermons, but every new member is taught the specifics of giving as they come into the church.

While it is ultimately between them and the Lord, we want to be clear about what God expects and the fact that while many are helping us finically at this point, our goal is to be totally self supporting as soon as possible.

It has been very exciting to see their response. A strong majority of those that have joined are faithfully giving and establishing a strong foundation upon which we can continue to build.

### Benchmark Baptist Fellowship

*Allen Schoeff, Missionary*

**This Just In... God Is GOOD!... Okay, I know** that is not fresh hot off the press news, but it is truth! September was a great month at the mission. As the cooler fall temperatures began to make their way into our state, the cool 75 degree days were a blessed relief from the long hot summer. But, even more importantly, the Holy Spirit swept in like the wildfires that are consuming the American

West. HIS presence has been palpable and electrifying. It seems that as the scare of the coronavirus begins to loosen its grips on our nation, that our church family is making her way back to the assembly that God desires. All but two of our members have now rejoined us in worship, and it is obvious that they were HUNGRY for the kononia of ekklesia! We have two who have still decided to “shelter in place”. Brother Ray Murray has several pre-existing comorbidities and is a widower who, out an abundance of caution, has not even had a hair cut in six months. Sister Cherie Breeden is a septuagenarian as well, and is caring for her husband Bro. Rodney who is fighting dementia. That along with playing a vital role in raising four grandchildren has also caused her to use extreme caution. Please pray for both of them. **As anticipated**, sister Lois Washington was presented to the church family for membership by statement of faith. Sadly, her husband, Bro. Henry Washington, took a turn for the worse in his fight with MDS cancer and was not able to be officially united with us. But, even as she struggles to care for Henry, Lois has been a blessing as she is a pianist who has blessed our hearts with her talents. (We have been without a piano player for a long time. Her playing has been an oasis in a dry and thirsty land!)

**September also brought several guests**, some new and some returning. One of these is a young man who has made a profession of faith, has been baptized, but was walking far from God. I met him through the local fishing community, of which there are many members. I have been discipling him for about 18 months, and his progress is somewhat slow. But he is now 60 days free of “weed” and 30 sober from alcohol! He was in church 3 of the last 4 Sundays! Please pray that John and our other guests will become more faithful, and unite with us as we serve Jesus together.

**We ended the month on a great Lord’s Day.** On Sunday, the 27th, we baptized Sister Kathy Kannenburg! Sister Kathy is one of the individuals who has come to know Jesus as her Savior during the Covid-19 pandemic! Please pray that she will continue to grow from a babe in Christ to a faithful soldier of the Lord.

### **Twin Lakes Baptist Mission**

*Jerry Baker, Missionary*

It is well with our souls, even when we seem to be attacked from all sides with the ongoing effects from the “V” word (virus). The stress level brought on by the severe restrictions of our governor and compounded by those of the Navajo Nation president have just about grinded things to a halt. As most of you are aware, there were no VBS ministries this summer, no outreach at the annual Navajo Fair since it was cancelled, no mealpack ministry to help feed hungry Navajo children since the Navajo Nation schools are basically shut down, there will be no Christmas Project since even our county will most likely not have children returning to school in time, and with the Reservation locked down (visitors not permitted) we cannot even be out on the Rez. Still, the Lord’s work goes on and our church family marches forward! Something “that the governmental powers that be” cannot restrict is the fact that “IT IS WELL WITH OUR SOULS”! And, in the midst of all of our “woes”, there is joy and thanksgiving for we were able to worship as a church family IN OUR BUILDING every Sunday morning and Wednesday evening for the entire month of August, something we had not been allowed to do since mid-June! We’re averaging in the low 20’s on Sunday mornings and 8-9 on Wednesday evenings. But our small congregation remains faithful and thankful to gather in the Lord’s house. In our mid-week services we are studying verse-by-verse in the book of Romans with ample time for Q&A. The spiritual boost the Lord has provided has been just what we’ve needed! No one in attendance even seems to mind that we require everyone to wear a mask, we social distance except for family units, and we’re not hugging or handshaking with anyone. We look forward to the day when those restrictions, too, will be something of the past!

One young man, Jeff, who has been faithfully attending with his young daughter, is exceptionally attentive and hungry for the Word of God. This past Sunday he shared openly that he is lost, having never accepted Christ in the free pardon of sin. He told us

how he had been a part of the Native American Church, but as he has been reading his Bible more he realized there is something missing. Jeff began coming to services just as the pandemic started last spring and resumed faithfully attending as soon as we returned to having church services.

We ask you to pray for Jeff as he allows the Holy Spirit to work in his heart. Some of Jeff’s family members are also attending regularly, including his mother, an aunt, and adult sisters, all of whom shared with us how thankful they are to be able to come.

### **Flagstaff, AR**

*Shawn Hunter, Missionary*

Autumn is coming quickly here in Flagstaff and temperatures are already dropping. As we look ahead toward this new season we also reflect on our Summer. Just about every plan was changed and we had to adjust with every new obstacle thrown our way. But now seeing where we are today is proof that God doesn’t need our plans to work for His will to prosper.

Hunter’s return date for in-person school has been pushed back to September 25. Despite over a month online, he has excelled and his first progress report card was all A’s! Taylor is enjoying her new job as YMCA virtual academy teacher. She is only working part time and our family has adjusted well to her morning hours.

Shawn has had his construction hat on the past few weeks and we can’t wait to show and tell you more in the coming weeks!

We ended the month with some dear friends of ours driving all the way from Kentucky just to help us with construction so that we can begin services in our new facility as soon as possible. Brant and Michelle Lane and their four kids of Macedonian Missions have been the greatest blessing to us during this time. What would have taken us over a month by ourselves has taken only two weeks with their help. Please check our Facebook page often for construction and building updates.

Our friends here in Flagstaff are eager to begin official services again. We plan to relaunch Flagstaff Family MBC, in our brand-new building, on September 20th! We will have COVID-19 safety measures in place and will be doing everything we can to make those

who attend feel comfortable and safe. Please be praying for our relaunch efforts. We honestly don't know what to expect. We don't know if it will be the same people from before COVID or a totally new crowd. But we believe that God will bring people in and whomever it is will surely hear the Gospel and will experience the love of Jesus.

For all the individuals and churches that have purchased items off our Amazon wish list, THANK YOU!

Because of your generosity, we will be able to go into our first service in our new building having almost everything we need!

Because of the assistance from Macedonian Missions, our construction costs have not been nearly as steep as we had originally thought. As of right now we have spent about \$6,000 on construction.

A few last-minute items we would like to knock out before our first service are new light fixtures in the worship space and a small stage.

Thank you to all the churches that have sent in special offerings for construction. Our swift work has been the product of your bountiful blessings. Please continue to pray that the Lord will provide. And we know that He will; because He's brought us this far and He won't stop now

### Colorado Church Planting

Evertt Ledbetter, Missionary

During the last two months and in the middle of all the stuff going on in our country, the Lord has tremendously blessed us. We have seen new faces attend our services and give us an opportunity to share the gospel with them. We have seen people that we were connected with in the past, and they disappeared, come back around. However, the biggest blessing we have seen is two salvations during these two months. In August, we saw a young boy accept Jesus as his savior. This boy and his family have been a faithful part of our services for some time now. He is always asking questions and sharing comments. In fact, if you have ever watched any of our worship services, you have probably heard CJ make a comment or two. In September, we were blessed to finally lead a young lady to the Lord after one of our worship services. This young lady is a friend of our daughter and we have worked on her

for about 2 years. Her mother is Buddhist and her father is Atheist, but now she is a child of God!!!! We are excited about what the Lord is doing here, and covet your prayers as we continue to labor here. .. We are so thankful for all the prayers, encouragement and financial support that we receive on a regular basis. If any churches or individuals would like to hear more about the work and how they can help, please contact us. We plan to attend the Texas and Louisiana State Meetings and would love to share the work with any church, while we are in the area. Our insurance needs are still coming up a little short. Any offerings for insurance, may be sent directly to our Sending Church.

### Sterling Missions

Trey Emery, Missionary

The month of September has been encouraging for my family and our ministry. We hope you feel encouraged reading about what God has done! **Ministering to the Community** At the beginning of September, I had the opportunity to help at the elementary school for the first few days of school. I was also able to be a part of planning for Fellowship of Christian Students at the high school and middle school. As mentioned last month, we started a new ministry to our local college students and have ministered to nine different students through this ministry so far. **Encouragement** Along with the opportunities to serve and minister, we have seen some very encouraging things over the last month. We have had people come back to services. We have seen some of our people take ministry and run with it while we were out of town. We were blessed to visit New Home MBC in Wetumpka, Alabama, and be a part of their mission revival. New Home invested in my family and I both physically and spiritually! To end off the month, I was able to attend the annual Bartholomew Association Meeting. This was the first associated meeting I've physically attended since March. **Land and Building** Early in the month Bro. Vernon McNulley came to Promise Land and presented us with IMD funds. We were able to pay off the land debt with this quarter's offerings back in June, but God showed out again and there was \$7,200 given above the payoff of our land. This money

will be put towards our future building. This month we were able to have the first meetings with some of our contractors to get the ball moving on the building project. **Pray** We continue to pray for these things listed below and hope you will join in. **1.** Pray for lost to be saved **2.** Pray for individuals/families to join in our fellowship **3.** Pray for someone musically talented to join us (in order to lead worship) **4.** Pray that those reached with via online services, would find the opportunity to join us in person. **5.** Pray For this new ministry that God would use it for His Glory.

### Antioch Baptist Church

Dexter MA

Geroge Dever, Missionary

Another month has gone by and it seems like summer is almost over. Due to covid-19, we have not had our normal summer schedule with VBS, traveling to meetings, and community activities. The members of Antioch have been very understanding about the times we live in. Yes, there is some frustration with all the restrictions, but they are hanging in there and are praying to get back to some form of normalcy.

We have been having Sunday services. Wednesday night service, and our regular Bible studies throughout the week. We have not had many visitors in attendance, but we continue to be a witness and invite folks to church. The F.U.E.L (Faith Used in Everyday Life) Youth Group, cleaned up the curb and sidewalk in front of Dexter House of Pizza, and will clean up around the building in the future. These projects will instill an attitude of service and giving in a Christ like attitude.

The work in Dexter and I thank you for your prayerful and financial support. We understand that without your support our work in Maine could not have been as successful as she has been.

Thank you to the churches that have supported us one time, monthly, or have designated their offering for a particular project. Thank you very much.

As I stated in my last letter, I have been looking over the church house to see what needs to be attended to. I mentioned that one of our heaters is needing to be replaced. The cost of replacing the heater, or furnace as it is called up here, is \$3,400.00.



Dean Grigsby

## Business Manager Report

In Matthew 11:28, Jesus gave a great invitation: *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.* During this pandemic God's people in His churches have been tested in unprecedented ways. We had hoped that by now its impact would be over. Yet, seven months later, many churches are still being greatly impacted. I think it is safe to say that many of us understand "heavy laden" like never before.

The health of the ministry of the Baptist Sunday School Committee depends on the health of the Lord's churches. When churches are struggling, we struggle. Sales continue to be down through the month of September. Yet, God continues to bless us in unprecedented ways. He graced us with property tax relief and an opportunity to sell some property. Churches have sent special love offerings, which have been a great encouragement to those who are ministering here at Bogard Press. These blessings from our Lord are gratefully received, and through His grace we can experience His rest.

To overcome in these days of tribulation, we must accept our Lord's invitation to yoke up with Him as we strive to fulfill His Great Commission. It is within His yoke that we will experience His power, meekness, humility, and peace, just as He has promised: *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.* John 16:33

Thank you for your prayers. I believe there are still difficult days ahead, but we can trust God to overcome the fears that surround us. As God delivers us safely through this storm, I believe we will be strengthened and better equipped to serve Him. God has blessed us immensely, and I have faith he will continue to do so.



**Kyle Elkins**  
**Editor in Chief**

God placed the authority to do His work in His New Testament churches. There is no argument that the Lord’s churches are absolutely essential for the problems this nation and world currently face.

Have you considered the essentiality of your church’s Sunday School? Your Sunday School is vital to the overall health of the church of your membership. Consider what Sunday School provides for churches.

Sunday School provides opportunity for the largest volunteer segment of your church. Think about the teachers who give their time and talents to the Lord to teach the Word of God to fellow church members.

Sunday School provides churches the main system for discipling the members of your church. Though it should not be compared to the importance of preaching of God’s Word, without Sunday School, many members would not receive sufficient training in discipleship.

Sunday School provides more purpose than just filling the time before preaching. Through dedicated Sunday School teachers, students can be discipled and come under the life-changing power of the Word of God. I can say, as many of you will say, that we “grew up,” spiritually speaking, in Sunday School.

I recall the time when as a young teen my Sunday School teacher let us boys take turns teaching the class. I also recall as a young teen being allowed to teach other Sunday School classes in church. These were times of spiritual growth that have not been forgotten.

Finally, through Sunday School, many members enjoy their closest fellowship. Fellowship may not be the most important thing about going to church, but it should be considered an essential part of church membership.

Assess your Sunday School class. Make sure it provides fertile ground so that the Word of God may grow deeply into their hearts and lives.

Bogard Press awaits your call to assist your church with materials to help strengthen your Sunday School. Contact Bogard Press at 800-264-2482 or visit [bogardstore.org](http://bogardstore.org).

**FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST INSTITUTE**  
**July/August 2020**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>					
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$6,341.96	<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
			Utilities	\$ 1,434.35	
<b>INCOME:</b>			Misc.	2,504.86	
ALABAMA			Office	244.44	
Magnolia Springs -Theodore, AL	400.00		Instruction	2,950.00	
Schillingers Rd. BC -Mobile, AL	150.00		TOTAL EXPENSE	\$7,133.65	\$7,133.65
			<b>NEW BALANCE</b>		<b>\$3,005.93</b>
<b>GEORGIA</b>			<b>BOOKSTORE FUND</b>		
Northside, BC	-Vienna, GA	200.00	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$ 2,719.22
Traders Hill	-Folkston, GA	70.00	<b>Income:</b>		
			Bookstore Sales	\$ 23.00	
<b>FLORIDA</b>			Press Sales	\$1,728.61	
Okeechobee BC	-Okeechobee, FL	143.00	Contributions		
Calvary BC	-Panama City, FL	100.00	Landmark BC Monticello, FL	200.00	
Oleno BC	-HighSprings, FL	200.00	Total Income	\$1,951.61	\$1,951.61
Sunlight BC	-Pensacola, FL	50.00	<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE</b>		<b>\$4,670.83</b>
			<b>Expenses:</b>		
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>			Utilities	\$972.14	
Central BC	-Gulfport, MS	60.00	Postage	\$200.00	
Mics:			Print Shop	\$1,038.98	
TOTAL		\$1,373.00	Supplies	156.80	
			<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$2,367.92	\$2,367.92
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS: H.H. Strickland</b>			<b>NEW BALANCE</b>		<b>\$ 2,302.91</b>
Magnolia Spring BC	-Theodore, AL	800.00	<b>BUILDING FUND</b>		
Frankfort BC	-Russellville, AL	200.00	Calvary BC -Panama City, FL	750.00	
Newark BC	-Elkton, MD	200.00	Traders Hill BC -Folkston, GA	50.00	
Cumberland Cove BC	-Monterey, TN	50.00	TOTAL INCOME	\$800.00	
First Baptist BC	-White City, FL	200.00	<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
TOTAL		\$ 1,450.00	Regions Bank	\$851.75	
<b>COMMITTEE OF 100</b>			Transfer	\$1,000.00	
Terry Alexander	- Pensacola, FL	20.00	Interest Income:	.17	
Kitchen Sales	-Pensacola, FL	1.00	Building Fund	\$5,900.32	
Transfer from Flexline		3000.00			
<b>TUITION/REGISTRATION</b>					
Registration		\$ -0-			
Tuition		\$ 1576.36			
TOTAL INCOME		1576.36			
TOTAL AVAILABLE		\$7,420.36			
		\$13,762.32			

## 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. If they prefer they may call 985.351.8980 or 985.069.0028.

# PRINTING NEWS

**Printing News:**

Things have been rather quiet in the print shop. While we continue to have orders come in we have not produced any new books. I have spent most of my time trying to get things more organized around the shop. I anticipate moving more items that are not used any more out so that more room can be utilized.

One of the things I have been able to do is build a rack for the wire binding. I have made one to hold two rolls of wire but I need to have access for three. With a little personal engineering, I was able to modify the one I have four rolls of wire. It is so much cheaper to buy the wire binding by the roll than it is by the book. It take a little time to cut them to size but the ones we purchase in the bulk must also be cut.

**Equipment:**

I praise the Lord that I was able to get the new press back on line. I had to wait on a

tech to come our way but it was worth it. It cost us over \$1200.00 to get it running again but I am really thankful that he was able to take parts from the old machine and put them on the new one. The part that went bad was the most expensive item. It would have been a major deal had I not had the old press part not worked.

When we first began the changeover from the GBC binding to the wire binding, I was not sure how it would work so we only purchased a limited amount of equipment. This included all hand operated units. Since then, it has become apparent that more automated equipment must be acquire. I have purchased a electric closer and it works really well. I also purchased an electric punch but it came with dies that punch for the spiral binding. We use the 3:1 wire binding and it has not been of any use to us yet. A punch that has the 3:1 die must be purchased or dies for the one that I have. The odd thing about that is that the dies cost as much as the whole unit. Right now, the shop does not have the resources to make an additional purchase.

The new book by Dr. Davenport has been very well accepted. I appreciate the request orders. I still have a limited source of the books if anyone would like a copy. The cost of \$9.95 plus the shipping.

**Appreciation:**

I want to express my deepest appreciation to each one that has stayed with us and this ministry over the years. It is easy to simply drop support and not realize that the ministry may not have another resource to draw from. I thank you so much for every church and individual that has and is still supporting this ministry. I want to emphasis again that not of us take any funds from the shop. Even though I personally have several books, I do not take anything from their sale. All the funds that come into the shop go back into the shop.

I also thank those who have contributed to the purchase of the new press. We did not receive sufficient to cover the whole cost but what we did receive certainly helped.

May the Lord continue to bless you and keep everyone safe.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Publication</b></p> <p>wfbi 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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