

# West FLORIDA BAPTIST News

6812 Lillian Highway \* Pensacola, Florida 32506 \* (850) 455-4417, 1-800-455-w/bi (9324)

This Edition...	
Announcements...	3
Stewart Report...	6
Editorial...	5
Financial...	15
Mission...	6
Philosophy...	2

Volume XXIX

November/December 20120

Number 3

# Merry Christmas



*Dr. & Mrs. Strickland*

During this very special time of the year, please allow me to express my heart felt thanks for you all. We have enjoyed an unusual but wonderful year in the ministry of the Lord. We have been graciously received everywhere we have gone and for those churches and individuals we are so grateful. Changes are sometimes necessary and they are very seldom come easy. It is certainly a challenge but the Lord has always given us sufficient grace and help.

The ministry continues to grow and we were able to reach out to more fields of labor. Doors of opportunity continue to open to us and for this we praise our great God. We are never sure about what a new year may bring but it is always exciting to view the possibilities. I ask that you seriously continue to remember all of us in your prayers and support.

My wife and I wish to use this means to tell you all how much we appreciate your prayers and support for us personally as well as the ministry. The Lord has supplied our needs this year although at times it has been somewhat difficult. However, we are eternally grateful to all those who continue to support us and the ministry. There have been some necessary adjustments due to the loss of personal support. Some of these were anticipated and some were not. It certainly has been a year that has challenged my faith but the Lord has remained faithful. The plans for the new facility have really been slow but I must trust the Lord that in His time we will proceed. It has been a challenge to try and get everything in place but I can report that progress is being made. The coming year will prove to be a tremendous challenge and a wonderful blessing as it progresses. We will continue to seek the will of our Lord and I pledge to you that I will do my very best to follow Him where He may lead and to be faithful to this ministry.

Our constant prayers are for and with you all.

**FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN; AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER; AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL, COUNSELLOR, THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE**

***Feliz Navidad y Prospero  
Año Nuevo***

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



**By: Loretta Pritchett**  
[lorettapritchett@yahoo.com](mailto:lorettapritchett@yahoo.com)

### A Special Blessing

I want to end this year with a blessing from over fifty years ago. In 1963 my husband and I spent three years in Camp Zama, Japan while he was in the military.

We moved into housing next door to a family of four. This is where I met a young four year old child who knew and loved the Lord.

One afternoon her parents invited us to tour the country side of Japan. At the time I had no idea of how much knowledge this little girl knew about Jesus.

We saw and visited many places in our outing through out the day. Finally on the return trip home, we stopped at a Monastery where the Monks had a temple set up to worship the four Buddha's placed in an alter.

Each Buddha faced the direction in which they protected and gave out blessings in each direction, North, East, South and West. The people would come and worship them and bring food, gold, money and other gifts to lay on the alter to help the Buddha to give them blessings.

As we approached the Alters one of them had many people in front of it and they were crying and giving money and laying gold items at the alter where the Buddha was suppose to be.

However this day the Buddha was missing and the people were giving these items to bring back their god,

Lori came up and grabbed my hand and said these people do not believe in our God and that is why they bring things here to make the idol come back. They believe in a stone god made of metal because they are Buddhist's.

Japan is notated for it's many earthquakes and terrible thunder storms with lots of lighting.

Suddenly one of the thunderstorms came up and lighting was flashing all around us. Lori leaned forward in her seat and patted her mother on the shoulder and said; "It's okay mother you don't need to be afraid of the lighting, when it flashes it is God taking your picture, so just smile."

Then she laid back in her seat, closed her eyes and took a nap on the way home.

For some reason I have always remembered this story of Lori and often wondered what happen to her and her family.

Mystery solved, because of Facebook I decided to search the family name. Nelrose Palenske came up and we became friends. Lori married a young man who is now a youth leader in her brother's church where he is the Pastor. How exciting this was to hear that this young girl of four never lost her love for the Lord.

As we approach this Christmas season let us remember God loves us all and has a reason for things that happen in our lives. My meeting this little girl came full circle and was brought back into my life as a reminder that God has not forgotten His plan for our lives.

Lori and I keep in touch as now both her parents have passed and gone home to be with the Lord. She has many questions about her time in Japan so we chat about that often.

I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a great New Year. Blessing are on their way.

## Philosophy of Religion

“THE GAP THEORY”

OR

“RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD”

“SCRIPTURAL OR UNSCRIPTURAL?”

The second observation relates to the flood. There is a multitude of evidence that

there are fossils, earth strata and coal beds, which predate the Noah flood. It should be stressed that this in no way negated, nor calls into question, the believability of the flood and its affects.

It should be pointed out that for one to believe in the reconstruction period in no way makes them less a Bible believer, nor does it make them an evolutionist of any kind. It does, however, provide some answers to face the age evidence that otherwise is not available. There are plenty of Scriptural evidence and principles that cannot be denied that would warrant serious investigation of this matter. The question; “Is there enough Scriptural evidence to prove the reconstruction theory?” The answer is yes. In the study of the “Pre-Adamic Age,” there are two main points which must be considered.

1. The creation.
2. The reconstruction.

There is one extremely important fact that must be taken into consideration before the discussion can proceed. It is a matter that must be considered if one is to arrive at the proper conclusion. It simply begins with asking one question. “**Can a Holy and Righteous God do an imperfect act?**” If the original creation was “uninhabitable,” then God did an imperfect act. This is an impossibility. Considering this great fact, there must be another answer as to why the original creation became “void.”

### THE CREATION

Genesis 1:1 reads; “In the beginning God created the heaven and earth.” The first thing that is learned from this statement is that time, as we know it, began with the creation. The Hebrew word for “create” (BARA), means “to cut, form, shape, or fashion.” Genesis 1:1 so states, in every true sense of the word, the application of this true definition.

That brings us to Genesis 1:2. “And the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep.” This verse must be compared to Isaiah 45:18. “For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens: God himself that formed the earth and made it, he established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else” Initially, there appears to be a conflict between these two verses. However, a close look at the one



David Gonnella, Th.

## What is Your Plan?

If you are a pastor, assistant pastor, or serve in some other ministry capacity there is a hard truth that you must face. Every day you are getting older, and the day will arrive when you are no longer able to function effectively in your current ministry. At that point you will either retire or reassign.

If it is your goal to retire from the ministry and take it easy, play golf every day, go fishing or just do nothing stop reading here. I have nothing to say that you want to hear.

If, however, you want to remain useful for the Lord I might have something to say that will be of help. When you are no longer able to keep up with your current ministry there are things you can do for the Lord that are useful and with the proper training you can transition into one of these.

Perhaps you are thinking, "Jesus will come and take me to Heaven soon, so I don't need a plan." I too thought the Lord would return when I was 25, 35, 45, 55, and 65. Now I am 69 years old and He hasn't returned yet.

Please know that I am not denigrating the rapture. I look for Jesus to return today, and if He does not I will look for Him to return tomorrow, or the next day. However, I do not know when He will return, so while my "Plan A" is the rapture I also see the need for a "Plan B."

If you are a pastor and think that you will simply offer yourself for fill-in, you should know that most of the men who have done that spend most of their time sitting at home and wishing

someone would call. The truth is that many of our churches have men who can full the pulpit in the pastor's absence. In my church there are five men who can do a very credible job of filling the pulpit if I am sick or on vacation.

Perhaps you think you will teach in one of our seminaries. That is a fine goal. Training the next generation of pastors and missionaries will be wonderful and rewarding. However, you will need a master's degree or a doctorate to qualify for the faculty of any credible seminary or Bible college. If you don't have the proper degree you will need to obtain it before you can teach.

Maybe you would like to write books full time. Again, that is a fine goal. There are not enough good Christian books. But it is one thing to write a book and another thing to write a book that is worth the reading, with proper sentence structure, interesting content and logical progression.

Here at *WFBI* you can earn the degrees necessary to teach at a Bible college or seminary. You can also obtain knowledge in the Scriptures that will be helpful in your current ministry. After all, it is not possible to learn too much of the Word of God.

If your desire is to write you should know that both master's and doctoral programs involve a good bit of writing. You can gain experience in writing correctly as you add to your Bible knowledge which will also help you when you decide to write a book on any Scriptural topic.

We would love to help you prepare for our "Plan B." There is still time to enroll for the Spring Semester. We offer classes on campus, on line or directed study. You can enroll full time or part time, but remember that someday time will run out. Call our office today.

word "was" gives a clue for a better understanding. This Hebrew word literally means; "to become," or "became" void and uninhabitable and the creation was not formed in such a manner. Also, it should be noted that the heaven, mentioned in verse one, is NOT included. In other words whatever affected the earth did not have the same effect upon on heaven.

Now, take a look at Isaiah 48:3. "I have declared the former things from the beginning; and they went forth out of my mouth, and I did

show them; I did them suddenly, and they came to pass." The emphasis here is placed on the word "suddenly." In other words, it did not take "six" days, but the earth was created "suddenly." The six days of Genesis chapter 1, with the exception of the creation of man, were a time of reconstruction. This does not preclude that there were some things that were created during this six-day period, but it was not the original creation.



Glen Davenport, Th.D.

**TEXT: Heb 4:14 16**

14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

**PROVERB:**

“The Lord helps those who help themselves.”

**INTRODUCTION:**

The story of mankind is long and irregular, but some things have never changed.

We were born carnal and we are carnal in the flesh.

We are self willed.

We are what we think we are, that is, our imaginations create our image of who we are and what we are.

One may imagine himself to be handsome and macho or beautiful and sexy.

One may imagine himself to be the best at his trade.

One may imagine himself to be ‘something’ when he is ‘nothing’.

One may imagine himself to be more or less holy.

These, and other traits, tell what we are within our own minds when, in reality, the estimates are way off balance.

One may be much more valuable than he thinks, simply because he does not know his depth of influence.

The field is wide open to us to make the world a better place, but we need help. We need help from God. God can make anybody a ‘better man’, but there are at least two keys.

1. We will have to admit: we need help.

2. We will have to seek His help and be willing to follow His guidance. His guidance will take us away from our imaginations and bring us into a reality check zone wherein we have never ventured.

**I. Perhaps Noah Was A Ship Builder.**

Can you imagine a man such as he, saying to God, ‘I can build a ship that can withstand any storm?’

Can you understand why God would say to him: ‘Not this time. This storm will be beyond anything you have ever seen.’

Do you see why Noah would need to go against his nature and say: “Lord, make me a better man?”

**II. Perhaps Moses Was An Awesome General In Pharaoh’s Army.**

Can you imagine a man such as he saying to God, “I can lead an army of any size?”

To start with, Moses didn’t want to do any of the work for which God had called him. Think of his numerous negative thoughts.

## ALL WICKEDNESS IS SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS

Can you understand why God would say to him: “Not this time. This army is a rebellious people. They are Egyptian in culture. They are idol worshippers. They have no need of a Savior. They are the descendants of Abraham.”

Do you see why Moses would need to go against his nature and say: “Lord, make Me a better man?”

Include Moses’ brother, Aaron, who led the Hebrews in a chant around the golden calf and broke all of the Ten Commandments at once. Can you see why Aaron would need to go against his nature and say: “Lord, make me a better man?”

**III Perhaps David Was The King of All Earthly Kings.**

Can you imagine a man such as he, saying to God: “I am good enough with a sling shot? I can handle my own with anybody, regardless of size.”

Can you understand why God would say to him: “Not this time. You’re going up against a giant.”

What about the time when Bathsheba appeared on the scene?

What about his adulterous act and what about the death of Uriah, Bathsheba’s husband?

Do you see why David would need to go against his nature and say: “Lord, make Me a better man?”

**IV. Perhaps Simon Peter Was the Staunchest of All Men. When he said something, he meant it! When he said: Matt 26:33 35**

Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.

Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.

Can you understand why God would say to him: “Not this time. You’re going up against the devil.” Luke 22:31 32

Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Do you see why Peter would need to go against his nature and say: “Lord, make me a better man?”

**V. Perhaps You Have A Nagging Sin.**

Perhaps you have An Ego.

Perhaps you have an Unrealistic Goal.

Perhaps you can see yourself in one of these men.

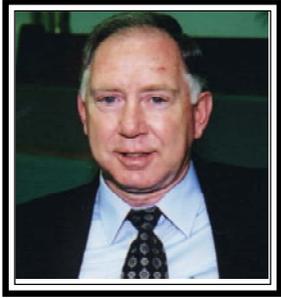
Perhaps it’s time for you to say to God: “Lord make me a better man!”

**CONCLUSION:**

Hear God say: “I can make you a better man, but you will have to HELP ME.”

God can only do for you or with you according to your willingness to work with Him!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



Bro. Jimmy L. Lancaster

Bro. Jimmy L. Lancaster, 74, of Corinth, MS passed away on Sunday, October 4, 2020 at his residence. He was born in Corinth, MS on June 24, 1946 to the late Buford and Carrie Lancaster. A very loving father and husband, Bro. Jimmy spent his life in service to others. He surrendered to preach in 1979, graduated from seminary at Oxford Baptist Institute in Oxford, MS and began serving area churches in 1981. He loved his horses, and his dog, Sasha but his greatest passion was the 36 years he was privileged to preach the gospel. Bro. Jimmy will forever be remembered in the hearts of his family and friends. Visitation is scheduled from 5 8 pm Friday, October 9, 2020 and from 10 am till service time on Saturday October 10, 2020 at Glendale Baptist Church. Masks are recommended and social distancing is required. A Celebration of Bro. Jimmy's life will be held at 11 am Saturday, October 10, 2020 at Glendale Baptist Church officiated by Bro. Paul Armstrong, Bro. Jim Philamlee and Bro. Jon Haimes. Pallbearers include Larry Lancaster, Jay Mitchell, Bruce Bean, Rodney Jeter, Daniel Ballard and Randy Wilbanks. Honorary pallbearers include Patrick Timbes, Jerry Lancaster III, Brian Sugg and Dan Wilbanks. Interment will follow in Magnolia Gardens. Magnolia Funeral Home B East Chapel is entrusted with the arrangements. Those left to honor Jimmy's memory include his wife of 53 years, Patricia APat@Lancaster of Corinth; his daughter, Heather Turner and husband Landon of Winn, ME; his sisters, Nellie Rubright of Horseshoe Bend, AR, Barbara Elam and husband Bob, Shirley McClamroch and husband Mike, and Hilda Mitchell and husband John all of Corinth; his brother, Jerry Lancaster Sr. of Rodeo, CA; his sister in law: Jamie Timbes and husband Mike of Corinth; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Buford and Carrie Lancaster; his brother, Lonnie Lancaster; and his nephew, Jerry Wayne Lancaster II. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Glendale Baptist Church. Online condolences may be expressed at [magnoliafuneralhome.net](http://magnoliafuneralhome.net).

It may concern a guilt complex. ... or an unrelenting ego. ... or an unrealistic goal.  
... or rebellion.



Elester Evans Raines

Reverend Elester Evans Raines passed away on Friday, August 14, 2020, in Hammond, Louisiana, at the age of 94. He was born on Sunday, February 28, 1926 in Folsom, Louisiana to the late Alice Ried and the late Elester Raines. He was a resident of Hammond, Louisiana.

Elester is survived by his children, Kerry Raines (Christine), Sheilah C. Raines, and Patrick W. Henagan (Connie); step children, Ramie Howlett, Sharon Combs, and Charlene Oxenbol; grandchildren, Lindsay Raines, Tricia Short, Kristen Henagan, Kayleigh Raines, Faith Henagan, Megan Robertson, and Heather Howlett; 7 great grandchildren; and sisters, Nola Smith and Doretha Lefleur.

He was preceded in death by his father, Elester Raines; mother, Alice Ried; step mother, Lavada Raines; wives, Verbia M. Raines and Connie H. Raines; daughter, Wendy Alleman Raines; and siblings, Daniel, Cypher, Clarence, Elmous, Esther, Willis, Norman, Alton, Sidney, Meshell, Oscar, and Albert J.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the visitation on Monday, August 17, 2020, at Harry McKneely and Son Funeral Home in Hammond, 2000 N Morrison Boulevard, Hammond, Louisiana 70401, beginning at 10:00 AM until the funeral service begins at 12:00 PM.

Interment will follow in Reed Raines Memorial Gardens, Unneedus, Louisiana.

Ask God to make you "a better man" and submit to "His leadership".



Secretary/  
Treasurer  
Missions

Roger Stewart

## MISSION NEWS AND VIEWS

### FOREIGN MISSIONS

### SELLERS REPORT

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$2,230,402.57</b>
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Interstate Salaries	\$101,891.74
Foreign & National Salaries	97,716.17
Designated	\$38,777.41
Undesignated	\$12,214.11
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$250,599.43</b>
<b>BALANCE FOR SALARY/EXPENSE</b>	
	<b>\$2,481,002.00</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Interstate Salaries	\$74,429.80
Foreign Salaries	\$22,746.24
National Salaries	\$24,379.20
Designated	\$38,777.41
Salaries & Expenses of Sec-Treas. Office	
Office Salaries	\$12,390.13
General Office	\$1,802.71
Sec/Treas. Travel	\$754.07
Automobile Expense	\$875.88
Postage	\$487.98
Total Office	\$16,310.77
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$176,643.42</b>
<b>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD</b>	
	<b>\$2,304,358.58</b>
<b>Surplus for November</b>	<b>\$73,956.01</b>

**News:** November reminds the Child of God to be thankful; 2020, while strange and challenging, was no different. I am thankful for (1) congregations who give; (2) church members who sacrifice; (3) churches who send; (4) missionaries who go; and (5) a God who provides. I trust you, too, are thankful for each of the Lord's blessings.

**Names:** Pastors all over the world challenge their people to respond to the Annual Thanksgiving Mission Offering for ABA Missionaries and this is often done in a variety of ways. Pastor Vance Penn and Central Baptist Church in Newport, Arkansas, utilized a silent auction to sell twenty pieces of art from three different artists – Brother Penn, his wife (Kathy) and his daughter (Angel Lee) – and raised \$1000.00. Brother Penn noted, "I know it's not a huge offering but I was blessed to be able to paint these while COVID-19 kept me from some of my usual pastoral duties and I only felt it right to give back to God as He has blessed me." Thank you, Brother Vance, Sister Kathy and Angel Lee! Your talent and sacrifice will be a great help to ABA Missions!

**Notes:** November brought the conclusion of "Associational Season" for Gena and me; consequently, our travels for 2020 began to wind down after attending the Arkansas State Association hosted by Sharon MBC in Benton, the Texas State Association hosted by Alvin MBC in Alvin, and the Louisiana State Association hosted by Camp Glenwood in Folsom. The fellowship was sweet, and the Lord's blessings were abundant. Thank you to all who welcomed us, provided for us, encouraged us and came by our booth.

**Numbers:** For November 2020 ABA Recommended Missionaries reported **408 Professions of Faith** and **33 Baptisms** among their works. Praise the Lord; this is why we ask God's people to give!

**Needs:** To date, the Missions' Office has received **\$107,836.58** toward the **\$300,000.00** goal for the **2020 Thanksgiving Mission Offering**. This number reflects a **7% increase** when compared to the same time a year ago. The need remains great, but we serve a mighty God!

#### L.A.M.B. Ministries

*Jim Gage, Missionary*

I am now in my 55th year as a missionary, most of those years have been working in Latin America. There are many experiences and blessings during those years. I remember chasing after Bro. Noe Mesa down the river when I baptized him with the river's current. He was the first to be baptized in Colombia's missionary work. Then, Colombia's next baptismal service I managed to almost knock Bro. Jaime Pardo out when I hit his head on a rock hidden under the water. So far, I have not lost a candidate yet. But I was beginning to get concerned this past month when Bro. Alberto Jimenez was baptized. He accepted the Lord during one of our 3 PM bible studies via zoom. Of course, he wanted to follow the Lord in scriptural baptism.

The Sembrador Missionary Baptist Church voted to accept him as a candidate and set November 21st as the date. Everything was great, except there was just one small problem. Bro. Alberto is paralyzed from the shoulders down. I was going to need help. Bro. Alberto Gelvez, pastor of the Grace MBC in Bogota and several members and Bro. Placido Torrez, Pastor of the Quiroga MBC in Bogota came. Let me say this about mission work. Associational work is extremely important. Missionaries need your prayers and of course support. But sometimes, like the other day, you need physical and spiritual assistance to carry out the Lord's commands. There were five of us that went into the baptismal waters to help me baptize. That took offerings from our sister churches to help get the help to the missionary. It took prayers of the saints. So, let me just say, "THANK YOU, EVERYONE WHO HELPED CARRY OUT THE LORD'S COMMISSION."

As we finish this most unusual year of 2020, a great big THANKS. On behalf of the Sembrador MBC and Bro and Sis J. Gage, to all the churches, missions and people that

have faithfully shared your blessings with us, we want to thank you. May God continue to bless His work.

### Colombian, Missions

*Gilberto Pinzón, Missionary*

Thank God, my health is doing slowly better, it takes some more time to see how much recovery I can get. I continue having several specialist appointments every month. Thanks for your prayers. God continue to bless and protect you all. Amen

**PENIEL BAPTIST MISSION:** Today is the 228th day of health emergency due to Covid-19 here in Bogotá. For the last 31st weeks we are having virtual services from home, Sundays and Wednesdays, by Zoom and Facebook live. Also, daily devotionals, by WhatsApp. It is not yet known when we will be able to reopen presential services. Flor María, a 40 years old lady, sister of Bro. Jorge Fautoque, made profession of faith as result of home's discipleship. Praise God.

A family of 3 people, from the church, hardly recovered from Covid-19, and another family of 4 people are positive for Covid-19. Please pray for them.

**THE COLOMBIA THEOLOGICAL BAPTIST INSTITUTE.** Will have its 28th closing exercises, next November the 15th. Dr. Roger Stewart, secretary-treasurer of missions, of the ABA, will be our special guest speaker, Bro. Gabriel Sanchez, missionary in Houston, TX, will translate for him. Please pray for great services.

I was invited to participate in the closing virtual conferences of the Costa Rica Missionary Baptist Seminary, from November the 17th to the 20th. Please pray for great preaching and visible results.

### Monterrey, Colombia, S.A.

*Carlos Julio Mendoza, Missionary*

During our last revival with Pastor Ledford, **3 young men accepted Christ as their Savior! All Glory to GOD!!** They have studied our doctrines on WASAP and have become strong in the faith. They were baptized in the Fusa BM Temple by the authority of Gracia MBC Bogota Colombia and Landmark BC of Madison Florida our co-sponsoring church. These 3 brothers want to start a mission in Ibague and they are praying that God will

send a missionary to start the mission. ***I am praying that if it is God's will, I will be traveling to Ibague to start another mission.***

We request your prayers for a safe trip to Colombia for **Pastor Ledford, Bro. H.H. Strickland, and the secretary treasurer of missions.** They are planning to come in **March 2021** to check the missions and **organize them into "New Testament Churches"**.

In Monterey BM in my absence, my son-in-law and the members are faithfully carrying on with the services. They are having good attendance, many first time visitors, and one profession of faith.

In Fusa BM they are averaging 11 in attendance. In Quiroga BC the governor does not allow them to congregate as a church. They are having services by ZOOM. I preach the Sunday night services by ZOOM.

We are praying to God for the Pastors, Churches, and Missionaries that God will protect them from this epidemic.

### Thailand Missions

*Danny Jones, Missionary*

This year has forced changes for every missionary and every ministry. We are no exception. With the health of my own family being compromised and restrictions on travel, I have directed my attention over the past several months to our publications ministry, which has been churning out new books in record numbers. Most of them are books written by others, but I am finishing up several new projects of my own including Sunday School Made Practical and Saved to Serve: A 13 Week Small Group Study. Here are just a few of the new books that have been recently published:

**PREACHING THE GOSPEL:** Because of the pandemic, classes at the Westwood School of Missions have been canceled for the fall semester. However, in the midst of the lockdown, the Lord is still providing ample opportunities to share the gospel message.

I have had the privilege to preach at Grace Baptist Church in Lake Wales, FL; First Baptist Church of Indian River City, Titusville, FL; I preached the annual mission conference for Monterey Baptist Church, Orlando, FL; and our family was blessed to attend and be showered with blessings at the annual

mission conference of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Acworth, GA. We are monitoring the travel restrictions for Thailand, (and also Israel for our upcoming archaeological dig at Shiloh) and I hope to resume my travels as soon as they are lifted.

**UPDATE ON OUR HEALTH:** I wish to thank everyone for their continued prayers and concern for our health condition. Covid 19 has taken a tremendous toll on our family, with some long term (if not permanent) effects. The virus has caused my thyroids to shut down, which the doctor says is permanent, but with medication, should not be a big issue. Our oldest daughter, Tara, has developed an enlarged heart and still suffers from extensive lung damage from the coronavirus. She is still taking daily breathing treatments but passes out frequently with any physical exertion. My wife, Rachel, continues to worsen. With extreme lung damage and scarring, she has been left with only 44% of her lung capacity. She is in pain most the time and struggles most days to do even the most basic functions. Covid seemed to attack Laura, our youngest, with gastrointestinal issues which has worsened. Because of these issues, my family will not be traveling with me on deputation for the time being. COVID-19 has certainly attacked our family. Rachel's grandmother, Betty Biggs, went home to be with the Lord after losing her battle with the virus. We have lost both friends and family this year to the virus and continue to fight .its' effects. Please remember my family in your prayers

### Romania

*Kolt Mackrill, Missionary*

As we transition from summer into fall we are so thankful for the blessings that God has bestowed upon us this past month. Truly we are blessed beyond measure and we want to give God all of the glory. We should be thankful to God each day for everything that He does for us. However, this month especially, we are reminded of all that God has done for us this past year. Even in light of everything that has transpired to cause us to name this a bad year, God has been so very good to us and we ought to be grateful to Him! He has not only daily provided for all of our physical needs, He has provided for

us spiritually! God is good all the time! All the time, God is good!

**Zrne'ti Church Plant:** The work in Zarnesti continues to go well. This past month we were able to put a new sign on the building. We chose Faith Baptist Church after many discussions with folks in the neighbourhood. The Orthodox religious beliefs, which teach works for salvation, are very prevalent. We have made it a point in our witnessing opportunities to talk of the importance of repentance and faith in Jesus for salvation and not good works of our own to earn God's favor.

We have also been working hard to finish up the interior of the building. We repaired cracks and holes in the walls and then gave the inside a fresh coat of paint as well. We have been cleaning up and tidying the inside to prepare for services we will begin having in November.

Please continue to pray with us about this work. There is still much work that needs done to the exterior, courtyard, basement, bathroom, and fence. These things are important. However, they are not as important as the people who live in this community who need to be saved! Please pray with us about these things; for the work that still needs done on the building but more importantly for the people we have already shared the gospel with and for many more opportunities!

Sunday evening November the first we began our first unofficial service in the building. It was very exciting. We spent some time in prayer and fellowship with some dear friends who came out to support us. We plan on continuing these times of prayer and bible study on Sunday evenings while also seeking other opportunities to minister in the community.

#### **Missions: SE Asia**

*Rusty Teer, Missionary*

People here love any reason to celebrate, and Christmas is growing more popular each year. We saw decorations in the stores around Halloween; one of my students was wearing reindeer antlers last week, and one had Christmas stockings on today. Our Father uses this to make it easy to share His Story through the vocabulary and meanings behind the colors and symbols of Christmas.

There have been a few COVID-19 cases locally, and people are afraid. Some students have stayed home from school and even our evening class this week. Some schools have delayed opening. The death toll here is reported still at 60. We are praying we don't have to lockdown again.

The holidays are always a more difficult time to be so far away from family, but our families' health has added another level of stress. We always need your prayers for His help in our lives and the lives of our family in the USA and always for our students, teachers, and their families here. We cannot continue without Him, and no work we do will be successful without us following His lead.

Never doubt our Father is working through your daily prayers, notes of encouragement, gifts, and faithful support. It's a blessing to have the health, freedom, and opportunity to be involved in His kingdom work! We pray you all have a blessed Christmas and New Year!

#### **St. Petersburg, Russia**

*Jodie Vealey, 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.

#### **Spain**

*Daniel Estrada, Missionary*

This was the last time that we were able to meet at our building. As you can see, we are growing little by little. The issue is, the Spanish authorities have again restricted meetings to 6 people, for the second wave of COVID-19, we are more than six people. God is adding more people now, and we are having around 12 to 14 people every weekend, so we will be having meetings of more than 6 people only by skype or zoom until Spain re-opens again. Pray for this.

**TEACHING BROTHERS IN BARCELONA BY ZOOM...** Every Monday and Friday night we are giving Bible lessons to the church in Barcelona. It all began with Brother Julian, and then he started to invite more people, and now we are about 6 to 7 people every time that we meet. More people will be added later. We have studied the lives of David and Joseph. Now we will begin Job.

What a blessing this is, to be able to teach the word of God to more people.

God gives us opportunities to minister even through the time of pandemic that we are passing through. The Word of God is running, it never stops.

**MEET WITH OTHER SERVANTS IN EUROPE...** God is allowing us to meet two times a month in order to pray and study His word with brethren missionaries in other countries in Europe. It has been a great blessing and another opportunity to minister

by zoom. As we said, the Word of God is expanding and growing everywhere.

By the way, we are having one Bible lesson every week by web with a family in Sweden. Pray for them as we continue ministering to them. Right now, we cannot visit them, but we would love to do so.

Thailand

David Leak, Missionary

***I will be sending out bi-monthly reports, beginning with this report;*** due to increased #'s of reports sent out & to be more frugal with expenses; both mine & the WMBC's. Please bear with me as this change is made. I'm sure that there will be adjustments "along the way". Again; I would like to keep some things in current reports; at least for the time being, to keep them before everyone as a matter of prayer; if you please would be patient & allow me. There are some ***very important plans*** for the future return to Thailand that ***demand prayer; thank you all! They are; again, as follows:***

***I will be able*** to have my current Work Permit renewed without returning to Thailand; ***thank the Lord!*** Dtawm Rosendal will also assist 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; ***please*** keep these financial needs as a matter of prayer on my behalf. ***I'm also in dire need of increased support as well. Thank you!***

The Heart to Heart Foundation is in need of me returning, because 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. I believe it to be a ***great*** opportunity & am seriously considering & also excited about the future! Although 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 and outreaches. My burden for the Isaan Region still remains strong & heavy on my heart; 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, as often as possible. 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 @ the Heart to Heart Foundation Office were @ one time boasting from 40-50 students, & we hope to return to @ least that #. Since we are ***required to teach English; both to receive & maintain our Visas, it's a great outreach tool!*** The ***Seminary & English Classes*** will be taught simultaneously; Lord willing. Please pray for Thailand For Christ; thank each of you!

### **Bulgaria**

Jim Black, Missionary

We arrived back in Bulgaria on October 17. There was no problem coming back into the country as we have permanent residency. We stayed close to home until we were confident that we did not have any Covid symptoms.

Our ministry partners, Jeff and Grace Shergalis had our cupboards and fridge stocked with groceries, and Bro. Jeff met us at the airport when we arrived in Sofia. Such a blessing!

Bulgaria has extended the Covid restrictions through the end of November. We are permitted to assemble for services but everyone except the speaker is required to wear a mask.

We continue to have people from West Africa and the UK in the Sunday afternoon service in English. The people from the UK

are studying medicine in Bulgaria. Their program continues for two more years.

### **Romania**

Dave Manary, Missionary

We had a very full schedule of churches that we visited last month. One very special service was being able to go to Philadelphia MBC in Prattsville, AR with Amanda and her fiancé, Jonathan Crane.

We spent so many years visiting churches together as a family. I miss it when we can't all be together. So it was truly a blessing!

It was a joy to visit West Bauxite MBC. That church sent Alvin Krebs to be the missionary to Washington state in the 60's.

I am a direct result of that mission work (as well as several churches that were planted through his efforts). Dustin Lewis serves as the pastor of the church currently.

Every year that we are back in the states for furlough and deputation, we plan special traditions as a family.

One of them is to go to Peebles Farm in Augusta, AR. Dave and the kids go through the corn maze, everyone gets to pick a pumpkin, take LOTS of pictures, visit the petting zoo and eat junk food!

So thankful to be back in the States to be close to the older two girls. So proud of Jessica and Amanda.

### **South Pacific**

Walt Emery, Missionary

Three Sundays ago I was preaching at Farumary M.B.C. and during the invitation literally half the people came forward for prayer. (Actually they wait in line and want me to pray with and for them.) The last girl that was waiting came to me and said she was confused. Before I go on I'll tell you why she was confused. She came from a small place on Tanna where her parents never went to any church. So, in her lifetime (she's about 19) she has not heard the true gospel of Jesus Christ.) Now she's living with some relatives, which are members of Farumary, in Kokoreko.

She has been to church now a few times. This particular Sunday she came forward and I again explained to her what the Lord Jesus did for her on Calvary! She said she understood and we prayed together and she accepted the Lord Jesus in her heart.

## Interstate Missions

### Lighthouse Ministries

*Toby Cribbs, Director*

**THE FIRST THING:** Still in need for God's Churches and God's People to help us to purchase the BOOK FINISHER. We have at this time \$2400.00. We need about \$2600.00 more. Will you please help? Mark checks BOOK FINISHER.

**THE SECOND THING:** We are not sending as many of our studies out. The reason is that many of the institutions are not letting mail go in or our.

**THE THIRD THING:** They have re-closed Polk County Jail in Benton, Tn.

**THE FOURTH THING: JAILS AND PRISONS:** List of Jails-Prison we are sending studies into for the first time. 17 New Jails-Prisons

**FIFTH THING:** We mailed out another 30 of our Resource List to Chaplains.

We shipped him 40 KJB-25 Bible Dictionary-Concordance-3200 Bro. Dills booklets and 5 each of our Resource Material

**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.

**THE EIGHTH THING:** We sent out two Macedonia Studies and one Certificate.

**TENTH THING:** Our granddaughter Kaitlynn has re-typed all of our Bible Studies and has corrected all the mistakes that were made

**ELEVEN THING:** If you want me to come and present this Ministry, please call office 423-496-7116, home 423-548-0078 or email tobycribbs@yahoo.com.

Do pray that God will send a Missionary or Missionaries to help in this Ministry. We do not want this Ministry to come to a close. My wife and I are not quitting just slowing down some.

### 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 103.8FM, 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 Missions

*Scott Bourland, Missionary*

It was such a thrill to see Phyliss follow the Lord in baptism. She represents one more person in this core group that has made the right decision for the Lord. Most of the group

has acted in obedience to the Lord, but there are still a couple that need salvation and a few that have other decisions to make.

We have seen a significant decline in our firsttime visitors the past two months. While we realize that the virus plays a role in this, I refuse to give myself or our people an excuse to stop witnessing and inviting people to church.

We did discontinue our door to door canvassing work, out of respect for peoples concerns and fears, but I have pushed our people to remain faithful in their daily word of mouth witnessing and we will soon initiate a new mailing campaign and series of Facebook videos.

We have also seen several who were attending, but had not connected, drop out. Please pray for them to return.

Our Wednesday night service has gone very well. We usually have about a dozen for this Bible discussion format. The participants felt as if we did not have enough time meeting from 7-8 and began to discuss ways of expanding the time frame.

The conclusion was to meet from 6 to 6:45 and then take a break and return for a second session from 7-8. This expanded time will allow us to cover more scripture, but may also help some who have not been attending and could come for the new first session time slot. Pray that our numbers will grow.

We will also be adding a Sunday evening Bible study after the first of the year. I expressed to the group that I needed more time to teach them and everyone agreed that a Sunday night service would provide us the best opportunity.

### Benchmark Baptist Fellowship

*Allen Schoeff, Missionary*

**As I write this report, today is Veterans Day.** I would like to take a moment to thank ALL of our Veterans who have served and who are serving. For those whose loved ones died for our safety and freedom, I want to also thank you. Amid political turmoil and social unrest in our nation the likes of which many Americans have never seen, I am grateful for all of the men and women of our united States Military. My son, Wesley Allen Michael Schoeff, is currently serving overseas in the Middle East, if you have a

moment, please lift a prayer on his behalf.

**Bonfires & Bibles** was a success! In years passed, October has been a great opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus with literally hundreds and even thousands of people in one night of ministry. This year has been much different already due to “The Virus”, and October was no different. I have lost personal friends to this disease, and so I do not take it lightly, yet we must press on for the Lord! Having said that, we simply felt as a church that there was too great of a liability to try and host our annual outreach at Halloween. Instead, we scheduled Bonfires & Bibles. Each Sunday night, we came together to roast marshmallows, sit outside around the fire, and have a devotion from the word of God. This allowed us to invite our lost friends and neighbors to a smaller gathering where we could practice safety protocols. The weather was good for half of our nights. The other half we had to alter our plans, BUT GOD still made a way! We had at least one first time guest each night. The gospel was shared, the bible was read, and now we pray that these souls will be saved.

**Pastor Appreciation Month** this year was special. The members at Benchmark Baptist managed to COMPLETELY surprise me. No one let the ball drop or a loose lip sink any ships. I am grateful to God for our church family, and while we are not as large numerically as we would like, we do have an abiding love for each other. We have had some growth, even during “the Virus”, and of course we are praying for more. One of our newer families gave me perhaps the “sweetest” gift of all this year. They stopped by and did a “Trick or Treat” in reverse! I got a little bag of candy, a beautiful homemade card, and the biggest smiles! I also I received several other cards and gifts from the church. I don’t know any pastor or missionary who serves for recognition or rewards, but it is a blessing to know that one is loved. THANK YOU BENCHMARK BAPTIST!

### Colorado Church Planting

*Evertt Lebetter, Missionary*

November is a month of thanksgiving. We are so thankful for each church and each individual that make this ministry possible. Through your prayers, fellowship,

encouragement, and your financial generosity, this ministry is possible. Colorado is a challenging and very expensive field. We are beyond grateful for all the support we receive. We are also thankful for our Sending Church. She has supported us and stood with us every step of the way. During the month, we were able to travel and attend the Louisiana state meeting. We wanted to attend other state meetings, but circumstances prevented that. It was a true blessing to be able to fellowship with the pastors and churches present in Louisiana. The field can be a lonely place for true spiritual fellowship. We have several people that we are ministering to, but we long for spiritual fellowship. Our live attendance has held steady for the month in spite of more shut downs here. Our Facebook live participant has also held steady. It is truly a unique experience to get amens from the the live feed. (If someone comments on FB, my wife will relay the comment during the message).

Thank you to all those that lifted my wife up in your prayers and for those that texted, emailed, and called to check on her. Her MS flared up at the end of October and gave us a scare. The flare up hit her pretty hard, but she seems to be back to her normal self.

Just like any other ministry the virus has really affected us. Colorado is one step away from “stay at home” orders. The restaurants are take out only. The gyms are closed. Churches are reduced to 25%. In some ways, I have had better opportunities to build relationships. On the other hand, street evangelism or talking to strangers in public is basically non-existent. The challenges are there, however, that is no excuse for us to not try and scatter seeds.

### Twin lakes Baptist Mission

*Jerry Baker, Missionary*

Yah-ta-hey from the Navajo Nation! Or, in other words, “hello”, “it is good”, “how-rya”, it’s all the same word/meaning in Rez language. And, if you will notice, it’s also the name of the community where we receive our mail! As you read over October’s newsletter, if you know someone who would like to stay informed regarding the Lord’s ministry among the Navajo people of Twin Lakes NM, we simply encourage them to contact us with

their email address. They will then be added to our list and receive the newsletter each month.

As with many churches during this season of Covid, there is not an abundance of activity to share with you for the month of October. The Navajo Nation remains on lockdown from 9 p.m. on Fridays through 5 a.m. and it appears those restrictions could worsen in the coming weeks. Similarly, the State of NM appears to be aggressively moving toward a position of closing various businesses and has already limited “group gatherings” to no more than 5 people.

Thankfully, that has not YET been imposed on churches in our State. We won’t bore you with a list of regulations and closures, but we do ask that you lift up our church family as we face what appears to be inevitable rulings in the very near future. Already a \$5,000 fine can be imposed on a group meeting of more than 5! Our church members could possibly risk being fined from both the Navajo Nation as well as from the NM government for violations regarding “traveling and gathering”. Yet, most of those now attending Sunday morning worship services as well as Wednesday Bible Study do so with the knowledge of what could happen. As each “Covid” month passes, we pray that the next month will be better.

### Bloomington Missions

*Scott Pruit, Missionary*

This was a month of record attendance on Sunday morning and Sunday evening. We have had several new families connect this month. Not only is this numerical growth exciting, but we are also seeing these new families plugging in to one on one discipleship, journey readings, co-op, and outreach. These are signs that people are growing in their love for the Lord; when they desire to be in the Lord’s house, with the Lord’s people, and doing the Lord’s work.

**Serving Others:** There has been an abundance of ways to serve this month. Our ladies have had a meal train going almost all month with health needs and the arrival of new babies. It is awesome when everyone jumps in and bears each other burdens.

One particularly difficult opportunity came this month as our dear friend Sgt. Robert

Skelton, was diagnosed with cancer and had to have a very extensive operation. Our people jumped right in, surrounded he and his family in prayer, taking meals, and loving on the family. He is recovering, but has a long road ahead, so please lift him in your daily prayers.

The church also came alongside our family when Kelli had shingles (again) and was dealing with some major health issues. They watched kids, brought meals, did our dishes, and bought us a new dishwasher for Pastor Appreciation Month.

Journey kids raised funds and had a coat drive for the local Hannah House, raising enough money to deliver 68 coats for children in need! The kids all worked so hard to spread the word, collect change, and coats. We love giving them tangible ways to meet the needs of others.

**Telling the World:** COVID and outreach has been a challenge. When our community announced that they were not encouraging door to door treat or treating but would allow drive thru trick or treating events, we jumped into action. Families jumped in together to fill zip-lock baggies with fun treats, gospel tracts, and an invite to Journey. All in all, we gave out around 450 invites to church, and as we speak the extra bags are being delivered to local police, fire stations, **and schools. 1,000 gospel seeds will be planted as a result.**

### Misión Bautista Emanuel

*Gabriel Sánchez: Missionary*

September was an exciting month. We decided to start a prayer group to pray for the return, the recovering, and the revival of Emanuel. Everyday we get up at 5:30 AM to pray. There is no doubt, God answers prayers! Members started to come back and our attendance started to grow. Our highest attendance Sunday mornings was 35. Also we happy to share with you the return of sister Odalis Alvarez. I baptized her more than 10 years ago. She had stopped attending our services, but she came back, asked to restore her fellowship with God and with Emanuel. Since then, she has brought her husband, her 16 year old son and her nephew. Praise God.

Brother Victor Gonzalez and Jose Cantu continue in charge of teaching our Sunday School class. Our attendance has grown from last month.

**A CRY FOR HELP:** Due to COVID-19 our finances have dropped tremendously, and we keep falling back in the payment of our land loan. We ask you to pray for God to provide the means for us to catch up in our payments. Our monthly payments are \$1,500 and our loan balance is \$186K plus unpaid interest.

**GRATFUL FOR ANOTHER YEAR:** This month God has allowed me to turn 58. I am grateful for the opportunity to ser Him. I am also grateful to the people from the Mission for pre-paring a delicious lunch for me and my family.

### Korean Missions

*Youngbae Kim, Missionary*

Our work to establish a self sustaining, autonomous New Testament church for the Korean community in Northern Virginia is going well.

It is with great joy that we announce the next step in our growth toward our goal is to find and secure a permanent building to worship in.

I would like to invite you to pray for us as we seek the Lord's will for a property that will meet our needs and have room for future growth.

Our sponsoring church, the First Baptist Church of Kingstowne, and our mission have been saving money toward this goal, but the area is very expensive. We are asking for your help in either a one time offering for a downpayment, or a monthly support to help with ongoing monthly building expenses.

We are looking for property and praying for the Lord to lead us to his perfect will. Thank you for your faithful prayers and generous support.

### International Student Ministry in Phoenix, AZ

*Josh Edwards*

God has called and directed our family to Phoenix to work with international students that God is sending to America for education. We will be working at Arizona State

University to bring the Gospel to students that represents 136 nationalities across the globe. With God's help, we will deliver the Gospel to them, help disciple them, and support them as they return home to impact their home country with the message of Jesus and His precious salvation. Will you pray for our housing needs, our transition to Phoenix, and that the Lord will prepare the hearts of those we will minister to? Angela and I send our love and gratitude to the churches of the American Baptist Association for your love and care for missionaries and the people of the world that they minister to!

### Sterlington Missions

*Trey Emory, Missionary*

October has been exciting for us. Progress has been the theme of this month for sure! We have seen progress toward new relationships in our community, towards getting all our ministries restarted, and our future building plans. **Ministry** This month we have had three first time visitors in our Sunday services. They visited twice, and we enjoyed getting to know them. We restarted several of our weekly ministries back this month, including our Wednesday night kids class and a Sunday night Bible study with a new format. This new format has been so refreshing! After the first Sunday night Bible study, I was encouraged by the engagement and look forward to the blessings to come from that time together. Along with all of these blessing, we have some musically talented college students that we meet with on Thursdays, who have agreed to come help us with music on Sundays. This has been one of our prayers for some time now, and we are thrilled to see God's providential hand!

**Land and Building:** As for the future development of our property, we have been talking about a sewer project for almost a year now. I am so elated to report that we have accepted a bid, and the pipe is ordered! Also, we have been pursuing the next steps in a building project by talking with contractors and taking bids on the project. We are so thankful for our supporting churches whom God has used to help us to get to this phase in the project.



Dean Grigsby

## Business Manager Report

We thank God for the first time since the pandemic began, the Baptist Sunday School Committee operated in the black in September. From a business perspective, this is because of reduced manpower and expenses. From a perspective of reality: God has blessed us in many ways, but none more important to us than the prayers of His churches. In addition to prayers, several have sent cards and love offerings. We thank you for your prayers and generous gifts.

We continue to provide tools that encourage Bible study to assist you in the Great Commission. As we approach Christmas and New Year's, let us focus on God's Word. God through the Bible changes lives. In Psalm 119:9, the psalmist asks a question and then gives the answer: ***Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*** He follows up with seven things we can do daily to keep and remain true to His Word.

 ***With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.*** Psalm 119:10 Pursue the Lord and His Word daily.

 ***Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*** Psalm 119:11 Make the Word of God your compass and guide, to keep you out of sin and in God's will.

 ***Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.*** Psalm 119:12 Praise God faithfully.

 ***With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.*** Psalm 119:13 Tell others about your Lord every day.

 ***I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.*** Psalm 119:14 Rejoice and delight in all God does for you.

 ***I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.*** Psalm 119:15 Show your respect to the Lord by spending more time in prayer and Bible study.

 ***I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.*** Psalm 119:16 Find your joy in your Lord and His Word.



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

Winston Churchill is attributed with saying, “If this is a blessing, it is certainly well disguised.” The year 2020 is nearing a close. As we look back on this past year, we may wonder the exact same thing. With the uncertainties ranging from the coronavirus to economic challenges to state and national elections, they all seem only to produce more uncertainties.

Children of God have many reasons to rejoice in spite of it all. I have heard many times over the past few weeks that God is still in control. Indeed, He is! In uncertain times, the Word of God provides comfort and assurance. I love to read Isaiah chapters 25 and 26. Isaiah 25:1 states, “O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and true.”

First, Isaiah proclaimed his personal relationship with Jehovah God. Then, Isaiah stated he would exalt and praise God’s name because of the wonderful things God had done. Things that are too difficult for man to do, God does. Things that man may do, God can overrule. Isaiah stated that every plan or counsel God has put in place will come to pass. Herein is the confidence for the believer. In uncertain times, trust the Lord. You cannot go wrong by doing this. Just as Isaiah, today is a perfect time for God’s people to proclaim this message of hope.

On another note, I encourage you to pray every day for the writers of your literature. The writers of the Sunday School literature serve in other capacities, and they take time away from other duties to write so the churches of the American Baptist Association can have scriptural literature they can trust. The churches are blessed to have writers who are faithful to God and who write according to the truth of the Word of God.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST INSTITUTE**  
**September/October 2020**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>					
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$3,005.93	<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
<b>INCOME:</b>			Utilities	\$ 1,438.44	
ALABAMA			Misc.	4,108.63	
Schillinger Rd.	-Mobile, AL	275.00	Office	21.00	
Magnolia Springs,	-Theodore, AL	400.00	Instruction	2,950.00	
GEORGIA			TOTAL EXPENSE	\$8,518.07	\$8,518.07
Northside, BC	-Vienna, GA	200.00	<b>NEW BALANCE</b>		\$1,984.76
Traders Hill	-Folkston, GA	70.00			
FLORIDA			<b>BOOKSTORE FUND</b>		
Okeechobee BC	-Okeechobee, FL	187.86	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$ 2,719.22
Calvary BC	-Panama City, FL	100.00	<b>Income:</b>		
Oleno BC	-HighSprings, FL	200.00	Bookstore Sales	\$ -0-	
Sunlifgt BC	-Pensacola, FL	50.00	Press Sales	\$1,405.98	
MISSISSIPPI			Contributions		
Central BC	-Gulfport, MS	30.00	Landmark BC Monticello, FL	200.00	
TOTAL		\$1,512.86	Total Income	\$4,397.47	\$4,397.47
DESIGNATED FUNDS:H.H.Strickland			<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE</b>		\$3,961.06
Magnolia Spring BC	-Theodore, AL	800.00			
Frankfort BC	-Russellville,AL	200.00	<b>Expenses:</b>		
Newark BC	-Elkton,MD	200.00	Utilities	\$756.30	
Cumberland Cove BC	-Monterey,TN	50.00	Postage	\$-0-	
First Baptist BC	-White City, FL	200.00	Print Shop	\$1,264.79	
TOTAL		\$ 1,450.00	Supplies	\$234.96	
COMMITTEE OF 100			Copier	506.67	
Terry Alexander	-Pensacola, FL	20.00	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$2,762.72	\$2,762.72
TOTAL		10.00	<b>NEW BALANCE</b>		\$1,634.75
<b>TUITION/REGISTRATION</b>					\$26,231.69
Tuition		\$ 320.00			\$ 2,856.86
Transfer from savings		\$2,200.00	<b>BUILDING FUND</b>		
Trtransfer from flexline		\$5,000.00	Traders Hill BC -Folkston,GA	50.00	
			Calvary BC -Panama City, FL	500.00	
<b>Mics:</b>			<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$550.00	
Kitchen Sales	-Pensacola, FL	-0-	<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		\$10,502.86	Regions	\$8544	
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE</b>		\$13,508.79	Transfer to Checking	2,200.00	

## CHURCHES SEEKING A PASTOR

**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](mailto:secretarynmbc@gmail.com)  
 Christi Merritt, Secretary

**Green Mountain MBC of Rutland, VT** is in search of a pastor. Green Mountain MBC is the only Missionary Baptist church in the state. It is a great, doctrinally sound church located in the city of Rutland. Please send questions or a resume to [bryanteer@yahoo.com](mailto:bryanteer@yahoo.com) or call 518-260-5979 if interested

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 from 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 985.351.8980 or 985.069.0028.

# PRINTING NEWS

**Printing News:**

Things have been rather quite again this month. The production of the *wfbi* News is the most that has been done. Most of my attention has been directed toward developing on-line classes. It is a new project for me. Years ago, some of our instructors recorded their classes on VHS and these were recently transferred to DVDs. However, the quality was so poor that they are not usable. I thought we would be able to clean them up and use them for the on-line classes but that idea has been scrapped.

For the past several weeks, I have constantly been either recording on the computer, developing the exams or developing the class syllabuses. How the classes are done on line are so much different from the in house classes. It

has really presented a great challenge for me.

I am so grateful to our registrar for developing the virtual classes. He has spent so much time getting this done. If it were not for him, we would not have had any students for this semester. At the present, we have three instructors that are doing virtual classes on line.

We are now working on trying to get a program that we can use for the regular online classes. By the end of this year, there will be three classes ready to offer.

None of us have any idea what the new year is going to bring. However, we cannot just sit and wait. We must be vigilant in trying to develop programs that can attract more students.

Recording these classes reminds me of the time when I recorded programs for the radio. The main difference here is that you are looking directly at yourself as you teach. Sometime it is like, do I

really need to hear this?

**Production:**

It will be necessary for us to go back to press for two of the six books on Systematic Theology. I recently sent a large order and it depleted our inventory. These books have been some of the best sellers we have produced. They are the only books of their kind ever produced by an ABA author, as far as I know. Several schools are now using them, and some are even outside our fellowship.

**Thanks:**

I always thank every church and every individual that has a part in the ministry. Your offerings are more important now than ever before. With the orders and productions down, and the income is reduced. However, all the expenses must still be paid.

May the Lord bless you all in my prayer.

<p><b>Publication</b>  <i>wfbi</i> News is published by-monthly by the West Florida Baptist Institute and is owned solely by the West Florida Baptist Institute. 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.                  H.H. Strickland; editor</p>
---	--	--

CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

NONPROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 PENSACOLA, FL  
 PERMIT NO. 329

West Florida Baptist Institute  
 6812 Lillian Highway  
 Pensacola, FL 32506-3954