

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MILFORD PRESENTS

Australia

AND THE ISLANDS OF OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA · PAPUA NEW GUINEA · NEW ZEALAND · SOLOMON ISLANDS · FIJI · VANUATU · SAMOA
KIRIBATI · TONGA · MICRONESIA · PALAU · MARSHALL ISLAND · TUVALU · NAURU

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 - THE COMMAND
 - THE CHALLENGE
 - THE COMMISSION

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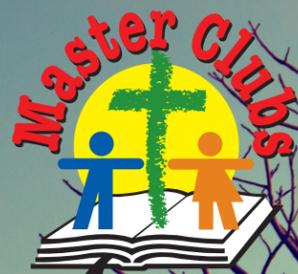
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EDITORIAL

with Dr. Bill Duttry
Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Milford, OH

Thank you for taking time to look through this year's mission conference magazine. Throughout this year our focus has been on the area of the world known as Australia and Oceania, made up of the Australian mainland and some 8,000 other islands. Our conference will highlight two of our own *First Baptist Church* missionaries who have successfully ministered in Australia and who have been instrumental in discipling and encouraging our two guest preachers from Australia. These folks are a great example for us in the area of training and discipleship. The Apostle Paul had his disciples and co-laborers and Bro. Case and Bro. Bartlett have personally given us our examples.

Thank you, *First Baptist Church*, Milford for your commitment to the Lord in getting the Gospel around the world as well as around the corner. Our desire is to train mission-minded servants for all levels of ministry. Your involvement in the process, and in your giving to it, has been exceptional.

During the days to follow, please pray about your personal faith promise commitment and our church's collective giving to faith promise. May the Lord use us and His blessings to reach this world in which so many places remain unreached.

Thank you once again for your faithfulness to Him and His work.

In His work together,

Pastor Duttry

RAISING MISSION-MINDED KIDS BY ED & DEBBIE BARCLAY

Our perspective on raising mission-minded children did not come from textbooks or seminars. It began in the pulpit of our own church where a missions-hearted pastor hammered weekly messages of the importance of missions. These messages were both direct and others more subtle. Missions was a normal theme and missionaries were special people. It seemed as though each week we heard from or about another missionary. At an early age, our children were fascinated with missions due in large part to our pastor's heart for it and his emphasis on it. We remember them eagerly tugging at us after yet another missionary presentation saying, "Can we go? Can we go?" Missionaries were unashamedly given front-row seats in our children's lives and hearts. We soon learned that they



quickly pick up on what we value. This was especially true in our church where missionaries were coming and going regularly and our children saw it as a part of everyday church life.

We discovered that "mission-mindedness" is having a Great Commission mindset fanned by family participation in outreach opportunities. A good church with plenty of opportunities for ministry is essential, and that has always been the case here at *First Baptist Church*. We took advantage of all the areas of service where we could best minister together. We began working in the bus ministry when our children were very young. They went with us on Saturday visitation and rode each Sunday. We attended Great Commission Night together, worked at Vacation Bible School, and various Scripture projects at *Bearing Precious Seed*. It was a great training ground as they learned the value of souls and teamwork.

We established a family routine of serving the Lord together. Our church's *Master Club* was of utmost importance in the early years of our children's lives. It reinforced

We discovered that "mission-mindedness" is having a Great Commission mindset fanned by family participation in outreach opportunities.

what we believe and why we believe it. It gave them avenues to get involved in ministry like teaching a Bible lesson, sharing a testimony, presenting the Gospel, and preaching a message.

The annual Missions Conference was an event we looked forward to with great anticipation. We always made sure to attend all the meetings. We used these times to have missionaries stay in our home. We got to know them as people and our children bonded with them. We have fond memories of many shared meals and special times. Our children were impacted by the stories they heard and the friends they made. One missionary in particular made her famous guacamole each time they stayed in our home. A notable guest was a national pastor from Mozambique. Our children were affected

in big ways and small by each relationship we fostered with missionaries. After the Missions Conference was over, we tried to keep missions in front of our children at home. We were positive about missions, prayed for missionaries, and kept their prayer cards in plain sight. We encouraged our children to go on various short-term mission trips where they developed real and lasting relationships with the missionaries. They returned imitating their zeal and even their teaching styles. The value of those trips was immeasurable as we consider the opportunities our children had to minister alongside the missionaries and to see their passion demonstrated up close and personal.

We tried to encourage our children when they demonstrated an interest in missions and not douse their enthusiasm for missions in any way. Our daughter recently reminded us that we always believed in her, that we took seriously her missions interest and God's calling on her life. As parents, we did not dismiss our children's

desire to serve God with their lives in any capacity. We sincerely tried to fan the flames, not extinguish them.

Our pastor once said, "God has not called all of us to be foreign missionaries, but we should all struggle with the possibility." We simply sought God's will for our children and taught them to do the same. We tried to be mindful to pray even as Jesus did, "not my will but thine be done." We seek to be prayer warriors for our children and grandchildren and to be involved in as many facets of the ministry as we can, both here and around the world.

Now, some twenty-three years later, our adult children are serving the Lord and promoting missions in their respective corners of the world: Beth Anne in her church in Fairfield, OH; Edward as a church-planter in Loveland, CO; and Kristen as a missionary in North Africa. For us, raising mission-minded kids has not only been about being in the right place at the right time, but also about doing the right things.

We tried to encourage our children when they demonstrated an interest in missions and not douse their enthusiasm for missions in any way.

WHO ARE TIM & GWENETH BUNCH

PASTOR TIMOTHY BUNCH

What a wonderful opportunity this is for me to be able to introduce myself to the folk here at First Baptist Church! My name is Tim Bunch and I am Pastor of the Garden City Baptist Church, Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia. Together with my wife Gweneth and our four children, we have served in this church since its inception.

My personal upbringing was in a Christian family; my father was a Navy man who had spent time in Vietnam. He suffered a major head injury during a rest period back home, leaving him both medically unfit to serve and an epileptic for the rest of his life.

As my father improved we began to travel extensively throughout the country, seeking to serve the Lord in whatever manner we could. I have travelled the width and breadth of Australia several times. Around my mid-teens we settled in Darwin and in 1995 I married a saved girl from Queensland. 2 years later my new wife fell pregnant and with no Bible-based Church in the entire state in which to raise my new family, we moved back to Queensland.

Arriving in Toowoomba, we discovered there was no Bible-based church of any sort. Sure, there were conservative churches, places in which you could even hear the Gospel and even get saved, but a church that stood on the Bible, preached it, believed it – this did not exist. Somewhere in 1998, God brought me into contact with another gentleman of like faith, Graham Jackson. Together, we would meet, share around the Word and pray for the Lord's leading regarding establishing such a church in Toowoomba.

Mid 1999, God brought across our paths Missionaries Bob and Vinnie Bartlett, and on August 13, 2000, the Bartletts, the Jacksons and the Bunch family held the inaugural service of the Garden City Baptist Church in a rented hall. For some 9 plus years, Pastor and Mrs. Bartlett laboured with us in Toowoomba, training and then ordaining me into the Gospel ministry and on March 1, 2009, after a unanimous vote, I became the Pastor of Garden City Baptist Church.

Since then, God has wrought such wonderful works that even now my heart lifts itself up in praise to His undeserved goodness towards us. In 2012, the church acquired finance and the Garden City Baptist Church

A MINISTRY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MILFORD

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opened the doors of 601 Bridge Street, Cotswold Hills, Queensland!

The City of Toowoomba has a strong traditional religious background – Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, etc. With these kinds of religions you usually find they are generational and trying to break through those generational barriers can at times be very difficult. When a person does get saved, sometimes it requires years to undo the indoctrination and tradition.

Australia is a modern first-world Nation in which freedom of religion is a common right. As such, we are free to adopt any form of evangelisation we choose. We utilise several forms of corporate evangelisation which include: door-to-door, letterboxing (tracts), local fairs (tracts, one-on-one), and of course special days/events. For the first time in our history, this year we are hoping to host an open ‘Carols-by-candlelight’ service onsite and use that as an outreach opportunity.

Immediately upon professing Salvation, new converts are supplied with a couple of in-house prepared booklets designed to help them begin the new life in Christ. These booklets both teach and give practical examples of to how initiate and establish a prayer life and Bible-reading time. There is also information provided in those booklets on baptism.

We also run a 4-term (1 Year) discipling program, designed to introduce the new believer into basic doctrines of the Bible, help them find their spiritual gifts and direct them into areas of service. This is a mentoring time and these classes are provided in a one-on-one format.

PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR MISSIONARIES:

From an Australian’s point of view, one of the greatest things I could advise an American coming to Australia is to realise that, whilst we may be a modern, first-world society, our culture is different. If one were to be looking at an Asian, African or even Pacific mission field, that cultural difference is immediately noticeable and folks head to those fields AWARE and PREPARED for the differences. Sadly, that has not always been the case when Australia is the destination.

The second advice I would offer is quite simply this: be prepared to remain in one place for up to ten years.

Any plan that is based upon the notion that a church can be planted and established in two to three years is bound for failure. Multiple trips ‘home’ are not viewed well and confidence in the missionaries genuineness wanes with every departure. Over the years, I have seen many IFB churches ‘planted’, but within two to three years fold due to a misunderstanding of this very big cultural difference.

We ask you to pray that God would continue to grant us wisdom. Much like America, Australia is becoming more increasingly a secular nation. Folks who stand for the Truth of God’s Word and upon the principles of The Bible are becoming fewer and fewer. It appears that discriminating against religion is still viewed negatively, unless that religion is Christianity. Garden City Baptist Church is growing and as such our profile in the community is increasing, but that opens us to greater exposure and if we are not prepared, vulnerability. Hence the need for Wisdom! Only God can grant this and I would ask that this request be viewed not as a cliché, but as a genuine need - for that is what it truly is.

GWENETH BUNCH MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT

Since day one, I have been very involved in the ministry at Garden City Baptist Church, serving as the main musician and playing the organ for almost every service. My ministry as a Sunday school teacher and Sunday school superintendent has included ordering supplies and organizing classes for various age groups. As the church has grown and the Lord has added to our number, I have had the privilege of introducing new ladies into our ministry, providing the training and guidance they have needed to work effectively. My involvement with our ladies has also included coordinating our annual mother-daughter banquet and our end-of-the-year “R & R,” as well as regular ladies’ meetings. Every Wednesday night I teach the ladies while my husband teaches the men. Once every month I oversee and teach our ladies during “coffee mornings.”

For a number of years, our church was able to hold a Kids Club for primary-age children. My husband and I designed and implemented a program from scratch,

sourced teaching material, planned the programs, kept records of the children’s attendance, etc. In addition, I have served as a crèche leader and labourer.

Added to these ministry responsibilities are the hospitality and caring required from a pastor’s wife such as opening our home to missionaries and preachers who come through, visiting the sick in the hospital, offering comfort to the bereaved, preparing food for wakes and the sick, etc. In fact, there is really no part of the ministry in which I do not work alongside my husband, apart from the pulpit. I must be careful to focus on my family as well; we have four children, age eight to fifteen. Each attends a local Christian school, takes music lessons, sings in the choir, etc. It would be negligent of me to ignore the needs of the family God has granted to me. In addition to everything else, I work a part-time job to help supplement our income because the church is unable to fully support us at this time.

TYPICAL DAY

I am sure from reading the above information you will understand that there really is no “typical” day in our lives. It would be extremely rare for me to “sleep in” or not leave the house on any given day.

But to give you some idea of our day-to-day lives, I will describe my last birthday. I was up before the children getting the washing started and releasing our pet dog from his chain in the back yard. Upon reentering the house, my husband greeted me with a cooked breakfast, which was a real treat. By 7:30 a.m., the children were dressed, school bags packed, assignments sorted, the inevitable “lost” clothing items hunted down, and then off to school. That day I did not have to do the run—thank you, Lord! Next, I enjoyed a bit of “quiet time” but not for long. One load of washing done meant it was time to “peg it out” and set the next load running. After that, there were dishes to wash and housecleaning to do.

But then one of the church ladies dropped in to wish me a “Happy Birthday.” It was sweet of her and brought me joy. (I am thankful for the ladies God has brought across my path.) She and I visited for a while, and then another lady arrived. Together we enjoyed fresh coffee and baked items that I had prepared earlier.

I had hoped to have a quiet lunch with my husband, but a man from the church called to see if he could drop in for some counseling, and we ended up inviting him to stay for lunch. While my husband counseled with the man, I returned to my washing and cleaning that had been interrupted by the earlier visits as well as some ironing. I would normally make dinner preparations before starting my shift at work at 3:00 p.m., but because it is my birthday, my husband organized dinner for me. When I returned home, dinner was waiting, along with a cake that one of my daughters had baked for me—she is a blessing!

Around 9:00 p.m. the children were in the final throes of bedding down. (You know that usually doesn’t happen quickly!) The loads of laundry then dry were sitting there waiting for me to fold and sort, and then school lunches had to be prepared. After these chores were completed, I was thankful to spend my quiet time with the Lord, and then it was off to bed. It had been a good day, a little easier than most. Thank you, Lord!

PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR MISSIONARIES:

Be willing to form genuine relationships.

Be prepared to work—the mission field is not a holiday destination.

Be prepared to work in any environment. God may call you to a remote place or a town where many of the daily routines you are used to are simply not available. There is more to the mission field than the big cities!

Australians tend to be very slow at placing their trust in “outsiders.” You therefore have to be prepared to put A LOT of time—maybe even years—and effort into building relationships, often with VERY LITTLE reward. However, once you have earned an Aussie’s trust, you will have a friend for life!

We are blessed to have been a part of Garden City Baptist Church since the beginning. We thank The Lord for His hand of blessing and keeping our hands to the plough, we might REMEMBER what came before, but we are looking FORWARD to the victories God YET has for us!



NON-MEMBER
MISSIONARIES

Steve & Amanda Aenis
North Africa & Middle East

Phil & Mary Gagnon
Honduras

Reformers Unanimous
International

Ben & Ashley Anglea
Madagascar

Tom & Krinny Gaudet
Thailand

Dottie Rutter
Widow

Jonathan & Jeanine Autrey
Dominican Republic

John & Mary Gray
Papua New Guinea

Byron & Tricia Sarracino
Pueblo Indians

David & Maggie Barnhouse
Zambia

Matt & Amanda Green
England

B.J. & Denise Stagner
United Kingdom

Daniel & Deana Brown
Liechtenstein

Tom & Dottie Lancaster
Military Missions

Don & Laura Stertz
Baptist Couriers for Christ

Jim & Phyllis Childress
Panama

Light On The Law

Walter & Dolly Stevens
Gypsies of Europe

Christian Law Association

Brent & Shelly Marowelli
First Bible International

Terry & Tanya Sturgill
BPS Seedline - South

Verlis & Margret Collins
Mexico

Cory & April McTague
Tibetan People of Nepal

Mike & Paula Van Horn
Rock of Ages Prison Ministry

Joel & Brooke Daku
Kiribati

Bob Montgomery
Pakistan

Joel & Mary Ann Weaver
Kenya

John & Lindsay Edwards
Australia

Bill & Marcy Patterson
Bible Translation

Jonathan & Holly Wheeler
North Africa

Gabe & Susan Eiben
Micronesia

Mike & Rebecca Patterson
Mexico

Chris & Annie White
Singapore

Larry & Julie Ferguson
Bible Publishing

Paul & Terri Pritchard
Preach Evangelistic Ministries

Jon & April Flowers
Taiwan

Keith & Susan Reedy
Blind

TWENTY-ONE
YEAR
VETERAN
MISSIONARIES
**BOB & VINNIE
BARTLETT**



Little did we know that the entire church started praying for our salvation and continued to do so for nine years.

My wife, Vinnie, and I started sending our only son, Tim, to church on a church bus when he was six years old. When he was eight years old, he made a profession of faith. Because we later moved to a different area near *First Baptist Church of Milford* where Dr. Charles Keen

served as pastor, we sent Tim to *First Baptist* on one of their buses. Vinnie and I, however, did not attend. When Tim was in sixth grade in a public school, the school planned to pass him to the next grade even though he had failing grades. As a result, we removed him from the public school system and enrolled him in a Catholic school. Before he started there, my wife heard about a Christian school associated with *First Baptist Church of Milford*. *Milford Christian Academy* subsequently accepted Tim, even though we were not

saved. Little did we know that the entire church started praying for our salvation and continued to do so for nine years.

In October of 1984, Rev. Ed Bragg, principal of the school, invited us to attend the twentieth anniversary Sunday at *First Baptist Church*. Since I was a golfer and a drinker, I did not want to go because I played golf and drank all day on Sundays. Vinnie insisted that I could give up my routine for one day. I had no idea she had been wanting to go to church for a long time. The special speaker for the day was Dr. Curtis Hutson. When Vinnie hurt her toe that morning, I did everything I could to convince her to let me take her to see a doctor so I would not have to go to church. But, she was determined to go. As I listened to Dr. Hutson preach about hell, I was scared to death. During the invitation time, we raised our hands to indicate that we needed to be saved and then went forward to the altar with Rev. Bragg and his wife, where they led us to the Lord. I was thirty-seven years old when I accepted Christ.

In 1985, Vinnie and I surrendered to go to the field of Australia as missionaries. In preparation for ministry there, I attended the *School of Scriptures*, graduating after three years. We immediately started deputation and were on the field by December of 1989. During the first six months in Australia, I worked with Hershel Case. When the Cases returned to the States for their furlough, I took over the *Fellowship Baptist Church* in Brisbane, Australia. Vinnie and I remained at Fellowship Baptist until 1999 during which time the church was able to purchase a building. When we left Australia for our furlough in the States, I left the church in the hands of a national pastor.

My wife and I returned to Australia in 2000 and settled in a city named Toowoomba. We started a church there with two other families. During our eight years there, we experienced many blessings and

saw church growth. One of the families that started with us even surrendered to go to the Philippines as missionaries. They did one term there and then returned to Australia where the husband is now pastoring a church. Another man, Tim Bunch, who was our song leader and active church worker, had always felt God was calling him to be a pastor. I prayed and worked with him for eight years, during which time I saw much spiritual growth in his life. In March of 2009, we of *Garden City Baptist Church* transferred the leadership over to him and returned to the States for our furlough.

I prayed and worked with him for eight years, during which time I saw much spiritual growth in his life.

In July of 2010, Vinnie and I returned to Australia once again. We took over a work that had already been started by an American missionary who was leaving the field. It was a small work in the Brisbane area where we had our own building about one hour from the city in a small area called Mt. Crosby, Queensland. We looked forward to what God was going to do there and had the same goal for this church that we had had for the other two—to find an Australian to train in order to turn the church over to him in the future. Unfortunately, our goal did not come to pass. We had to return to America in 2012 because of the dollar exchange and economy. The cost of living was rising, and the American dollar was becoming very weak. It was a hard and sad decision for us to make because Australia was our home. Because of our age, we decided to retire from the mission field but not from the Lord's work.

We now live in Georgia, where I have been asked to teach in the Bible college at *Bible Baptist Church* in Brunswick this fall. I have also been working in the prison ministry and have seen many saved. Vinnie is working in a children's ministry this summer. God is not finished with us. We look forward to what He has planned for our future.

SAM CAUDILL: FORTY YEARS OF HELPING THE BLIND TO SEE.

Dr. Charles Keen
Founder, *firstBible International*

I would like to introduce you to Bro. Sam Caudill, my friend and co-laborer for many years. Whether it is the steady drum of the Heidelberg Harris press or the roar of a diesel truck leaving with another Scripture-filled container, such

are the background sounds heard by printer/pressman, Sam Caudill, on any given day at *Bearing Precious Seed* in Milford, Ohio. Bro. Caudill has told me that he was an unlikely candidate to have seen this phenomenal work of God grow from the early days of manually binding individual Scripture portions with a soda bottle to producing a semi-truck load of Scriptures in a mere four days. The humble man maintains, "To God be the glory, great things He has done."

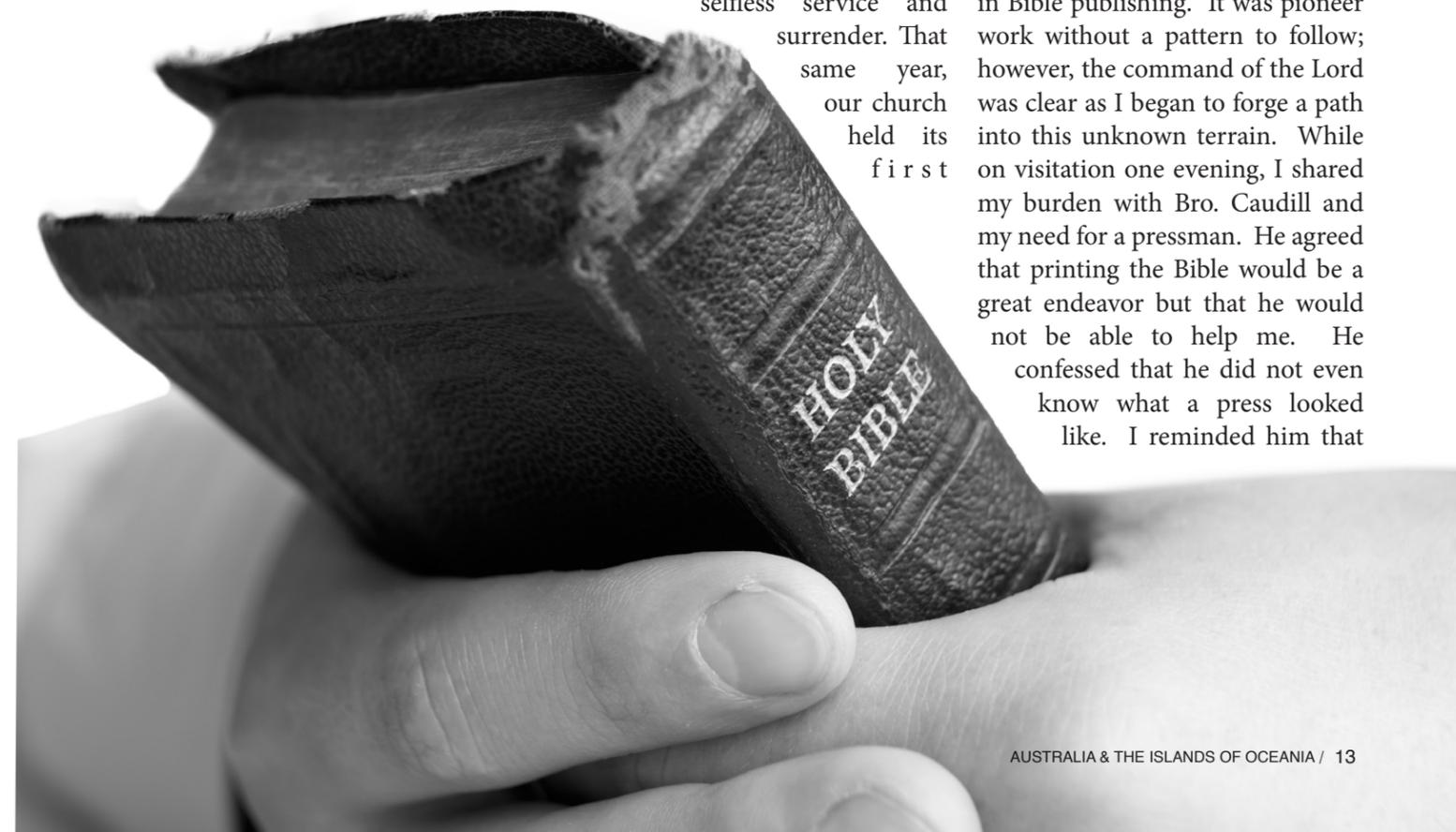
Sam and Betty Caudill came to know the Lord in a revival service in a small church in southern Ohio. I met them six years later in 1969 when they visited *First Baptist Church* of Milford where I was pastor. They soon became members, beginning a lifetime of selfless service and surrender. That same year, our church held its first

missions conference, initiating a flourish of member-missionary activity that would continue for decades. Under the preaching of Bob Hayes, missionary to Ghana, West Africa, Bro. Caudill, a southern Ohio dairy farmer, surrendered his life to missions. He could not have known at that time of the tremendous impact that his obedience and sensitivity to the call of missions would have upon multiple mission fields.

After graduation from Bible college in 1973, Sam and Betty began to raise support to go to Mexico as

Bro. Caudill, a southern Ohio dairy farmer, surrendered his life to missions.

missionaries. Meanwhile, the Lord impressed upon my heart the need for the local church to be involved in Bible publishing. It was pioneer work without a pattern to follow; however, the command of the Lord was clear as I began to forge a path into this unknown terrain. While on visitation one evening, I shared my burden with Bro. Caudill and my need for a pressman. He agreed that printing the Bible would be a great endeavor but that he would not be able to help me. He confessed that he did not even know what a press looked like. I reminded him that





MEMBER MISSIONARIES

Edward III & April Barclay
Church Planting

Alice Hayes
BPS

Ron & Carol Sexton
Evangelism

Biblical School of World
Evangelism

Don & Donna Hodge
CCPC/Church Planting

Charles & Madelon Siekbert
Uganda

Michael & Kristen Carter
North Africa

Ken & Bonnie Hopper
BPS

Mark & Tammy Siekbert
Mongolia

Hershel & Juanita Case
BPS

Jack & Cheri Jarvis
BPS/ El Paso

Jerry & Beth Smyth
BSWE

Sam & Betty Caudill
BPS

Warren & Jo Anne Klenk
Mexico

Larry & Donna Stallings
BPS/ Seedline

Alice Demarest
BPS

Dale & Vickie Money
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Phil & Sarah Taylor
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Clyde & Linda Durnil
BPS

Chad & Heidi Robinson
BPS/ Seedline

Eldon & Connie Tudor
Mexico

Bob & Marie Ford
BPS

Jim & Melissa Roe
Restricted Access Country

Ron & Connie Winter
Mexico

Ken & Gina Fraley
firstBible International

Jerry & Kim Sexton
BPS



As we reflect on our arrival in Australia in 1986, Juanita and I remember it as a wonderful time. God blessed and showed us His goodness in so many ways to get us there. We worked with another missionary, Sid Hunter, the first

six months to become used to the culture. Then we started our first church, *Victory Baptist Church*. I also started a small Bible college class to train some of our men who wanted to learn more. Wayne Sehmish was one of those men, who

later became the pastor of *Victory Baptist Church*. During those ten years, we started two more churches, *Fellowship Baptist Church*, which we turned over to Bob Bartlett, and *Harmony Baptist Church*.

The Call of Missions

WEEK 1//

God's call of missions is revealed in Genesis chapter 12 where He called Abram to Himself and gave him His purpose and plan for the ages.

Genesis 12:1-3

“ Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. ”

I. God's _____ of Abram. Genesis 12:1

- A. A test of _____. “Abram, Get thee out of thy country”
- B. A test of _____. “and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house”
- C. A test of _____. “unto a land that I will shew thee”

II. God's _____ with Abram. Genesis 12:2

- A. Abram's family would become a great _____. “And I will make of thee a great nation”
- B. Abram would be _____. “and I will bless thee”
- C. Abram would have a great _____. “and make thy name great”

III. God's _____ to the world. Genesis 12:2-3

- A. Abram shall be a _____. “and thou shalt be a blessing”
- B. The entire _____ has been blessed through Abraham. “...and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Monday
Genesis 12:1-5

Tuesday
Acts 13:1-5

Wednesday
Revelation 5:9

Thursday
Luke 14:26

Friday
James 4:8;
Galatians 3:29

Saturday
Romans 4:16-25

The Command of Missions

// WEEK 2

The Challenge of Missions

WEEK 3 //

As believers, we must fulfill the responsibility we have been commanded to do in missions. Why is this important?

I. Because believers are _____ in Christ. *II Corinthians 5:17*

- A. You have been given a _____. "he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"
- B. Over the last 2000 years, there have been a multitude of believers that have made great _____.
- C. As a new believer we have been blessed to be a _____ to every people group in the world.

II. Because believers are ministers of _____.

- A. There is a _____ between God and man. "who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;"
- B. Christ has completed the work necessary to _____ the gap.
- C. Believers are now the ministers of reconciliation to the _____.

III. Because believers are _____ for Christ.

- A. An ambassador is one who _____ his homeland before another nation or people. "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ,"
- B. An ambassador has _____.
- C. An ambassador is the _____ of Christ.

God's command of missions is a great responsibility to carry. However, He has promised to never leave our side while we are carrying out His command.

We must not allow the challenges of this world to hinder believers from involvement in Gods mission.

I. The challenge of _____.

- A. Fear is a powerful _____ that everyone experiences from time to time.
- B. In Acts 13 we learn of a young man named _____ who traveled with the Apostle Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey.
- C. Fear should not keep us from going where God has _____ us.
- D. _____ 22:30

II. The challenge of _____.

- A. _____ 14:26
- B. God is seeking _____ who will take up their cross and follow Him unconditionally.

III. The challenge of _____.

- A. _____ 11:24-27
- B. God is _____ looking for the famous to do his work; He is looking for the few who are willing to surrender to His will.
- C. The popularity and treasures of this world are _____ but hold no eternal value. The only way to attain true joy and eternal value is by seeking things which are from above.

There are many famous people who are capable of being great missionaries, but they are unwilling to allow God to be first in their lives.

IV. The challenge of _____.

- A. _____ 3:12
- B. _____ 17:20
- C. _____ 4:12-13

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Monday
Romans 5:8, 8:34

Tuesday
Romans 10:14-15

Wednesday
Isaiah 49:6

Thursday
Ephesians 6:20

Friday
Acts 1:8

Saturday
II Corinthians 5:17-21

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Monday
Acts 13

Tuesday
Luke 14:26

Wednesday
Hebrews 11:24-27

Thursday
Hebrews 13:12;
Matthew 17:20

Friday
Ezekiel 22:30

Saturday
Hebrews 11:6



The Commission of Missions

// WEEK 4

Throughout the Bible, God has commissioned His children to bring Glory to His Name.

I. God commissioned _____ to GO. Genesis 12:1-4

- A. _____ 12:1
- B. Abraham was _____ to God’s commission.

II. God commissioned _____ to GO. Jonah 1

- A. _____ 1:2
- B. Jonah was a Jew - one of God’s _____ people. Nineveh was the capital city of Israel’s #1 enemy, the _____, a Gentile people group.

III. God commissioned _____ to GO.

- A. _____ 7:14-15
- B. The Prophet Amos was _____ when God commissioned him to go and prophesy to the nation of Israel of their coming judgments.

IV. God commissioned _____ to GO.

- A. _____ 9:15-16
- B. Paul made a life changing decision.

V. God commissioned His _____ to GO.

- A. _____ 28:18-20
- B. The Great Commission is not a suggestion, it is a _____.
- C. Jesus commissioned His _____ to go.
- D. His disciples today are _____ and me.

As a believer there is no greater way to glorify God than to be obedient to His Great Commission and GO tell all the nations of the world about who He is and what He has done for them. John 3:17 reveals God’s purpose for the whole world.

John 3:17

“ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. ”

Upon receiving a container of Scriptures from Bearing Precious Seed and a container of tracts from Fellowship Tract League, our house literally became a warehouse because we had no other place to store everything. It did not take long for the word to get out that we had these materials. We started receiving calls from all over Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea from pastors and missionaries wanting Scriptures and tracts. We became a distribution center, sending out what they needed. Many other pastors and missionaries came to our house to pick up the Scriptures and tracts. Through this ministry, we became acquainted with many other believers. God truly blessed this effort of distributing His Word. We could see that the need was increasing to get the Word of God out to the people. Over that ten-year period, we had received several containers of Scriptures and tracts. We became known as “the people that had the distribution center for the Word of God.” As a result, in 1995 we started praying about starting a *Bearing Precious Seed* ministry there in Australia. We prayed for God to send us someone who loved His Word and wanted to be a part of this ministry. At that time, we were in our third church, *Harmony Baptist Church*, which was our largest. The people there were very soul-conscious with a spirit of unity, loving each other because they loved the Lord. One Sunday, the Scofield family visited our church. Fred and Shirley and their three sons—Brett, Doug, and Craig—who were in their twenties, had moved into the area and soon heard about us. After

Juanita and I invited them over for a meal, they told us that they came from a church of like faith and that they liked our church and wanted to join. As we talked that evening, I asked Fred what burden God had laid upon his heart. He replied that the Lord was leading him and his family to get out His Word. A few months later in 1996, *Bearing Precious Seed* in Australia was birthed out of *Harmony Baptist Church*. Fred Scofield and his family surrendered their hearts and lives to take on this ministry. We already had the Message, but now we had the messengers; God needs and uses both to accomplish His purposes. We obtained a press and put it in Fred’s basement, where he began helping churches with personalizing tracts and with other printing needs. As Fred and I started visiting other churches, God blessed His messenger as we presented His Message. The ministry grew, and God blessed His church. Juanita and I came home in 1997 and left the church with Paul Lyon, a man whom I had trained to become the pastor. During that time *Bearing Precious Seed* Australia was growing. A couple of years after we had returned to the States, Fred called me and asked if I thought it was a good idea to move the ministry to *Lighthouse Baptist Church* in Rockhampton. I told him to pray with me, his pastor, and the people at *Harmony Baptist* about moving the ministry. Ultimately, everyone came up with the same decision. It was God’s will for Fred to move to *Lighthouse Baptist* and to take *BPS* with him. Robert Bakss is pastor at *Lighthouse*

Baptist. After *BPS* was there for a while, Pastor Bakss asked if the name *Bearing Precious Seed* could be changed to *Lighthouse Baptist Press* so that people would know it was a ministry of their church. Today *Lighthouse Baptist Press* continues as a ministry of *Lighthouse Baptist Church*; Fred continues to be in charge and is doing a wonderful job. The ministry still receives containers of Scriptures from *Bearing Precious Seed* Milford, which are sent all over Australia and islands and countries nearby. When Juanita and I returned to Australia in 2003, Pastor Bakss invited me to preach for him. While we were there, I helped build the first building to house the *Lighthouse Baptist Press* ministry. Upon completion of the building, we all praised God and dedicated the building and ministry to the Lord. It has grown because the people are sending the Scriptures to those who need it. They also print for other churches in Australia and publish a paper called the *Biblical Builder* that is equivalent to the *Sword of the Lord* here in America. In 2010, Juanita and I visited *Lighthouse Baptist Church*, and I had the privilege to preach for Pastor Bakss once again. While we were there, they received a really large order for whole Bibles, and Juanita and I were able to help collate twelve thousand whole Bibles in one-week’s time. The ministry is growing so fast that they already need to add another addition on to the building. Juanita and I praise God for His grace, mercy, and goodness for letting us have a part in this great ministry in Australia.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Monday
Matthew 28:18-20

Tuesday
Jonah 1

Wednesday
Acts 9:15-16

Thursday
Amos 7:14-15

Friday
II Timothy 2:2

Saturday
Genesis 12:1-4

our church secretary printed a bulletin on a copier in the church basement. Bro. Sam subsequently agreed that if I would get the supplies, he would learn to print

...the Lord clearly used a Sunday sermon to call Bro. Caudill into the ministry of Bible printing.

Shortly after beginning to print the Bible, the Lord clearly used a Sunday sermon to call Bro. Caudill into the ministry of Bible printing.

The vision began to take shape in a basement closet of the church with a 1250 Multigraph press and a small plate maker. Bro. Sam labored hour after hour burning plates and printing Scripture portions. One day a little girl wandered into the room where Bro. Sam was printing plates. In wide-eyed curiosity, she asked, "What are you doing?" Bro. Sam explained that he was burning words onto a plate. The child strained to make sense of the red lacquer as it poured over the smooth surface. She announced resolutely, "I don't see anything." But as Bro. Sam patiently moved the lacquer all over the plate, bright red letters began to appear. Excitedly, the little girl exclaimed, "Oh! Now I see! Now I see!" As he placed the plate on the press, the Word of God came through on the paper. It was a confirming moment as he was assured that day that this Word of God would go around the world to men and women and boys and girls who would exclaim, "I once was blind, but now I see!"

As evidenced by Bro. Caudill's past as a dairy farmer and later a printer of Scriptures at *Bearing Precious Seed*, he has always taken

quiet satisfaction in watching things grow. *BPS* has progressively expanded to house a three-web Heidelberg Harris press, which at the time of its purchase was the largest press owned by a religious entity. Bro. Caudill is the first local church printer in history, and his gifts have uniquely qualified him for the work as manager of the day-to-day operations at *Bearing Precious Seed*. Since the founding of *BPS* in 1973, Sam Caudill has maintained pioneer status in a ministry that today produces approximately one million Scripture portions each month.

Over the years, I have come to appreciate the real attributes of my friend, Sam Caudill. He has an untiring interest in people and has always understood that *Bearing Precious Seed* is more than paper and ink! He is respected for his affable manner with businessmen, while at the same time maintaining quality control management within the shop. Those who know him best understand his real passion, his genuine heartfelt compassion for those who do not have a copy of God's Word!

As the chatter of a diesel engine leaving the loading dock at *BPS* marks the end of another project, Bro. Caudill, along with the shop hands, who many times labor anonymously, are filled with a quiet contentment at the close of another project and another day at *Bearing Precious Seed*. Bro. Caudill often shares that he has been privileged to be a part of one of the greatest ministries in the world, the local church printing the Word of God.

Excitedly, the little girl exclaimed, "Oh! Now I see! Now I see!"



WHAT THE MISSIONS CONFERENCE MEANS TO ME

BY JERRY SEXTON

Growing up at *First Baptist Church of Milford* and *Milford Christian Academy* was quite a privilege. It seemed as though there was always something going on in which to be involved. For me, times and seasons were usually gauged by what sporting event was going on at the time. However around February, everything, including youth activities, was put on hold, at least for a week. All sports games were canceled or rescheduled and homework was minimized. Nothing was to interfere with the highlight of the year, our annual Missions Conference. Students spent many class periods converting our gymnasium into the dining hall for our international dinner, my favorite activity of the year. I have many great memories of hearing tremendous preachers and rubbing shoulders with missionaries from all over the globe.

Missions Conference for me took on a whole new meaning, though, in 1987. During a Monday night service, a chalk artist named Dan Andre gave a presentation on the Crucifixion of Christ that changed my world.

I got a sliver of realization as to what Jesus went

through for me. That night, Ron Todd, missionary to Costa Rica, was preaching, and all I could think about was Romans 12:1. Since Jesus was willing to suffer to that degree to purchase my salvation, it just made "reasonable" sense to me that I should spend the rest of my life expressing my gratitude to Him by serving Him. During the invitation time that night, I went forward and surrendered my life to do anything God wanted me to do. The following year during the Missions Conference of 1988, God called me to preach. Now, some twenty-six years later, I look back with so much gratitude for the

...it just made "reasonable" sense to me that I should spend the rest of my life expressing my gratitude to Him...

privilege of growing up in a place that emphasized world missions and offered so many opportunities for me to serve God with my life.

As a youth pastor, I often told parents of "uninterested" young people to stay faithful and to continue to keep their children in church. It only takes one church service for God to change a life forever.

I would never have dreamed as a young person growing up here that God would someday allow me to have a family who is involved in representing *Bearing Precious Seed*, not to mention the privilege to come back to Missions Conferences as a missionary. To God be the glory!



BEARING PRECIOUS SEED

EL PASO

In Mark 1:17, Jesus says to His new disciples, “Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.” With that statement, Christ shared His desire to train disciples to fulfill His heartbeat of world evangelism. These disciples needed to spend their time in training so that they could effectively achieve all that Christ had called them to. It is with that Scripture in mind that the ministry of *Bearing Precious Seed* in El Paso, Texas strives to achieve its vision--to train Biblical, mission-minded servants for all levels of ministry. Christ desires that all Christians become fishers of men and we want to be a part of that which is being accomplished.

At *BPS El Paso*, our passion is to help people gain a greater desire for Christ’s heartbeat which is the reaching of the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Not only that, we desire to provide an environment where Christians of all ages will be able to answer the call of God on their lives. Only the Lord knows who should submit to full-time service. However, it is our firm belief that God is calling many people, specifically young people, to full-time ministry. It is our privilege to run week-long missions trips throughout the year which can be used to soften the hearts of those God is working on. In addition to these trips, we also provide opportunities to train through summer work. With this summer program, young people come to work with the ministry to gain valuable experience in ministry and see the Lord work in ways that they may not otherwise see. The ministry of *BPS El Paso* desires to see hearts softened so the Holy Spirit can move not only in the lives of those who are hearing the Gospel but also in those who are serving the Lord on the trip.

One of the highlights of the ministry in

El Paso is the opportunity every April to host a unique event known as the Juarez Project. The purpose of this event is to saturate the city of Juarez, Mexico with as many John and Romans as we can get out. We partner with local national pastors and the churches they lead to bring as many church members out as they can get to help us. In the past, we have handed out as many as 250,000 John and Romans in one week. The Lord has blessed mightily as we have seen churches grow and many salvations come as fruit from this project. Many people in the United States would caution us as

If Christ loved them enough
to die for them, we should
love them enough to go
and share that
truth with them.

we head into Juarez, but our motivation is trust and faith in a sovereign God, not the fear of man. God gave us a clear command to go and tell, and we have seen His mighty hand of blessing and provision as we have stayed faithful to that command. Satan would love for us to be hindered by man’s circumstances, but the lost souls of Mexico are of too much importance for us to quit on them. If Christ loved them enough to die for them, we should love them enough to go and share that truth with them.

Another evangelistic opportunity that the Lord has opened to us is the opportunity to take two weeks each summer and serve with Pastor Don Chitty, Sr. and his family as they minister to the Navajo Indians in northwest New Mexico. Pastor Chitty has been a missionary to the Navajo Indians for 38 years and has seen the Lord do great things through the work there. We participate with them in week-long missions trips and enjoy the privilege of serving on a missions trip inside of our nation’s borders. Whether across the border in Mexico or within our own nation, God has allowed BPS El Paso to be a part of His great work in reaching the lost.

WHO ARE DR. WAYNE & SUZANNE SEHMISH

My name is Wayne Sehmish. In the past, I worked with Bro. Hershel Case as assistant pastor of Victory Baptist Church in Brisbane, Australia, and later became pastor there. I married my wife, Suzanne, in 1988. We have three children: Sarah, age twenty-four; Justin, age twenty-two; and Curtis, age thirteen. Justin and his wife are expecting their first child in January. In 1993, I became senior pastor of our sending church, Good Shepherd Baptist, until the Lord called us to Thailand in 2007.

Thailand has brought us many challenges. The obvious ones are the culture and the language. Suzanne and I both attended language school upon our arrival. I can speak Thai fluently enough to communicate with most of the people I meet. Suzanne can speak some, though she understands more than she can speak. Since Curtis was so young when we arrived, he has mastered the spoken language and is continuing to learn the reading and writing. Most Thai people are friendly enough, but working with them on a close level brings challenges. Because they do not like confrontation, dealing with issues is sometimes frustrating. They usually say what you would want to hear. Another challenge is the cheap quality of many items. We are constantly returning electrical things to have them repaired, and we have ongoing problems with our computers, printers, etc. Yet another challenge is traffic that we face on a daily basis. There are many new cars on the road every day, but the infrastructure lacks the capacity to support the additional vehicles. Hence, going to the store is never a quick trip. In addition, road rules do not mean a whole lot; therefore chaos is often present everywhere we go.

Thailand is ninety-seven percent Buddhist with Buddhism woven into their lives from a very young age. In the minds of many, to be Thai is synonymous with being Buddhist. It is therefore difficult to evangelize the Thai people. Of those that do accept Christ, many face a measure of persecution and rejection from their families. Their decision to become a Christian is sometimes viewed as a betrayal of the family and of the Thai culture. This

I worked with Bro. Hershel Case as assistant pastor of Victory Baptist Church in Brisbane, Australia.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MILFORD

fact, compounded with the nature of the people—which is to avoid conflict if at all possible—means that many simply prefer not to become Christians rather than to deal with the troubles that Christianity can cause with their families.

We utilize several methods of evangelizing the Thai people. We distribute tracts, booklets, and our church brochures. We also have an animated DVD that we give out, which covers Creation to the Resurrection of Christ. A good number of our people have been saved after watching it. For me personally, I like to meet and work with people on a one-on-one basis. It takes a great deal of time and patience for a friendship and trust to develop. I have had the privilege of leading many souls to the Lord, most of whom are going on well. Many have been the result of a lengthy friendship and the prayer of many co-laborers. In regard to discipleship, our new converts receive one-on-one training and are encouraged to attend all services. I personally take the opportunity to spend time with each person and work with each one through times of fellowship and teaching.

It was almost two years ago that we opened Nakhon Sawan Baptist Church. It was birthed from the small group of young men that God had given me to work

with. They all have a unique story. It was quite amazing to learn of the circumstances which led each of them to me and to watch the transformation in their lives when they got saved. These young men come from various backgrounds. It has been encouraging to see what God is doing in and through them. They all have a desire to see their loved ones saved, and they all want to work and become involved in the church. We are currently training these men with the goal of sending them to start a church either in their own village or wherever God leads.

My goal is to purchase some land and build a church and continue training young men for the ministry. If God allows, I would also like to open a school and, in the future, maybe an orphanage. I would even like to open some sort of drug rehabilitation center to help young people who are involved in drug abuse. Drugs are a major problem in Thailand, especially in Nakhon Sawan.

In conclusion, my advice to anyone preparing to serve as a missionary to Australia is to learn the culture and try to understand the Australian mindset. You will be a blessing to us by praying for us. We are aware that of ourselves, we can do nothing but by the grace of God and your prayers.



The Islands of Oceania

“Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands.”

Isaiah 42:12

Oceania is not a continent but a vast collection of islands shared by fourteen countries. There are differences of opinion as to the boundaries of this particular area of the world, but for the most part, it is south of the equator in the central and southern Pacific between the two Americas and Asia. Oceania is divided into three regions: Melanesia (“black islands”), Micronesia (“small islands”), and Polynesia (“many islands”). Australia, the only island-continent, is the largest island in land mass. Papua New Guinea, the world’s second-largest island, is the most populated with six million people speaking eight hundred

different languages. It is divided between Asia and Oceania, with Indonesia administering the western side, and the independent country of Papua New Guinea occupying the eastern portion. Although the island nations of Japan, Philippines, Guam, and Indonesia are in great geographical proximity to the Oceanic nations, they are not included because of their cultural link with Asia.

The most famous missionary in this region was John Gibson Paton, born May 24, 1824, the eldest of eleven children. He was ordained to the ministry in March of 1858, and fourteen days later married his first wife, Mary Ann. They immediately sailed for the South Pacific, landing in the country of Vanuatu on the island of Tanna, where the people were very primitive and cannibalistic. After Mary’s death, John married Maggie

Whitecross on June 17, 1864. He died on January 28, 1907, outliving Maggie by two years. Even though Paton lived in constant danger, he believed strongly in the sovereignty of God to build the church. As a missionary, Paton was a Bible translator, church planter, and effective recruiter of other men for the mission field. Several good biographies of John Paton’s life have been written, an especially good one by his son David. Paton also wrote an autobiography. These

books can be located through a Google search.

One particularly well-known missionary to Oceania was Don Richardson, who served in New Guinea and authored several

books, the best known of which are *Eternity in Their Hearts* and *The Peace Child*. Currently, Jason and Cherith Ottosen serve in Papua New Guinea, translating the Bible for the Kemia people, who have no written language at this time.

First Baptist Church of Milford has supported church-planting missionaries in Oceania for many years. Our member missionaries, Hershel and Juanita Case and Bob and Vinnie Bartlett, all served in Australia. John Gray presently serves in Papua New Guinea, and Joel and Brooke Daku serve in Kiribati. Bearing Precious Seed Milford has provided Scriptures for these missionaries and the people of Oceania on numerous occasions.

Oceania is divided into three regions:

Melanesia (“black islands”),
Micronesia (“small islands”),
and Polynesia (“many islands”)

FOUNDATIONS

OF FAITH PROMISE GIVING

EXPLAINED FROM II CORINTHIANS CHAPTERS 8 & 9
PREPARED BY DR. BILL DUTTRY

INTRODUCTION:

These chapters, II Corinthians 8 & 9, support the Bible truth that the work of God has never been supported solely by the tithe, but rather by tithes and offerings. Israel was often called upon to give offerings as well as the tithe. In fact, many Old Testament scholars believe the Jews of the Old Testament gave an average of 23% of their income to their worship of God. If that is true, they gave more in offerings than in tithes.

Paul shows us that the New Testament church as well as the Old Testament saints added offerings to their tithe. It is what we call Faith Promise Giving. The most concise description of the Faith Promise principle found in Scripture is in II Corinthians chapters 8 & 9. These chapters are a description of two churches (Macedonia and Corinth) involved in Faith Promise Giving; hence, they are immensely practical. The Apostle Paul is involved in four areas: (1) encouraging their participation; (2) describing the elements in Faith Promise; (3) correcting their missteps; and (4) keeping before them that this is an offering over and above the tithe. Note the following elements:

FOUNDATION ONE:

WE MUST START NOW, WHERE WE ARE, WITH WHAT WE HAVE.

From II Corinthians 8:1-2, we learn that we cannot wait for everything to get right before we do right. In other words, we need to do right, right now. The church at Macedonia was doing right in spite of "...great trial of affliction...and their deep poverty..." This says that it was right to give an offering and that it was right to do it right now, in spite of internal problems and monetary challenges. We cannot wait to be obedient. The need is now, and obedience is neither optional nor postponable. I am sure you know that world evangelism is right for God's children and right to do now. I am equally sure for many of us, this is not the best of times to get more involved financially. What is your affliction or poverty? Will you rise above it by faith for the cause of Christ?

FOUNDATION TWO:

THE BASIC ISSUE IS WILLINGNESS, NOT WEALTH.

In II Corinthians 8:3, we learn that the real issue is willingness, not wealth: "...they were willing of themselves," willing in spite of great trial of affliction and deep poverty. They gave beyond human ability at the time, "...beyond their power..." We see the real issue is not wealth but willingness. The question is, "How do we become willing?" Our willingness is always connected to His worthiness, not by seeing the plight of the needy but by knowing the contribution of the divine. We should be made willing when we see in II Corinthians 8:9 what Jesus contributed to our plight: "...though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor" or in II Corinthians 9:15: "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." [Jesus]. Jesus

gave His life. God gave His Son. Will you be willing to give whatever is asked by Him of you? For additional verses on willingness in giving, see II Corinthians 8:11, 12, and 19.

FOUNDATION THREE: THE ORDER OF PARTICIPATION.

In Faith Promise Giving, the order is (1) promise (2) give (3) receive. This is not as some teach, saying (1) promise (2) receive (3) give. The Scriptures say in II Corinthians 8:11 "...so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have." When we give out of what we already have, we are trusting God to replace it. According to Luke 6:38, He will do this, with "good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over." The faith is in His replacing, not in His adding to our already over-abundance. Our giving makes room for an abundant response from Him back to us. Giving must PRECEDE getting. Ask the farmer who sows seed and in return gets the same thing back, more back now and more later. I do not know of any place in Scripture in which we are asked to give what we do not have. I do know, however, of many places in which we are asked to give what we do have, regardless of how small or large the amount may be, with a promise of an abundant return. Ask the widow with the cruse of oil in II Kings 4. She had oil, gave it, and received vessels full "and not a few." Ask the lad who had loaves and fishes in John 6. He gave what he had, and received twelve baskets full in return. Faith Promise is giving out of what you already have, trusting God to replace it.

FOUNDATION FOUR: THE AMOUNT IS OPTIONAL.

In tithing, the amount, frequency, and participation are determined by God. In Faith Promise, you determine the amount. II Corinthians 9:7 says, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give;" Though you determine the amount you give, God has determined the fact of your participation. If being an obedient child of God is your goal, you must give because God said, "Every man," regardless of your "great trial of affliction... their deep poverty" Our participation tells volumes

about our level of Christianity. II Corinthians 8:8 says, "...and to prove the sincerity of your love." II Corinthians 8:24 says, "...the proof of your love..." II Corinthians 9:2 says, "...I boast of you to them of Macedonia...your zeal hath provoked very many." (Paul was boasting of their participation in the giving effort, which was a giving program above the tithe, one for others that was reaching outside of their immediate ministry area, missions). Though they lived in Corinth, the offering was for people in Jerusalem, hundreds of miles away and on a different continent.

CONCLUSION

We cannot all participate at the same level, but we can all participate. Jesus was pleased with the widow's mite and the woman's alabaster box. These two gifts differed greatly in amount and value, but both were a pleasure to Him. He will also be pleased in our honest effort.

The kind of people we have proven to be in the past requires us to believe that this year's Faith Promise Offering will be one in which we can boast of our faith in the Lord - an offering that will prove the sincerity of our love for the dear Lord Jesus and supply the needs of the saints.



I'm
only
a kid

Does God
want me
to be a
missionary?

In order to answer that question, we should first ask ourselves this question: “What is a missionary?” If the definition is “a Christian who tells an unbeliever about Jesus,” then this article could be the shortest in this magazine because the answer to the original question is so simple and direct: “Yes!” Jesus commanded us in Mark 16:15 to “go . . . into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” That statement was made and then recorded in Scripture for each of us, regardless of our age or where we live. We can be missionaries today in our schools, our neighborhoods, our families, and even in our Sunday school classrooms. Every Christian faces making a choice every day: “Will I be obedient to share the Gospel with someone today?”

However, most people think of a missionary as defined in *The Christian Student Dictionary*: “someone sent by a church to a foreign country or other area to preach the Gospel.” According to that definition, few Christians are missionaries. During this missions conference, we will likely hear statistics of how few missionaries serve in Australia, on some other continent, or even in the whole world. These facts are given to help us understand the need for missions work.

When I was twenty years old as a senior airman in the United States Air Force stationed in Las Vegas, Nevada, I heard a sermon from Luke 10:2. “Therefore said he [Jesus] unto them, the harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.” I grew up on a farm and knew the labor that was needed for a harvest of grain, but that night I realized that this harvest Jesus spoke of was not about wheat or oats. Jesus was talking about people. As a one-year-old Christian, I realized for the first time that God wants to use men, ladies, boys, and girls to tell others about Himself. Understanding that, I walked down the aisle during the invitation and told my pastor that I wanted to be a laborer in God’s harvest. I did not know on that day where I would go, what I would do, or how old my students would be. I just surrendered to Him and asked Him to use me as His “labourer” in His harvest. His first harvest field for me was a small classroom and then a bus. Later He sent me to Milford, Ohio, to preach in our junior church. As a child and teenager, I worked in my dad’s fields harvesting grain, but it was never as fulfilling, exciting, and fun as spreading the seed of the Gospel, laboring for my Heavenly Father, and watching His harvest and His children grow. I did not know that

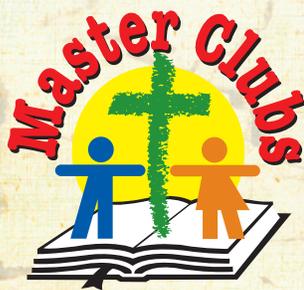
God would eventually allow me to work with Master Clubs and write curriculum that approximately thirty-five thousand children now use every week. Master Clubs is truly a huge, world-wide harvest field. Our staff may never see most of the children whom Master Clubs touches, but one day in Heaven, we will all see the fruits of our labor in His field.

If Jesus would show you the fruits of your labor, your harvest, today, what would they be? Think about that! “But I’m just a kid!” I know—that statement is the way this article began. Surrender today to be a laborer in God’s harvest field. Don’t worry about where you will labor “someday.” Just labor where you have been planted. Today, you are planted in Milford. Determine to serve Him faithfully here today, and pray that He will use you again tomorrow!

“How does a person become a missionary?” The missionaries that you will meet during missions conference have all received training for what they do. You have an “opportunity” every week to be trained to be a better missionary, a better laborer for Him. But your training program is not called a college or university. Perhaps your training is called family devotions, Sunday school, junior church, Master Clubs, or chapel. An opportunity involves a choice. You may not have a choice of whether or not you will go to another place, but God does allow you to make a choice of whether or not you will listen. God does allow you to choose if you will obey what you are being taught.

As a boy living on a farm, I learned that when my brother, sisters, and I worked hard, obeyed Dad, and had a great harvest, my dad was very happy with his children. God’s work, God’s mission, is much the same. When we labor together with our brothers and sisters in Christ and obey our Heavenly Father, God is pleased by our labor for Him and rewards us with joy. My dad never gave us a choice to work or not, but our Heavenly Father does give us that choice every day. Will you serve Him today? Will you serve Him tomorrow? Will you labor in His fields today as a “missionary” so that others can enjoy eternity in Heaven one day? Every “kid,” regardless of age, can make that choice!

Will I be obedient to
share the Gospel with
someone today?



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