

Gulf Coast BAPTIST News

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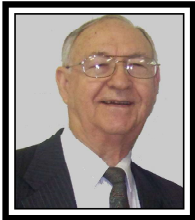
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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. H. H. Strickland

The fall semester is going very well. The in house classes are proceeding well and the online class is also doing well.

There has been some difficulty with the online class due to the moving of the instructor and getting his computer set up. We also have a student that is doing progressive study.

The student enrolment is not what we would like but I am still encouraged that we have three different methods of reaching out to those who have a desire to further their knowledge of the scriptures.

One idea that I have recently encountered, that I thought that had really vanished, is the idea that, if the Lord calls a man to preach, he doesn't need to go to school. All he needs to do is read the Bible, meditate and the Lord will fill him with knowledge. These same people will admit that if one is to excel in the business world they need to have a good education. The

same people will also attend a college to accelerate their opportunities in their profession but then say preachers don't need that. What hypocrisy.

Most churches who are in the process of calling a pastor are requiring a resume regarding their education. In my class on ministerial practicalities, I make this statement, the world has little respect for a man who is not willing to adequately prepare himself for the job he has been called to do.

The school has had a very difficult time since covid hit. We lost almost all of our students. The only student that remained was one that was taking class on line.

When we moved to Theodore, AL, we all knew that the process of rebuilding would take time. However, it has taken much longer to accomplish than we hoped. However, the process is continuing. There were changes that had to be made. What appeared to be a very wonderful situation for the school has turned the other way. However, let me assure you that, the work is continuing and will continue.

Vindictiveness is a horrible spirit, especially when it is displayed through the people of God. I am reminded of some of the lessons that were studied in Acts last

quarter, where the Apostle Paul not only had to battle the spirit of the unbelievers but he also was in a battle among his own people. This is what we are experiencing at this time. I simply covet your prayers and only ask that the Lord move and provide for the work.

To all the individuals and churches who have been so faithful to support this work, especially over the years, I want to thank you so much. While we are financially struggling at this time, the work continues. The school is in operation, and continues to hold classes.

So many of the Lord's churches are also struggling. So many of the people of God have simply quit on Him, their churches and in some cases they have quit on themselves. When this happens, and it is happening, the churches are left to struggle to maintain their ministries. If people choose not to serve under the circumstances we face today, what will they do when real persecutions come? It is really sad that so many have so little depth to the love for the Lord and His work.

May the Lord richly bless you all is my continual prayer.

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From a
Woman's Point
of View



By: Loretta Pritchett
lorettapritchett@yahoo.com

Answered Prayers

During the last few months I have gone through many changes. One of the most important months I went through was September. During this month I had a lot of prayers answered almost insistently.

Having moved into a rented house with my son David I had to relocate from Fernley to Reno, Nevada. That is about an hours drive from where I was. I really didn't want to make the move but due to the economy as it is I had no real choice.

So move was made and many address changes had to take place. That is huge as Reno is all about new construction and finding jobs for the new people coming in from California. This made it almost

impossible to get the proper changes made locally because these people were bombarding the same places I had to make changes in such as drivers license, doctors changed, etc. It is all automated and you really didn't get a chance to make it work your way. My way is old fashion paper work not automatic. So my only course was to try and be first in the line to get these changes made. After all I was here before they came in to town.

As it turned out my best choice was to learn how to do things through the computer and join in the new process of automation. For me it was a huge thing as my knowledge of this type of change wasn't easy.

However, I decided to let the Lord take over this new change and it had become very hard for me because I had always tried to do things my way and not God's. So I begin to pray and ask Him to help me get this process started and help me finish it right.

Now the trust I had to have was in His hands and I had to let go and ask Him for help. This was always a hard thing for me to do, as I was always asking for help for others and never gave it a thought to ask for Him to help me.

The long process started. I asked God to help me find a doctor and close by as I couldn't drive here in Reno. My driving skills didn't include me trying to drive with so many people on the roads. Fernley was a small town and easy for me to get back and forth to where I needed to go.

People from other places were having problems of people and places taking our insurance. I knew I had to have mine as it had been set up while Lee was still living. So I said Lord I need a doctor close by our house, and one that will accept my Insurance. That day I found a new doctor's office who was accepting new patients and they weren't sure they could get me in right away. Waiting on hold, the reception tried to locate a day I could come in. Of course with David working everything had to be in late afternoon and before they closed for the day.

Well I prayed for something to happen and I would be able to get in, sure enough the nurse came back and said how would tomorrow at 3:00 do? Praise God I got in the very next day.

No one in my family or old friends believed me. But I told them the power of prayer is much stronger than just talking. Then from that day forward I prayed for all the changes to happen as easily as this had happened.

It did and all I had to do was ask Him to help me and to help me to let go of my doing it my way. Many times now since this happened I have had more prayers answered and I am so thankful that the Lord is helping me and teaching me to trust in doing things His way.

Remember to pray and ask the Lord to help you through the hard times you are going through.

**PHILOSOPHY
OF
RELIGION**

DEFINITION OF RELIGION

One of the main reasons why there are so many religions in the world is because men have devised their own definition of religion. Instead of leaving that in the hands of the Lord and accepting His Word, they have devised their own definition. The problem with this idea is that men are really trying to tell God what He should accept and what he should not accept. The whole idea then is men trying to be their own god instead of letting God be God.

Wells further tries to make the case for the lack of proper definitions by stating;

“It is hard in an area so highly charged with emotion, to look upon the definition dispassionately. Even though it is recognized that definitions are, after all, simulative, and hence neither true nor false, it still seems to many religious persons as if the fate of religion depended upon proper definitions, rather than upon true descriptions.”

The main problem that such a statement presents is the assumption that nothing is either “true or false.” There is always a right and wrong when it comes

to the teaching of the Lord. The Word of God is not a take it or leave it book. It is the eternal Word of God. It is forever settled in heaven and whether man believes it or not does not make it true or false. Therefore, every definition regarding man, that is contrary to the truth, is false. Man cannot possibly define God for God has told every man what state they are in and what they can expect after death if they reject His eternal Word. It is never one or the other. It is right or it is wrong. There is but one truth when it defines God or Christianity. Only man has achieved the goal of improper definitions. It is man who has made it difficult for others the understand or accept. Satan has done a masterful job of confusing the issue.

One of the greatest mistakes that man makes is attempting to recognize,



David Gonnella, Th. D.

Christians who have been saved for a reasonable amount of time are familiar with the saying, “When God shuts one door, He opens another.” This is a principle illustrated in the Bible in numerous places. We might wonder why this is so. Why doesn’t God just open the doors of opportunity that are His direct will and leave it at that? Certainly, it would be a lot less confusing if this were so.

In the first place, God is not the only One who opens doors. Satan also opens doors. He does this for two main reasons: [1] To divert the Christian from the direct will of God. [2] To cause harm to the child of God.

Sometimes God will close a door Satan has opened. It is wise for the believer to refrain from kicking such doors down, for if he will accept the closed door, God can then direct him to the door He has opened.

Sometimes more than one “good” choice is presented to us. This is illustrated by an incident as recorded in Acts 16:6-10. Here Paul and his companions wanted to preach the gospel first in Asia and then in Bithynia, but the Holy Spirit would not allow them to do so.

This may seem strange, for there were certainly people who needed the gospel both in Asia and in Bithynia. However, it was the will of the Lord that Paul and his helpers go to Macedonia to preach the gospel and plant churches. The Lord would send others to Asia and Bithynia. Paul’s place was where God wanted him to minister. So, the gospel would be preached in Asia, Bithynia and Macedonia.

This brings up an interesting side issue. The Lord has the exclusive right to direct the ministries of His servants. The Lord, and only the Lord, has the right to tell a man what shall be his ministry, where and when.

Too often we have heard of good pastors thrust out of Baptist churches by carnal church members who say, “His time here is past. It is time for him to move on.” We have to wonder if such arrogant and ignorant people have ever read the following: “Who art thou who judgest another man’s servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him

God Shuts One, To Open Another

stand.” -Romans 14:4. Those who take in hand to spitefully use God’s servants shall answer to the Master of those servants.

Back to our main subject. Sometimes Satan uses wicked people to close a door for the purpose of destroying a servant of the Lord or a ministry. This was the case of Joseph, whose brethren wickedly sold him into slavery, thus closing the door of his life with his father and family. God allowed this to position Joseph so that he could save the lives of his family in the great famine that gripped the entire Middle East a little later. While his brethren meant their actions for evil, God turned it around to good and opened the door of the governorship of Egypt to Joseph. One shut door from Satan turned into an open door from the Lord.

Gulf Coast Baptist College is currently experiencing a situation where the promise of an open door has turned into a closed door based on false accusations, outright lying, hateful attitudes, words and actions. Even our sign was vandalized by a man who calls himself a Christian. How he squares such an action with his profession is puzzling.

All this has resulted in a closed door of broken promises that will result in a more difficult task in fulfilling the will of God for the college. However, we are encouraged by the Scriptural principle that God closes one door to open another.

We are also encouraged by the friends who have rallied to our aid and have shown us their true friendship. They represent the first fruits of the door God will open to us.

In the meantime, classes go on and men are being trained for the service of the Lord. Satan wants to destroy our college in its infancy, for he fears what will be done if we are allowed to grow.

Recently I was in a meeting with a godly pastor and the faithful men of his church. One man (I think he was a deacon) warned that to oppose the work of God was not only wrong, but also dangerous, quoting the Rabbi Gamaliel: “. . . for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.” – Acts 5:38-39.

We submit ourselves to the above test, and look forward to the Lord opening doors that would not have been otherwise opened. Hopefully, you will be our friends in our endeavor to prepare servants for His churches.

or define, when one is religious by what they do. The truth of the matter is that there are no good deeds that man can do, that would make him acceptable in the sight of God. It is true that it may make him religiously accepted by the definitions of the world but certainly not by the standards of God. If man is capable of performing any spiritual good deeds it is because he has had a change inside. He performs acceptable deeds by the outworking of the inward spirit and not the reverse. No

amount of goods deeds will ever produce inward spiritual attainment.

Why men make such an effort to define what has already been clearly set down for us is beyond comprehension. Why cannot men just simply believe the eternal Word. It supposes that the only answer is that men still have a desire to be god and not let God be God.



Glen Davenport, Th.D.

A GOOD PASTOR

INTRODUCTION:

A good pastor - there aren't enough to go around. It would be extremely hard to measure up to the standard on every point but it is admirable to give it our best effort. There are several points to consider as we shall see in this message. One may do well in most points only to fail in some other point. It is doubtful that any one could manage a perfect score.

The life of a good pastor is strenuous. The burden is great. It is very demanding. A slip of the tongue or a misguided step can ruin his ministry forever. Who wants to be one? It is not a job for a volunteer. It is not for a person looking for a good career. It is a 'calling' that must be taken seriously.

A good pastor is called of God to minister His Word. It is a divine vocation desired only by those who love the Lord with all of their hearts or those who think it is a noble career. But God didn't leave this office to those who don't care. He called many but chose only a few.

The demand for good pastors is growing while the supply is dwindling. There seems to be fewer each year. The Apostle Paul wrote a letters to Timothy and Titus wherein he discussed the subject of what a good pastor should be. We will look into the letter to Titus for a few pointers.

A. A good pastor is to be a good man in his home. (V6)

1. *A bishop must be blameless.*

This point is hard to understand because we are inclined to live by the laws of society as much or mores so than the laws of the Scriptures. Of course the Biblical law should set our standard.

2. *... the husband of one wife ...*

This is a killer for a lot of preachers and Christian workers. We suffer with confusion on this point. Every man has to deal with this according to his own conscience. The answer is yes or no but personal circumstances usually prevail.

3. *... the father of faithful children ...*

This is a hard one. Pastors have been terribly disappointed and embarrassed with their children. Often we give too much time to other folk's families and too little to our own only to suffer the consequence.

B. A good pastor is to be a well-disciplined man. (V7)

1. *... not self-willed ...*

strong-willed yes but always compliant with the Scriptures

2. *... not soon angry ...*

subject to anger but quick to repent or to forgive

3. *... not given to wine ...*

I'd say one ought to be a total sustainer. Don't touch it lest you be over come with drunkenness.

4. *... not given to filthy lucre.*

When one's salary has an ill-effect upon his fairness to God he is in deep trouble. If a church hires a pastor who is willing to bend for a salary the church is in serious trouble.

Money has its place but the love of money is the root of all evil.

C. Among the things he cannot be - HE MUST BE - (V8)

1. *... a lover of hospital ...*

2. *... a lover of good men ...*

3. *... sober minded ...*

4. *... just ...*

5. *... holy ...*

6. *... temperate ...*

D. A good pastor must hold fast the faithful Word of God (V9)

1. Jobs friends were 'good men' but they were reliant upon their own philosophy. I dare say that most of us would agree with the things they said to Job but there is nothing in the Scripture to imply they were right - in judgment or in philosophy.

2. The men on Mars Hill were philosophers but they didn't know the only true and living God.

E. A good pastor must be able by sound doctrine to exhort and convince the gainsayers. (V10)

1. *... who are numerous*

2. *... unruly ...*

3. *... vain talkers and deceivers ...*

4. *... whose mouths must be stopped ... (V11)*

5. *... who preach only for money ...*

6. *... who profess they know God but in works they deny Him ... (V16)*

CONCLUSION:

The church deserves a man like the one described above

Our profession is only as good as we make it - by the grace of God.

We must be all we can be for the glory of God.

We must be all we can be for souls are at stake

ANNOUNCEMENTS

International Christian Publishers

Bill Johnson, Director

Before and after the trip to the Philippines, Rita and I were blessed to present the ministry of ICP to several supporting churches. These include Levy Baptist Church, Pastor Steven Tiner, North Little Rock, Arkansas, Hopewell Baptist Church, Clarksville, Texas, Tilly Baptist Church, Pastor Nathan Ferguson, Tilly, Arkansas, and Pruitt Lake Baptist Church, Pastor Ervin Gould, Avinger, Texas, and Missionary Baptist Church, Hughes Springs, Texas.

We appreciate these and every supporting church for their prayers, love and offerings which, with God's blessing, provide funds for the ministry of providing Bible study materials for the children of Africa, North and South America, Europe and Asia.

While attending the annual session of the African Baptist Association, ICP translators, Moses and Titus, distributed 182 pieces of Swahili language *CCfL* literature to pastors. They also sent enough English copies for two hundred children for churches in South Sudan. Moses shared the vision of ICP to reach the children of Africa with God's Word. He was elected Chairman of Sunday School in the African Baptist Association.

"I was impressed with how the teachers are using the Swahili literature," Moses declared. He had conducted a Sunday school teacher's seminar at First Landmark Baptist Church in Nairobi. In the seminar, Moses taught the teachers skills needed to help the children learn more about Jesus. To follow up, he and his wife taught a Sunday school class as a way to show them how to help children learn.

SEEKING GOD-CALLED PASTOR

Bethany Missionary Baptist Church . . . Verbena, Alabama

Contact: Ralph Wilson / 205-351-1640 / wralph@live.com or Jerry Vines / 205-755-5424 / jerryvines@bellsouth.net Bethany MBC in Verbena is prayerfully seeking a pastor. We are a small church.. Our church is interested in a man who is willing to lead his flock as well as be able to go out and visit the lost in our area. If you are interested in this position, please contact us and we will happily send you a questionnaire to fill out. If interested, please email or call Ralph Wilson or Jerry Vines. Thank you for considering this position

SEEKING GOD-CALLED PASTOR

Big Sky Missionary Baptist Church of Dillon, Montana, seeking the God-called Pastor He would have for us. We are a small, doctrinally sound church established in 1975, preaching and teaching the inspired and complete King James Version of the Word of God. We believe in and practice the two Church Ordinances which were only given by our Lord and Savior to those churches that practice the Doctrines the Lord set forth in His first Church that began on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. The Lord's Church did NOT start on the Day of Pentecost. A parsonage with an attached two-car garage is provided, plus utilities and a small salary. The man God has for us should be bi-vocational. Please contact IVAN HALE, 524 Barnett Ave, Dillon MT 59725-3905 (406-683-5421) OR imhale@q.com

SEEKING GOD-CALLED PASTOR

Frankfort Missionary Baptist Church is in search of a pastor. We are located in Russellville, Alabama. Please contact Harold Taylor at 256.332.4666, or Larry Greenhill at 256.415.3700. You can also e-mail: frankfortbc@gmail.com

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Justin Coburn,
Secretary/
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MISSION NEWS AND VIEWS

MONTHLY REPORT

Beginning Balance	\$2,415,142.13
RECEIPTS:	
Interstate Salaries	\$52,811.13
Foreign & National Salaries	\$52,112.45
Designated	\$34,103.72
Undesignated	\$10,672.34
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$149,699.64
BALANCE FOR SALARY/EXPENSE	\$2,564,842.03
DISBURSEMENTS	
Interstate Salaries	\$62,467.25
Foreign Salaries	\$31,433.76
National Salaries	\$25,550.00
Designated	\$34,603.72
Salaries & Expenses of Sec-Treas. Office	
Office Salaries	\$13,594.04
General Office	\$3,967.37
Automobile Expense	\$585.00
Sec/Tres Expenses	\$1,249.80
Postage	\$496.82
Total Office	\$19,893.03
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$173,947.76
BALANCE FORWARD	\$2,390,894.27
DEFICIT FOR SEPT.	\$(24,248.12)

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We hope this newsletter finds you doing well and prospering in the work of the Lord. For the month of September, the recommended missionaries of the American Baptist Association report 409 professions of faith and 52 baptisms. That brings the totals for this associational year to 1,776 professions of faith and 200 baptisms. We praise the Lord and thank Him for His goodness and faithfulness! Please continue to pray for all our missionaries serving near and far.

My family and I were blessed with good health and safety in our travels this past month. We are thankful to the churches who allowed us to come by and share the work of ABA Missions with them and we very much enjoyed the fellowship and worship together with God’s people. We were able to attend and spend Sunday, September 17, with Promise Land MBC in Hamburg, AR. We had wonderful services, and it was a great time. We also received encouragement from Hyde Park MBC in West Monroe, LA. They invited us to be a part of their Mission’s Conference, along with missionaries Kevin Amburgey and Jason Hebert, and their families. It was a great time of rest, recreation and feasting on the Word of God. We enjoyed the fellowship and are thankful for how they loved us. I enjoyed each service and was thankful for the opportunity to preach in one of them.

I also was blessed to sit on a forum for the Mt. Zion Association. Other panelists were Dan Mendoza, and Michael and Judy Thompson, and the topic of discussion was “Associational Mission work.” I’m thankful for the fellowship and for their hospitality.

I do want to remind you of our upcoming Thanksgiving Missions Offering to be received next month. The date we are requesting that this offering be taken is on or before November 19, 2023. This special offering is always a tremendous help to our missionaries and our office, and it helps to offset the deficits that we often carry each month. You will be receiving more information and a poster later this month but the goal for this year is \$325,000. I am always overwhelmed by the faithfulness of God, and the generosity of His people, to meet the needs of our missionaries and our associated work.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Colombia, S.A.

Carlos Julio Mendoza, Missionary
Last August 10, we had the privilege of listening to God’s message, via zoom, from the pastor, Robert Ledford. 26 families joined the service. Glory to our God.

In Ibagué, Tolima MB. Colombia, We continue to work hard, bringing the Gospel of salvation to this city. Glory to God we had 5 visits, 3 professions of faith.

Pastor Jim Gage, a Colombian missionary, was sent by Westwood MBC. on August 27, to bring us God’s message by zoom. 26 families joined the service. Glory to our God.

The ladies, from the MB Church, in Monterrey, Casanare. Colombia. All the Sheep gathered to study the word of God, rehearse the music for the Sunday service, and leave the temple tidy. God bless you richly.

LAMB Ministries

Jim Gage, Missionary
Association of Churches in Latin America Remembers Fifty-one years ago, the missionary work of the American Baptist Association began. To honor this anniversary, The Association of Missionary Baptist Churches in Latin America (ABLA) held a joint service of Missionary Baptist Churches on September 1, 2023. Dr. Justin Coburn, Secretary-Treasurer of Missions of the American Baptist Association, was the guest speaker. He took his text from Nehemiah 4:6, challenging the churches to work together with a mind to work.

God has graciously opened the door to print more bibles in the original languages of our Indigenous brethren of the jungles of Colombia and Venezuela and Brazil, thanks to offerings from our sister churches of the ABA. “The printing and distribution is a significant and costly task. However, it is vital to get God’s word to the people in their heart language. When they arrive at Puerto Inirida, plans are to distribute them to the brethren.

This project is one that we will be delivering personally to the communities.

Brethren Gilberto Bautista, Darin Lovett and myself will oversee this endeavor. Any help to complete the task will be greatly appreciated.

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Colombia Missions

Gilberto Pinzón, Missionary

Peniel Baptist Missions: To the glory of God, we have had good services. Pastor Gabriel Sánchez and his wife Esmeralda, spent a few days with us, He preached good sermons Sunday Oct. the third and Wednesday the sixth. Please pray for Pastor Gabriel and his plans to come to the city of Monteria, Colombia, to do mission work, sent by a church in Arkansas.

Thank God We continue having visible results. Brother Edinson and his wife Elena Vega were baptized last sept. the 24rd. Please pray for their spiritual growth and their family.

Santa Marta B. Mission: Lord willing a team of four pastors and deacons will be traveling to the city of Santa Marta, in three more weeks, for a revival and the ordination of brother Hernando Cubillos, preacher of our work there. Please pray for great services and the money to cover the traveling expenses.

Costa Rica

Walter r. Goulding, Missioanry

In March, the *Templo Bautista Misionero de Guadalupe* graciously opened their doors again so we could meet Sunday afternoons in their facilities.

Mothers Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. However, the

date may vary. Mothers Day is celebrated in the U. S., Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Canada and Cuba on the second Sunday of May. Mothers Day in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Honduras is celebrated in the month of May, but not necessarily on the same day. Mothers Day in Costa Rica is August 15, and it was moved this year to Monday in order to have a long weekend.

The Way MBC recognized the mothers present with special prayer and a cake. The sermon was, "The Home Designed by God." These photos were taken last Sunday. In the seminary, I picked up two regular subjects, including *Methods of Investigation and Thesis Writing*, which requires individual classes. So this semester I am teaching three 3-hour weekly classes and two 3-hour monthly classes.

South Pacific Missions

Walt Emry, Missionary

House: When we were preparing to go the south pacific in 2015, we sold our home in Walla Walla, WA.

So, we have been homeless for over 8 years. Well, we're proud to announce that we have purchased a home. We searched for a long time on Zillow. We put an offer on one that fell through, then we found another one and put an offer on it and the counter offer was acceptable to us, so we bought it. We now have a home in the U.S. (A home to come home to) It's a small rancher, fixer upper, which we have been working on for the last three weeks. Our new stateside address is 2805 S. Main, Newport, AR. 72112.

South Pacific: Since we have purchased a house in the U.S. people have asked if we are still planning to go back to Vanuatu. The answer is YES WE ARE! Our plan is to go back to Vanuatu sometime this year. We were planning on Oct, or Nov. to go back, but I have recently visited my Dr. and I found out I am diabetic so I have to deal with that. Also, I have some dermatology issues, heart issues, (Heart Monitor for two weeks) Podiatry issues. (Nothing major though) Once those issues are met, we will make our plans to return. Man, 62 crept up on me really quick. Your prayers are appreciated on these issues. Our New (To Us) House!

Spain

Daniel Estrada, Missionary

Praise the Lord we saw a young fellow profess to believe in Christ and accepted Jesus into his heart. This is Juan Manuel a new believer in Christ, pray for him and his mother Carmen. Her mom is ill and they have not been back since then, but when she gets well, they will return. We ask you to pray that they will come back to church.

We thank God Oscar came from Honduras safe, another answered prayer. We earnestly prayed for his paper work and God opened doors so he can be in Spain now. God is doing almighty things day by day. Pray for Oscar and his family to be faithful to God.

MINISTERING TO OTHER PEOPLE... We've also had the opportunity to minister 6 times to churches in De-mark, Sweden and other countries where Pastor Calba is the leader. We taught the word of God Wednesday nights and we rejoiced in the Lord to be able to help and support these works and mission fields.

Romanian Missions

Kolt Mackrill, Missioanry

Last month was awesome! We started the month off finishing up kid's camp at camp Hope. As reported last month, it was a great time. Our girls enjoyed being campers this year and I enjoyed getting to preach a couple of times. Afterwards we began preparing for teen camp.

Last month we were also praying with our sending church, Langdon Street Baptist Church, Somerset, KY about calling a new pastor. We are excited to have Bro. Logan Hargis as our new pastor and Bro. Dustin Rader as our associate pastor. They have both served Langdon street for many years now and we look forward to many more serving with them both!

We finished out the month strong with a wonderful visit from Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kim Chandler, Amy's parents. It was so good to get to spend some special time with them. We are thankful for the time which God allowed them to come and be with us. We are also thankful to Pleasant Hill MBC, Lynn, AR for all the thoughtful cards and gifts sent with them!

Interstate Missions

Lighthouse Ministries

Toby Cribbs Sr., Director

My wife attended Mission Revival August 25-27. The quest speaker was Pastor Eric Sutton, Pastor of New Home Baptist Church, Wetumpka, AL. He preached three sermons (We Never Saw It On This Fashion) (The Mystery Of Christ) (Advancing The Kingdom Of God). All the special singing was great. Each Missionary gave report. I heard only two of the sermons. The reason is that I fell Friday after the meeting, I was taken to the hospital, they had to do some x rays. All came out fine. Brother Mike Maxwell-Brother Josh Ray and Brother Ricki Boyle my and wife stayed at the hospital with me till I was released., (two o'clock in the morning)

We had four finish the Old Testament-four New Testament-one finish course One-two finish course Two. We had 54 studies done.

We are behind in doing all the studies that have come in. The reason we have had to many doctors visits.

Benchmark Baptist Fellowship

Alan Schoelf, Missionary

AHHHH, August was a short season of rest! After a very busy June and July it was good to slow the pace down a little in August. We were blessed to take a few days off to go to Indiana to visit family, in particular we went to my grandson's third birthday party. This was such a blessing as we have not been part of one of his birthday celebrations in the past. Hudson is such a delight to be around. And on Sunday mornings he is always ready to go to church!

The following week Julie and I were privileged to enjoy dinner hosted by the local Gideon's International Encampment at their annual Pastors Appreciation Banquet. The meal was catered by a local smoked meat business and was quite delicious. The speaker delivered a simple yet powerful

presentation. But the best part of the evening was simply fellowshiping with other pastors, missionaries, and their wives. As the Mid-Atlantic Baptist Assoc. only meets once a year, and as the churches of that six state area are so few and spread out, it is nice to have such a fellowship opportunity as this afforded. **Please pray** that God would call more men to the mission field that is the Mid-Atlantic area. And pray even harder that those men would respond to God's call!

Topeka, KS

Everett Ledbetter, Missionary

It is hard to believe that September is gone already. We have been so busy this month. Much of the month was spent on the road and sharing about the work here in Topeka. We were blessed to be with Marlow MBC in Marlow, OK, Emmanuel MBC in Bogalusa, LA, and First Heritage BC in Fayetteville, NC. We were also blessed to be able to attend the Barnabas Missionary Retreat in West Virginia for some much needed encouragement in the ministry. When we weren't on the road, we were working hard in Topeka. The chaplaincy efforts continue to go very well. Being both Police and Fire has opened some really mazing doors of ministry. The fire department continues to be very open to talking with me. During the month, our attendance has held steady and our giving has increased. Pray for us during this coming month as we have many outreach opportunities laid out.

I continue to be blown away by the generosity of the Lord's people. Last month, I mentioned that Marlow MBC issued a challenge to match all offering up to a total of \$5000. Through the Lord's people that challenge was met. In Topeka, we have received over \$6000 toward our Land fund. Our sending church has also received another \$6000. Once everything is deposited into our land fund account, we should have over \$20,000 in it.

Dexter, Maine

Geroge Dever, Missionary

In July, Nevills Chapel, my sending church, blessed Antioch with a visit to help reach our communities for Christ. We talked to many people about the Lord and had follow-up discussions with those who

attended. Keep these folks in prayer that they would see their need for Jesus. Again, thank you, Brother Shawn Findley, and all the folks who traveled to encourage us.

While Nevills was with us, we had a baptism for a man who accepted Jesus Christ as his savior a few years ago, but circumstances prevented him from getting baptized. This baptism was special for Antioch and our sending church to witness Ryan's decision to follow the Lord in His church. Remember Ryan in your prayers.

In August, we participated in the Red Hot Dog Festival that takes place in Dexter. The festival sees nearly 6,000 people in attendance throughout the day. We had the skateboard ramps up and had many opportunities to have conversations and hand out tracts. We held a drawing to give away two skateboards that were donated by Primitive Skate Co. in California. The ladies held a table with a game anyone could play and win prizes. The ladies also collected school supplies to donate to help our local Elementary and middle school children.

Hope Mission

Scott Bourland, Missionary

Things went great with our Heritage Days outreach. 1500-2000 people stopped at our booth. We had a great time interacting with them all.

We had a couple of small games that the kids could play and win a prize, as well as a free popsicle. We also gave away two large mums and two beautiful fall door hanger decorations.

We gave out information about the church and a gospel tract. We gathered about 400 addresses that we will be able to use to do some follow up work.

We also participated in the parade this year allowing us to make our church known and passing out another 500- 600 tracts along the way, with some candy and bracelets for the kids.

Our pumpkin patch outreach is coming up this next month and we are excited to see what the Lord does there.

Missy and I did have the great privilege of having Jeromie and Sarah in our home for dinner and to play some games. Jeromie got saved that night. Pray for him as he learns the importance of baptism and growing for the Lord.

**J. A. Crain**

Business Manager Report

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, “The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments” (2 Timothy 4:13). Paul probably had various writings and documents with him, but he instructed Timothy to bring with him these certain writings. Although we do not know the content of these writings, we should recognize that Paul considered them unique and important. The writings produced through the Bogard Press, such as, Sunday School materials, various topical materials, and VBS materials are likewise unique and important. They are so because they uniquely follow the Doctrinal Statement of the American Baptist Association voted on by the churches, which itself is a unique and special document because it is based on and in harmony with Bible teachings. Only materials produced by ABA churches can make this claim. Only Bogard Press, as a publishing house, can make this claim. As churches search for literature and lesson materials to be used in their Bible classes, they should consider the importance of using that which can be soundly associated with Bible doctrine. If the young people of our churches are to be indoctrinated in truth, we must be careful what we choose to use for literature, whether in Sunday School or VBS. Jesus said, “Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols” Revelation 2:20. What the churches were teaching mattered to Jesus, and it ought to matter to us.

I recently had the privilege of attending the Northeast Louisiana MB Association. I look forward in September to visiting some of the Lord’s churches in Texarkana, visitor’s day at the Louisiana Seminary, and church events with my wonderful church at Magnolia. Also, the Baptist Sunday School Committee will be visiting in Texarkana, September 21 and 22.

Bogard Press will be having an Educational Seminar September 23rd at Northern Hill BC in Texarkana. We sincerely thank Northern Hills church for their kindness and giving spirit. The Seminar will be Saturday AM for in-person or on-line attendance. Church groups may gather at their own facilities and enjoy this important time of learning.

The work at Texarkana is going well. The sales and finances are steady and normal for the summer months. Please feel free to come visit anytime, and especially the bookstore. Please let us know how we can better serve you.



Mark Clements
Editor in Chief

Christ, the Faithful Servant

“And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: and there came a voice from heaven, *saying*, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Mark 1:9-11).

Imagine the voice of God booming from the sky, shaking the hearts of the onlookers as He declared His pleasure in His Son, Jesus! Matthew, Mark and Luke were inspired by the Holy Spirit to use the same word to describe God’s pleasure in Jesus as He spoke from Heaven that day, the word *eudokesa*. This Greek word comes from a combination of two words, *eu*, which means to be well or right, and *dokeo*, which means to suppose, account or determine. In this brief moment at the inauguration of Jesus for public ministry, God in Heaven let the world know Jesus had His upmost approval, His divine delight and His royal recommendation to introduce the world to Him. Jesus Christ came to serve mankind, and He did so faithfully.

This Fall, we at Bogard Press are eager to study with you through the gospel of Mark. The study is entitled, “Christ, the Faithful Servant” and will cover the entire book. The aim for the quarter is to help students recognize that true greatness lies in manifesting the spirit of a servant. This we will learn from observing the servant’s heart and the actions of Jesus.

Modern culture has devalued the mindset of a servant. Self-promotion at the expense of others is a mindset not only embraced by secular culture, but also by the Christian sub-culture. This is nothing new, as even in Jesus’ day, it was common for rulers to desire opportunities to “exercise lordship” and “authority” over others. The counter-cultural approach to leadership in God’s kingdom, though, would require the followers of Jesus to understand that “whosoever will be great...shall be servant of all,” since Jesus Himself came “to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:42-45).

This Fall, we will learn that the greatest leaders choose to serve others, following the example of Jesus Christ. We pray God’s churches embrace servant-leadership in their pursuit of Christlikeness. May the people of God enlarge His kingdom through the love of Christ, making Him “well pleased” (Mark 1:11).

Mark Clements
Editor in Chief

**FINANCIAL REPORT
GULF COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE
August/September 2023**

	Income/Expense
Income:	
Conations	\$1,495.00
Designated Funds	\$1,450.00
Tution	\$210.00
Building	\$250.00
Press	\$100.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,505.00
Expenses:	
Utilities	\$184.75
Support	\$1450.00
Salary	\$1200.00
Travel Expenses	\$439.89
Zoom	\$299.00
Postage	\$671.53
Bank Fees	\$14.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,259.95

NOTE:

There is a notable change in the treasurer’s report for the last period. This is due to some criticism that was received regarding the method of reporting. It is not our intention to deceive anyone but the treasurer is often blamed for which is not their problem.

I trust that we can continue to receive your offering as the ministry goes forward.

The classes, both in-house and on line, continue to progress, though they are small. Rebuilding, following all the things that we have had to deal with, is slow but there are signs of encouragement.

If any supporter would like to receive more information regarding your contribution, please do not hesitate to let me know.

There are more changes coming that are necessary in regards to the school and its ministries. Please continue to remember us all in your prayers as we endeavor to follow the Lord.

We are continuing to search for a facility that can house the printing ministry.

HHS

CHURCHES SEEKING A PASTOR

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

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

Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in Bedford, Indiana is seeking a pastor. We are a conservative King James only church. If you are interested please email us at landmarkbaptist47421@gmail.com

Liberty Baptist Church, Collins,MS. seeking pastor. Contact Ricky Lott 601-543-4561 or rickylott4@gmail.com

Highlands MBC, North Highlands, CA is seeking a part-time youth pastor. All inquiries are to be sent to Pastor David Butimore, Sr. At (559) 260-0093 or brob@bigvalley.net.

Landmark MBC of Amite, La. is in search of a pastor. Located about 40 miles east of Baton Rouge and about 50 miles north of New Orleans along the I-55/I-12 corridor. We are a conservative country church, traditional in worship, doctrinally sound, with a big heart for missions. Church and annex sit on 3 acres debt free. We associate locally within the First Trinity Missionary Baptist Association. We are calling for a seasoned Missionary Baptist pastor of same mold. KJV only. If interested or for more information, please contact:

Joseph Holden, Deacon
985-517-8582

biglefty27@gmail.com

Franklin Parker, Deacon 985-507-2884

william f parker@hotmail.com

Melissa Wallace, Church Clerk
985-286-9324

mrwalla59@gmail.com

PRINTING NEWS

Printing [news](#):

I would really have liked to report that we had found a facility to move the shop but that has not been the case. I have made a bid on two building but have been able to get either of them. We took a tour of a building yesterday, Tuesday, and it appears that it would be adequate for the shop. However, the cost is much higher than I had expected. If we were to make a bid on this facility, it would require that we increase the support for the ministry. The sale of materials is not sufficient to sustain a large note payment.

What I would like to see is a church that would take this ministry as a project. I have received several comments regarding the possibility of having to shut the shop down but all have pleaded with us not to do that.

If that were to happen nearly thirty years of hard work would go away. There is no one who is printing the material that we print. This is especially true regarding the Spanish materials. No one is printing or supplying the Spanish books we have.

We now have two outlets for the Spanish. One is in Mexico and the other is in Colombia. The sales of these materials continue to progress. The seminaries that, are operating these countries, all use these materials. Books like Bible Analysis, Defense of the Faith, to only mention a couple.

We ship Spanish tracts to a serval different areas and people continue to use them.

The large Heidelberg press was sold but it has not been picked up. I am not sure if it will be shipped. It was to be shipped out of the country. It is not something that I look forward to moving, in fact, I have no means of moving such a unit. I am looking forward to the time when we can get back to a regu-

lar routine in printing the materials. This ministry has come so far over the years and it is a joy to see what is being done with the things that have been printed. There is not many things that we cannot do in the shop. The only thing we do not do is hard bound books but all the other means is available.

One of the greatest blessing that I have been a part of, is being able to work with so many missionaries and help them with the materials they need in their ministries.

I ask that you continue to pray for the work. Pray that we will be able to acquire a facility whereby, we can begin the move. I make this plea one more time, What a blessing it wold be for a church to step up and take this ministry on as a project to ensure that it will continue to do its great work.

May the Lord bless every individual and church that has been so faithful over the years in their support of this ministry.

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Articles should be in the office no later

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Herman Strickland; editor

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