

THE BIBLE METHODIST

Volume 40 • Issue IV



Faith Bible Methodist Church *Columbus, Georgia*



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EDITOR
G. Clair Sams

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Bible Methodist
website...
www.biblemethodist.org

The subtheme for Behold the Harvest this quarter is, Looking beyond the Core. Looking at our world, you see what appears to be insurmountable opportunities. Perhaps that is no more clearly seen than in the young people of our culture.

Yet, God is touching young people in very dramatic ways. One of the fundamental reasons for my optimism is what God is doing with and through young people. Mark and Angie Marriott are examples of the power and presence of God. They were children who started riding a bus in Findlay, Ohio several years ago. Today Mark is the youth pastor and Angie leads the children's ministries of their church.

Just attend a youth camp and see the quality of worship and deep desire to know and be used of God, and you will have a new and fresh appreciation of God's presence. Watch as teens raise their hands in praise, see the tears flow down their cheeks and hear them pray for their friends and family and you will know that they know God makes a difference.

Philosopher Pogo said, "Gentlemen, we are surrounded by insurmountable opportunities." When I think of what God is doing in our world I would concur. Many would try to tell you that the cause of Christianity is lost to this generation; my response is God is actively working in this generation. He is making a difference among the youth. They are not obstacles but opportunities!

Watching a church find new and effective ways to bring Christ to the young people of the neighborhood, has included seeing a church help young men have a place to gather, ride skateboards and hear about the life-changing power of the Gospel. It includes seeing a church feeding children breakfast, so they can sit quietly and hear the Sunday school lesson. To see God working today means, taking time to pray for a youth rally, work at a youth camp and give to help a youth ministry remain solvent.

My mind goes to a young man who was raised in the inner city in poverty surrounded by all the wickedness of drugs and drink. He was recruited to play college football, and his goal was to be a professional athlete, but God touched him. A church marked his life with Sunday school, youth activities and most of all the message of Christ. Now, he is active in leading an outreach program and witnessing for Christ.

We are surrounded. Surrounded by opportunities that are breathtaking. Let's look beyond the familiar and allow the Spirit to use us to take advantage of the possibilities we encounter. ■



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ALABAMA NEWS

Serving Hands Touch Little Hearts

Pastor R. G. Hutchinson

Some deeds of service may go unnoticed...but not to God! Jesus said that even a cup of cold water given in His name will have a reward. Undoubtedly, such a reward will be given someday to some faithful folks in Chattanooga, Tennessee. They are the breakfast ministry team at Chattanooga First. Every Sunday morning they come out early and work in tight quarters to prepare a nice breakfast for the children when they arrive on the bus for Sunday school. Using a tiny house next door to the church with a small kitchen area, they feed from 15 to 30 children per week.

The people at Chattanooga First are putting the finishing touches on another larger house which the church purchased a few years ago. They hope to have a grand opening and dedication for it in June and will immediately begin using it for the breakfast ministry as well as for church fellowship and other outreach functions.



Elizabeth Henson (Grandmommy) and Bill Beagan assisting with breakfast for the bus children.



Back row left to right: Mrs. Patt Christian, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Underwood and Rev. Joe Christian

Front row: Underwood Children

Floralia Bible Methodist church received Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Underwood as full members of the Floralia Bible Methodist Church. Darrell Underwood is taking great leadership in the church and assisting with improvements of the church property. The Lord is touching Rev. Joe Christian since his open heart surgery.



Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Marchant led the congregation in the celebration of their 100th anniversary May 18, 2008.



Left to right: Principal Joseph Hedstrom, Matthew Davis, Blake Isbell, Kevin Cook, Ericka Thomas, Cassie McCluskey, Roanna Black and Johnny St. John

GREAT LAKES NEWS



Stanton, KY Bible Methodist Church

Greetings in the name of our Lord from the beautiful Bluegrass State. The Lord is richly blessing us here in Stanton, KY. Our schedule stays fairly full working for the Master.

This marks our thirty-fifth year in the radio ministry. We have a weekly broadcast of singing and preaching. We also have a call-in program that allows listeners to phone in their prayer concerns.

We also hold services in a minimum security prison which houses over 900 as well as ministering in our local regional jail. We have seen many inmates won to the Lord. Hallelujah!

The Lord has opened up a new opportunity for us. We have prayer with our chief circuit court judge before his day of legal proceedings. Surely our officials need prayer in this day of drugs and violence.

Last fall we were blessed with a wonderful revival. Each night the windows of Heaven were opened. We heard some anointed preaching from Rev. and Mrs. Leroy Collins of Nashville, IN.

Over the past year several Saints have gone on to Glory to receive their reward. However, we continue to press toward the mark. The prophet wrote, "Oh, that Thou wouldst rend the Heavens, and come down." This is surely our desire. Holiness Forevermore



Pastor Scoby Faulkner

Activity at Vandercook Lake

Beginning last September, the Wednesday evening service was transformed into an evening of ministry for the adults. We began a Kid's Club outreach. All of the adults have an opportunity to play a part. Some volunteer to tell stories. Others bring snacks, set up, clean up, prepare a craft/game, or use their vehicles to pick up children. There have been up to twenty children attending.

The church is beginning to see some results from the children's ministry. Two mothers and two grandmothers of some of the children were in the Sunday a.m. service on Mother's Day!

One of the men drives his vehicle to pick people up for church. On a recent Sunday he had to make two trips. We are excited about what God is doing in Jackson, MI.



Mothers and some of their children in attendance on Mother's Day



Kid's Club service

HEARTLAND NEWS

Claggetts Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary



Harrison Chapel honored Paul and Linda Claggett on their Golden Wedding Anniversary, May 25, 2008, by a special surprise service. Pastor William Reese made the proclamation of the day, letters from some former pastors were read, the Claggett children shared memories of their dad and mom, Conference President G. Clair Sams gave personal tribute and his wife joined him in presenting a lovely bouquet from the conference. Long-time

friend and fellow member Robert Tharp made fitting remarks about the Claggett family from their attendance at the Chapel, and Pastor and Mrs. Reese presented them with a seven-rose bouquet that identified Paul and Linda plus their five children, along with a plaque to recognize the occasion.

The Claggetts were delighted that all of their children and grandchildren, and also Paul's sister Ellen, were present for the event and truly expressed their appreciation for the service that honored them.

Paul and Linda have attended Harrison Chapel since 1965. Paul served the Heartland Conference on the Executive Committee as conference treasurer for nearly forty years until his recent retirement from that position.

Camp Work Week



Thanks to all who have worked so hard getting Beulah Grove ready for the summer. Dave Richards has lead the work of getting the new cooler and freezer running and they are in and working. This will be a great blessing to our kitchen staff. Several of the churches have worked to get buildings cleaned and ready for camp. A special thank you to the number of ministers and laymen who attended work week and made it a success.

From the Youth President:

WOW! What a day of excitement, worship & fellowship in Zanesville, Ohio for our Spring Youth Rally

THANK YOU Randy Brown for being our Coordinator of this event!

THANK YOU Bro & Sis. Blair and Church family for making it happen!

THANK YOU Rob Cravens for a tremendous message of hope and challenge!

THANK YOU GBS Quartet Proclaim for singing like you mean it!

THANK YOU Bro. Sams for attending!

THANK YOU Duane Quessenberry & Julie Cravens for leading us in worship!

THANK YOU Pastors & Youth Pastors/Leaders who worked so hard, paid the bills, and made the journey - you are the real heroes!

THANK YOU blessed LORD for touching the hearts of our youth!!!

What a tremendous success our Spring Youth Rally was—**THANKS BE TO GOD!**



by Duane Quesenberry

the Investment of COMMITMENT

Have you heard the barnyard tale of the chicken and the pig who were discussing what they could contribute to the farmer's breakfast? The annoyingly cheerful chicken suggested that she give an egg, and the pig donate a ham. Sputtering, the pig retorted, "For you, that's a small contribution, but for me, it's total commitment."

As this story suggests, commitment is the idea of giving, even to the point of personal hurt. But, unlike the hapless pig, commitment to God's work doesn't limit our possibilities, but rather, increases them.

The dictionary defines commitment as engagement or involvement. Being committed requires a deep level of devotion, and the measure of commitment greatly determines the degree of success. This principle impacts every area of life, from marriage to maintaining employment, to growing in our relationship with God. And it is crucial in the church, especially the smaller local church, where budgets do not allow for a paid staff. The call goes out for volunteers; and to be a volunteer requires commitment.

The word "commitment" generates a variety of emotions, especially as it pertains to church. Circumstances in our past may color our perception of what commitment means. Anger, fear,

irritation and guilt are a few emotions that might surface.

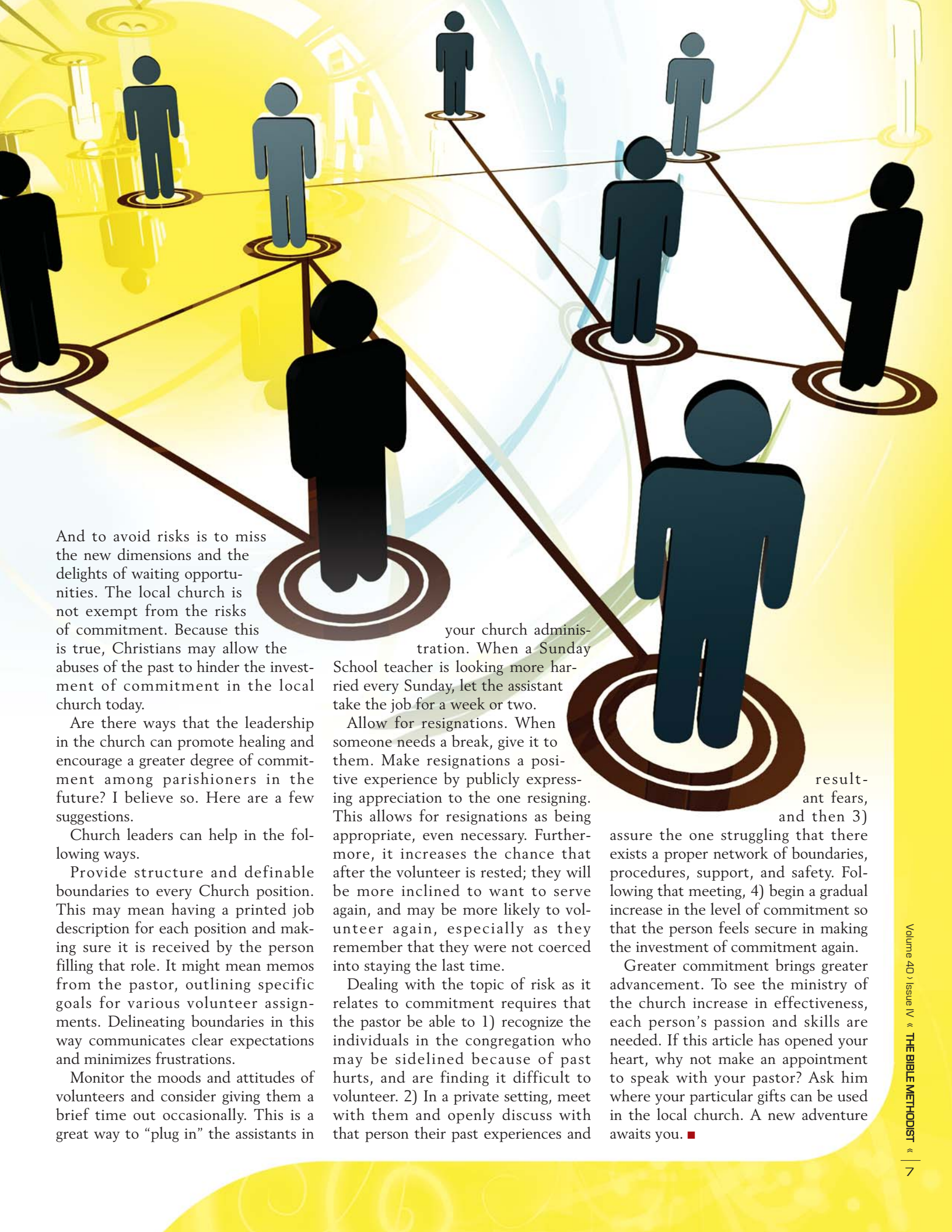
Within the American church, there is a growing percentage of people who, though they love God and faithfully attend the worship services, refuse to commit to the church because of past hurts. The last time they committed their gifts and allegiance to a local congregation, they were wounded deeply. Struggling not to be bitter and trying to protect themselves from being hurt again, they find it difficult to join another church. And, in so doing, they allow the injuries of the past to paralyze the possibilities of the future.

My purpose is not to cause the reader to be overwhelmed by a deluge of negative emotions. Rather, I want to open the door of your future and invite you to invest again in commitment in your church.

The word investment hints of two important concepts that equally apply to commitment. For both investment

and commitment involve time and risk. In the 21st century, time is possibly the most valuable commodity that individuals possess. Giving up some slices of that "time pie" means that there must first be an evaluation of activities. Then there must be a prioritizing of that which is deemed important and worthy of the investment of commitment. Commitment to the local church is sure to include the investment of time.

But commitment also involves risks. The old adage comes to mind, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained." This quip promises a measure of gain, but also hints of possible loss. So it is with every commitment. Be it a home mortgage or a friendship, you may give yourself to something and be hurt, disappointed, betrayed. And the temptation then is to cease to commit. But to fail to take risks, to fail to commit is to die an early death. Every day of life brings a measure of new opportunity.



And to avoid risks is to miss the new dimensions and the delights of waiting opportunities. The local church is not exempt from the risks of commitment. Because this is true, Christians may allow the abuses of the past to hinder the investment of commitment in the local church today.

Are there ways that the leadership in the church can promote healing and encourage a greater degree of commitment among parishioners in the future? I believe so. Here are a few suggestions.

Church leaders can help in the following ways.

Provide structure and definable boundaries to every Church position. This may mean having a printed job description for each position and making sure it is received by the person filling that role. It might mean memos from the pastor, outlining specific goals for various volunteer assignments. Delineating boundaries in this way communicates clear expectations and minimizes frustrations.

Monitor the moods and attitudes of volunteers and consider giving them a brief time out occasionally. This is a great way to “plug in” the assistants in

your church administration. When a Sunday School teacher is looking more harried every Sunday, let the assistant take the job for a week or two.

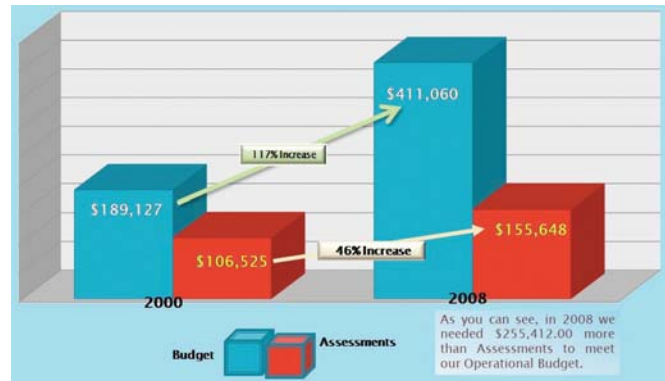
Allow for resignations. When someone needs a break, give it to them. Make resignations a positive experience by publicly expressing appreciation to the one resigning. This allows for resignations as being appropriate, even necessary. Furthermore, it increases the chance that after the volunteer is rested; they will be more inclined to want to serve again, and may be more likely to volunteer again, especially as they remember that they were not coerced into staying the last time.

Dealing with the topic of risk as it relates to commitment requires that the pastor be able to 1) recognize the individuals in the congregation who may be sidelined because of past hurts, and are finding it difficult to volunteer. 2) In a private setting, meet with them and openly discuss with that person their past experiences and

resultant fears, and then 3) assure the one struggling that there exists a proper network of boundaries, procedures, support, and safety. Following that meeting, 4) begin a gradual increase in the level of commitment so that the person feels secure in making the investment of commitment again.

Greater commitment brings greater advancement. To see the ministry of the church increase in effectiveness, each person’s passion and skills are needed. If this article has opened your heart, why not make an appointment to speak with your pastor? Ask him where your particular gifts can be used in the local church. A new adventure awaits you. ■

How Bible Methodist Missions is Funded and Where the Funds Go



Did you know that it took more than \$400,000 to operate Bible Methodist Missions this year? The actual amount that went through our treasury was \$411,060.

When I see those numbers, I am in awe of how God supplies the funds to carry on the rapidly growing work of Bible Methodist Missions! Two factors make this especially significant.

1. We are not an independent, inter-denominational Missions Organization. We are the Missions Organization of a relatively small Connection of Churches. Our churches are not only supporting us, but are also supporting many missionaries from other independent Missions Organizations at the same time. This demonstrates the giving spirit of the Bible Methodist people!
2. These numbers also reflect a significant shift in the way funds are given for our support. We are seeing more people making personal commitments and giving above and beyond what is asked or expected of them! This also reflects the attitude of our Bible Methodist people!

Bible Methodist Missions is primarily supported by two means.

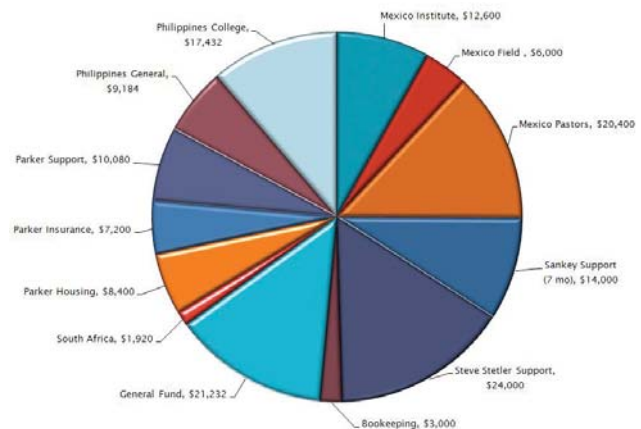
1. **Assessments** – Each Conference (Great Lakes, Heartland, & Alabama) takes a portion of the operating budget of Bible Methodist Missions and raises it by dividing it between the churches in their Conference or raising it otherwise. Those funds are sent to Bible Methodist Missions on a monthly basis to help cover the operating budget.
2. **Donations** – Individuals, churches and Conferences voluntarily give above and beyond their Assessments for Special Projects, Missionary Share Support, Special Needs, and Love Offerings as God prompts them.

In the past, Bible Methodist Missions was funded mainly by the Assessments funds. We have seen a significant change in this in recent years. In the year 2000, our total Operational Budget was \$189,127. Assessments covered \$106,525 or 56% of that. This year our Operational Budget was \$411,060 and Assessments covered \$155,648 or 37% of it. Let me try to illustrate that with this chart.

The amazing and thrilling truth these numbers reflect is that “YOU”, the supporters of Bible Methodist Missions have consistently risen to the challenge and have made up the difference! It would not have been possible for Assessment support to keep up with the growth of our Missions program without placing an increasingly heavier strain on the budgets of our churches and conferences. This is what has happened in other denominations. But your generosity has made it possible for us to sustain the growth!

The Missionary Share Support Program has also been a key factor. Just at the time of our greatest growth, our missionaries volunteered to go out and raise their own support using a Share Support Program. This enabled us to send the Assessment funds to places where they were so desperately needed. It also allowed us to grow and add additional missionaries without greatly increasing the Assessments. You generously responded to become Share Supporters for our Missionaries! Your generous spirit and theirs made the difference!

So, do we still need the faithful, monthly support that comes from Assessments? Where do those funds go? Let me conclude by sharing a Pie Chart that explains where the funds (\$155,448) from Assessments will go this coming year.



“YOU” make it possible for Bible Methodist Missions to operate and grow! THANK YOU for giving to the Lord! ■

News from the Fields

PRaise REPORT!

You have recently responded graciously to several of the appeals listed on this page in the past!

- Because of your gifts we have been able to cover the costs of the Stetler's housing and tuition for language school in Texas. THANK YOU!
- Your sacrificial giving has supplied around \$40,000.00 for Logan Sankey's medical care during his struggle with the problems in his eye! God has graciously provided for the Sankeys through miraculous measures making it possible for them to pay the enormous hospital/doctor bills and cover the costs of very expensive treatments! Only a small portion of the costs have not been covered. THANK YOU!



Marc & Melodie Sankey, Jordan, Cameron & Logan

We are available for Share Support Services. If your church is not a Bible Methodist church, and would have interest in our family coming to present Bible Methodist Missions in Mexico, please contact us. You may e-mail us at marcsankey@yahoo.com or melodiesankey@yahoo.com or contact us by phone: 956.566.3929. Bible Methodist Churches will be scheduled by the Conferences.

CONGRATULATIONS REV. STEVE STETLER



An exciting event took place May 8th! Our brother-in-law and fellow missionary, Steve Stetler, graduated from Spanish language school at Rio Grande Bible Institute and Missionary Language School. This is an incredibly intense language acquisition program and Steve did such a wonderful job of working

so hard this to learn this beautiful language.

The Stetlers moved immediately to Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico to work closely with our Mexican National President Dolores Hernandez, who pastors the Bible Methodist Church in Saltillo. They will be visiting other Bible Methodist churches in the area and assisting in the re-opening of the Bible Institute.

Please pray for the Stetlers as they begin their ministry in Mexico!

RV TRAILER NEEDED FOR MEXICO MISSIONARIES

Sankeys are required to maintain a Texas residence in order to continue to receive medical treatments for Logan. Both missionary families need to come to the US border for legal and business reasons occasionally. They need a RV Trailer (30'+) to park in TX, near the border for this purpose. If you have one to donate or can help us with this please contact us.

John Parker-864.850.0222, Marc Sankey -956.566.3929

What can I do? How can our church help?

Are you looking for a missions project or special need on a Bible Methodist Mission field? You will find listed here several such needs that need funding. If you are interested in taking on one of these projects, please contact John Parker for more information at johnparker@juno.com or call 864.850.0222

- Funds are needed to cover the costs of temporary housing and schooling for the Sankeys in Texas while Logan was receiving medical treatments. All has been covered but the last month they were there. (\$700)
- Funds are urgently needed to finish the Tabernacle facility at the Philippine Conference Center.
- The Middelburg, South Africa work is presently 100% self-supporting! This is a Miracle! However, because of extremely high inflation and more than 20% interest on our Bible Methodist property, they need help in covering the mortgage payments! Any help for our brothers and sisters in South Africa is appreciated! Please pray for them during the very difficult times they are experiencing in their country.

Making a list...Checking

10 things your church can do for Youth Camp!

1

Make Youth Camp a part of your annual church calendar of events.

Plan ahead and make your journey to youth camp a part of your church's annual calendar of events that is handed out each New Year.

2

Make the month of Youth Camp an annual "Youth Focus Month".

Make Youth Camp bigger than just five days; make it the focus for the month in your local church, engaging your youth publicly so that they have a sense of belonging.



3



Sponsor every one of your youth attending youth camp.

Make sure every youth has a sponsor. At Findlay, we operate what we call "S.A.Y (Sponsor-A-Youth) I Care" for our youth. We take pledges for all youth going (church & unchurched) and then every sponsor gets a picture of their youth(s) that they are sending and are to pray for their spiritual needs that week. Our adults love it!

4

Make sure your youth have what they need in order to go to camp.

Having the proper clothing is important due to the modesty expectations. Don't set your youth up for an embarrassing situation when they arrive at camp. Plan ahead and take your youth shopping if need be. Have a "Shop for Camp" day with money donated or raised by the congregation.

5

Invest in the transportation and fuel for the trip.

Having a van or bus is very important and you may even need to rent a trailer for their luggage. It is vital that your congregation make it easy for your youth to arrive at youth camp.



it twice

6

Invest in sending your Youth Leader/Pastor and/or Senior Pastor!

It is extremely important to your church and the youth camp that your Youth Leader/Pastor and Senior Pastor are involved in Youth Camp; they are your representatives. We need them as adult staffers to provide a safe, organized and spiritual environment for this week of impact. Also, if any needs arise throughout the week those who know your youth the best can minister to them most effectively and they are also the ones who will return with a great report.



7

Publicly organize prayer vigils throughout the week for your youth and adults that are going from your church.

Make sure the Wednesday night prayer service is focused on Youth Camp, read the list of those who you have sent. Organize certain times of each day when there can be fasting and prayer vigils for the strength needed for the adult staff and the souls of your youth.

8



Have a commissioning service the Sunday before Youth Camp for those going.

Have a time in the service that sends your group off to camp (even if it is just one person). This places a premium on the importance of the week and for each camper and adult to attend with an urgency to listen for God's voice.

9

Have a testimonial time the Sunday after camp for the youth to testify and thank the church for sending them.

The sponsors will look forward to this highlighted time. They have prayed and paid and now listen to the return on their investment. Often this time is laced with tears and laughter as memories are shared and testimonies of God's power is witnessed.

10

Immediately encourage and involve your youth that have gained spiritual ground during Youth Camp.

Realize that every youth that has returned from Youth Camp is eager to do better in their walk with the Lord. Encourage, uplift and involve them. Have a baptism service if needed, have a communion service and encourage your youth that have sought the Lord to attend. Youth want to be involved – let's engage them!



by Christopher Cravens

The Harvest in the COMMUNITY



Behold the Harvest — JOHN 4:35



1st Quarter September, October, November 2008

Building Bridges for Evangelism — *Friendship evangelism, Side-door ministries*

2nd Quarter December 2008, January, February 2009

Churches of Compassion — *Do they know we care?*

3rd Quarter March, April, May 2009

Serving our Community — *Exploring new ministry opportunities in the marketplace*

4th Quarter June, July, August 2009

Evangelizing the Unchurched Youth — *Impacting a new generation for Christ*

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