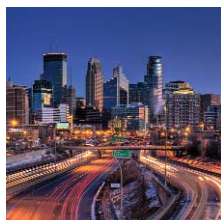


The Bible Methodist

Official publication of the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches



The Conference Center Alibago, Ilagan, Isabela, Philippines



Beholding the Harvest

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written by G. Clair Sams



The approach of the final year of the Connectional Theme “Behold The Harvest,” may have some interesting reaction. Some people will say, “We had a theme, I knew nothing about it”. That person was obviously not part of Walter Hedstrom’s Conference. Other people may respond, “What difference did it make?” that person obviously cares little for things that impact Christ’s kingdom. Perhaps the best attitude would be something like this, “Wow, we had a theme, it has made a difference for me and my church; how can we use this last year to the best advantage?”

The coming theme addresses the church, and calls us to examine how we build the Lord’s kingdom through the church. For instance one quarter’s theme is planting more churches or building larger churches. Another quarter the call is to more effective mission work.

The articles in this issue again call our attention of the work of leading people who do not know Christ into a forgiveness and new life. It challenges us to build more than just a local church or a mission field, but to build the Kingdom of Christ. It is so easy to simply rest on the strength of the church we have, and to be complacent about any effort to impact this present world. But our focus must be on something larger than ourselves.

Missionary Keep tells the story of a Filipino man for whom the church had fasted and prayed. The eighty - year old man had remained spiritually stubborn and antagonistic until a serious illness brought him to face possible death. The doctors had given up on the man, and the family had gathered for his passing. Pastor visited at this critical time, and while the man was fully awake, laid hands, on him and prayed for his healing. The Pastor’s report was, “While I was praying the healing grace of God worked mightily and the next day the man was completely well.” The next day an even greater miracle happened. While the church was praying the old man walked to the threshold of the church, knelt down and crawled to the altar begging God for mercy and forgiveness. The church and pastor are laboring in the world of harvest.

Lord help us to see, to clearly see the people we live next to, the people with whom we work and among whom we shop. May we see them as the very ones for whom Jesus died. May we see beyond what is and imagine what can be by grace.

Lord of Harvest, may we envision a glowing, gathered harvest of souls. May we see what the power of the Gospel can do in this generation, may we see families changed, communities made better and heaven larger because of our vision and labor.



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Beholding the Harvest

written by Pastor Bob Blankenship



Last Fall we had a Back-To-School Give Away at our church in the Price Hill area of Cincinnati, OH. It was a special program directed towards kids and gave away school supplies. God blessed us with an amazing turn out with 214 people. The great part about it is that about 145 of the 214 were un-churched people who were first time guests! These numbers may not sound so great to some large or mega church but for a church who had 39 the previous Sunday, the ratio in these numbers is huge! Imagine if we were a church with 100 regular attendees and did the Back-to-School Give Away, using the same ratio in numbers there would be 371 new people come to church and 548 total people. If we were a church with 1000...well, you can figure it out. That is an amazing increase and turnout at church. Now let's look at it from another perspective.

On the Friday and Saturday before the Back-To-School Give Away we passed out a total of 200 fliers. That was it! Imagine if we had passed out 400 fliers. We could have had 290 new people

come to church. Or what if we would have passed out 4000 fliers in the Price Hill area (we could have done it if we had some help)? We would have had 2,900 new people in Church. Obviously our church was mostly packed out with over 200 people, but what if there was another place that would hold that many people that we could rent? Wouldn't that be something! I am not aware of a place in Price Hill that could hold 2,900 people, but I am sure that a large enough place for 2,900 people could be found in other communities in large cities. What about Chicago, Detroit or New York? Or Miami, Dallas or San Francisco? Los Angeles, Portland, or Las Vegas? What about some of those places? I'm sure we can find a place to hold 2,900 people. What if 39 people from one or more churches would unite themselves for the cause to share the gospel to as many people as they can and to launch a new church in one of these cities? What if it was carefully prayed over, organized and acted upon in faith. Imagine the possibility of having 2,900 new people on your first Sunday. Then add your (continued on page 5)

Imagine the Possibility!

written by Pastor Joe Reimann

AS THE BEGINNING OF THE ALABAMA BIBLE METHODIST CAMP MEETING NEARS, ONE PART OF THE PREPARATION IS HANGING A LARGE BANNER AT THE FRONT OF THE TABERNACLE. IT BOLDLY PROCLAIMS THE WORDS OF JESUS AND THE THEME OF OUR CONNECTION OF CHURCHES, “BEHOLD THE HARVEST.” PONDER A MOMENT THE FULL MEANING AND IMPLICATIONS OF THAT STATEMENT. “BEHOLD”: TO SEE, RECOGNIZE, BE AWARE OF, CONSIDER, EXAMINE, LET IT DAWN UPON YOU. IT INVOLVES MORE THAN A

passing glance. What are we to behold? “The Harvest”: the lost, hurting, unaware, unconcerned, hopeless, needy, and unsaved. This challenge applies to missionaries, churches and individuals. It has been easy to become accustomed to this phrase over the last few years, but let us remember why the harvest is important.

The harvest was the passion of Christ. Jesus compares the lost to a harvest field. They were as a crop that needed gathering before it was ruined. The window of opportunity was open for a limited amount of time. Christ’s passion for the lost compelled Him to go through Samaria where He spent time speaking with a hopeless woman. He was more interested in talking to her about the need of her soul than eating a meal. For Jesus, harvesting just one soul was important. Reaching the lost was the reason He was sent; it was the

Will of the Father. He expected His disciples to have the same perspective and urged them to see the field and to be busy reaping.

The harvest is the purpose of the Church. Jesus told the disciples to “look on the fields.” (John 4:35) When we see the lost, we are to pray for the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers. Two times Jesus specifically told the disciples to offer this petition in prayer. It is interesting to notice what took place after they were told to pray. In one instance Jesus sent the disciples to work in the harvest field (Matt. 10:5) and the other time he sent the seventy out to labor (Luke 10:2). We are to pray for laborers until we are burdened and realize that in some way we are to answer our own prayer by working in the harvest field. His passion is to be our purpose.

Charles Schwab, president of Bethlehem Steel during the last century, asked a consultant, Ivy Lee, to help him become more productive. Lee told Schwab to write down his most important tasks in order of their priority. Schwab was to work on the first task until it was completed and then go to the next, updating the list and starting again each day. His management team was to follow the same procedure. After trying this for a few weeks and proving its productiveness, Schwab sent Lee a \$25,000 check for his advice. The item on the top of our list must be the harvest, our purpose for existence. There are a lot of important church ministries that we can excel in, but to reach the lost should always be first.

It is not enough that the harvest was Christ's passion and the church's purpose but the harvest involves the participation of Christians. There is something for everyone to do. Jesus reminds us that one sows and another reaps. Though we may feel inadequate or unimportant, we have a vital part in His work. His plan is for each believer to help in reaching the lost.

God has no hands but our hands to do his work today;
He has no feet but our feet to lead men in his way;
He has no voice but our voice to tell men how he died:
He has no help but our help to lead them to his side.

by Annie Johnson Flint

The Samaritan woman brought others from town to meet Jesus, many of whom believed on Him because of her. After Pentecost, Deacon Philip shared in a mighty revival in Samaria. Could it be possible that the seeds for that revival were sown by one individual, that Samaritan woman?

We must make ourselves available to God. We may not be driving combines that gather tractor-trailer loads of grain, but are we willing to gather the harvest in the corner of the field that is ours? If the woman from Samaria can do it, so can we.

The harvest is the prize to celebrate. We often overemphasize secondary matters. We construct buildings, oversee treasuries and total statistics, taking great pride in these areas. But what we must realize is that none of these count except as they relate to the salvation of souls. Jesus said those who sow and those who reap will rejoice together when souls are gathered unto life eternal. Souls are the ultimate reward. Paul asked the believers at Thessalonica, "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For ye are our glory and joy." (I Thess. 2:19-20) Those who are saved are to be our glory and joy as well.

"Behold the Harvest" is more than a good theme. It relates to all that we are and all we do. May we be among those who come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves. •

(from page 3) 39 people of your launch team and a few others from helping churches who come just for the first Sunday and you will have over 3,000 people on your first Sunday! Imagine the possibility!

Yeah, I know what you are thinking. You are thinking that it couldn't happen. You may be right. You may be wrong, too. You never know until you attempt to accomplish the task for God's Kingdom, and watch and see what God can do. Remember, "With God nothing is impossible" (Luke 1:37). "With God all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26; Mark 10:27). "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God" (Luke 18:27) But imagine attempting and miserably failing to reach the 3,000 in attendance on the first Sunday and only 300 showing up. Wouldn't that be better than crossing your arms and not attempting anything for God and saying, "It is impossible?" In fact, I think 300 would be a great start for the first Sunday of a new church.

Remember Peter stepping out of the boat and sinking because of his lack of faith (Mark 14:28-31)? No one ever talks about the other 11 disciple's lack of faith to even attempt to walk on water. At least Peter tried. I would much rather be like Peter stepping out of the boat rather than staying in the boat because I was too scared. The worse thing that can happen to me when I step out of the boat in faith is that Jesus takes me by the hand and lifts me up. Unlike the other 11 disciples, Peter was the only one who had the privilege of walking on the water with Jesus. Are you ready to step out of the boat in faith and attempt great things for God? Imagine the possibilities of how God could use you! Oh, by the way, when you decide to get out of the boat, don't put on a wet suit. Have a little faith! •

Left-overs

written by Paul Derscheid

To me, one of the joys of life is to sit down to a good, hot, home-cooked meal where there is a good spread, good fellowship and an unhurried schedule.

Although left-overs are at times a part of my diet, I definitely prefer the original, fresh food.

For many of us a busy lifestyle is just a way of life. Deadlines to meet, never-ending projects that pile up, places to go and people to see keep us on the move most of our day. If we don't totally skip a meal because of busyness, likely we eat on the run not taking time to sit down, relax, enjoy a meal then allow the meal some time to digest.

Sadly some of us treat our devotional time the same way.

Just before hurrying out the door to start a busy day, we may grab a spiritual crumb by flipping through the Bible, hurriedly read a short Psalm and then take a sip of religious juice by saying a little prayer. A meal such as this is void of many spiritual vitamins and nutrients that help sustain spiritual life.

At other times it may not be busyness, but misguided priorities that keep us from being spiritually healthy. Some spend hours fishing, hunting, reading, on the computer, crocheting, watching

DVD's or other pleasurable pursuits during their leisure time, but only read God's Word and pray for ten minutes during the day. Cold left-overs of their time is all that is given to God.

Instead of giving God just some scraps of our time, may our devotional times, if they are not already, be well-balanced, nutritional, heavenly-fortified meals which we eat unhurriedly and allow time in which to mediate and digest what we have just eaten. The meal is ready. It is up to us to come to the table. •





Walter Hedstrom
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Alabama Conference

Thank You



Don Shirk, caretaker of the Alabama Bible Methodist Camp Grounds is doing outstanding work keeping up with maintenance and repairs on more than 20 buildings plus the landscaping needs. The camp board and Alabama Conference wishes to say “Thank You” for his continued dedication and labors. He and his family are of tremendous assistance to the Camp and School ministries.

Hazel Green Renovations



Newly remodeled sanctuary and new church sign

Hazel Green Alabama Bible Methodist Church recently remodeled the church sanctuary.

Supply Pastor David Fogelman refinished the church pews, painted the sanctuary, rearranged the platform area and had new carpet installed. They have also put up a brand new sign in front of the church. The pastor and people are anticipating starting some new outreach ministries to reach new people in the community.

Welcoming Bland Bible Church



New Bible Methodist Church in Bland, VA

On May 11, 2009, the Bland Bible Church voted to join the Alabama Bible Methodist Conference as a Church Expansion Church. There is a fine congregation that provided a very nice dinner for the Church Expansion Board following the business meeting.

The church property consists of a spacious three bedroom parsonage with a nearly new fellowship building built on the end of the parsonage. It also has a very nice prophet's room in the building.



The Congregation in Bland, VA

The church is located on VA Hwy 42 six miles east of town. The church extends a warm welcome to anyone that might be passing through VA to worship with them on Sunday and Wednesday evening.



The Beautiful Parsonage and Fellowship Hall



G. Clair Sams
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Germantown, OH 45327

Heartland Conference

Harrison Chapel



[left] Robert Tharp delivers presentation on Harrison Chapel

The Licking County Historical Society recently included Harrison Chapel as one of its sites on a bi-centennial tour of the county. Mr. Robert Tharp, a member of the Chapel and of the Historical Society, made a presentation on

the history of the Church including its 1844 beginning in opposition to slavery, serving as a stop on the underground railroad, ministers who have served the congregation (including Leslie Wilcox, E.R. Trouten, J.D. Young), and an explanation on the design of the stained-glass windows. His comments were well-prepared and covered most of the information that was of interest to the tour-group. Pastor Reese then made some remarks on the holiness message of Harrison Chapel that began at its founding and continues to present. Printed information material was made available to the people of the tour-group, and an invitation was given for all to feel welcome to attend any of the weekly services.

Franklin Dedicated New Family Ministries Building



The new Family Ministries Building

243 people gathered on Sunday, May 24, 2009 to dedicate the new Family Ministries Building. A Celebration Worship Service was conducted in the sanctuary and then everyone gathered at the new building for the Dedication Service. President G. Clair Sams led the congregation in the Covenant of Dedication and Prayer of Thanksgiving to God for His blessings. Following the service, the crowd gathered in the new building for a fellowship meal. The new 11,000 square foot building includes a gym, kitchen, meeting room, and Children's Church center. The dedication was the climax of ten months of work, much of it volunteer.

Zanesville Church Dedicates New Parking Lot



[above] Honored guests attended the dedication.



[left] Zanesville Bible Methodist church's completed parking lot.

A little over a year ago, the Zanesville congregation began to talk of paving their gravel parking lot. At that time one of our young men was stationed in Iraq with the U. S. Army. When his mother told him by phone of the plans, he said, "I want to help!" A short time later Spc. Kyle P. Norris was taken from us when an IED exploded near the humvee he was driving. Kyle's mother, Neva, told the church she wanted to see the pavement project accomplished in memory of her son, giving more than half of the needed funds and loaning the remainder. On June 7, 2009, the newly paved parking lot was dedicated in a very special outdoor memorial service.

Some of the honored guests at this dedication were Mr. Ronald Rosser, a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient; Mayor Howard Zwelling, mayor of Zanesville; State Representative Troy Balderson; members of the VFA, Zanesville Police Department, and United States Army representatives.

The congregation rejoices in the completion of this project, at the same time lovingly remembering the sacrifice that made it possible.



Blake Jones
Conference President
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Cedar Lake, MI 48812

Great Lakes Conference

Greenville Bible Methodist Church

Much planning, much anticipation and most importantly much prayer prepared the way for our spring weekend revival with Rev Dan Durkee and the men's quartet from Penn View Bible Institute. From the opening service until the closing Sunday, we were visited with God's presence. Young people were seeking God at the altar in response to Bro Durkee's anointed preaching. Many of these young people have been attending for sometime and this was their first time to ever seek the Lord. We praise God for the moving of His Spirit among us.

Saturday afternoon the young people enjoyed time together at the gym and a meal prepared by our church family. Sunday evening a host of young people came forward in response to Bro Durkee's challenge to pledge allegiance to the Lord. Pastor Johnson and Rev. Blake Jones, our Conference President, prayed over the group committing them to God to be used for His glory.

Please keep these young people in your prayers. We were greatly encouraged and so thankful to God for His manifest presence. To God Be the Glory Great Things He Hath Done!



Rev. Dan Durkee preaches at Greenville, MI



Penn View quartet with Bro. Durkee and some of the youth attending the services.



Greenville youth singing



Dawn Valley Bible Methodist Church

(Left) Rev. & Mrs. Joe Krohn

On April 15-19, we at the Dawn Valley Bible Methodist Church had the privilege of having one of our own "come home" for Spring Revival. Rev. Joe Krohn was raised in the Dawn Valley area, and now pastors the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Kingston, Ontario. He is doing a great work in his first church and new people have been coming out. During the revival services at Dawn Valley, God used his ministry to touch our hearts. His Sunday evening sermon on "Fellowship" was an especially timely message that we all needed to hear. We thank God for the young people of our day who want to serve Him and make a difference in this world for Christ!



Philippine Conference Center Dedicated April 29, 2009

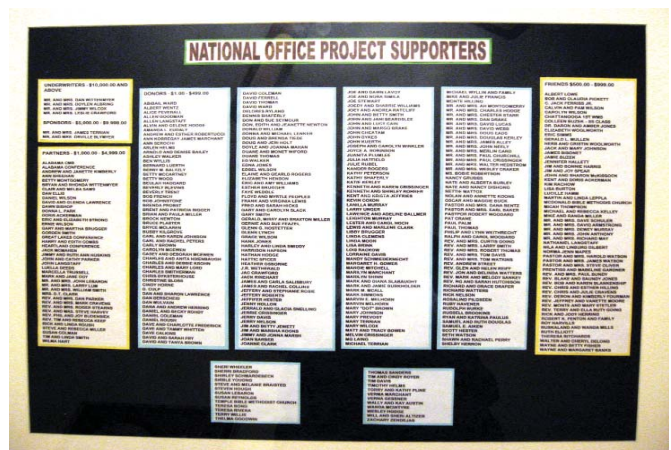
What a delight, once again, to experience the sites, sounds and smells of the Philippine Islands. It was my honor to visit and worship with our dear brothers and sisters in the Philippines. The quality of the workmanship of the new Conference Center is first class. Our Filipino leadership believes in being servant leaders. Celebrating the dedication of the new Conference Center will be a service I will never forget. To God be the Glory!

—Monte Stetler Jr.

It had been 13 years since I had visited the Philippines. It was a joy to travel to the college, several churches, training centers and stay with our wonderful Filipino brothers and sisters for two weeks. Their sacrifice, sweet spirit and spiritual receptivity was evident throughout the conferences. Since my last visit, I could see a remarkable maturity of the work in the Philippines through the tireless energy and labors of our faithful missionaries and national leaders.

The dedication of the new training center will be a long standing memory. Observing the people's joy in a job well done by their own conferences was special. The vision and expectancy of the

future was expressed by both the leaders and laymen of the Philippines. Traveling by plane, bus, jeepney, tricycle, jeep, walking, eating authentic food in their homes, experiencing their sincere desire to worship, watching them cultivate unity and love among themselves, their respect and deep appreciation for the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches of America was outstanding. Their full ambition, that was expressed over and over again is to "Do all things to the Glory of God!" Thank you Rev. John Parker, Mission's Secretary for the privilege to visit and minister in the Philippines again. Thank you, Alabama Conference for providing the finances for the wonderful journey. —Rev. Walter Hedstrom

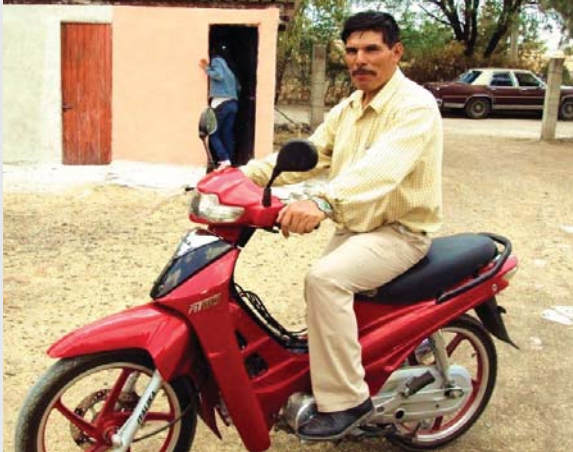




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 P.O. Box 18128
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News From the Fields



Mexican Pastor, Manuel now has transportation to do his pastoral calling on because of a thoughtful gift from the West Blocton, AL Church! THANK YOU!



Former Philippine Bible Methodist National President, Rev. Aquino and his wife, barely escaped a house fire which destroyed their house and everything in it! We have set up a fund to help them rebuild in this emergency. They are very elderly and in poor health. Bro. David Yucaddi wants to build the house. Your help for these dear people is appreciated greatly!



Pastor Dennis Johnson receives a plaque in front of the new Thiebaut Memorial Dining Center on the campus of the Philippine Bible College from College Administrator, Madame Lilia Castro. Pastor Dennis was instrumental in carrying out the wishes of the dear saint who left funds for this vital facility in her will and estate! THANK YOU! Pray with us that God will lead others to include missions in their will! Funds are lacking to finish out the facility to enable full use of the kitchen, etc. The second floor is to house a Campus Library and staff housing. It is urgently needed! What a worthy project this is!



The Graduating Class of Philippine Bible Methodist Bible College of 2009 with American delegation, College Staff and National Officers.

From Sams: What a deep privilege for Melba and me to be allowed to visit the Philippines again. The two weeks we spent there in April were special and will not be forgotten. It was exciting to attend the dedication of a new church in Hapao, Ifugao. We also were privileged to spend a Sunday fellowshiping with our friends, Rev. and Mrs. Manuel Balido, and worshiping with them. But, the highlight of the trip was seeing the beautiful Conference and Campmeeting Center. We were honored to participate in its dedication. Thanks to John Parker, the Missions Committee, Heartland Conference and all who made the trip possible for us. —G. Clair Sams

The Harvest in the WORLD

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Behold the Harvest
JOHN 4:35



1st Quarter September, October, November 2009

Cross Cultural Ministry—Reaching the World at our Doorstep

2nd Quarter December 2009, January, February 2010

Church Planting at Home and Abroad—More Churches or Mega Churches?

3rd Quarter March, April, May 2010

Cultivating a Harvester's View—"Lift up your eyes and look on the fields"

4th Quarter June, July, August 2010

Calling the Church to Send forth Laborers—"Pray the Lord of Harvest that He should send forth Laborers"