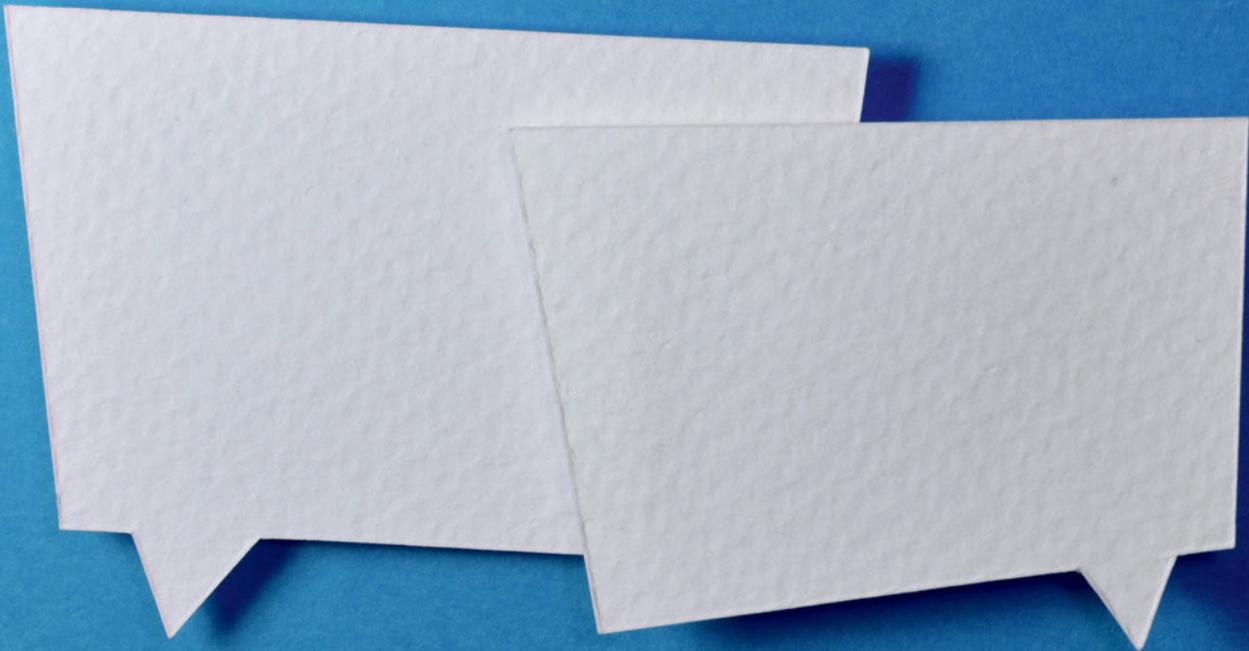


THE

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BIBLE METHODIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BIBLE METHODIST CONNECTION OF CHURCHES



MENTORS

A Crucial Component of
the Christian Life

From the Editor



Mentor: a trusted counselor or guide. P.W. Keve, a pioneer in the field of criminal justice wrote, “a mentor [is a person] who, because he is detached and disinterested, can hold up a mirror to us.”

This issue you will read articles that should challenge each of you. Historically, Christianity has known the importance of influencing others in their walk with Christ and other Christians. The Scriptures repeatedly remind us in the accounts of people highlighted and in the instructions given, that discipleship is an extremely valuable tool.

Too often we have failed to intentionally mentor or disciple others because of ignorance or indifference. The results of that lack produce inconsistency and confusion. Many people in my generation simply assumed that their children or newly converted Christians would know what maturing Christians should embrace and reject. Because American culture had for many years a strong Biblical foundation, many simply assumed people would know the values of their faith.

Scripture has been removed from our culture. Christian values have eroded. Christian behavior has devolved. As a result of the shift in the foundational understanding of Christianity and the behavior of its adherents, most people in North America have no real foundation for understanding the morals and character of Christianity.

Each of us influence others either intentionally or unintentionally. One of the great challenges a Believer faces is the choice to invest in the lives of others. It takes thought, prayer, time and commitment to mentor another. Parents are influencing their spouses and children. Teachers are influencing their students. Pastors are influencing the people who sit in the pew.

You may say I have little if anything to teach others. Don't I need a course to teach me, or curriculum to lead me? My answer would be, some help would be valuable. To meet that need you might ask those who have influenced you for help. You may also carefully follow Christ and allow his presence to lead you in teaching and helping others.

For people who feel hesitant to offer themselves as mentors, might ask the following question: “Does it not seem arrogant to try to teach someone else how to live?” The answer to that question would be, “if you are offering yourself, simply to reproduce yourself or your theory, yes. But if your desire is to influence others to a deeper walk with Christ, you have much to offer already.” Your desire in prayer, passion for people and willingness to be used is a great tool. Allow the Holy

Continue on page 6

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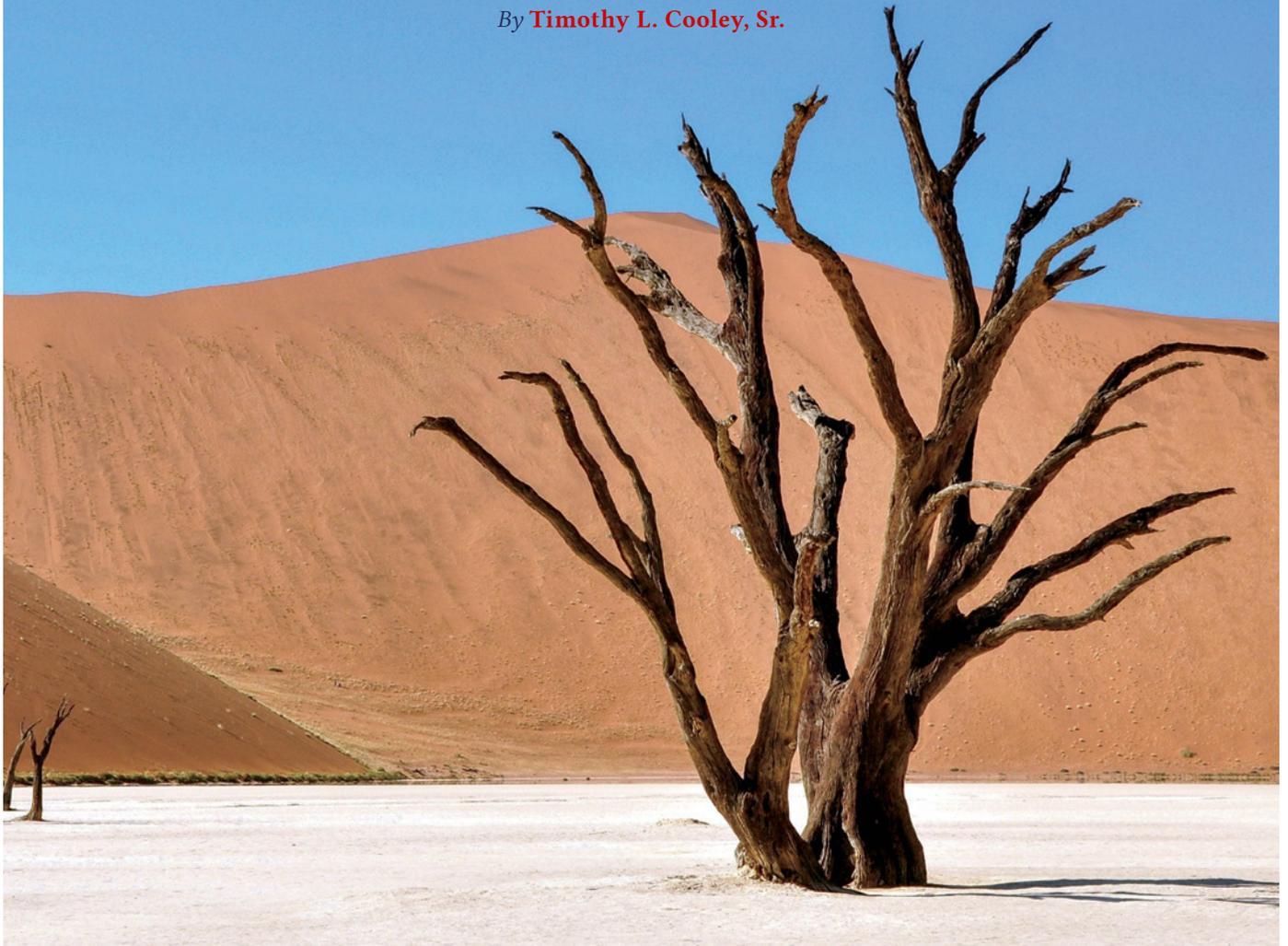
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OVERCOMING THE ELIJAH COMPLEX

By **Timothy L. Cooley, Sr.**



Elijah was a loner! He was a great man of God, but he liked to be alone. He needed people, but he preferred to be alone! When he was discouraged, he ran off **ALONE**, slid under a juniper bush, and prayed to die! **ALONE!** Not even God could talk sense to him. “Lord, they’ve killed all the good people. I’m the only one left, and they’re trying to kill me!” The Elijah Complex is discouraging and dangerous!

After God waited him out at the cave, He sent Elijah back to the same disheartening place to keep on ministering— anointing kings, rebuking sin, and preaching the One True God—in the northern kingdom of Israel where the kings were wicked and most of the people had forsaken the Lord! But God also gave him a wonderful gift: Elisha, a man who knew how to work with people, a man who could organize others

into teams, and a devoted disciple who could NOT be shaken off. Elijah was rarely separated from Elisha until the day Elijah left the planet, and even then, Elisha shouted out to let Elijah know he was with him until the final moment! Elijah became a mentor, even if against his will. And he grew! His ministry multiplied, his followers increased, schools of the prophets sprang up, and his history was documented for 100 generations to come. Elijah was “subject to like passions as we are” (James 5:17). He **needed** someone!

Jesus must have experienced far greater awareness of the differences between Himself and His followers and of how little they understood, than Elijah ever could have felt, but Jesus was **rarely alone**. Of course, He could do ministry better than any of His helpers, but He knew He had to build His message into people—close followers who would be transformed by the Holy Ghost to carry out His Great Commission. Were they weaklings? Yes. Did they understand His assignments fully? No! But He kept people with Him constantly! In fact, He had so many people around Him that His earthly family thought He had lost His mind! (Mark 3:20-21) He organized at least three circles of followers: groups of 3, 12 and 70, plus many more followers in varying degrees of closeness. Henderson observed that Jesus “preached to the masses, but explained to a few,” and “He called some ‘to be with Him’” (1983, p. 862). He invested heavily in discipling the 12 and in working with the 70. Jesus’ Model of ministry was whole life-to-life transformation. He had people with him, even when He was praying! (Luke 11:1). In Gethsemane, He yearned for their company in prayer (Matthew 26:36-44), was sorely disappointed in their failure, but did not give up on them. He did withdraw “from them about a stone’s cast” (Luke 22:41), but they were still close enough to hear what He said. Even after they dreadfully forsook Him, He went back (after His Resurrection!) to rally them, help them deal with their failure, and get them back on track.

The Multiplication Principle is that **Mentoring Multiplies your Ministry**. You cannot do everything that needs to be done, but you can be the catalyst that brings other active laborers into the harvest. You need to take seriously Jesus’ Prayer Request (Matthew 9:38)! Then having prayed and presented yourself as a worker, you need to bring helpers alongside as “workers together” with God (II Corinthians 6:1). “Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields” (John 4:35). If you don’t see more work than you can possibly do, you have not seen what Jesus intended! Get your eyes above the little tasks that you can accomplish and get a vision big enough to terrify you—to drive you to your knees begging for heavenly aid and for human helpers! Then empower them to harvest and pray they will be far more successful than you could ever be!

A son once told his father, “Dad, if I can be half the man you are, I’ll consider myself highly successful!” Soberly, the father replied, “Son, if you are not twice the man I am, I will consider myself a failure!” You cannot see now what God will do with even those you think are weaklings, but you must invest in them.

An undocumented, but frequently repeated story (Bell, 2017) illustrates the principle. “Drifting snow and bitter cold threatened the lives of Indian evangelist Sadhu Sundar Singh and his Tibetan companion as they crossed a Himalayan

mountain pass. Fighting the ‘sleep of death,’ they stumbled over a mound in the trail. It was a man, half dead. The Tibetan refused to stop but continued on alone. The compassionate Sadhu, however, shouldered the burden the best he could. Through his struggling, he began to warm up, as did the unconscious man. But before reaching the village they found the Tibetan—frozen to death.”

I **need** to help others! Not only for their good, but for my own survival! Henderson (1997, p. 132) wrote, “Human nature is perfected by participation in groups, not by acting as isolated individuals.”

The Witness Principle is that “**except when needing to be alone for a specific reason, every opportunity should be taken to do things with at least one other person**” (Kornfield, 1982, pp. 70). You need helpers, and they need someone to help them.

The Impact Principle is that generally the impact we make on others “will be directly proportional to the **quantity of time**” you spend with them “**times the quality of time!**” (Kornfield, 1982, pp. 69). You may be disappointed how many times other people miss your point, but you don’t know which lessons will stick. Some mundane incident may be galvanizing to your helpers.

As Wesley struggled to keep the newly converted faithful, he recognized the necessity of assembling them “to watch over each other” and to have special meetings “apart from the great congregation, that they might instruct, rebuke, exhort, and pray with them and for them, according to their several necessities” (1748, p. 251). It was a system of mentoring in groups that bound the Methodists together in a force that transformed nations, much greater than the “rope of sand” that Whitefield later realized his unconnected converts had become (Etheridge, 1859, p. 189).

Hendricks and Hendricks (1995, p. 78) urged, “You need a Paul. You need a Barnabas. And you need a Timothy”: 1) “an older man who can build into [your] life”; 2) “a soul brother to whom [you] can be accountable”; and 3) “a younger man into whose life [you are] building.”

Mentoring is not finding a water boy who will do your menial tasks. We’re in the Lord’s harvest, where there is always a shortage of laborers. We need to develop leaders, who will develop other leaders in ever expanding circles. ■

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MENTORING

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

By **R.G. Hutchison**

If you've ever Googled the word "mentor," you may have stumbled across an obscure fellow from Greek mythology who went by that name. The story goes that Mentor was the trusted friend of Odysseus, a powerful king. Odysseus committed to Mentor the responsibility of educating and advising his son Telemachus, while he was busy fighting a war in some distant land.

Now, let me tell you about something that is not a myth. There are people all around you who need someone they can

trust as a friend, an adviser, a teacher. They need someone who is willing to be more than just another sage on a stage, dispensing wisdom from a distance. They need someone who is willing to take the slow and humble path of walking alongside them while pointing them to that road less travelled, which we know as the straight and narrow way of Christ. In other words, they need a mentor.

But what does mentoring actually look like? One of the best descriptions I can think of comes from someone so familiar to

us that we tend to overlook something very significant about his life. I'm talking about the apostle Paul. Now, I know that when you think of Paul, you probably think of things like missionary journeys, shipwrecks, church fights, prison cells, and deep, theologically-robust letters. But when did Paul ever say anything about mentoring? Well, in one sense, he didn't – at least not so as you might quickly notice. Why? Because, for Paul, mentoring meant something very personal. Something down-to-earth. Something that was so interwoven into the fabric of ordinary things that it almost went without saying. Let's look at one example of this.

For one year and six months of Paul's life, mentoring meant moving to the city of Corinth where he ended up living with a Christian Jewish couple, Priscilla and Aquila, while also working with them in their tent making business (Acts 18:1-4; 11). Priscilla and Aquila had come to Corinth from Rome after Claudius had expelled all Jews from that city (Acts 18:2). In Corinth, they could start over, and prosper in plying their trade as tent makers. Then along comes Paul, who is also a Jew and of the same trade.

Now, we know that during this same time, Paul engaged in some very public forms of ministry—first in the local synagogue (18:4-5) and then in the home of Titius Justus, which was next door to the synagogue from which he had been expelled (18:6-7). But all of this notwithstanding, have you ever considered the exponential impact he had simply by sharing not only public ministry, but also daily life with this devout couple? Day after day, month after month, they worked together, ate together, talked, shared, and ministered together.

Furthermore, during their time in Corinth, we also know that Priscilla and Aquila also had a significant influence on the life and preaching ministry of an eloquent up-and-coming leader named Apollos (Acts 18:24-26). Apollos was an eloquent speaker, and quite knowledgeable of the scriptures. But in some particulars of doctrine, his understanding was still lacking. Now, how do you suppose that a couple of tent makers like Priscilla and Aquila would have the discernment even to pick up on this need in Apollos's preaching? It's possible that some of the other brethren in Corinth were quite impressed, and didn't see any need! And what would have given them the clarity and confidence to approach him with gentleness and humility to offer their help? Perhaps those long hours spent with Paul had something to do with this. But then there is more. Priscilla and Aquila eventually were able to return to Rome where Paul continued to refer to them as his "fellow workers" (Romans 16:3). But Apollos went on to "water" the gospel seeds that Paul had "planted" in Corinth (1 Cor. 3:6) and became one of Paul's valued colleagues in the ministry.

Now, what I have just described to you happened many times over throughout the course of Paul's ministry. Of course, names like Luke or Timothy are so familiar that they hardly stand out to most of us. But what about Andronicus, Apphia, Archippus, Carpus, Demus, Epaphroditus, Erastus, Lucius, Lydia, Jason, Junia, Nymphus, Onesiphorus, Phebe, Tyrannus, Urbane, Gaius, Aristarchus, Sopater, Secundus, Tychicus, Trophimus, Mark, Demas, Epaphras, Onesimus, Philemon, Silas, Tertius, Titus, and Justus? Either Luke or Paul (or both) mentions each one of these names. Some of

them appear several times in the New Testament.

And these names are not just a list of contributors scrolling by at the end of a great film. No, they are all significant characters in the story of the early church. And what do they all have in common? At some time, in some way or other, they all were influenced by Paul as his life intersected with theirs in very ordinary, yet God-ordained ways. Some for only a short time. Others for many long months or even years. He stayed in their homes. Ate meals at their tables. Walked beside them as they traveled from one town or province to another. Suffered with them during times of physical persecution, ship wreck, and other hardships. Some of them sat with him in prison and assisted him with writing his letters. But make no mistake about it. All of this was an inseparable part of the mentoring relationship between Paul and these developing leaders. When Priscilla and Aquila had spent many a long hour beside him making and selling tents and holding meetings in their home or the homes of others, they absorbed far more than just the theology of his epistles. They also absorbed the very heartbeat and passion of his life. And the result was unquestionable.

So, that's what mentoring looks like. The doing of it looks very humble. Very ordinary. Not all that impressive. But the long-term result of intentionally living with a mentoring mindset is what Jesus describes as fruit that abides because it flows out of a life of dependence upon him (John 15:1-16).

Who are the people with whom your daily life intersects the most? Have you considered that some of them may be the very ones who God has entrusted to you for the purpose of mentoring? ■

R.G. Hutchison ministers in the Philippines. He is actively involved in the Shepherd's College and other training institutes in the Philippines.

Continued from page 2

Spirit and other mature Christians to mentor you and then take that learning and influence as a resource to help others.

Understand some people have no desire to be discipled or mentored. I have watched people remove themselves from the counsel and leadership of others. It is heartbreaking to see a thoroughly gifted and capable person move away from the spiritual leadership the Lord has providentially placed in their lives. At times mentoring will not work, but the chance of someone turning away does not remove the rich value of personal commitment.

One of the most valuable investments I have ever made was a sacrifice to spend significant time with a new Christian. It took hours almost every day. It meant purposefully praying together, spending time in the Scriptures and just drinking coffee and talking, but the result was discipleship that is productive almost 30 years later.

Allow the people among whom you worship to mentor you and make yourself available to mentor others. ■

G. Clair Sams
Editor

A MINISTRY MENTOR

By **Nathan Gumbiner**

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "This is what applies to the Levites: from twenty-five years old and upward they shall enter to perform service in the work of the tent of meeting. But at the age of fifty years they shall retire from service in the work and not work any more. They may, however, assist their brothers in the tent of meeting, to keep an obligation, but they themselves shall do no work. (Numbers 8:23-26)

Shortly after I graduated in 2010 I was sitting in a Starbucks with three of my friends and I asked this question, "If you were on staff at a church what is one thing you would want?" We went around the table and most of the responses were what you might expect until my friend Lucas answered. He said something that I had never heard before, "I would want a ministry mentor." We talked about it for a little while and left but those words stayed in my mind and nagged at me time after time.

Now that I'm ten years into ministry, one of my fears is that I will come to a point in my ministry where I am no longer relevant. I believe this is a fear that many in ministry and leadership face. Questions nag at the back of their minds like: Is my ministry really over? What do I do after ministry? Will I be useful to anyone? Will anyone be interested in what I have to say or the things I've learned?

A serious problem I see in the church today are pastors who stay at a church or ministry beyond their ability to cast vision for where God is leading. This problem causes a loss of mission and vision which leads to a loss of unity, passion for the Kingdom, and ultimately causes a church to become stagnant.

Allow me to ask, what if pastors understood the true benefit of mentoring the next generation of pastors, leaders, missionaries, and strong laymen? Here at EastLake we've seen the blessing of bringing in new young people every year, training them to be men and women of the Word and of prayer (Acts 6:4), and teaching them that life and ministry are about connecting to God, connecting to others, which leads to doing something great for the Kingdom of God. These young

people bring fresh ideas and energy and while they are being mentored, the church is being blessed.

I believe God instituted a principle in Numbers chapter 8 that helps us see a glimpse of what this may look like. Please note that the ages mentioned were for the Levites and not necessarily for us today.

When we look at Numbers 8, in conjunction with Numbers chapter 4, we see that God's requirement for active duty was age 30-50 years old. Numbers 4:3, 23, and 30 all make reference to this. In Numbers 8:24 it says that the Levites were allowed into active service at 25 years old. These first five years were years of training and preparation under their older, wiser, Levites and at the age of 30 they entered into full responsibility of their official duties. At the age of 50, Numbers 8:25 says that they were to withdraw from the duty of service and serve no more. Verse 26 goes on to say that they were to minister to their brothers but do no service.

Now, I'm not saying that 50 year olds should immediately withdraw from ministry. I think pastors should just be hitting their prime in their 50's. The idea here is that of mentorship of the next generation of pastors. It's at this point that pastors must begin to think seriously about the legacy they will leave for the Kingdom of God. Many times pastoral legacy's are measured by the number of people who attend a church, perhaps even the facilities that have developed during the tenure of the pastor. I believe that the true measure of a pastoral legacy is not how many people have come to the church, but how many people were sent out to be pastors, church planters, missionaries, teachers, worship leaders, and strong laymen for the Kingdom of God.

So what is a ministry mentor? To be honest my view on this has changed since that initial conversation with my college buddies. I believe there are multiple ways for older pastors to mentor and develop young men and women for the work of the Kingdom. You can hire a semi-retired pastor to mentor you and your staff and help them leave a legacy but I honestly believe that the time to mentor the next generation of pastors is now. Do it while you have the energy and ability to pour into their lives. Surround yourself with young people who have a passion for the Kingdom; it will keep you young! And they have the energy to help carry out the vision that God is giving you for your church or ministry!

Do I have all the answers? NO! I'm just a guy who hasn't even been a senior pastor yet. However, God has allowed me to sit under a pastor, leader, and mentor over the past six years who truly cares about sending men and women out to make a difference for the Kingdom of God. I've watched him as he's poured his heart and soul into young people to help them develop in their relationship with God and how they connect with others so that they can be sent out and do something great for the Kingdom.

This year my wife and I will be leaving our church of six years to plant a church in Frisco, TX. Honestly it's exciting and terrifying all at the same time but the vision to multiply believers, leaders, and churches that has been instilled in me over the past six years by a man who saw the vision to train up the next generation is what drives me to go, to invest my life in multiplying believers, training up leaders, and planting church to expand the work of the Kingdom of God! ■

WORLD MISSIONS

NEWS UPDATE

TIMOTHY KEEP | MISSIONS DIRECTOR



By the Kindness of Strangers

God's protection takes on many forms. In my first few months on the field, it was present as the companionship of seasoned missionaries, the instructions of my Filipino friends, my fellow-believer tricycle "sukis" (go-to drivers) – and in moments of unexpected or unknown predicaments, and in the kindness of complete strangers.

One such stranger was the young office clerk in a metro rail train in Manila. "Overcrowded" is the general state of being of any public transport in the capital. It was no different that particular morning while loading at the station, when I was doing my best to take up as little space in the corner of the carriage where I was standing. Yet, in a complete break with the "push into every possible standing space" policy, a young man made his way to a few inches away from me, smiled reassuringly in my direction, turned around, and despite people shoving against him, refused to move – creating a barrier between me and whoever was on his other side. He did so for the next 3 stops and 15 minutes of people pushing their way around the carriage. Whether he knew of an actual threat, or was preventing a possible one, I could never make out. But evidently he thought it was needed enough to make a significant break with custom, for which I was thankful

(and hoped that it did not supply him with a stock of bruises).

Another was the passenger of a cement truck. Returning home from language school one day, down a busy street, I discovered, as I turned a corner, that the sidewalk a few yards in front of me was blocked by a rather boisterous crowd. A large cement truck parked on the side of the road made circling them impossible, and there was no crossing the road amid the fast-moving traffic. Before I had time to react, the truck passenger noticed my predicament from the cab, got out, and motioned me to follow him. He then proceeded to walk along the road-side of the truck, into oncoming traffic, signaling for traffic to keep towards the middle of the road, so that I could follow him safely to the sidewalk beyond the truck. Once there, he nodded and smiled at my surprised thank-you and hurried back to his post.

Admittedly, I'm thankful that situations warranting such help have been quite few and far in between. As in most of our lives, our Father makes good on His promise to protect us in unseen, ordinary ways. Yet, there are those moments, every once in a while, where He gives a clearer glimpse of His ever-present goodness, which, perhaps along with a temporarily elevated pulse rate, leaves us with a renewed sense of gratitude toward the One in whose Hands we are.

– Maricka Herrero

New Graduates from the Shepherd's College

Recent graduates include (L–R) Arvin Lauigan (3-year diploma in Bible and Christian Ministry), Blessie Galarpez, Ericka Comilang, Jenny Lagleva, and Thoby Canceran (all graduating with 4-year bachelor's degree in Bible and Christian Ministry).

Pastor Arvin and Pastor Thoby are each being assigned to minister at outstations of their respective home churches. Ericka is preparing to enroll in a library science program at a local university in order to be able to take on the librarian position at the Shepherd's College library, if God so leads. Jenny remains active in children's ministry and other ministries of her local church and is open to other doors of ministry which



God will open in the future. Blessie is praying for God's guidance in the next chapter of her life after graduation.

Annual Youth Conference in Mexico

Over 100 young people from many of our Mexico BMC congregations gathered in San Gabriel, Mexico for an annual youth conference. Missionary, Brennan Muir, testified that it was the best youth convention he's attended there. Let's pray fervently for our youth in Mexico, and especially that the Lord of the Harvest would raise up Christian workers among them!



A Long-Awaited Trip Back to Southern Mexico

God is still miraculous in the things He does and allows to happen. Approximately six months ago, I told Rita that I would love to go back to the mountains of San Gabriel, Mixtepec, Mexico. I wanted so much to visit the Mission Work and people that we had learned to love over the years that she and I had worked in Mexico under Bible Methodist Missions. Well, time went by and this past February I was on the Campus of God's Bible School and College and I had the privilege of talking to Bro. Tim Keep. During our conversation, Bro. Keep told me that he was going to Mexico in April, that he was going to San Gabriel, and wondered if I would be able to go with him to interpret during a National Board Meeting. My response was, "I will check a few things and get back with you" which I did and the answer was "Yes!



I will go." So, on April 16th I was honored to travel to this mountainous area with Bro. Tim Keep, Bro. Brennan Muir and Bro. Mark Wells. What an exciting trip! We traveled by Plane, taxi, bus and on foot, and it was very much worth all of the effort. I rejoiced in seeing the church, the town, and some of the people that I had learned to love; people who are not just Christian brothers and sisters, but friends. I received

A Lesson from Silence

Prior to the departure for Oaxaca my prayer was; Lord, I'm not sure I have much to offer to those we are going to visit. I wrestled with understanding what my role was for the trip. I've never been to Mexico and I don't speak fluent Spanish. I prayed, "Lord, is my job to go and influence or to be influenced?" I asked the Lord to show me throughout the trip what my role is to be.

Within a few minutes of observing and communicating through a translator with the local pastor and the evangelist I knew clearly that God was going to speak to me. God spoke to me throughout this trip, though not through the words of the people. God spoke to me very clearly while in a place where all I could do was listen and watch.

I'm praying for a few of the young men that I was able to interact with at the church in San Gabriel. They had a contagious desire to be mentored; to grow in God's grace.

This opportunity lead me to return home asking the Lord: "Father, am I living as closely to you as I can? Am I daily seeking you with the same spirit as those I had just witnessed?" I return home challenged to be a more purposeful servant to the Lord, my family, and those around me. – Mark Wells

smiles, handshakes and hugs during my time there. It made me feel at home. We returned home on April 20th and I was rejoicing in my heart for the way God used Bro. Tim Keep to make me a very happy person. To God be all the Honor and Glory for the things He has done. – Edwin Tomes

ALABAMA REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

JOHN PARKER | CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



Winter Indoor Camp

We had a great week of worship, music, and ministry at the annual Indoor Camp Meeting. Rev. Stephen Parker and the Young Witnesses were our Evangelistic Team! The house was packed and the services were great! Spiritual needs were met!



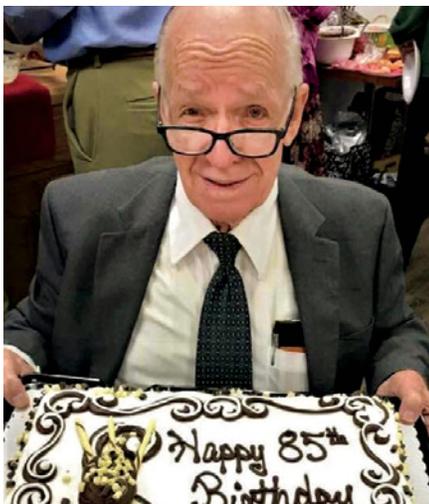
Honoring a Missionary

Sister Marilyn Marchant, missionary to the Bahama Islands and member of our Ada Chapel Church, was honored by Hobe Sound Bible College as the Alumnus of the Year. She has faithfully served in ministry as a missionary for many years, enduring hardships and sacrifices, and is deserving of this honor!



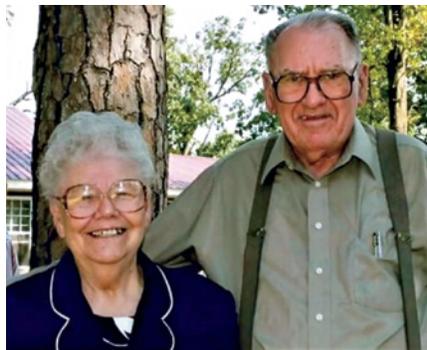
Tarrant, Alabama

The Tarrant Bible Methodist Church family celebrated Rev. Gerald Bragg's 85th Birthday, February 10, 2019.



Rev. A.L. Knight

Rev. A.L. Knight went to heaven on March 11, 2019. He will live on in the hearts of many he ministered to and mentored in the conference and communities he pastored. He was a model pastor and passionate preacher of the Word! He leaves behind a great legacy of faithful service to the Kingdom of God!



Waycross, Alabama

Sarah Cook, Pastor Ron Cook's wife, demonstrates to her Sunday School children the Servant Heart of Jesus as she washes their feet. It was a touching and enlightening experience for these children!



Tuscaloosa, Alabama

The Tuscaloosa Church is remodeling and upgrading their new church property and campus.



India

Dr. R.G. Hutchison and Conf. President, Rev. John Parker were the speakers for a Pastor's Conference in Southern India in March. They also spoke for Outdoor Evangelistic Meetings in a number of villages where large crowds gathered late into the night to hear the Gospel. They were there on the invitation of Rev. Rick Hutchison, Director of Barnabus Ministries.



Greensboro, Alabama

Greensboro Bible Methodist Church honored Pastor Steve and Kay Vernon for his 40th year in pastoral ministry! They also included John & Cathy Parker who are also celebrating 40 years in ministry. It was a great day! (Officially Old-Timers!)



Rev. James William Bryant

Rev. James William Bryant, age 76 of Ider, Alabama, passed from this life Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at his residence after a long battle with cancer. Rev. Bryant served as pastor of the Flat Rock Bible Methodist Church. Funeral services were held at Corner Stone Funeral Chapel with Pastor Gary Smith officiating.



ALABAMA HEADLINES

March 4, 2019

23 Killed in Alabama Tornadoes

Tornadoes rip through the Lee County Community where Rev. & Mrs. Walter Hedstrom live wreaking devastation and death!



GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

BLAKE JONES | CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



Dawn Valley, Ontario

Clarissa Krohn is the producer of *Teach His Way*. Her husband, Rev. Joe Krohn, pastors the Dawn Valley Bible Methodist Church near Tupperville, Ontario, Canada.



Teach His Way

Children's ministry is an exciting way to change lives but can get expensive. God has placed a desire in my heart to help those who are involved in ministry, by making curriculum affordable and ready for the busy ministry leader to use. My goal for this website is to free up your time by offering completely

planned out lesson themes, single lessons, and stories. The materials sold on Teach His Way can be used for VBS, Sunday school, Kids Clubs, Jr. Church, or any children's ministry.

Each theme includes; Bible stories told in creative fun ways, memory verse activities, games with clip art

included, suggested songs, decorating ideas, and always a fun "extra" that is unique to each individual theme. Some themes include object lessons, giant discovery Bible, puppet skits, science experiments, and exciting continued stories!

Find out more at
TEACHHISWAY.WORDPRESS.COM

Cedar Springs, Michigan

Sunday evening, March 31st, the Great Lakes Executive Committee and a wonderful group of conference pastors and laymen welcomed the Pilgrim Bible Church into the Great Lakes Conference. Pilgrim Bible Church is located in Cedar Springs, Michigan, and Rev. David Ward is the pastor.



Community Good Friday Service

The Rock Lake Bible Methodist Church and the community churches of the Vestaburg area hosted the Penn View Bible Institute Choir in the public school gymnasium. There were 388 present and the offering was over \$2,300.



Rock Lake Bible Methodist
CAMPMEETING
July 12-21, 2019



8101 Pine Grove Rd. North
Vestaburg, MI 48891



Evangelist
Rev. Daniel Durkee



Evangelist
Rev. Tim Keep



Singers - Rev. and Mrs. Marc Sankey

Registrar - Rev. David Ward
Ph (231) 250-7111
Camp Vice Pres. - Rev. Dennis Johnson
Ph (616) 894-8484
Camp Pres. - Rev. Blake Jones
Ph. (989) 944-1404

Rock Lake Bible Methodist
CAMPMEETING
July 12-21, 2019



Becky Keep
Ladies' Speaker
Wed. and Thurs.
at 3:30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Prayer/Communion 9:00 a.m.
Morning Service 10:00 a.m.
Afternoon Meeting 2:30 p.m.
Evening Service 6:30 p.m.

WEEKDAY SCHEDULE
Prayer 9:00 a.m.
Youth Prayer 9:00 a.m.
Morning Service 10:30 a.m.
& Children's Service
Youth Service 3:30 p.m.
& Children's Activity
Evening Service 7:00 p.m.
In Rooms 11:00 p.m.



The Davis Family - Children's Evangelist

	AM	AFT	EVE
FRI		Conf	Durk
SAT	Conf	Conf	Sing
SUN	Missions	Missions	Keep
MON	Keep	Youth	Durkee
TUE	Durkee	Youth	Keep
WED	Keep	Youth	Durkee
THR	Durkee	Youth	Keep
FRI	Keep	Youth	Durkee
SAT	Durkee	Baptism	Keep
SUN	Pres	Keep	Durkee

Welcome!

HEARTLAND REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

CHRIS CRAVENS | CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



Dayton IHC

The Heartland Conference was represented along with our other conferences and missions organizations at the Inter-church Holiness Convention in Dayton, Ohio! Thanks to so many who came by the booth and chatted! Several of our conference men preached at the convention including Jack Hooker, Aaron and Brian Wardlaw, and Rodney Loper. Angela Marriott and others from the Findlay Bible Methodist Church led the convention children's services. Congratulations to Valorie Quesenberry, wife of Pastor Duane Quesenberry, for her great achievement in writing the book about Dr. H.E. Schmul which was published by the I.H.C.



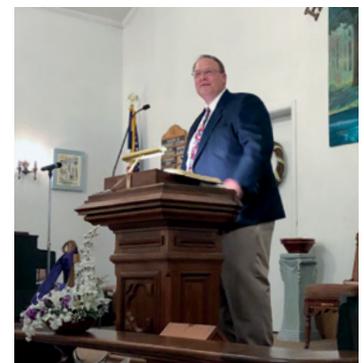
Gratz, Pennsylvania

Heartland Elder, Dr. David and Marilee Bubb along with President Cravens and the pastoral staff of the Emmanuel Wesleyan Church of Gratz, PA posed for a picture. Pastor Bubb had the Cravens at Gratz for their Spring Revival.



Grafton, West Virginia

President Cravens and several of the Executive Committee invested in a weekend meeting with the wonderful people in the Grafton, WV area. President Cravens is pictured here with Conference Preacher, David Maley, Elder Sonny McNear and their wives. Vice-president, Deron Fourman preached to the youth on Friday night!



Beulah Grove Improvements

Praise the Lord for 140 beautiful, upholstered chairs donated to Beulah Grove! Thank you to Mike and Amy Eavey, along with Jim and Joy Spear for getting the chairs to Beulah Grove! The Brugger Youth Tabernacle is undergoing various interior upgrades. Another improvement is the addition of a snack shack. All materials and labor have been donated toward the construction of a beautiful Snack Shack on the east end of the pavilion! This gift was almost \$6,000.00 in materials, not including delivery and construction which was also being 100% donated. God continues to work miracles! Thank you to all who made this dream come true!



Fairmont, West Virginia

President Cravens dedicated Grayson Josiah Grissom at the Fairmont Bible Methodist Church, Sunday, April 7. Grayson is the youngest son of Pastor Wesley and Jennifer Grissom. Also pictured is the children's worship event under the direction of Becky Simms. It was a great Lord's Day at Fairmont!



Columbus, Indiana

The Bible Methodist Church in Columbus, Indiana celebrates their 1 year anniversary! Congratulations to Pastor Rocker and congregation!



MID-AMERICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

DARRELL STETLER II | CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



Youth Challenge West

Youth Challenge West was held for the first time this year! It was at Salyer Lake in Oklahoma. Many of our youth were in attendance.



Top: YC West Committee L-R, Alex Dodsworth, Caleb Crouch, Kinneth Hurst, Darrell Stetler II, Eric Going, Eric Hughes, Bryan Jones; **Left:** Youth Challenge West; **Above:** The delegation from Servant's Heart Chapel in Clovis, New Mexico at Youth Challenge West

Virgil Tyler

Virgil Tyler, one of the original members of OKC Bible Methodist Church, celebrated his 90th birthday in April. We did some calculating, and he's been saved longer than anyone else in our church has been alive! We're thankful for those, like Virgil and his wife Reeda, who have faithfully walked the Way before us!



Salina, Kansas

Living Hope Salina Bible Methodist Church held revival services with Bro. Nathan Bryant. God's presence was very close.



Summer Camp Meetings

Mid-America Conference began with a strategy of partnership with regard to our camp meetings. Since we don't have many churches, we choose to just be "good citizens" of the

holiness movement wherever we are in the Midwest. So, Bible Methodist pastors & laymen attend, serve and lead multiple camps in the Mid-America region.

Kansas State Holiness Youth Camp June 10-14

Location:
Enterprise, Kansas

Ochelata Youth Camp July 8-12

Location:
Ochelata, Oklahoma

Kansas State Holiness Association Camp July 15-21

Location:
McPherson, Kansas
Evangelists:
Chris King and David Spivey
Bible Teacher:
Joseph Smith
Singers:
John and Lori Whitaker
Youth:
Frank Heidler
Children:
Cheryl Brewer

Heartland Holiness Camp July 23-28

Location:
Glencoe, Oklahoma
Evangelists:
Chad Snider and Nathan Bryant
Singers:
Jonathan and Jalena Glick
Youth:
Nathan Becker
Children:
Brenton and Kim Blake
Register:
heartlandholinesscamp.com

Following Christ

“If anyone would come after me...”

ComeAfterMe.com has a wide range of Bible study and discipleship materials for both new and mature believers. Use them for your personal or family devotions, or in a church or small group setting.

FIND OUT MORE AT

ComeAfterMe.com





DR. JAMES KEATON

The Bible Methodist: Would you tell us about your conversion to Christianity?

Dr. Keaton: I was converted as a 10 year old child. My family lived in Virginia and some group erected a tent for evangelism and during one of the services I was saved. That experience was an anchor for my life.

How did you receive your call to ministry?

My understanding of my call to ministry was unique. I don't recall a day of my life when I didn't sense that I was called to ministry. As a small child I would preach my heart out, even if a catalog was my only Bible. When my family would have company, I would stand in the doorway between the rooms and preach to the guests. At 19, my wife and I were singing in a revival. During one of the services God spoke to me and asked, "when are you going to answer the call to

preach?" During the alter call, Saturday night, I went to the alter and committed myself to God's direction for my life. When I announced that I was answering God's call to preach, the evangelist said, "Since he is called, James will preach in the morning." That meant I had to preach Sunday morning. I spent the night seeking the Lord for a message. That morning I preached about the fig tree. The alter was lined with seekers. That experience has been followed by 50 years of preaching.

What are some highlights of your life?

The first thing that comes to mind is, the next invitation to preach. I have had many wonderful opportunities in life. The opportunities in leadership honored me, but preaching is the highlight of my life.

My family are an incredible blessing, even the tough times have been good. I am deeply grateful for sons and family in ministry. It is a rich blessing to know my children and family are involved and richly blessed in ministry.

Is there anything you would do differently if you could?

I wish, in some areas of responsibility I had been better equipped. I feel my strength has been loving people and have attempted to administrate from that strength.

What would you like to say to The Bible Methodist family?

The Bible Methodists are a vine God planted and they are in an appropriate time. It seems to me the duty and opportunity of Bible Methodists of this generation is to take the gospel to the people among whom they are living and ministering.

I am extremely grateful for the Bible Methodist family, and deeply appreciate their love for and embrace of me, my family and ministry. ■

Legacy Gifts



There are several ways to partner with one of the Ministries of the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches that can make a long term financial difference in that Ministry. You can make a **Memorial Gift** in someone's honor. You can leave a **Charitable Bequest** for a fixed

dollar amount or a percentage of your total estate or percentage of the residual of your estate. You can make a **Planned Gift** through a revocable trust, a will, a gift of real estate or from tax-deferred retirement assets.

Your gift to a local church, a Conference, a Camp or to a

Missions project can make a huge difference!

If you are interested in talking to someone about this please contact:

Michael Avery
General Connectional Chairman
(513) 218-8502

Heartland Family Camp

June 17–23, 2019

Ordination

June 17

President Chris Cravens

Conference Sermon

June 18

John Manley

Evangelist

Rev. Rollin Mitchell

Bible Study

Nathan Brown

Singers

Matt & Joy Barnett

Youth Ministry

David Hartkopf

Children's Ministry

Heidi Turner

Registration

Wendy Stephani

(740) 418-7092

Amy Eavey

(260) 312-5564

Alabama Family Camp

July 1–7, 2019

Evangelists

Rev. Mark Cravens

Rev. William Snider

Singers

Matt & Joy Barnett

Youth Speaker

Judah Yucaddi

Children's Ministry

Angela Marriott

Registration

Randall Crotts

(256) 295-4002

rjcrotts@juno.com

Rock Lake Family Camp

July 12–21, 2019

Annual Conference

July 12–13

Evangelists

Rev. Dan Durkee

Rev. Timothy Keep

Singers

Rev. & Mrs. Marc Sankey

Children's Evangelist

Rev. & Mrs. Gene Davis

Registration

Rev David Ward

(231) 250-7111