

# FROM THE EDITOR



G. Clair Sams

We have just concluded camp meeting season. In this issue you will have the opportunity to read about and see pictures of each Conference's youth and family camp.

If you will, we have enjoyed a week of sanctuary. A time set aside to worship, fellowship, and celebrate God's presence among the churches and conferences. God desire to meet with His people is met in a unique way during camp meeting. Remember Jeremiah wrote 17:12-13, "A glorious throne set on high from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary. O LORD, the hope of Israel..." Gathering in God's presence among God's people creates a place of meeting, a sanctuary where the hope and presence of God is made real. We have the special privilege of approaching the throne of God.

A few weeks ago, Melba and I talked with a pastor among the Southern Baptists who talked of missing family camp. He sensed a longing to gather with believers in the unique setting known as camp. He expressed a longing to come into God's presence in this way.

The gathering of pastors and their congregations, parents and their families and people with their friends is special. We create deep and lasting spiritual and relational connections with the Lord and His people at camp. The sacrifice, commitment and investment of camp is well worth it. Take a week of vacation, save some money for the offering, go to camp! At camp God's throne is approached in a special way, His sanctuary is open uniquely, and His people are touched intentionally.

Celebrate what God has done and is doing.

#### THE BIBLE METHODIST

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# THE BIBLE METHODIST: WHERE WERE YOU BORN? AND TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR EARLY YEARS.

#### TIM KEEP: I was born in Grand

Rapids, Michigan. I am the second of three children and am just fifteen months younger than my sister, Janel. Shortly after I was born, my dad answered the call to the ministry and my parents moved to Cincinnati, Ohio where my dad began studying at God's Bible School. During that time my brother Dave joined our family.

My growing up years were adventurous. We moved a good bit and the ministry carried us from West Virginia, where dad planted and helped to build a new Wesleyan Methodist Church, to Ohio, where dad not only pastored but built another church. We then spent an unforgettable year in Tacoma, Washington, helping again with church planting. My greatest memories of those Tacoma days were of hiking in the great outdoors at the base of Mt Rainer, fishing in Puget Sound with dad and Dave, hiking through awe inspiring Douglas Fir forests, and soaking in the breathtaking views all around our home.

When I was eleven, we moved back east to Greenville, Pennsylvania where my dad would pastor the Greenville Allegheny Wesleyan Methodist Church for the next 10 years. As a teen, I loved to work and had a small lawn business. I rode my bike all over Greenville, pulling my lawnmower behind me. I loved to play sports and although my dad and brother thrived on the hunting and fishing, I'd go along mostly just to be in the outdoors. I never had much patience or desire for the actual hunt, or for sitting in a boat for long periods of time. Often when fishing, they'd drop me off on the shore and I'd figure out a way to throw and catch a ball while they labored over "dinner." Dad often took us to local gyms or softball

fields and played basketball or softball with us—even football on occasion. He also taught Dave and me the game of golf. This, I loved!

#### WHEN DID YOU BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

As a young person, I had a desire for God. I sought the Lord many times, but never experienced assurance of salvation. My mother was a very prayerful woman and both our parents taught us the Word of God. Memorizing scripture was a normal part of my growing up years and my dad rewarded us for doing so. Conversely, failing to meet our scripture requirements often kept us from playing outside on Saturday mornings. My siblings and I memorized the entire book of I John, the book of James, numerous Psalms, and other passages of scripture. Nevertheless, as I moved into my teen years, I became wayward and pushed back against my parents and what I considered to be the strict and unreasonable rules of the church. I started getting into trouble, hanging out with the wrong people, getting into fights, and was headed down a troubling road. And while I never caused any serious problems, my parents became convinced that they

needed to get me out of Greenville.

My mom's brother, Steven Hickman was teaching at a small bible school in Westfield, Indiana where, he assured my mom, they would welcome me even though I was just a junior in high school. I would be able to work on campus, go to school, and be surrounded by godly people and influences. This is how I ended up at Union Bible Academy.

I loved being there! It was new and exciting and everyone was kind. However, my bad behavior followed me, and I found myself expelled from school within a couple of months. Although I didn't admit it at the time, I was devastated and ashamed. I knew that I had let my parents down. I had let myself down.

My dad picked up the phone and called then-President Jim Southerland and asked if they would consider giving me another chance. He agreed (not without a lot of conditions) and that choice changed the trajectory of my life. I recently had the opportunity to thank him again for not giving up on me.

It was shortly after my return to UBC that we had school revival with the late Rev. R.E. Carroll. One evening he gave an invitation at the end of his message. I was under deep conviction but didn't respond until a faithful friend, through his tears, invited me to pray. I went forward that night and surrendered my life to Jesus. That night, January 20, 1986, my life was forever changed. It was more than a decision—there was a transformation that took place. I've failed the Lord many times since then, but His grace has held me fast.

#### WHERE DID YOU MEET BECKY?

I met Becky (Keaton) at UBC and shortly after my conversion we began dating. I knew that she was the girl I wanted to marry! We were married just two years later after she graduated from high school.

## WHEN DID YOU DECIDE TO ENTER THE MINISTRY?

I began to feel during the first year of our marriage that God had something specific for us to do. Becky and I worked hard, saved money, and decided to move to Hobe Sound Bible College to begin our preparation. Becky would attend Indian River Community College and obtain a nursing degree.

I enrolled in the ministerial program at HSBC, but at the beginning of my sophomore year I knew that I was to change my major to missions. It was also that year that we welcomed our first child, Valerie. It was wonderful and difficult all at the same time. Becky worked evenings and so, for the remainder of my college years, Valerie was my "studying-buddy" at night. Becky and I grew up quickly as we had this new little person to care for while we navigated work and college.

During my junior year of college, Dr. Michael Avery came to speak to us during a leadership conference. He was currently serving as the Director for Bible Methodist Missions and shared about a new

and exciting work taking place in the Philippines. He told of a church planting movement in the Cordillera (mountainous) region led by pastor David Yuccaddi. I can't quite explain it, but as Dr. Avery spoke of how the Holy Spirit was moving in this place, and of Rev. Yuccaddi's conversion and vision, a great desire welled up within my heart and I thought, "God, I would be so honored if you would someday allow me to partner with that vision, and with that man."

I never forgot that evening and the impact of the message, but after receiving my BA in Missiology from HSBC, God called us into pastoral ministry in the beautiful town of Muskegon, Michigan. God used the next three and a half years

to teach us important lessons. He formed both Becky and me in many areas of our lives. It was here that I learned the importance of really knowing God, of seeking Him, of walking with Him, of working with people. God gave us souls and opportunities to disciple people in the faith. In May of 1994, we happily welcomed our second child, Timothy Jr. into our family.

It was about one year into our ministry at Muskegon that we again had the opportunity to hear Dr. Avery speak. This time, he had with him Rev. David Yuccaddi from the Philippines.

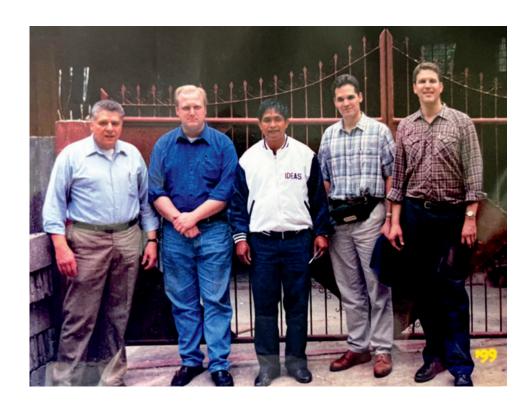
I sat and listened to the passion and vision of Rev. David Yucaddi and, once again, a longing welled up within me to someday be a part of what God was doing in the Philippines. But it would be more than two years before this would become a reality.

In the early part of 1996, I began to seriously seek the Lord about this matter of missions. I had no idea how any of this could happen. I had no connections. Dr. Avery was now serving as President of God's Bible School, I did not know the current mission's director,

nor had I expressed to anyone other than Becky and some family members my desire to go to the Philippines. One afternoon during a time of prayer and fasting, I laid it all out before the Lord and let it go. Once again, I surrendered my life, my family, and our plans to the Lord. And I reminded him that I wouldn't open any doors on my own, but that he would have to do it!

The very next morning my phone rang. I picked it up and Rev. Gary Brugger introduced himself as the Director of Bible





Methodist Missions. I listened silently as he went on to tell of how in the place of prayer the day before, He had been asking God to send a missionary family to the Philippines and that our name had come to mind. While I remained outwardly composed and calm—I even told him that I would pray about it and get back with him—on the inside I was jumping up and down. I knew this was my answer. Only God could have done this!

The Bible says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6) I knew without a doubt that God was directing our path! This was the beginning of our journey into missions.

#### YOU SPENT 13 YEARS AS FIELD DIRECTOR IN THE PHILIPPINES. WHAT ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS?

I would say that the camaraderie of working with our national pastors and "pastora's" was most life-changing. Witnessing their simplicity of faith, perseverance in ministry, joy in suffering, faithfulness in the execution of their calling, and the power of the gospel at work through their preaching and praying was so formative in our lives. Becky and I learned so much just doing life

and ministry with them.

We were privileged to come alongside and nurture the visions that God was placing in the hearts of our pastors. We helped the national church organize and indigenize for greater growth, and as the work grew, we helped them with countless projects, including the building of dozens of new chapels and other strategic projects.

Being able to equip pastors and young people through the ministry of our Bible

college and our Shepherds Seminars, a program that provided further training for pastors who hadn't had the opportunity to do formal theological training, brought us so much joy. Seeing many of those pastors finally ordained was wonderful. Then, to realize the desire God planted in my heart as a young college student—the



desire to partner with Rev. David Yucaddi and to support his vision of church planting and pastoral training among the tribes—has been a highlight of my life.

There are many things I could say here. We were personally and profoundly enriched by the lives and examples of our co-workers—David and Christina Black, and missionaries from other groups and traditions as well.

God opened the door for me to obtain a master's degree through the Wesleyan Graduate School for Asia and we also grew our family during our years in the Philippines. We added Jesse, Carolyn, and Samantha. Raising our children in a cross-cultural setting was a blessing. We traveled the country extensively and gave our kids experiences that they wouldn't have known otherwise.

FOR THE PAST
TWELVE YEARS,
YOU HAVE SERVED
AS DIRECTOR FOR
BIBLE METHODIST
MISSIONS.
HOW DID LIFE AS A
MISSIONARY PREPARE
YOU FOR THE WORK
THAT YOU HAVE BEEN
DOING, AND WHAT
HAS BEEN THE MOST
REWARDING ASPECTS
OF THIS ROLE?

I know that the whole missionary experience prepared me in so many unique ways. It gave me understanding of the specific challenges that missionaries and national workers face

and a greater awareness of their needs. My greatest fulfillment while serving in this role was rooted in helping to shape and promote the visions God had placed in their hearts for their specific context.

I have been privileged to visit our fields numerous times over the past 12 years, and it has been amazing to witness first-hand the ways that God is growing and blessing our works through the lives of our faithful missionaries, pastors, and national leaders—even amid many setbacks and discouragements. It has been the joy of a lifetime.

Working with our Bible Methodist missionaries has been a privilege. Becky and I have been inspired and challenged by their lives and testimonies. They are our greatest resource.





## WHAT DOES YOUR FUTURE MINISTRY LOOK LIKE?

One of the things that has always been close to my heart is the necessity of training leaders. This passion has been woven into the fabric of all my work beginning during my earliest days as a young missionary.

We established systematic training programs in the Philippines for undertrained pastors that

continues today. I assisted Rev. David Yuccaddi with the establishment of our Banaue training center where he has trained up dozens of men and women who have never had the privilege of attending Bible school. We built and established a training center in the province of Isabela that is still being used today for pastor's training.

Nothing has been closer to my heart in recent years than the establishment of Ezra Biblical Seminary in Mexico where our missionaries are training

dozens of young people.

In 2012 while teaching church leaders in Mozambique, my heart was deeply impacted by the need to train underserved pastors and leaders and to equip national trainers around the world. Each day, I sat under a tree with local





pastors and studied with them until the sun disappeared. They were so eager to learn.

On the final morning, I sat sipping coffee on the front porch of the small missionary guest house and reading the gospel of John. I was overwhelmed by my inability to equip these rising leaders and to provide them adequate resources to continue their training. I had nothing to leave with them other than my own notes, and as I thought about this the Lord began to speak to my heart about serving His underserved body, not just there, but around the world. That morning, the seed that would become Shepherds Global Classroom was planted in my heart. Since that day, God has brought a skilled, godly

team to surround and develop this vision, and that dream of "Christ-centered. Training. Everywhere" is coming to pass.

Bible Methodist Missions will always be the founding partner of this ministry. Thank you!

With your blessing and financial support, SGC was launched. God has blessed and we are now working in 28 languages and 30 countries around the world. This is where Becky and I will be serving in a full-time capacity.

## DO YOU HAVE ANY FINAL THOUGHTS?

Becky and I are profoundly grateful for the privilege of serving with Bible Methodist Missions.

Thank you to all our Bible Methodist family for the love and support you've shown to us for the past 26 years. Your encouragement and unceasing prayers have lifted us up during difficult days. We are humbled by your care for our family for so many years. We love each of you.

We are excited for the future and for the privilege of continuing to partner with Bible Methodist Missions through the ministry of Shepherds Global Classroom.



## **WORLD MISSIONS**

#### NEWS UPDATE



R.G. Hutchison
Missions Director

#### EZRA BIBLICAL SEMINARY GRADUATION [1,2]

In the first week of June, Ezra

Biblical Seminary in Mexico celebrated the accomplishments of students who completed another semester of intense studies. Tim Keep brought a delegation from the U.S. to join in this special occasion, and the reports were so encouraging!

Judy Eads commented, "It was exciting to see first hand how God is using Brennan, Ivon, David Martinez, and Maria (Ivon's mother) in San Gabriel. It was a highlight of our trip to hear the testimonies from the students of how God is using Ezra Biblical Seminary and the SGC courses to help them grow spiritually! Really exciting things are happening in Mexico!"

David Ward commented,
"Brennan and Ivon have been such
awesome hosts, and their passion
for the Lord and their ministry
shines through in all they do.
It was our privilege to observe
the graduation exercise for Ezra
Biblical Seminary which Brennan
Muir and David Martinez lead."

Tim Keep commented, "A big thanks to those who interceded for, and contributed financially toward, our trip to San Gabriel, Mexico, where we participated in the closing award ceremonies of Ezra Biblical Seminary—a

seminary which after only 3 years is reaching more than 60 students in 5 Latin American countries. God is doing exciting things through Brennan and Ivon, David Martinez, Maria, and the national team the Lord has placed around them. Please keep them in your prayers."

#### BIBLE COLLEGE IN THE PHILIPPINES SET TO RESUME IN-PERSON CLASSES

The Philippine Bible Methodist Shepherd College will be resuming their on-campus, in-person classes on September 5. Rev. Ronald O. Comilang will be serving as the new Dean of Academics and Spiritual Life, taking the place of Dr. R.G. Hutchison.

### ABIAN CHURCH DEDICATION (PHILIPPINES) [5-7]

The Bible Methodist Gospel Light Church has dedicated a chapel for the newly-planted church in Abian (community), Bambang (city), Nueva Vizcaya (province). Praise the Lord, that another village has a church!

#### MISSIONS SERVICES AT SUMMER FAMILY CAMPS [3,4]

**Newly-appointed BMM Director** 

Dr. R.G. Hutchison enjoyed traveling to each of the Bible Methodist regional camp meetings during the summer, sharing mission news from around the world, challenging Christians to be fully available to God's call, and connecting with conference missions leaders and local missions supporters.

#### BIBLE METHODIST MISSIONS NOW HAS AN OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE

#### Please follow the official BMM

Facebook page in order to receive fresh reports from around the world. You can locate the page at: facebook.com/bmmissions.

Make sure to click "like" or "follow" so you will receive notifications when something new has been posted. This can be a great source of up-to-date information for local missions leaders to share with their congregations.















1: Graduates with professors Brennan Muir and David Martinez and Missions Director Tim Keep 2: Left-to-right, Brennan and Ivon Muir, Tim Keep, Samantha Keep, Deron and Kim Fourman, David Keep, Judy and Doug Eads, Jillian Craycraft, David Ward, and David Martinez 3: R.G. with missionary Shirley Fogleman 4: R.G. teaching at Southwest Bible Methodist camp 5: Outside the Abian church and surrounding homes 6: Abian church congregation 7: Gathering outside the church

11

# **GREAT LAKES**

#### **REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS**



**David Ward** Conference President

# **GREAT LAKES FAMILY CAMP**













1: Rev. David Ward was installed as the new president of the Great Lakes Conference. He and his wife, Ruth, will continue to pastor the Pilgrim Bible Church in Cedar Springs, MI 2&3: Installation of David Ward as conference president 4: Rev. Blake and Saundy Jones were honored for their 23 of service to the conference 5: Camp workers, left-to-right, Dr. and Mrs. Adam Buckler, Dr. Phil Brown, The Josh Emery and Seth Wetherald families, Rev. and Mrs. Gene Davis family, Rev. and Mrs. David Ward, and Rev. and Mrs. Blake Jones 6: Fun games at family camp

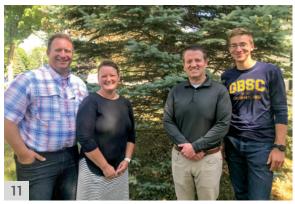
# GREAT LAKES YOUTH CAMP











7: Spencer Jones and Sarah Huston, Campers of the Year 8: Autumn Lindahl, Bible Bowl winner 9: A prayer time around the altar 10: Youth Camp attendees 11: Doug and Mary Derscheid, Youth Camp Director; Paul Stetler, evangelist; and Eli Albring, Assistant Director

## HEARTLAND

#### **REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS**



Chris Cravens Conference President

# HEARTLAND FAMILY CAMP [1-7]

Praise God for Camp meeting

2022! We began with a smooth annual conference, a blessed Memorial & Ordination service, along with a challenging conference sermon—what a way to kick off the camp meeting week! The Wilcox Tabernacle was packed! Large crowds gathered for prayer each day. Hungering souls sought God regularly in response to anointed preaching, teaching, worship, and singing, testifying to the presence of the Holy Spirit among us! Praise the Lord for the great offerings that were received! Over \$180,000

was given or pledged, and still more being promised! All the bills are paid and the new J.D. Young Chapel & Facilities Building is on the way!

Thank you Lord! Thank you, Heartland Conference! To God be all the glory!

#### HEARTLAND YOUTH CAMP [8-12]

One hundred eighty-nine young people and over 100 support staff gathered at Beulah Grove for the Heartland Youth Camp. God certainly blessed the week with beautiful weather and a wonderful sense of His Presence. Youth president Rev. Brian Wardlaw led the camp activities and services. Rev. Marc Sankey challenged the youth to not run from God but move towards God, listen to His voice, and say yes to His call. A number of young people sought God's grace at an altar of prayer. The days were filled with fun and fellowship from early morning until late at night.

Special recognition was given to the following campers: Bible Bowl Champion – Austin Wilson; Campers of the Year – Connor Loper and Kaley Quesenberry; and President's Award winner – Joey Tillis. Please mark your calendar for Youth Camp 2023, July 17-21.

























1: Left-to-right, Deron Fourman, Chris Cravens, and Jack Hooker during Conference 2: youth evangelist Doug Eads 3: Dr. Michael Avery 4: Dr. Stephen Smith 5: Family Camp service 6: Dr. Ron Wright being ordained 7: Edwards singing 8: Youth praying around the altar 9: Volleyball game 10: Heartland Youth Committee, left-to-right, Brian Wardlaw, Josh Cravens, Randy Brown, Aaron Wardlaw, Travis Stroup, Titus Byer, and Shane Gardner 11: Campers of the year, Kaley Quesenberry and Conor Loper 12: Youth camp evangelist Rev. Marc Sankey

# SOUTHERN

### **REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS**



**John Parker** Conference President





























# **SOUTHWEST**

#### PROVISIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS



G. Clair Sams
Conference President

## SOUTHWEST FAMILY CAMP [1-4]

Delegates and pastors gathered at Arrowhead Conference and Retreat Center, Cleburne, Texas, July 26, 2022 for Annual Conference. During the Conference, officers were elected with strong votes. The Conference continues to form its policies and procedures. We are excited about working with Conference Extension churches in Millersburg, Kentucky; Mena, Arkansas; and Grants, New Mexico. We also had the distinct honor of ordaining Pastor Bryan Robledo.

Family Camp was well attended. Evangelists Dr. R.G. Hutchison and Rev. Paul Stetler preached faithfully and powerfully with God's anointing. The Tim Cole Family sang to the glory of God. Bryan Robledo spoke in the youth services and Cheryl Brewer ministered to the children. All did and excellent job lifting up Jesus in their ministry.

The Friday evening service focused on Bible Methodist Missions.

Missions Director Hutchison led the service. Missionary Shirley Fogleman spoke about Papua New Guinea and the possible partnership with the Bible Fellowship Churches.

Saturday afternoon the ladies gathered for fellowship, refreshments, and discussion. Ladies from some of the churches decorated tables to reflect the theme of Ladies in Ministry. Each table was decorated to highlight a possible theme. The themes included, Christmas, Easter, Father's Day, Mother's Day, Valentine's Day, Fall, and Veterans Day.

## PENNIES FOR MISSIONS [5]

The Children's church at Duncan, Oklahoma had a special project to raise a mile of pennies for missions. They worked hard and, before the project ended, they held a fund raiser at a local coffee shop, taking donations and giving away coffee cups and church literature. The children and their teacher, LaFreda Roundtree, collected more than the 84,480 pennies for a total of \$865.00. This money will help a Conference Extension church have a children's ministry.

# SOUTHWEST YOUTH CAMP [6]

This was the first official year of the Southwest Bible Methodist Youth Camp in Whitehouse, Texas, and we are thankful for God's help! The week was filled with fun activities for the youth, excellent preaching by Joey Ratcliff, and a wonderful spirit of volunteerism and unity among the adults! We are grateful for the testimonies from many young people who received spiritual help throughout the week. The Lord met with the campers from service to service. One evening a young man who was new to the camp found Christ as his Savior.

We are already looking forward to next youth camp. The dates are June 26-30, 2023, and the speaker is Rev. Marc Sankey! Plan now to attend and be encouraged and challenged spiritually as well as physically.

### DURANT, OKLAHOMA [7]

## On Saturday, May 7th, the 14 ladies of the Durant church were

ladies of the Durant church were treated to a Mother's Day Tea. The purpose was to honor the women of the church and to encourage them to know that they are special to the Lord and to the Church. Melba Sams treated the ladies to snacks and tea. There was a lesson and fellowship.

On the July 4th, family and friends gathered in the church annex for a time of games, food, and fellowship. New contacts were made through this outreach effort.















1: Left-to-right, Conference President Sams and Melba, Tim and Julia Cole and boys, Rev. Paul Stetler, Dr. R.G. Hutchison, Cheryl Brewer, and Bryan and Maria Robledo 2: Ordination prayer for Bryan Robledo 3: Youth choir led by Nancy Going 4: Saturday afternoon ladies gathering 5: Pennies for Missions offering 6: Outdoor devotions at youth camp 7: Mother's Day tea at Durant, Oklahoma

## THE BIBLE METHODIST

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