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Testimonies

January 2005



EXPANDING OUR VISION By Dr. Richard Paige, National Representative

A new year is upon us, with all its promise and hope. Perhaps 2005 will be the year our precious Lord Jesus returns in the clouds to catch us up unto Him! Perhaps 2005 will be the year that His true followers in America will be called upon to suffer persecution for His name's sake. Perhaps 2005 will be the year of soul stirring revival among our churches and great fruitfulness in the proclamation of the Gospel! One thing is certain, 2005 will not be a year of triumph and victory unless we are a people of great vision. We need to ask God to EXPAND OUR VISION in this New Year.

God's Word tells us that in the days just before the birth of Samuel in the Old Testament the people were doing their own thing. We are told that *"the Word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision."* Indeed, God's Word was rarely ever heard, thus it was "precious." There was no "vision" or message of God from the prophets. The nation was destitute of spiritual leadership and the priests had made themselves vile. God needed to raise up a faithful witness with a true vision of God and His holiness to call the nation back to God. We are told in the book of Proverbs that, *"where there is no vision the people perish."* How our nation cries out today that there would be a people of renewed vision in our midst. When Paul was on trial for his life he recounted to Agrippa how Christ had met him on the Damascus Road and appointed him to preach the Gospel. Then he stated, *"Whereupon, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision."* Are we a people today who, with Isaiah of old, have caught a vision of our God in all His splendor, holiness, and power? Have we, like Isaiah, fallen before Him in humble brokenness and yielded our all to Him for His service? Have we been a people given to the Word of God, or has the vision been lost because we have failed to proclaim His Word? Are people perishing all around us because we have lost the vision of what God has for us? Might we in 2005 be a people of renewed vision! Indeed, may we ask God to EXPAND OUR VISION in this coming year.

You might ask, "In what ways should I seek an expanded vision?" Allow me to suggest several ways we of the NTAIBC would do well to seek an expanded vision this year.

First of all in a vision for MEN! Souls all around us are perishing in sin, while we seem to be totally unaware of their urgent needs. When Jesus had met with the woman of Samaria and his disciples had returned they urged him to eat something. He replied that he had a greater hunger than that for food, which was to do the Father's will! He had a vision far greater than the temporal. Then he told them to lift up their eyes and behold the *"fields ...white already to harvest."* This He said referring to the souls of men! Sometimes we can become so caught up in programs, routines, maintaining ministries and facilities, and much business, that we loose sight of the vision for the souls of men?

God help us as His servants, and as local churches, to have an EXPANDED VISION for the souls of MEN in 2005.

Second, there is the vision to MULTIPLY! Throughout the book of Acts it is common to read the simple statement, *"the number of the disciples multiplied."* Churches were planted all over the civilized world in that First Century. Paul in his travels planted churches everywhere he went. Are we in the NTAIBC really burdened to multiply by starting churches around us in 2005? I was thrilled as I spoke today by phone with one of our pastors to hear of their plans to plant a new church a few miles from them in the area of a major university where there will be the opportunity for an international outreach. This is the type of vision we need to have if we are going to be accomplishing what God intended (Cont. pg. 2)

USING OUR TIME WISELY By Pastor Marlon Mielke, NTA President

Greetings once again from Milltown! It is hard to believe that another year is upon us!

I was reading awhile back of one man's list of resolutions for the New Year. His list was a good list; the only problem was that it was the same list he had made the year before and had failed to keep. I would like to suggest some resolutions that are by no means new, but are ones that we should redouble our efforts to perform in this new year.

First, may we resolve to spend time in God's Word! There are many reasons we need to be in the Word. *"...that we may grow thereby."* (I Peter 2:2c) That we may *"grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* (II Peter 3:18) As the chorus goes – "Read your Bible, pray every day and you'll grow, grow, grow." Psalm 1:2 tells us that the way to be blessed is to meditate in God's Word day and night. May we mull over God's Word in our minds every day and learn how to apply it to our daily walk!

Secondly, may we resolve to spend time in prayer. I Thess.5:17 tells us to *"pray without ceasing."* We are to be in a continual attitude of prayer. Prayer should not be a burden. It is the natural outgrowth of a soul in love with his God! It is a result of a heart in tune with God. This new year may we determine to make talking with God a priority.

Thirdly, may we resolve to take opportunities to share Christ with those around us. We are to encourage others to be *"...reconciled to God."* (II Cor. 5:20c) Sharing our faith can take many forms: passing out a Gospel tract, verbally telling someone what Christ has done for us, inviting a friend to a special activity or service at your church, and hosting a Bible study at your home. Will we determine to use the opportunities that God gives us? It is truly amazing what God can do with a willing heart.

It is my prayer that we will follow through with the aforementioned resolutions not only this year but throughout our lives.

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for us to do in 2005. Will you ask God to give you a vision of where you can plant a church in the coming years? If every NTA church would sincerely pray to God with this request we would see many new churches raised up over the coming months and years. We need an EXPANDED VISION to MULTIPLY!

Third, there is the need for a greater vision for MISSIONS! When I speak of missions I am not only referring to foreign lands, but also to areas across our nation where there is need for a greater vision to help plant new churches and see struggling new churches go forward to the glory of God. I could name many churches that are struggling to become established that need help. Yet, we will not help them if we have a limited vision for MISSIONS. Some of these churches I have visited over this past year (Open Door Baptist Church in Sunrise, FL; Harvest Baptist Church of Redwood Falls, MN; Emmanuel Baptist Church of Belen, NM; and others). If we had an EXPANDED VISION for missions we could do much more to help our missionaries around the world, and right here in America! Will you ask God to give you an EXPANDED VISION for MISSIONS in 2005?

Fourth, there is the great need in these uncertain days of our MILITARY. As I have mentioned in another article in this paper, the military is a very fruitful ministry today!

We rejoice that after 20 years of being approved to endorse chaplains to the military that the NTAIBC now has its first officially endorsed chaplain under active appointment in the chaplain's branch of the military. Yet, we need to do much more! There are many more young men with a burden to serve God who could be used in the military to reap a harvest of souls for God's glory if we would challenge them with the need and opportunity. To do this we must have an EXPANDED VISION for the MILITARY as a mission field that is indeed white unto harvest. Will you ask God to give you an EXPANDED VISION for the MILITARY of our great country in 2005?

Finally, there is a great need for an EXPANDED VISION for the MALIGNED. There are people in prisons, in nursing homes, in half-way houses, in shelters, and the homeless, who need the Gospel desperately. These are the maligned of our age. Few seem to care about them. Some even call for their elimination in mercy killing (euthanasia). Yet they are precious souls for whom Christ died. Will your church pray for an EXPANDED VISION for the MALIGNED of our society? This may mean going outside the comfort zone to minister to some who seem hopeless, helpless, and heartless. Yet, over many years of ministry we have seen many

of those who appeared hopeless transformed by the Gospel of Christ and become true trophies of grace! God give us an EXPANDED VISION for such needy souls in this year!

The NTAIBC is simply made up of churches. As our churches have a growing vision for those in need around them we can have a greater impact for Christ in the coming year, and for years to come until He returns. Will you join me in praying for an EXPANDED VISION in 2005?

THE MILITARY: A FRUITFUL MISSION FIELD

In John's Gospel Jesus taught His disciples with these words, *"My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours."*

The military chaplain truly is a missionary to a unique mission field! This is a vital mission field that we as independent, fundamental, Bible-believing Baptists need to be more burdened to reach. You may ask "Why?" Let me suggest several thoughts in this regard.

First of all, it is a field white unto harvest. Many who have worked with the military over the years have found that when young men and women are separated from home, family, and friends, in an unfamiliar situation, facing grave dangers, they become very open to Gospel Truth. Virtually every church I have worked with in my 45 years of ministry has had someone who was saved, or came back to the Lord, while in the military. Many of these have gone on to serve the Lord with their lives. When serving in a foreign land, under hostile conditions, even perilous ones, our military personnel become very open to the Word of God. They want something that can give them peace and ease their fears as they go into battle. That answer is Jesus Christ. When Jesus pointed to the fields that were white unto harvest, He could have been speaking of the military. Many of Paul's converts in the New Testament were in the military. Indeed, it appears that his outreach in Rome was mainly among the military forces of the Roman Empire. Our military chaplains are carrying on a great and fruitful ministry of missions among the military.

Second, it is a field of uncertainty. Many of those serving our country in the military may face eternity prematurely.

The fact that they are in harm's way on many of the bases around the world places a sense of urgency on our need to reach them. We will never know until we enter eternity how many of our young men and women who have sacrificed their lives for our freedoms were led to Christ by a faithful military chaplain shortly before their sacrifice. What if that chaplain had not been there! The uncertainty our military faces daily not only creates an openness in their hearts, but it ought to present a sense of urgency in our outreach to them.

Third, the military offers a mission field upon which much labor has already been bestowed. As our Lord mentioned, one labors, but another may reap the fruit. Nearly every military person who comes to Christ had the seed sown years before in a godly family, or a sound local church. Many at home have prayed for them. What a great opportunity to be reapers in such a mission field when multitudes have helped to prepare for a fruitful harvest over the years.

We need to pray for more who will surrender to God's leading to become missionaries to our men/women in the military! We need to daily uphold those who are there with our prayers. These are servants on the frontlines of the battle who did not have to travel the nation for three years or more to raise support to go to the field. These are missionaries who don't have to utilize vital funds for their labors that may be needed in other areas of ministry or other mission fields of the world. These are servants for whom God has opened a great door of opportunity. May God bless our military personnel, and enable our missionaries to them to be effective and faithful until Jesus comes!

U. S. ARMY CHAPLAIN APPOINTED

We are thrilled to announce that Rev. James Leslie has been officially appointed by the U.S. Army to active duty as a military chaplain. The Calvary Baptist Church of Watertown, WI has commissioned Rev. Leslie to this ministry. Their application for affiliation with the NTAIBC is pending for our June meeting. At the June meeting the Board of Trustees unanimously endorsed Rev. Leslie for this position. The NTAIBC was approved to endorse chaplains for the military in 1985, but this will be the first chaplain we have endorsed who will be serving on active military duty! The paperwork was completed and presented to the Army in October. We received the following word from Rev. Leslie recently:

"My interview went extremely well! The chaplain and I hit it off and the Lord truly blessed in that event. My recruiter told me that I was selected in the November

Chaplaincy Board for full time Army Active duty service as a Military Chaplain. I just received word that I will attend the U.S. Army Chaplains' course in January. My first assignment will then be at Fort Hood in Texas."

Rev. Leslie previously served for 8 1/4 years in the Army. He is a graduate of Maranatha Baptist Bible College and Seminary in Watertown, WI. He holds a B.A. degree and a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies degree. He has over eight years of full time service in a variety of ministries. He served at the Bethlehem Baptist Church in Viroqua, WI from '93-'95. He gained valuable chaplain's experience with the Freedom Flyer prison ministries from '96-'98. He has served at his sending church since '98 in a variety of roles, which included ministry at the Dodge Correctional Institute and Ethan Allen Youth Correctional facility. He is well qualified for the ministry he is about to begin. We urge our constituency to be praying for him as he takes his training and begins this outreach of missions to our military personnel.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

We are working now on the 2005 NTA directory. We like to keep our directory information as up to date as possible so if you know of any changes which should be made please forward them to us at once. Any churches that have applied for affiliation by the end of 2004 will be included on the last page of the new directory. Also included in our new directory will be the listing for our NTAIBC endorsed chaplain on active duty in the U.S. Army.

Emails: Often our churches or pastors change their email addresses. Seldom do they think to notify us of these changes. We maintain a current email address list and regularly send out email UPDATES for our NTA churches. If we do not get your updated email information then we cannot keep in touch with you via this quick and inexpensive method. Every time we send one out we get several returned, as they are no longer deliverable at the old address (the last time it was six). Please, whenever you alter your email address in any fashion, send us a short note and we will save the new address in our address book.

LAND FOR THE LORD OFFERING

Each year we challenge our churches to participate in the Land For The Lord Offering to be presented at the close of our Annual Meeting to a designated church affiliated with the NTA that is seeking to obtain property and become established in their community. The 2004 offering went to the Open Door Baptist Church of Sunrise, Florida led by Pastor Orville Blake. (Cont. bottom of pg. 3)

2005 NTA ANNUAL MEETING

As we enter 2005 our thoughts turn to the preparations for the annual meetings to be held June 7-9 at the Brentwood Baptist Church of Des Plaines, IL, led by Pastor Jim Hines. We anticipate a truly outstanding meeting. The host church and Pastor are preparing to make this a truly exceptional experience for all who attend. The theme for this year's event is "How Great Is The Lord" based on the Scripture: "*Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.*" (Psalm 145:3-4) The following is a list of speakers confirmed for this meeting:

Dr. Richard Paige, NTA National Representative
 Pastor Marlon Mielke, NTA President, First Baptist Church, Milltown, WI
 Pastor Bryan Bice, Faith Baptist Church, Sterling, IL
 Pastor Jerome Maart, Faith Baptist Church, Stacy, MN
 Dr. Cary Flinck, Pastor, Berean Baptist Church, Brooklyn Park, MN
 Dr. Jim Hines, Host Pastor, Brentwood Baptist Church, Des Plaines, IL
 Pastor Glen Teasdale, Faith Baptist Church, Waukesha, WI
 Dr. Robert Loggans, Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Watertown, WI
 Dr. Clarke Poorman, NTA Vice President

We will give the full program with the preaching times in the April issue of the TESTIMONIES. Once again we will offer special children's sessions during the meetings. Activities will be available during the afternoon free time including tours to points of interest in the greater Chicago area.

The NTA Board will meet at the church at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 7. The program will get underway at 6:30 p.m. that evening in the auditorium of the Brentwood Baptist Church of Des Plaines, IL. This will be a great opportunity for fellowship, family recreation and sightseeing, and to be challenged with "How Great Is The Lord!" A short pre-registration form will be included in the next issue of the paper to encourage you to let the host church know how many they can expect from your church. Register early and plan on a great meeting!

(Land for the Lord cont. from pg 2)

They are rejoicing in the opportunity to be utilizing their new facilities! They expressed their heartfelt thanks to the churches of the NTAIBC for our part in helping them to move forward with this project!

As we look forward to the 2005 LFTL offering we would urge all of our churches to consider doing whatever you can to help in this ministry of giving. We have set aside Sunday, April 3, 2005 as Land For

The Lord Sunday. We encourage our churches to make this opportunity known to their people on that day and receive a love offering to go to this worthy project. Gifts may be sent anytime during the year (designated to the LFTL Offering) to our treasurer, Rev. Jerry Maart. These will be accumulated until after the final offering at the 2005 annual meetings, then presented to a needy church within our fellowship.

PROSPECTIVE CHURCHES

Do you know of good fundamental Baptist churches in need of fellowship? We are pleased that we have had several such churches referred to us in recent months. We have had two churches that have already requested affiliation for consideration at the upcoming annual meeting. We have sent packets to several others who have requested them, encouraging them to consider affiliating with us. Would you pray with us that a number of these churches would choose to affiliate with us this year? Undoubtedly many of you know of such churches near you that you can contact and encourage to consider the NTA. We would appreciate it if when you hear of those who might be interested in our national fellowship, you would forward the information to us so we can send them further information. Together we can grow the NTAIBC!

We have a "Pastor's Packet" which contains pertinent information for those interested in the NTA. Please contact our office if you would like such a packet. Perhaps the greatest help to any church considering affiliation with the NTA would be a visit from the National Representative. He is available to come to visit your church on a Sunday to present the NTA and answer questions. Should you desire to arrange for a date, please contact Dr. Paige. (email: rlp Paigejr1@msn.com.)

Those churches that affiliate with the NTAIBC can be covered under the blanket tax-exempt number assigned to the association. In order to participate in this the church needs to include two brief statements in their documents. The following will give you a sample of how each of these should read in order to conform to the requirements for the non-profit religious exemption.

DISSOLUTION: If for any reason this church should be dissolved, its assets shall be assigned only to a fundamental, separatist, premillennial Baptist not-for-profit corporation, the doctrinal position of which is in keeping with the Statement of Faith of this Constitution.

NONPOLITICAL ACTIVITIES: No substantial part of the activities of this corporation (church) shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation (church) shall not participate in or intervene in and campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

THE NTA AND TRANSLATIONS

(At our last Board of Trustees meeting the Board unanimously approved this statement as the historic position of the NTAIBC on the issue of Bible Translations.)

The New Testament Association of Independent Baptist Churches has, from its very beginning, recognized the Bible as God's holy Book. At the second annual meeting of the Association, a confession of faith was permanently adopted as Article III of the Constitution of the NTA of IBC. The first statement: Concerning the Scriptures, reads as follows: "We believe that the Bible, sixty-six books in the Old and New Testaments, is without error in its original writing; its author was God, using Spirit-guided men, being thereby verbally and plenary inspired; it is the sole authority for faith and practice."

Since the formation of the NTA of IBC on May 28, 1965, many new English translations of the Bible have come into existence. The Association has held to the use of the KJV of the Scriptures in all of its annual meetings.

A good way to see where any group stood or still stands is to look at its resolutions. The following are quotes from NTA approved resolutions from a number of years:

1996 "We reaffirm the use of the King James Translation in our NTA meetings."

1999 "We reaffirm the use of the King James Bible as the only translation that is to be used in our NTA meetings."

2000 "We affirm the use of the King James Bible as the only translation that is to be used in our NTA meetings. We resolve that it is our desire for the Bible-believing Baptist Churches making up the NTA, not to allow the version controversy to become a divisive issue in our association."

2001 "Whereas the use of translations is a divisive issue in Bible-believing churches, be it resolved that our association continue to use only the King James Version as our only translation in all NTA of IBC meetings, but not to allow the controversy surrounding Bible translations to divide us as brethren."

2002 "Whereas the use of translations is a divisive issue in Bible-believing churches, be it resolved that our association continue to use only the King James Version as our only translation in all NTA of IBC meetings, but not to allow the controversy surrounding Bible translations to divide us as brethren."

2003 "Whereas the use of translations is a divisive issue in Bible-believing churches, be it resolved that our association continue to use only the King James Version as our only translation in all NTA of IBC meetings, but not to allow the

controversy surrounding Bible translations to divide us as brethren."

2004 "Whereas, the proliferation of modern Bible versions is detrimental to the cause of Christ, and Whereas, the Bible version issue can be a cause of controversy, and Whereas, the NTAIBC is committed to the New Testament teaching of the autonomy of the local church, Be it resolved, that we, as members of the NTAIBC, reaffirm that we will continue to use the King James Version as our only version in all NTAIBC meetings."

The above-mentioned resolutions were adopted unanimously.

The NTA has consistently stated, as can be clearly seen, that the King James Version be the only translation used in our meetings. The NTA has also made it clear that the translation controversy should not divide us. This is consistent with the New Testament teaching of the independent, autonomous nature of the local church which is reflected in Article IX of the NTA Confession of Faith: "We believe that the local visible church of Christ is a voluntary and independent autonomous group of baptized believers; that it is a pure democracy, which organically can join nothing, and that it has the power and right within itself to confess its own faith in accordance with the New Testament; and that each congregation recognizes its own democratic self-containing government as its highest authority for carrying out the will of the Lord Jesus Christ."

The NTA does not want the version of the Bible that an individual local church uses to divide us as brethren.

The NTA does not want the author or any other man or group of men to dictate to any autonomous, fellowshiping church what version of the Scriptures must be used in its worship services.

AN HISTORIC VIEW

By Dr. Earle Matteson

PART I

(Three part series)

We are grateful for the freedom of choice which is inherent in our Baptist Polity. No hierarchy can make the choices for the churches or set down the rules by which a church should be effective in its ministry. Each Baptist Church is autonomous. A Baptist church has the right then to associate with those of like kind.

"The purpose of history is to communicate the past and its experiences to the present. Without a proper understanding of the impact of history, a generation will arise totally unaware of the sacrifices that have been made and the principles that have been laid down that have formed the present position of any group or church."

(cont. pg. 4)

(An Historic View cont. from pg. 3)

(quoted from *History: And Twenty Years of Fellowship* by Dr. Matteson)

In the days of controversy among us we expressed our opinions concerning denominationalism and associational preference.

I began my ministry in the Northern Baptist Convention (NBC), which later became the American Baptist Convention (ABC). Being with the separatist group, I soon learned about the problems in the NBC. Liberalism had infiltrated many facets of the NBC. Fundamentalists voiced their concern for the drift of the denomination into liberalism. This was especially true in the area of missions. I can recall a session with two missionaries in Fourth Baptist Church in Minneapolis. When they were examined by the church, their whole emphasis was not in organizing of churches, but rather with the educational and medicine aspects of the ministry. The ministry of evangelism and the organizing of churches were absent from the emphasis of their ministry. Annual convention business sessions were times of examination of the direction of the NBC. Good men on both sides of the theological positions expressed their opinions.

In 1920, thirteen years after the organization of various ministries in the NBC, one hundred and twenty pastors met in Buffalo, NY, to devise a strategy to bring the NBC back to a conservative position. Very few of these men ever left the NBC in their protest. Dr. W.B. Riley, one of the strongest voices in the protest, severed his membership just a short time before his death. Fundamentalists met before the annual sessions of the NBC to stress the great doctrines of the faith. The Fundamentalist Baptist Fellowship was born out of these sessions.

In time it was felt that there was no way in which the NBC would be changed. At the annual meeting in Grand Rapids (1946) a motion was made that the choice of missionaries should be measured on the basis of their acceptance of a doctrinal statement. The motion was defeated by the insertion that "every missionary should be measured by the New Testament." Thus, the New Testament was to be the basis of a missionary's position. It was evident that this ruling would be subject to the interpretation by the convention or the individual missionary.

The first break came with the organization of the Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society (CBFMS). Before this time churches designated their funds to certain missionaries whom they knew were fundamentalists. This procedure did not satisfy those who chose to support only the Biblicists. They learned that each designation just released funds for the liberal causes.

At first the CBFMS leaders sought to remain in the NBC as a conduit for missions funds. This suggestion was met with

strong opposition by the NBC leadership. Eventually CBFMS had to become separated from the convention.

The basic group that accelerated this direction was the Fundamental Baptist Fellowship (FBF). Out of this came the interesting story of the development of the Conservative Baptist Association and its mission agencies. For sometime we felt that the Conservative Baptist movement grew because of the stated independence of its churches and agencies. However, it soon became evident that there were those who wanted independence but who carried with them the idea of denominationalism.

Though the churches in both the NBC and CBA declared their autonomous nature, the problems that came with mission agencies in their separate positions became a basis for conflict. It was felt for some time that the autonomy of these agencies intruded in the position of the churches. The mission agencies became stronger than the associational fellowship. Debates over issues in these areas increased through publications and in the business sessions. It was evident that the CBA was divided between those who were identified as the soft corps (tending to a more liberal position) and those who were labeled the hard corps (seeking to stand for the historic fundamentalist position).

(To be continued in the Next Issue.)

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

NEWS FROM BELEN, NM



Pastor Fred Gilliard

It is a pleasure to introduce to our constituency the Emmanuel Baptist Church of Belen, NM. On Sunday, December 5, it was the privilege of your National Representative to travel to Belen to get acquainted with them and answer their questions about the NTAIBC. Dr. Fred Gilliard recently led the church to affiliate with the NTA. The church is located in a picturesque city of approximately 7000 located south of Albuquerque along the Rio Grande River. The name "Belen" is the Spanish word for "Bethlehem." They even have a memorial in the center of town dedicated to Bethlehem. The church has been in existence for several years, but is still seeking to

be well established in this needy community. There is a large Hispanic population in the area and the church is bi-lingual. It was a challenge to preach with an interpreter during the morning service. Pastor Gilliard has been there since its inception. He labors sacrificially for the cause of Christ to reach souls and see this church established. He is single and lives on a shoestring, some months not receiving any salary if the church is short on funds. The church may run anywhere from the 30's to the 60's in attendance. The people were friendly and responsive to the Word of God. They asked many questions about the NTAIBC in the Bible Study hour. Being a part of our association of independent Baptist churches will be a great help to them in dealing with government/tax issues.



Emmanuel Baptist Facility

Emmanuel Baptist Church would be a tremendous place for those interested in participating in a cross-culture missions experience to go. It also is a group worthy of being considered by our established churches for missions assistance! Contact Dr. Gilliard if you would like more information or would be interested in such a project! They can be reached at: Emmanuel Baptist Church, 616 N. Main St., Belen, NM 87002. (Phone: 505-864-0257).

ULEN TAKES ON WORLD WIDE MINISTRY

It has been estimated that 50% of the world has never even seen one verse of Scripture. Seventy-five percent of the world does not own a Bible. Ninety-four percent of all Christian workers minister to only 6% of the world's population, using 94% of all contributions to do so. Our focus is the other 94% of the world. With the world's population at approximately 6.4 billion that is about 4.8 billion people who do not own a Bible. The Bible says in Romans 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." How can this world be reached with such a lack of Scriptures? The world is starved for Bibles while we in America take ours for granted. I remember reading a story about a church in India that was blessed enough to have one Bible for the entire congregation. Do you know how they got Bibles for the rest of the church? They would divide the Bibles among the members, 20 pages to

each family. The families would then take the pages home and copy them, and then swap until they had a Bible.

Bible Senders of Walworth Baptist Church hopes to change this. In 2003 we started a ministry where we send new and used Bibles as well as tracts and other Scriptures to places all over the world including the 10/40 Window. The 10/40 Window is an area of the world that contains the largest population of non-Christians in the world. The area extends from 10 degrees to 40 degrees north of the Equator, and stretches from North Africa across to China. It is estimated that half the world's population lives in this area, and it is the least evangelized.

If you are interested in helping this ministry, here are a few ideas:

First and foremost, please pray for God's blessing and leading in this work. We are looking for churches to collect Bibles. When I first started this ministry, my family had seven Bibles in our house. Many Christians have multiple Bibles. Why not put them to good use? Thirdly, we are praying for other churches to partner with us financially to help this work. Since January 2003, Bible Senders has sent out 3,329 Bibles; 827 New Testaments; 24,222 Scripture books, including John/Romans; 279,475 tracts; 810 Bible Studies; and 12 Videos/DVDs. We have sent materials to Mexico, The Philippines, India, Togo, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa. Our goal is to send materials into every part of the world.

If you have any questions you can contact Ryan Olson, Director, at (218) 596-8101 (home), (218) 841-2141 (cell), or Pastor Mike Forsberg at (218) 567-8244, or send us an e-mail at: thebiblesender@kjvmail.com

BOOK CORNER

VANISHED by Ward Tanneberg (Kregel Publications; 2004; Fiction/Suspense; 525 pgs.)

A Sequel to *WITHOUT WARNING*, *VANISHED* is a fast moving, compelling story set in the Middle East. After a failed terrorist attempt to destroy Jerusalem's Western Wall, the young daughter of a California pastor is kidnapped and held as a pawn to gain finances to further support terrorists.

You'll feel like you are reading a true account in today's headlines, seeing true faith tested. --Ruth Paige

ACROSS THE WIDE RIVER by Stephanie Reed (Kregel Publications; 2004; Teen Fiction; 176 pgs)

Though this work is fiction, it is based on a family living in the pre-Civil War days in the South. It gives insight, not just in the cruelty of slavery, but into the daily struggles of those who try to help escaped slaves find freedom and safety. You'll see the impact that this lifestyle had on their families.

It is written for young readers, but yet is interesting for adult readers.

Ruth Paige