

Idaho pastor facing jail time

SANDPOINT, Id. – Known as one of the most joyous times of the year, Christmas Eve was a horrid nightmare which still hasn't come to an end for Pastor Asa Samples and his family.

Samples, who planted North Idaho Baptist Church here in September 2005, was heading to Wal-Mart in the growing darkness just after 5 p.m. on an extra-busy State Highway 95 when tragedy struck. He barely had time to hit the brakes as a man literally jumped out in front of his car. Less than eight hours later the 48 year-old man was dead, and in a few days the grief-stricken young church planter found himself facing jail time.

Eye witnesses to the tragedy were shocked to hear that Samples was charged with "vehicular manslaughter." The man

"My lawyer says they are going to go after me full force."

had jumped back into the lane that the pastor was in as the driver of the car in the right lane swerved to miss him. There was no crosswalk. There were four-lanes of hectic rush hour and Christmas Eve traffic. And,

it was nearly dark in the town of 7,000 located near the Canadian border.

What more could he have done to avoid the tragic accident?

Local accident scene investigators came to the conclusion that Samples must have been speeding, a charge that he refutes. He also was charged with "failing to yield to a pedestrian." Finally, and most surprisingly of all, the county district attorney filed vehicular manslaughter charges with a maximum sentence of a year in jail.

"This experience has been nerve-racking," admitted the young pastor. "My lawyer says that they (local officials) are going to go after me full force."

Adding a strange twist and even more pain to the tragedy is that Samples knew

and worked with the man.

"I had witnessed to him and invited him to church several times," Samples revealed. "Just the Thursday before it happened we had talked and I told him to have a Merry Christmas."

When regional pastors from sister churches learned about what happened they responded with offerings to cover the \$3,000 retainer needed for a lawyer.

"God provided the money right on time," Samples testified.

Unless the Lord intervenes with miraculous deliverance from the charges, additional thousands of dollars will be needed for the pastor's legal defense.

"The lawyer is talking \$12,000 alone to hire a professional to recreate the accident," Samples said. "That doesn't include whatever else the lawyer must be paid."

Despite all the negatives associated with the accident, Samples told of how God has been blessing the church.

"We had two saved during the mid-week services after it happened, and five join the church the following Sunday," he reported. "There are several right now waiting to join."

Samples related that it would require "a miracle" for officials to drop the charges against him.

"There's a pre-trial conference on March 2, but there are no proposals from them on the table," he commented. "It's very unlikely that they'll reduce the charges."

The trial was originally scheduled for March 22, however the pastor's lawyer sought and gained a continuance to gather further evidence and prepare.

"My prayer is that somehow through all of this that honor is brought to God," Samples concluded. "We ask for people's prayers."

(Editor's Note: Those desiring to help Samples with legal costs may contact him at P.O. Box 247, Ponderay, ID 83852. His phone number is (208) 263-9642.)

**INSIDE OUR
HISTORIC
FIRST ISSUE!**



What do Pastor Dan Smith and his wife, Nancy, have so much to smile about?

SEE PAGE 3



Why are Pastor Randall Moody and his associate, Rick Jaquess, so happy about going to prison?

SEE PAGE 4



How did Missionary Michaela Dunn fight off her attacker and save her eight year-old sister from harm?

SEE PAGE 5

NEXT ISSUE

Every layperson should read, "Why Pastors Deserve Honor From Their Church Members."

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Locusts & Honey

By Cary Monaco



Hopefully you've already noticed that the *Baptist Edifier* is quite unique. It's not a religious trade journal revolving around promoting a certain fellowship, school, ministry or preacher. It's not a get in the flesh, ax-grinding, name-calling, fight back and forth publication. Nor is it a syrupy-sweet, fluffy, poems and lace thing.

So just what is the *Baptist Edifier*? Well, ultimately that's for readers to decide for themselves. However, as the name clearly implies, it's about genuinely striving to edify independent Baptists, and anyone else for that matter. Our God-given mission for this ministry is to edify pastors, missionaries, evangelists, plus their wives and children. Yet, we don't want it to stop there. It's also our heart to edify individual laypeople and entire churches. And, we want all this to happen not only for people to experience personal edification, but to strongly impact the most important of all missions, getting the Gospel to lost folks.

Paul writes in Romans 14:19, "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things where-with one may edify another." Also, the apostle wrote in I Thessalonians 5:11, "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do."

The word "edify" as used in the Bible is interesting. It means "to build." When you look at it a bit more deeply it comes from a root applying to a house or household. The spiritual application then is that by edifying other believers we're helping to build up the house or household of God.

Now I'm pretty much a dunce when it comes to carpentry. Putting a power tool in my hands is almost akin to giving a loaded gun to a four year-old. I'd hate to have to live in the house that I built. There's little chance that I would survive the experience anyway.

However, helping to build up others spiritually is something any Christian can do, and is supposed to be doing every day.

Since we know that the Lord has directed us to produce the *Baptist Edifier* as part of calling

me into full-time writing and publishing ministry, we're confident that He'll supply the funds and whatever else is needed to not only keep it going, but to increase its impact over the years ahead.

To do something like this right involves a lot of time and labor. However, if only one preacher is encouraged to continue on faithful in the ministry, it's worth it. If only one pastor's wife receives some added strength, it's worth it. If prayer and financial assistance are garnered for only one seriously ill or injured pastor, it's worth it. If only one layperson turns from being a murmurer to being an encouraging and loyal church member, it's worth it. If the desperate need of only one church planter is met, it's worth it.

I could go on, but I'm sure that you get my drift.

You can both be consistently edified by this publication and help others to receive the same by partnering with us through subscribing. A two-year subscription involves a donation of \$25, while one year is \$15. Our promise is to use the funds wisely, to edify as many souls as God makes possible. We've faithfully demonstrated biblical ethics throughout our more than 20 years in the ministry so there's not much danger of us turning into unfaithful stewards and God robbers at this point in life.

We don't claim to be *Time*, *Newsweek*, *National Geographic*, etc. However, we do believe that the *Baptist Edifier* will be much more helpful to you, your family and your church.



Cary & Ronnie Monaco

The *Baptist Edifier* is published quarterly as a ministry of Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 81, Luther, Oklahoma 73054. (Pastor Matt Dedmon) All articles are written by the editor, Cary Monaco, unless otherwise by-lined. The contact information for the *Baptist Edifier* and Baptist Creek Ministries is: P.O. Box 531, Chandler, Oklahoma 74834; phone, (405) 240-5747; e-mail, baptistedifier@sbcglobal.net

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"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine"

Three retirees, each with a hearing loss, were playing golf one brisk March day.

One remarked to the other, "Windy, isn't it?"

"No," the second man replied, "it's Thursday."

And the third man chimed in, "So am I. Let's go get something to drink!"

Church gives birth to four “babies” in five years

The simple math says if five percent of independent Baptist churches reproduce themselves through home missions church planting each year that we'll have double the amount of churches in 20 years. By birthing seven churches over the past two decades, including four in the past five years, Buckley Road Baptist Church of Liverpool, N.Y. is doing her part, and then some.

“We have a vision to birth a church every two years, unless an opportunity opens up sooner,” reported Pastor Dan Smith, who has served as the church’s under-shepherd for 27 years.

Churches birthed in New York by Buckley Road include Valley Bible Baptist Church, Syracuse, Pastor Gary Welling (1986); Armour of Light Baptist Church, Meridian, Pastor Greg Settle (1996); Cross-Cultural Baptist Church, Syracuse, Pastor Jim Dixon (1998); Central Baptist Church, Hastings; Pastor Mike Zopff (2002); West Branch Bible Baptist Church, Deposit, Pastor Dewey Stewart (2005); and Tri-Cities Baptist Church, Binghamton, Pastor Matthew Smith (2006).

In addition to the New York church plants, Victory Baptist Church of Vail, Ariz., Pastor Dan Dunham, was birthed in 2003. Tongue firmly in cheek, Smith calls the baby church in Arizona an “accident.”

“Brother Dunham was on our staff and went there on vacation,” Smith revealed. “God got a hold of his heart about the area and things went from there.”

“We prefer starting churches here (New York) so that we can really be a part,” Smith continued. “That’s what keeps it going, the people getting personally involved and



Members of Buckley Road Baptist Church help a recently birthed church in Binghamton, N.Y. with door-knocking visitation. The Liverpool, N.Y. church has birthed four churches over the past five years.

seeing visible results.”

The church’s personal involvement often includes seeing converts from the new works baptized, going on door-knocking campaigns where baby churches are located, helping to make improvements to meeting places, and participating in some initial services.

“We have a vision to birth a church every two years.”

“Our focus is mainly on planting churches in towns that are 30 minutes to an hour away,” Smith said. “We begin with Bible studies and then develop into church services.”

Those serving as pastors of the new works have come from either staff or deacons in the church, with the latest one, Matthew Smith, being his son. The church takes on the men sent out for a minimum of \$400 per month and keeps them on support until their financial situations can be stable without it. Buckley Road Baptist also pays the baby church’s bills such as building rental and utilities until she can take care of them herself.

“We’re working to the day when we can take a guy on for full-support

for a year,” Smith stated.

While there are hardships and sacrifices involved for churches heavily involved in birthing other churches, Smith’s commitment to it has deepened rather than dampened.

“In church planting we can reach multiplied more people and help multiplied more missionaries,” Smith commented. “Planting other churches greatly expands the influence of your church’s

ministry. The seven churches we’ve planted so far are supporting 150 missionaries and are putting \$200,000 into missions this year combined. Those totals will grow who knows how far as time goes on.”

Because the Lord has built such a burden for church planting at Buckley Road Baptist through Smith’s leadership, one of the sacrifices involved is members leaving to join the new works. This movement not only includes those leaving to pastor the baby churches, but often includes members who live closer to the church plants and sometimes others whose hearts are so burdened by the Lord.

“We don’t look to send people away,” Smith emphasized. “Yet we’ll see a lot more people saved. You just have to look at the bigger picture to understand.”

Smith is a part of a group of fellow pastors in New York who have allowed God to impress their hearts with the “bigger picture” seen with home missions church planting. As part of the “New York State Church Planter’s” ministry, 10 or so pastors meet monthly from April through November to team in helping to get churches planted in their “Judea.”

The pastors and their churches

“Babies” • See Page 7

Turning Point

Missouri church proclaims Gospel in a half-dozen prisons across three states



In the Bible accounts may be found of the Lord miraculously freeing preachers from prisons. However, several members of a Missouri church are experiencing an opposite phenomenon as they find themselves being put *into* prisons by the power of God.

As with most any step of faith, there was some of the normal fear and trepidation when Wilson Creek Baptist Church near Springfield, Mo. first stepped her toes into the murky waters of prison ministry in 1999. Today, what began as the pastor and one of his men occasionally preaching in a single prison has been expanded to 15 church members proclaiming the Gospel to thousands of inmates in a half-dozen prisons in three states. They call it “Turning Point Prison Ministries.”

When encountered with the testimonies of Pastor Randall Moody and Associate Pastor Rick Jaquess related to Turning Point it quickly becomes obvious that the Lord is incredibly empowering the ministry. For instance, the more than \$5,000 annual expenses associated with the ministry are always covered by unsolicited donations, most of which are given by people from around the U.S. who are strangers to the church.

“It never ceases to amaze me how God provides for this ministry,” commented Jaquess, who serves as director of Turning Point.

The power of God is also evident in how the church has been able to get into so many correctional facilities. Ministry teams from Wilson Creek proclaim the Gospel at prisons located in Fordland, Fulton, Jefferson City and Springfield, Mo.; Newport, Ark.; and McLoud, Okla. The Lord has enabled the church to develop contacts in several prisons with officials in leadership roles, but Moody and Jaquess have also maintained persistence in knocking on doors to be allowed in. Nothing to do with prison ministry seems to mix with timidity.

Another way the Lord has manifested his omnipotence in Turning Point is in raising up fervently dedicated members within the church to join the ministry. Ministering in the prisons requires eight hours of annual training, drug and medical testing, often long hours of travel, handling what can be an intimidating and stressful environ-

ment, and, for some, taking vacation days from work. While it must be fun to see the look on the boss’s face the first time one requests a vacation day to go to prison, folks who are willing to generate the faith and make the sacrifices necessary to engage in prison ministry don’t grow on trees anywhere.

Some ladies of the church also participate in Turning Point, ministering at the women’s prison in McLoud.

“We can drive four hours to a prison and not be allowed in because they’re having a lockdown,” Moody revealed. “Fortunately, that’s a rare thing, but we have been in prisons when lockdowns occur causing us to have to be confined to day rooms for several hours.”

Among the numerous sweet fruits from God produced through the ministry is the spiritual growth infused into the hearts and lives of participating church members. This, in turn, creates a stronger and more blessed church.

Of course, the most dramatic and terrific manifestation of God’s power through Turning Point are the souls saved through the time and efforts. Although those who participate in the ministry are fully aware of the potential for false professions, there’s evidence of scores of genuine salvation decisions every year.

“We know that some only come to the services because it gets them some extra time out of their cells,” Moody commented. “Some are using the system, but we go to do God’s will.”

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“Is it difficult being a Christian in prison?”
“No,” the inmate replied,
“Unless you’re a hypocrite.”
◆◆◆◆◆

Moody and Jaquess have had numerous inmates tell them that they thank God for being in prison because of getting saved through the services.

There’s really no hope of carnal gain for them in saying such things. Indeed, several who have given such testimonies will never be released from prison.

“In prison many people realize they have a need and are looking for answers,” Jaquess related. “We’re able to show them those answers from the Bible.”

Moody remembers asking an inmate, “Is it difficult being a Christian in prison?”

“No,” the inmate replied, “Unless you’re a hypocrite.”

The prisoner went on to explain that professing Christians who genuinely strive to obey God and live by the Bible are typically not harassed by other inmates; however, those claiming Christianity who engage in sinfulness become targets.

As far as any peril associated with prison ministry, both Moody and Jaquess are quick to point out that no one participating has felt threatened.

“We are always in teams of three or four in dealing

Turning Point • See Page 5

March 2007

Like most any teenager, then 16 year-old Michaela Haynes was thrilled to finally get her driver's license. As the ecstatic teen examined the broad smile beaming from her face on the shiny license only God knew that one day soon He would use her newly-acquired driving ability to save her little sister from terrible harm.

No one with understanding would ever say that being a "missionary kid" is easy, but living and ministering on an Indian Reservation presents spiritual and physical dangers well beyond the norm in America. In addition to often increased demonic activity associated with the occult native worship, it's common to encounter individuals under the influence of alcohol and drugs. This frightening mix of demonic oppression and intoxication can create perilous situations for missionary families.

Such was the case soon after the teenage Michaela drove her eight year-old sister, Esther, to visit one of her Navajo girlfriends. While watching Esther walk towards the house, Michaela instantly found panic gripping her heart as a drunken and en-

True Life Adventures In Ministry

He had attacked her and was now headed toward her little sister! What would she do?

raged Navajo man grabbed for her through the open window of the idling van. With instinct straight from the grace of God she fought to push his arms from her with one hand while at the same time seeking the window control button with the other. The man screamed in pain as the automatic window pinned one of his hands to the door frame. After managing to pull his hand out of the window's vise grip, he stumbled to several feet in front of the vehicle. That's when his rage-filled eyes focused on little Esther heading back to the van.

This man had never hid his hatred for the missionary family and their "pushing religion" on his people. Now in his maniac condition he saw an opportunity to inflict pain upon them by hurting the defenseless child. He looked at Michaela with a satanic sneer as he began stepping towards her terrified younger sister.

Michaela's earlier fear and panic were now replaced by pure anger.

There was no way that she was going to allow him to harm Esther. She put the van in gear and headed straight for the attacking Navajo who turned to run away. Michaela slammed the van to a halt, jumped out the door, and with a courage she didn't know that she possessed started chasing the man with screams of defiance and indignation. Her and Esther's once fierce attacker fearfully retreated to his shack behind the house, never to dare bother them again.

(Michaela Haynes is now Michaela Dunn, who with her husband, Nicolas, is heading to mainland China as a missionary. Her parents, Mark and Tricia Haynes, continue as missionaries to the Navajos in Arizona.)

His rage-filled eyes focused on little Esther heading back to the van

Turning Point • From Page 4

with people," Moody said. "Through our training and experience we've learned how to keep out of shaky situations."

Moody explained that such situations can be more the result of naiveté on the part of those ministering than anything else. The typical church member isn't used to dealing with individuals possessing the mindsets and methods of much of the prison population. For instance, few independent Baptists will ever encounter someone of the same sex who is interested in them romantically, yet those who minister in prisons must be on the alert for such overtures.

Interestingly, in this era when dress and appearance are becoming

increasingly casual and decreasingly modest in churches, all the prisons where Wilson Creek ministers require a stricter dress code for inmates when they attend services.

"Generally, there's a good response to the preaching," Moody reported.

One of his most exciting preaching opportunities occurs during "Friday Movie Night" at the facility in Fulton. Moody is in the room by himself with the inmates and is required to wear a body alarm. There are 16 security cameras throughout the room. Before the Christian film is played he preaches on the required theme of "What Went Wrong?"

"A Baptist preacher has no trouble at all preaching on that theme," Moody laughed. "I've preached a lot of different messages now using that

same theme."

One of Moody's desires is to see more independent Baptist churches become involved in jail and prison ministries. While fundamental prison evangelism ministries exist, there are many more correctional facilities than such evangelists. Hundreds of New Testament Churches throughout the U.S. are located near prisons and other correctional facilities which have no outreach to this section of their Jerusalem.

"It has to be something you want to do," he stated. "There must be a willing spirit. It requires determination and dedication."

It also requires the power of God.

Remember, the same Almighty God Who freed preachers from prisons can also get them into prisons.

Record \$102,447 raised for home missions church planting

OKLAHOMA CITY – Preachers representing recent or coming church plants in 28 states attended the Eighth Annual Heartland Church Planting and Home Missions Conference held Jan. 9-11 at Heartland Baptist Bible College. A record \$102,447 was raised in the form of one-time gifts while church planters garnered \$6,765 in monthly support which comes to \$81,180 annually.

According to a report released by the school, average attendance for the conference was 897 for the entire week with a high of 1,447. The event also serves as opening days for the Spring Semester.

A revival spirit permeated the services which featured preaching from a mix of long-experienced veterans to young men new to pastoral ministry. A willing-heartedness to give prevailed as offering after offering was taken up for the great cause of home missions church planting with attendees responding robustly as the record amount well indicates.

As per its reputation, Heartland BBC was a grand host providing cheerful hospitality, superb organization and unsurpassed service. Meals were provided to all out-of-town guests, nursery and children's ministries were available every service,

hospitality rooms were made ready, campus tours conducted, opportunities for pastors to interview students for intern and staff positions were coordinated, the bookstore provided a wide selection, and there were even maps to nearby eateries distributed. It seemed that every possible detail had been considered.

Church planters also garnered \$6,765 in monthly support which comes to \$81,180 annually

The Godly style and spiritual appeal of the special music both refreshed and inspired. It clearly demonstrated that the modern movement to music which combines worldly style and carnal appeal is the wrong direction. A particular highlight was the singing of the school choir which must have been a sweet savor to the Lord.

There was much heart-pounding preaching throughout the conference, including a Tuesday night message from Pastor Dean Herring of Kuna, Idaho that had the packed-house ebbing and flowing between laughter and tears. Who will ever forget his illustration about prayer involving the

Herring's little girl and the "Cabbage Patch Doll?"

Pastor Chris Chadwick of San Diego offered this advice to church planters, "Don't start a church just before a war. I did and for nine months it was nothing but me and a bunch of women."

Chadwick continued the humor by exclaiming, "I'm the greatest ladies' conference speaker in the world!"

Changing to the utterly serious, Pastor Don Ball of Lebanon, Missouri proclaimed a soul-searing message on hell. His points were 1) "Hell is a real place," 2) "Real people go to hell," and, 3) "There are people in hell who know us."

One could have heard a pin drop as a young church planter, Pastor Joel Henshaw of Pembroke Pines, Fla., testified of the intense spiritual warfare that he and his family have encountered in establishing a work. It was abundantly obvious that the Holy Spirit was moving in hearts as he preached.

As the conference drew to a close, Heartland BBC President Sam Davison announced that a format change planned for next year's event will enable even more church planters to present their needs.

Quotable Quotes

Although my legs and feet are breaking down, I am determined to continue to declare the grace of Jesus. If I cannot declare them standing up, I will declare them sitting down. If I cannot declare the grace of Jesus sitting down, then I will do it lying down.

— Evangelist Joe Boyd
Age 88

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." — Hebrews 6:10

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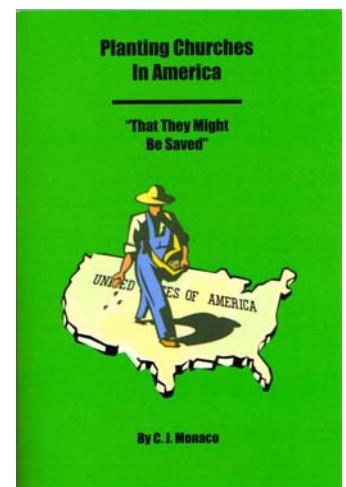
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Church Potluck Tips

1. If at all possible form two lines of people to go down both sides of the table(s). This both saves a lot of time and helps folks to get their food before it's cold.
2. Arrange rectangular pans and serving dishes vertically on tables rather than horizontally. This can provide space for much more food. It also makes food more reachable for those going down either side of the table.
3. When possible arrange salad, vegetable and casserole dishes on tables before meats. (This helps more meat to survive to the end of the lines!)
4. Work hard at getting food set on tables quickly and efficiently. Spend little or no time with announcements, ice-breakers, music, etc. while food is on the tables getting cold. Don't wait for late comers before starting.

See Next Issue For More Tips!
(Plus "Ronnie's Edifying Chicken & Cream Cheese Enchiladas")

"Babies" • From Page 3

combine efforts through knocking doors where works are being established; helping to supply some baby church needs such as printing, tracts, hymnals, seating, tables, etc.; and exhorting preachers to assist in supplying financial support for the home missionaries.

Imagine if every pastor and church would allow God to show them the "bigger picture" that has been captured by Smith and his beloved Buckley Road Baptist Church!

At an average of every independent Baptist church birthing just one "baby" over the next 20 years we would double ourselves by 2027.

Churches Needing Pastors

(A new listing every issue)

Georgia

Northside Baptist Church
of Pembroke
Contact: Jeff Spencer
(912) 653-3088

Fayette Baptist Church
of Fayetteville
(Includes school of about 175 students)
Contact: Dan Green
(770) 461-3538

Kansas

Osage City Baptist Temple
of Osage
(Currently part-time)
Contact: Bob Crawford
(620) 699-3344

Minnesota

First Baptist Church
of Park Rapids
Contact: Will Ryther
(218) 732-5601

Oregon

New Life Baptist Church
of Cottage Grove
(Currently non-paid)
Contact: Bill Rentz
(541) 285-1604

Texas

Bible Baptist Church
of Hereford
(Includes parsonage)
Contact: Brent Bennett
(806) 622-0029

Consider supporting this ministry

While we understand that one issue of the *Baptist Edifier* and one book produced so far aren't much to go on, it's our prayer that some might help our ministry financially, not only through subscriptions, but also through one-time offerings and eventually even monthly support.

We know that this ministry is called of God and realize that He'll provide. He might just use you to help towards that end.

We're in the process of producing what we believe are some of the most practical and helpful tracts, booklets and books needed by independent Baptist churches and individuals. Yet, our market is so small that a ministry surviving solely on subscriptions and book sales is extremely difficult, if not impossible.

What follows is a portion of an article written by David Cloud, director of *Way of Life Literature* (used with his permission):

"Literature's power is recognized widely and is used by cults, communists, the world, Charismatics, New Evangelicals, and Bible corrupters. It is something God has richly blessed through the centuries, and countless multitudes have been saved and edified through the printed

page. We fundamental Baptists need to be more deeply involved in this.

I have heard countless independent Baptist preachers complain about the fact that fundamental Baptists have not produced much literature, about the fact that fundamental Baptists don't write. But when a fundamental Baptist does write and does produce literature, they won't support him because he 'only has a literature ministry.' This is a strange thing!

It's not as if there were hundreds of literature ministries vying for the support of independent Baptists. I can count such ministries among fundamental Baptists with my ten fingers. Every church could support one literature ministry, and if they did the needs would be fully met and fundamental Baptist literature would be flooding across the world. As it is, the fundamental Baptists are practically alone in their lack of vision toward the value of literature and the world is full of every sort of literature except fundamental Baptist literature."

We could have written something on the same lines as Brother Cloud, but sometimes it's better to let someone else do your talking (or writing) for you. Please pray about helping us.

Parting Thoughts

Help Us To Edify Others

We're depending on our readers to help the *Baptist Edifier* to become more and more edifying, to more and more people, in more and more places over the months and years ahead. One key way that individuals can do this is to become a "stringer."

The term "stringer" may be somewhat archaic from when I first got into journalism 30 years ago. Have you ever seen one of those missions map displays where a piece of string or yarn is connected from the church location to the various fields where she supports missionaries? Such a display pictures an important connection between a church and her missionaries which tells of the most crucial mission of all.

Well, the *Baptist Edifier* isn't nearly as important as a local New Testament Church, but to be as edifying as the Lord desires we need to become connected to as many people as possible all over the U.S. and the world who are willing to provide us with information which can then be turned into beneficial articles. All the "stringer" has to do is give us some basic info via e-mail, telephone or regular mail, and if we believe God would have us to do an article, we'll take care of the rest.

The information we're looking for includes ministry stories/events;

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I John 5:13

About the Editor

Cary Monaco trusted Christ as Savior in 1978 while in the U.S. Air Force where he served eight years as a military journalist. Surrendering to God's call to preach in 1984, he attended Baptist Bible College, Springfield, Mo., graduating in 1988. He served as the assistant editor of the *Baptist Bible Tribune* from 1986 to 1990, when he was sent out of Wilson Creek Baptist Church, Battlefield, Mo. to plant a church in Hamilton, Mont. After serving as pastor of Big Sky Baptist Church there for 16 years, the Lord called him to develop a full-time writing ministry and teach Home Missions Church Planting at Heartland Baptist Bible College, Oklahoma City. He and his wife, Ronnie, reside in Chandler, Okla.

Brother Monaco is available to preach for "Baptist Edifier Sundays," revival meetings, missions conferences, pulpit supply and other preaching opportunities. For scheduling call (405) 240-5747 or e-mail to baptistedifier@sbcglobal.net.

preachers/families encountering serious illness, accident, death or other severe trials; church planting (fairly recent or soon-to-occur); unique stories of God working in lives (including laypeople); preachers' meeting reports; significant Bible college news; churches needing pastors; unusual church planting opportunities; warnings about scam artists, internet hoaxes, etc.; and availability of free items for church planters and others.

As the name implies, the main focus of our publication is to glorify God by edifying ("building up through encouragement") the saints. Since every believer should be involved in the edification process, many people should have a heart to become stringers for us. We guarantee that there are no strings attached! You may even remain anonymous.

Of course, we can't promise to write an article for every tip we receive; however, we can promise to

seek God's leadership on which stories to pursue. I sincerely pray about which articles to produce and also for the Lord's help in writing them.

Folks can also send us articles of their own, but it would be better to contact us before doing the work. With limited space and specific objectives, we're forced to be extremely selective concerning article submissions.

Only the Lord knows how much edification that He'll bring forth with even just one article. Someday I'll share with readers some amazing stories about how God has used certain articles to make eternal differences in people's lives. It has been said that there's "power in the pen." This is no more true than when that pen is in the hand of God.

Contact us by e-mail at baptistedifier@sbcglobal.net; by phone (405) 240-5747; or by mail at *Baptist Edifier*, P.O. Box 531, Chandler, OK 74834.

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