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## A NOTE FROM PASTOR BILL

V.L. Martin, a missionary to the ABC islands years ago, and a pastor in the U.S. for many years, retired here in Ft. Myers in 1979. He had heart failure and was near death, so he decided to spend the last few years of his life serving God here, under the advisement of all his heart doctors.

When the original charter group started Gospel Baptist Church in 1980, they found Dr. V.L. Martin! He graciously agreed to work as our "interim" Pastor, while we hunted for a full-time man that God wanted for us.

God knew what he was doing. He sent us "V.L." as he was called, to **establish a solid "missions" foundation that has lasted all these almost 27 years now.**

We would golf together once and a while, and he would use this to "coach" me on **the importance of having a "missions-minded" church, and that God would "bless us" for remembering the world, and not just our area.**

His words sunk deep within my spirit, and I sincerely agreed with him, and **made a covenant with God, that if I ever had the guiding authority in any work, it would be "missions-minded."**

Now, some 26+ years later, we give almost \$250,000 per year to 76 missionaries covering many foreign lands. **Our goal in missions is to have as many diverse lands represented as possible.** We support some U.S.A. missionaries, but are moving away from that more and more to strictly "foreign" missions. **Why? Obviously, because the need outside of the U.S. is vastly greater than the need here.**

Don Sisk, a former director of BIMl, told our church that **94% of the Gospel preaching is spent on 6% of the world's population (us).** This statistic has been repeated throughout my life, and has remained true all these years. **We are trying to make that statistic change, and reach the unreached before they die without Christ.**

Why missions? **If you believe the Bible is true, then you must agree that without the "hearing of the Gospel," no one can be saved (Rom 10:17). How can they hear without a preacher, and how can they have a preacher without him being sent out? Rom 10:14: How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? Rom 10:15: And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"**



Does God love us more than them?? Do we deserve the Gospel more than they do? Are our kids more important than their kids? Will they not live somewhere forever like we will? Did Jesus not die for them like he did us? **We can and are making a difference.** As members of Gospel, come join us in the **"greatest mission ever attempted for God" . . . reaching the world with the Gospel.**

*Desiring beautiful feet, Bill*

## Mission Memories of Jim & Beth McCollum, Charter Members, GBC

Gospel Baptist Church has had a heart for missions since the organization of the church, the first Sunday of March 1980, in the home of Ernie & Phyllis Stewart. **It was immediately decided to begin a missions fund** and to support Terry Martin (England), Clark Allen (Puerto Rico) and Les Duran (Kenya).

In the early years of the church, the Ladies Missionary Circle was formed with Dorothy Alderman as the first president. She was followed by Violet Cooper and Carolyn Miley. Each year the ladies held a Tupperware party to purchase items for the missionary cupboard. Each visiting missionary lady was very appreciative of the opportunity to choose the Tupperware pieces badly needed on their mission field.

At one meeting, we were each given a name of a missionary lady who would be our pen pal. (That blessing continues for me personally, as years later I am still corresponding with Thelamour Fayette's wife, Denise, in Haiti.)

One memorable missionary from the early Missions Conferences was Missionary Hank Sckeltama, a veteran pilot who carried supplies and missionaries to foreign fields. He had flown his single-engine plane to Ft. Myers for our conference and somehow he convinced Pastor McKinney (who was noted for motion sickness), Naomi and Jim to accompany him for an airplane ride.

Jim remembers vividly how the plane had barely left the ground when Pastor McKinney began moaning and groaning as if he were dying. It proved to be a very short flight as Pastor McKinney was returned to the ground to lay on an airport couch, still moaning, until he recovered his equilibrium!

It was such a blessings those first years to develop friendships with missionaries, then to see the Faith Promise pledges increase each year with more missionaries supported.

**We truly believe the blessings of God have been upon GBC because of the mission outreach and obedience to His Word, "... Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel ..."** Mark 16:15

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***"I have but one candle of life to burn and would rather burn it out where people are dying in darkness than in a land that is flooded with light."***

***Hudson Taylor, Missionary to China (1832 -1905)***

***A missionary is one who never gets used to the sound of heathen footsteps on their way to a Christless eternity.***

***Author***

***Unknown***

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## Testimony of G.S. Nair, Missionary to India



We thank God for you, brethren, who have prayed for and supported us in the practical side of the ministry. GBC has been supporting our ministry for several years. When Brother Tom Gillaspie visited in 2006, God directed our thoughts to establish a dairy farm to help the College train up more nationals. Brother Tom returned to Gospel Baptist Church and gave a report on our ministry. The Church then helped us purchase additional land adjacent to the College.

We've been able to add additional buildings to keep the cows. Now we have 10 cows that produce a good amount of milk. This milk supplies the College. We also sell a good portion of the milk which brings some income for the College to train up more students. These students then reach out to establish more local churches. Once we finish the cow shed, we can add 16 more cows. Then the farm can produce more income to train more people. Gospel Baptist Church also helped us to acquire more land with some rubber trees which also brings additional income for the College.

## Praise God for the endeavor of the brethren and the vision to reach out to India through this ministry.

Recently, my visit to four different countries in north and central India brought great blessings. We had 20 meetings, two of them were among the leprosy colony. We began this ministry around three years ago. Many of them were treated and helped. We had 32 families come to regular service; 12 of them trusted the Lord. We went to Orrissa, India and preached in a Gospel campaign organized by the local church. Between 30-35 people were saved in the first two days. On the third day, we preached the Gospel message to a crowd of over 1,200 people. To God be the Glory, during the invitation over 380 people came forward with deep conviction. Nearly 25 of our College graduates led them to the Lord. **There were no eyes without tears crying for the mercy of God and pleading for salvation.**

Gospel Baptist Church is also helping us to purchase a printing press. We will have the press within the next four weeks. The press will marvelously help our evangelism ministry through literature. We work with 23 languages in India and Nepal. A few graduates are already showing an interest in working with the press. It will be self-supported and may bring some income, also.

Lord willing, we will be graduating 78 students this year, 65 of which, so far, we know are going into the ministry. **Pray along with us that we might be able to train more to reach out to India for Christ.** Thank God for Gospel Baptist Church and their faithfulness toward the ministry of the People's Baptist Church. We are able to work in 24 different states in India, with well over 1,000 pastors and church planters. People's Baptist Church is deeply indebted to Gospel Baptist Church and we are looking forward to Pastor John Boutchia's visit in September, 2007.

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## Testimony of Anne Livingston, Missionary to Haiti

My first meeting at Gospel Baptist Church was in March, 1985. I was on deputation to go to Haiti, and Pastor McKinney invited me to take part in the Mission's Conference. The church started support soon after.

I arrived in Haiti in 1987 and learned the language. The following year we built the storage depot, dug the well and made plans for buildings. We started the clinic ministry in August 1989, and the construction of the clinic building the following November.

Pastor Serge Fayette preached the first clinic day, and two people were saved. Pastor Thelamour Fayette now preaches before each clinic session, and also gives out literature and talks to patients individually. **Gospel Baptist Church supports these pastors, and through them you have a witness for Christ in Haiti.**

We have cared for more than 12,000 people. **Since family or friends often come with patients, we have probably witnessed to more than 40,000 people.** We can encourage the saints and reach those who would never go to a sound church, but need to hear the good news of the Gospel. **Your support of our medical ministry has made this evangelism possible.**

The construction of the main building has proceeded steadily. **There have been several occasions when a gift from Gospel Baptist Church made it possible to continue.** We also built my house and the guest house. A very generous gift allowed me to upgrade my solar power system, and electrical equipment runs much more smoothly.

I have had the privilege of hosting college students during the summer. One young lady is now a nurse in Papua, New Guinea. **You have had a part in producing the next generation of missionaries.** Nursing students from the past two summers are seriously considering returning to St. Raphael. A third student dedicated her life for missions last summer.

Gospel Baptist Church has blessed me through practical encouragement (support and gifts) and prayer. I have the privilege of representing you using the ministry of medical care to gain opportunities to proclaim the good news of salvation through personal faith in Jesus Christ. **We are partners working together in Haiti to bring Glory to God.**

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## Upcoming Events at Gospel Baptist Church

April 8th	Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m. @ Bonita Beach
June 1st	Gospel Baptist Christian High School Graduation
June 18th - 22nd	Vacation Bible School: "Wild Bill's Western Rodeo"
July 9th -13th	Gospel Baptist Church Youth Group @ Camp Mt. Moriah, Knoxville, TN
July 25th	Academy of Arts, Greenville, S.C. @ Gospel Baptist Church

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***What is 750,000 miles long, reaches around the earth 30 times, and grows 20 miles longer each day?***

***Answer:*** The line of people who are without Christ.

***"The special person called to do missionary work is every person who is a member of the church of Christ.***

***The call does not come to a chosen few, it is to every one of us."***

***Oswald Chambers (1874-1917)***

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**Gospel Baptist Church & Christian School, 24861 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs, FL 34135  
Church (239) 947-1285 • Fax (239) 947-2132 • School (239) 947-2341**