



Family Newsletter

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A Family of Faithful Servants



Dr. Gene & Alice Burge
President, BMFP

Even though BMFP is made up of many missionaries serving the Lord around the world, we work hard at keeping a family atmosphere. It is our desire that the missionaries that serve with BMFP feel a strong bond between them.

On September 3-6, we had around 70 missionaries and board members in attendance at the BMFP Family Retreat held in Pigeon Forge, TN. We conduct this meeting every two years to encourage the missionaries that are on furlough, to strengthen those that have ministries in North America and to uplift those that are on their pre-field ministries. Certainly that was the case at this Retreat. One couple said it this way: "The fellowship between missionaries was wonderful. We certainly do feel a part of a family." The singing is always great at these BMFP meetings and the preaching was just what we needed. Our prayer at BMFP was that this Retreat would restore a spring in the step of those who attended, repair any spiritual wounds, and rejuvenate their spirits with new vigor for the Lord's work. Truly the Lord worked in all of our lives. My wife Alice and I are indeed honored to be with such wonderful co-laborers.



Don Smith

Called or Volunteered?
By
Dr. Don Smith
BMFP National Field
Administrator

Someone may be reading this who desires to be a missionary but the thought holding them back from joining the ranks of this glorious Army is, "I'm not called."

When I entered the US Army back in antiquity (1957) I was "called" by my countrymen to serve. The initial letter I received said - they selected me. I had to go, and not going would lead to dire circumstances. Later, I won a successful young business man to Christ. He felt the call and came forward in a service to announce that God had called, and he was going. After about six months of dragging his feet, I asked why he was delaying his call. His answer was, "Pastor, I've decided that I am making too much money to give it up, so I am just going to serve him by giving to God's work." Less than a year later he died in a tragic accident. You fill in the blanks!

If you don't strongly feel the call – volunteer! As a draftee, I was placed in a unit with a lot of volunteers. Unlike me, they wanted to be in the Army. They went through the same training, and for the most part, these volunteers became the best soldiers. **(Continued on next page)**



2018 BMFP Family Retreat

**Called or Volunteered
By Don Smith
(Continued from front page)**

The Bible teaches that God calls (accepts volunteers) certain people to certain ministries and fields, and they render the greatest service when under God's authority and leadership. Consider Jonah and his call and ministry in Nineveh; Paul in his call and ministry in Rome; Phillip and his call and ministry to the eunuch in the desert.

Called or volunteered, your God-given orders are to go! God looks for those who are not ashamed to be identified with Him and give Him priority: practice what they preach; pray believing God is able to grant every request; take and obey orders; do God's business by His methods; and commit to serve where God leads, overlooking sacrifice and deprivation; and who have vision and faith.

These five things will enable you to complete the journey:

1. Be a true, faithful servant of God. "Whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men, knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the rewards of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ" Col. 3:23-24. The most important, prerequisite to the fulfillment of Christian service is to faithfully serve God.

2. Be a faithful witness and testify to what you have seen and heard. Jesus said in John 15:27, "and ye also shall bear witness because ye have been with me from the beginning," and in Acts 1:6, "Ye shall be witnesses."

3. Preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus commanded, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" Mark 16:15. Paul said, "all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation: to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them, and hath committed unto us the Word of reconciliation." II Cor. 5: 18-19.

4. Have compassion towards those whom you serve. In Matthew 9 our Blessed Lord was touched and moved with compassion, seeing multitudes that were lost and without someone to show them the way. No matter what the moral or social conditions are, have compassion.

5. BE FAITHFUL! Paul said in I Cor. 4:1-2, "Let a man so account of us, and as the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is, required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

Let me remind you of II Cor. 5: 9-10, "Wherefore we labor, that whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ." Having done this, we may join Paul in saying, "I am ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand, I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only but unto all them also that love His appearing."

Not called? Volunteer!!!!

News From the Fields

Jake & Amanda Gerasimof
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We praise the Lord for His leading, strength and wisdom as we complete our first summer in Homer. With summer coming to an end, and 3 months of ministry behind us, we have found our strength and wisdom must come from God alone. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness! In July We ordered 2,500 door hanger invitations for revival meetings, and got nearly all of them out into the community of Homer in about 2.5 weeks. Praise the Lord for a week of great meetings as we saw the Lord work in the hearts of His people, and many were encouraged to be bold witnesses for the Lord. Please pray for the winter months as its important we get enough fire wood split for our first winter. Please pray God will give me balance between wood splitting, ministry and family!

Earl & Lynn Malpass
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There have been at least 4 Baptist missionary pilots die this year. One trying to return to an airport after an engine failure. One from a strange infection contracted at a non-U.S. airport where he worked. Two others we have mentioned in our letters were closer to us. Bro. Dave Crispell went to heaven in his sleep back in May, and Bro. Jim Poleman was tragically killed in a mid-air collision in Alaska in June. Each of these men left loved ones and big shoes to fill. Who will fill the gap left by these men? Please pray for the loved ones who mourn, and that Mission Air Care will be able train new pilots to help fill the gap. God is blessing and expanding the ministry. The Gospel is being given out, relationships built, and opportunities to serve abound. Praise the Lord we were able to purchase the parts to repair our ministry plane. Please "pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified," 2 Thes 3:1.

Brian & Cindy Thiessen
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Cindy and I had a wonderful visit to Quebec in July where we had the opportunity to visit in four great churches. The pastors and church members blessed our hearts with their dedication and faithfulness on a difficult field. Quebec has a total population of 8.4 million souls, and fewer Independent Baptist churches per capita than any other province. Several of these works are currently in need of pastors, and there are many populated areas which are in desperate need of churches being planted. Pray for laborer's to respond to God's call to Quebec. Next year we are planning a trip to British Columbia in May and June, Quebec in the fall, and to the Mission Possible European Retreat In Germany, hosted by BMFP, in early November.