

Re seeding America

A ministry to assist the local independent baptist church and church planter in the planting of new independent baptist churches across America.

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P.O. Box 9215
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A BIBLICAL PHILOSOPHY OF CHURCH PLANTING

Part 2 of 3

The material in this article is written from a lecture that BIMI Missionary Bob McKeever would give as he taught in church planting schools around the country. Although Bob is with the Lord, his work lives on. Two years ago he gave me his notes and asked me if I would continue to teach this material in church planting schools and churches across America. Dr. Bob McKeever knew church planting and he was involved in church planting ministries for years. He was a blessing and a great encouragement to churches and church planters in the US. The following contains the thoughts from the heart of Missionary Bob McKeever and we are happy to publish these thoughts as a tribute to him.

Bob Larson, Assistant Director USA MISSIONS - BIMI

If the main mission of the local New Testament church is missions, then there should be a two-fold goal in mission work. Why have goals when it comes to mission work? Goals help us determine the path we take. Goals help us evaluate our progress. The first goal of missions is evangelism. Notice the following scriptures: "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:16). "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you" (John 20:21). J. Herbert Kane said, "Mis-

sionary work that does not include evangelism is not missionary work at all." We are to preach to reach individuals. Biblical preaching needs to be clear, plain and without compromise.

The second goal of missions is planting churches. The reason church planting is vital to missions is that "baptize" is the second part of the Great Commission and baptism is a local church ordinance. The responsibility of baptizing the new convert has not been given to individuals but it has been given to the church. Our immediate objective of missions is to reach the lost and the ultimate objective or long range objective of mis-

sions is to plant churches. As indispensable as evangelism is to missions, it is incomplete without the formation of local churches. The church is the primary agent in God's plan to reconcile mankind to Himself. In Acts 16:5 the Bible states, "And so were the churches established in the faith and increased in number daily." Our part is to walk by faith and obey, trust and believe God. God's part is to give the increase. Planting churches involves sowing seed, and the seed is the Word of God. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (1 Peter 1:23). The church planter must sow the seed of the Word of God but God will cause the seed to grow. Paul stated, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase" (I Corinthians 3:6).

Once a church has been established, the goal then is to see that church become indigenous. Webster defines *indigenous* as being native or natural (not foreign) to a country or an area. When a missionary goes to a foreign field to preach the gospel, establish churches and baptize the converts, he

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does not try to westernize the people nor is his goal to Americanize the people. A church planter in the United States should not be trying to southernize the people. Our goal is to evangelize the people. When is a church indigenous? Three things have to take place. First, the church must be self-governing. To accomplish this, the members of that local church are to be making the decisions based on the Word of God. Second, it must be self supporting. For the church to be indigenous, it should not be receiving outside or external financing. The third thing that has to be done for a church to be indigenous is to determine that the church is going to be self propagating. Plans need to be in place to eventually reproduce the church elsewhere. It is important to remember the church is more than an organization; it is a living organism. If an organism is healthy, it will do two things: it ought to grow and eventually it ought to reproduce. It should be the goal of every church planter to build an indigenous church.

While a pastor is called to a church, a missionary church planter is called to a city. A missionary church planter is always looking for certain things. He looks for the town or city that God wants him to reach with the Gospel. When he gets to that town, he then starts his

search for those that need to hear the Gospel story. He goes door to door in his quest to reach the souls of men, women, boys and girls. He looks for a suitable building to hold services. Later he will look for land and the opportunity to purchase property. The work of the church planter always involves the following steps. The first step is the reaching of the lost or soul winning and evangelism. Soul winning is not the fulfillment of the Great Commission; it is only the first part! The next step or work for the church planter is discipleship and the training of leaders. It is vitally important for the church planter to disciple new converts and train leadership. After all, how do you get mature Christians and Godly leadership in the new church? It is not accidental! People must be taught and trained and put into places of responsibility when they are spiritually qualified. These responsibilities must be a reward for faithfulness. One should not make the mistake of giving responsibility to untrained or unfaithful people. Someone wisely has said, "Evangelism is not complete until the evangelized become the evangelists. The new converts will have to be trained and retrained by the Word of God to be placed in leadership roles.

USA Church Plants In Progress

Dale & Faye Painter ~ Johnsonberg, PA ~ We praise the Lord for many blessings we received this past year. In July we baptized nine people. There are five more to baptize – four adults and one teenager. One woman was saved in the Sunday morning service and the others were saved in their homes on visitation. The Catholic influence in this area with a practice of Pedo-baptism makes them a little reluctant to be baptized. However, when they are taught the truth, they usually respond to what the Lord commands. Pray for our support – it is low at this time . We use what comes through the church offering toward the expenses of the church. We ourselves have outstanding bills such as car repairs, medicine, doctor& dentist bills – we have trusted God to meet our needs – we need more churches to support us at this time.

Gary & Susan Tingen ~ Snow Hill, NC ~ At the first of this year, we started praying for 13 new members to be added to our church. We had more missionaries in our mission program than members in the church. We wanted to see this reversed. Thus far we've added 7 new member families, only six more to go to reach this year's goal. Our Sunday morning attendance has increased since January from 12-13 to 40-45. Two precious souls were saved last week and both have been baptized and united with our church. Pray for Luckie, Jessica, Brian, Mike & others on our prayer list. Also, pray for much needed repairs to our fellowship hall.

Thank You!

We want to thank the churches, individuals and our USA missionaries who are faithfully giving to the "Reseeding America" ministry of BIMI.

Pastor

Do you have a man or men in your church that have a desire to plant a New Independent Baptist Church in America out of your church? BIMI now offers an associate missionary program for the man who is called to start a church in the USA. For more details call BIMI today.

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What the Fire Could Not Destroy

On August 22, 2006, the auditorium of Grace Baptist Church in Fair Oakes, California, was completely burned by a fire started by an arsonist. The fellowship hall at the church was not burned but had smoke damage. The church under the leadership of Pastor Charles Carter has continued with services on the property in their fellowship hall.

When Pastor Carter contacted BIMI Assistant USA Director Bob Larson concerning the fire, a date was set and Reseeding America coordinated plans for a large Scripture distribution and revival to be held at the church in early 2007. Meanwhile, California pastors helped raise funds to purchase ten thousand Romans booklets.

In spite of temperatures in the low twenties and teens, January 11-13, 2007, saw **RESEEDING AMERICA**, Northern California pastors and churches and two pastors from the Phoenix, AZ, area all working together with Grace Baptist Church to distribute door to door nine thousand packets of the book of Romans and a flyer about the church. The flyer for the church had pictures of the fire and a headline that read "Come see what the fire could not destroy!"

Services were held each evening during the distribution. On the Sunday after the distribution, the temperature in nearby Sacramento was a chilly twenty-two degrees. In spite of the weather, a good number of visitors attended the morning and evening services. At this writing they are still seeing visitors coming to the church, thanks to all of the pastors, churches and individuals who prayed and helped with this effort in Northern California. What



Above: Burned out shell of Grace Baptist Church

Right: Pastor Carter leading the services at Grace Baptist



Below: Hungry workers enjoy a lunch break



A good group from Bay area churches gather on a chilly Saturday morning to distribute packets for Grace Baptist.

a blessing to see the grace of God at work in these churches. This kind of support and cooperation must be what Paul was talking about when he thanked God for their fellowship in the Gospel to the Philippian church.

Please pray for Grace Baptist Church and the reconstruction of their auditorium. The **RESEEDING AMERICA** Church Restoration ministry works with churches that have experienced set backs. Contact us for more information concerning this ministry.

Reseeding America Organizes and Assists in a Scripture Distribution for a Church in Oklahoma

RESEEDING AMERICA organized and assisted in “Operation Saturation” at Bethel Baptist Church, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, October 25-28, 2006. Jim Sanders is the pastor of this church which is five years old. Six thousand John and Romans booklets along with a flyer about the church were distributed door to door over the three days. Revival services were held each night during the distribution. Pictured here are volunteers who came to help in this distribution from Talking Rock Road Baptist Church, Branson, MO, Friendship Baptist Church, Highland, AR, and members of Bethel Baptist Church. The groups did a wonderful job of distributing packets door to door. The church from Branson, MO, also supplied the printing for the John and Romans. Two souls were saved during the distribution and a good number of visitors attended the services after “Operation Saturation.”



Loading up packets and people for the day in Oklahoma

Visitors still coming in the door five months after distribution

In August of 2006 **RESEEDING AMERICA** was asked to organize and conduct a large Romans distribution for Mile Straight Baptist Church in Soddy Daisy, TN. The church's congregation was encouraged to put together and distribute eight thousand door

hanger literature bags over a three day period. Invitations were placed in the packets to attend the dedication of their newly remodeled auditorium. A Romans booklet was also placed in the packet.

On dedication Sunday, Pastor Tom Goss re-

ported that the congregation had between seventy-five to one hundred visitors in attendance. And there were fifteen that trusted Christ as their Saviour.

Recently Pastor Goss e-mailed **RESEEDING AMERICA** to report that on a Sunday in January, eleven people had come to join their church and four came as a direct result of **RESEEDING AMERICA** distribution held last fall.

For more information on how **RESEEDING AMERICA** can help your church, please call us at Baptist International Missions at 423-344-5050.



Mile Straight members getting packets ready to distribute

HELP US PURCHASE THE “SEED” FOR RESEEDING AMERICA PROJECTS

When **RESEEDING AMERICA** assists new churches and churches in decline, it takes thousands of Romans books to do a distribution for these churches. Can we count on your monthly support of our “Seed Bank Fund” to help us sow the seed of the Word of God across America in this ministry? Send your gift to “Seed Bank Fund” **RESEEDING AMERICA** c/o BIM I.P.O. Box 9215, Chattanooga, TN 37412.

What About the “Samaritans” in Your Town?

by Coy Shaw

If your town is like most in the United States today, then there are “Samaritans” living and working near you, maybe in your own neighborhood. Let me begin by explaining what I mean by “Samaritans.” After King Solomon’s death Israel divided into two separate kingdoms: the Southern Kingdom (also known as Judah) with Jerusalem as its capital and the Northern Kingdom (also known as Israel) with the city of Samaria as its capital. The Northern Kingdom quickly descended into idolatry and it became necessary for God to judge His rebellious people. In 721 B. C. the Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom, relocating many of the Jews to other parts of the Assyrian Empire and repopulating the area with other nationalities. The result was an intermarriage of Jews with Gentiles and a religion that was a mixture of paganism and Judaism. The region became known as Samaria and the people were called Samaritans. Because of their mixed blood and their adulterated worship of Jehovah, they were despised by the Jews. In Jesus’ day the Samaritans were a distinct cultural group living within the borders of Israel.



Today the “Samaritans” are distinct cultural groups living within our borders. We often call these people immigrants and refer to them as communities (example: the Hispanic community). These

cultural groups live in a country not their own; however, they maintain their own language, communications, customs, values, religion, etc. Regardless of how you feel about immigrants in the United States today you have to recognize that they are here. Should we try to reach these people with the Gospel even though they may be here illegally? Yes, we must attempt to reach them if we are going to be the witnesses Jesus said we are to be. *“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”* (Acts 1:8).

According to Acts 1:8 witnessing to the “Samaritans” is not an either/or command but a “both/and” command. Jesus gave the Gospel to the Jews and to the Samaritans (John 4). Later, God allowed persecution to come upon the church at Jerusalem so that they would take the gospel to the Samaritans (Acts 8:3-5).

Many countries of the world are closed to missionaries (especially American missionaries), and although

we cannot enter those countries as foreign missionaries, “Samaritans” from those countries can return to their native land without difficulty. In some countries Americans are despised, thus making it difficult for the American missionary to effectively minister. However, we can reach the “Samaritans” in our country, and they can reach their own people with the Gospel.

The mission field has come to us! We must not fail to avail ourselves of the opportunity that lies before us.



pictures from New York City

(Coy and Nancy Shaw have served as missionaries to Brazil since 1974 through BIMi, but more recently God has used them to plant a church reach the Portuguese speaking people in New York City.)

A New Church Plant

Grace and Mercy Baptist Church reaching inner city Jackson, Mississippi



Bill Fluker was saved while serving on a tour of military duty in Germany. He visited Grace Independent Baptist Church where he heard the late Brother Bob Fuller, BIMi Missionary to the Military, present a clear presentation of the Gospel.

It was there in September 1982 that Bill realized he was lost and on his way to hell. Brother Fluker responded to the invitation during that service and received Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. His wife and children were also saved at Grace Baptist Church during that time. After three years in Germany, during which Pastor Fuller discipled Bill, He was transferred to Eglin Air Force Base, Fort Walton

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Beach, Florida. Here the family joined Calvary Baptist Church and served through this local church in several different areas of ministry. Upon retirement from the Air Force in 1994, Brother Fluker started teaching at Calvary Christian Academy and later became the school's administrator.

Being challenged at a COEBA Conference in 2002 regarding the need for Gospel preaching churches in Black America, God called Bill to preach and to go to Jackson, Mississippi, to start a church planting ministry in the inner city. Bill and Fannie joined BIMI after meeting Dr. John Bailes who was at his home church conducting a Church Planting School. They traveled for one year as BIMI missionaries presenting the need in Jackson, MS, to other local churches. God's people supplied their need and Bill and his wife moved to Jackson as church planting missionaries in 2005. They found a building and had to do some renovation work and then started the Grace and Mercy Baptist Church. Several local churches assisted in witnessing door-to-door and passing out approximately 15,000 gospel tracts and brochures. They held their first service on November 13, 2005, with 34 people in attendance.

Counting their church, there are only two Independent Baptist Churches within the city limits that are effectively reaching inner city residents. The Flukers have found the need in Jackson to be great among the population of 200,000. They are thanking the Lord that over 160 people have received Christ as their personal Savior since the start of the new church, and some of those have been baptized. Their challenge is to get people in church and in a discipleship program so they may grow in the Lord after they have been saved. This has been a slow process. Bill states, "We know God is able and we count it an honor to be used for his glory on this difficult inner city mission field."

