Sharing the Light

## MELISSA IN CROATIA



Melissa Houston is a veteran single missionary to Croatia. After faithfully serving in Mexico, she is now working with veteran Independent Baptist missionaries in Croatia. Please pray that God will bless and use her greatly as she does a valuable work for Christ.

John Peeples **IBFI** Mission Director



Dear Praying Friends,

Croatia has got to be one of the most beautiful countries on this earth (at least I think so)! The north, where I live, is full of hills and valleys spotted with villages here and there. The villages are full of the quaint red-roofed houses you would typically think of as European. Physical beauty is everywhere.

That beauty can be very deceiving, though. You see, there is very little spiritual beauty. I speak of the beauty that comes from a people who love God and trust in His only begotten Son, Jesus. There is a strong spiritual darkness here. People are blinded by the Catholic religion. Even those who see its deep faults cannot accept any other "religion," because the Catholic church is where they grew up...it's where they were married...it's where their family goes. To change religions would mean to give up a whole lifetime, and it would mean giving up family, for they surely would not feel accepted by parents, brothers, sisters, etc.



*From the church* nurserv in Varaždin. The little boy is a Croatian national. and the two little girls are gypsies from one of the local villages.

Thankfully, there are a few people who have come to see the true Light and Life. Some of these people are even committed to sharing that Light. Please pray for me and for my fellow missionaries and for the believers here. It is a hard struggle against the darkness, but I have faith that God can do a great work here! After all, greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world!

Please pray for me as I continue to learn the Croatian language. It is a very hard language to learn. Also pray for me as I head up a special children's program in August. We will be going to two gypsy villages, and we will also have the program in the church in Varaždin. I will be teaching the lesson through an interpreter, which is not ideal when working with children, but it is what I must do for the time being. Please pray that God gets the victory and glory in these meetings, and that Satan would not be allowed to cause distractions.



Missionary Melissa Houston

#### INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

724 N. Jim Wright Freeway Fort Worth, Texas 76108

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# **IBFI** Mission Agency

Assisting Local Church-Sent Missionaries

**Assisting Churches** Sending missionaries with accountability

**Assisting Local Church-Sent Missionaries** Preparing for the field, support on the field

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### INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL



## A Heart for the Harvest: Fall Fellowship Meeting

October 15-17, 2013 Trinity Baptist Church | Big Spring, Texas Host Pastor Randy Cotton



An education at Crown Southwest Norris Seminary is rooted in the Word of God. Crown Southwest Norris Seminary is an extension of Crown College of the Bible located in Powell, TN. We currently offer the following academic programs.

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- + Master of Ministry

Other degree programs are available through Crown College of the Bible and Crown Seminary. For more information visit thecrowncollege.com.

CrownSouthwest.org + 817-367-0455

#### The Searchlight

Lift up your eyes,

and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." -John 4:35



# Call to Duty

## Jerry Siler IBFI President



We just finished up our teen camp, and we used a military theme - Call to Duty. It was a great camp with twelve teens accepting Christ and many other decisions made for full-time service and rededication.

As I was about my duties as "General Siler," I realized the need to "endure hardness as a soldier of Jesus Christ." We truly are in a battle for the souls of men! The recent Supreme Court decision and the liberal agenda in many of our states has brought the battlefield to the forefront.

We need the zeal of the apostle Paul who fought a good fight, kept the faith and finished the course. There certainly is a "call to duty" given to preachers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the perilous days in which we live.

#### The week of camp was tiring physically, but it was a spiritual oasis for me. I came to the reality, once again, of the importance of the position that I hold. I am General Siler, leading the troops into battle. As the general, I need to be out front, leading the charge, fighting the good fight, and I must be aware of the needs of the troops I'm charged with. Soldiers have physical and spiritual needs and sometimes suffer battle fatigue.

As General Siler at camp, I had to discipline myself to the role of motivating, training, and looking after the welfare of the soldiers of Jesus Christ. I also took on the role of Judge P. Nutt to bring a few wayward soldiers to judgment for their misdeeds.

May God use each of us as servants of our Commanderin-Chief to put on the whole armor of Jesus Christ and answer our "call to duty!"

Looking forward to seeing you at the fall meeting in Big Springs, Texas...don't be AWOL!!

#### We are currently home on furlough. Our plans are to visit as many churches as possible and raise more much needed support. At the end of our furlough we will return to Australia and start another Independent Baptist Church in Maitland, NSW. We would love to come and share with you what God is doing in Australia. You may contact me by email at hwlangford@gmail.com or by phone 972-639-8204.

Wills Point, TX

Bro. Wayne and Lori Langford



Our Mission Agency is: Trinity Baptist Church Victory Baptist Missions Springboro, OH

Our Home Church is: Our Sending Church is: Calvary Baptist Church Amory, MS Pastor Jeremy Ogdie Pastor Rodney Waycaster





# Rediscovering the blessed book of God

### Dr. Raymond Barber

The Book (Law of Moses) had been lost for eight hundred years under the rubble and rubbish of a neglected, desecrated Temple: "LOST IN THE HOUSE OF GOD!" (II Kings 22:8). Sadly enough, the Bible has been lost in modern times among the rubbish of the New Age Movement, the new evangelicals, and, even more tragic, among some fundamentalists who have forsaken the old paths in favor of the new trends in theology.

Thank God for Hilkiah, the priest, who rediscovered the blessed Book of God. Thank God for faithful men in the twenty-first century who have rediscovered the Book of the Ages! The Bible is not in the experimental stage. It for more than six decades. has been tried and proven. It is not the book of the week, or the book of the month, or the book of the year, or the book of the decade, or the book of the century, or the book of the millennium. It is the Book of the Ages! The Bible is as old as time and as new as tomorrow.

No Other Person, No Other Book, No Other Therapy!

No philosopher, no psychologist, nor any psychiatrist on this planet can formulate a therapy that will do for a troubled soul what the Bible will do.

John Adams, second President of the United States, said: "I have made it a practice every year to read through the Bible."

Calvin Coolidge, thirtieth President of the United States, said: "In the Bible will be found the solution to all the problems of the world. The foundations of our society and our government rest on the teachings of the Bible."

Ronald Reagan, fortieth President of the United States, said: "Inside the Bible's pages lie all the answers to all the problems man has ever known. I hope Americans will read and study the Bible."

I admonish the readers of this article to rediscover the great truths in the Word of God as you read it through, take it in, write it down, work it out, and pass it on. Read it again, and again, and again. Eat it, digest it, and

## ALUMNI NEWS

#### **Glen Anderson** Alumni President

As Alumni President, I look forward to news and information concerning our alumni. It is exciting to see what God is doing around the world through our graduates. I asked Bro. Wayne Langford, a 2000 graduate, to give us an update on the ministry God has given him.

#### Update from Bro. Wayne Langford:

I have been a missionary in Australia for the last nine years. I was wondrously saved in 1997; my Pastor, Karl Ogdie led me to the Lord. The same night I surrendered to preach, and two weeks later I entered Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. During my second year of Bible College God called me to the field of Australia. My wife Lori and I surrendered our lives to serve the Lord reaching the lost in Australia. I graduated from Norris Bible Baptist Seminary in 2000. I received my Bachelor Degree from Bible Baptist Seminary of Australia.

We started Port Stephens Baptist Church in Salamander Bay, New South Wales. The church grew to about twenty-five people and in 2013 we merged with a church near us that was started in 2012 by a national pastor.

To God be the glory!

*I love the Bible; I really do.* I love the Bible: how about you? I love the Bible; I read it each day. *I love the Bible; it guides my way. I love the Bible, hidden in my heart.* I love the Bible, and we shall never part.

#### My Traveling Companion

When I left my home in Danville, Virginia, to enroll in the Bible Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, under the tutorship of J. Frank Norris, my dad placed a Bible in my hand and admonished me to read a portion of it every day. I have kept that promise. I have memorized hundreds, perhaps thousands of verses of scripture. I fall asleep each night and wake up each morning quoting God's Word. This Book has been my constant companion

He who wrote the following poem tells the story of my traveling companion and me:

We've traveled together, my Bible and I, *In all kinds of weather, with smile or with sigh,* In sunshine or shadow, in tempest or calm, *Thy friendship unchanging, my lamp and my psalm.* We've traveled together, my Bible and I, When life had grown weary and e'en death was nigh. But all through the midst of darkness or wrong, *I've found Thee a solace, a prayer, or a song.* So now who shall part us, my Bible and I? Shall isms, or schisms, or new lights that try? Shall shadow for substance, or stone for good bread, Supplant thy sound wisdom, give folly instead? Ah! No my dear Bible, Exponent of light, Thou Sword of the Spirit, put error to flight And still through life's journey, until my last sigh, We'll travel together, my Bible and I! Blessed is the nation that embraces the Word of God, without which we would have no revelation of God, no comprehension of right and wrong, and no anchor for our souls.

(To be continued in next *Searchlight* issue)

# A HEART FOR THE HARVEST FALL FELLOWSHIP MEETING -

#### TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH Randy Cotton, Pastor On behalf of our people, I want you to know that we are so excited about hosting the Semi-Annual Meeting of the IBFI. The dates for the meeting nosting the bemi-Annual meeting of the ibri. The dates for the meeting are October 15-17. The theme for the meeting will be "A Heart For The are occoper 10-1/. The theme for the meeting will be "A Heart for The Harvest." My sincere prayer is that when the fellowship meeting is over narvest. My sincere prayer is that when the reliowship meeting is over that we will all have a greater burden for the salvation of souls at home I don't have to convince you that the preaching will be good ... we've come I don't have to convince you that the preaching will be good...we've come to expect the very best from our IBFI brethren. And our Music Director, Bro. Steve Moses, will be working hard with the choir to have some soul-West Texas is known for its hospitality, and our people can't wait to show you how pleased they are to have you here. Let me give you this one word of caution - you need to make your room Let me give you this one word of caution - you need to make your room reservation as soon as possible. Because so many people have been coming into our community because of the oil boom, motel rooms are sometimes hard to find, and when you do find them, they can be a little pricey. We have to find, and when you do find them, they can be a fittle pricey. We have arranged to have a block of rooms reserved for us at the Holiday Inn Express. The price is \$99.00 a night. When you call them (432-263-5400) tell them the price is \$77.00 a night. when you call them (432-203-3400) tell them that you are with Trinity Baptist Church in order to get this rate. Or, you can call our church office and we will be glad to make your reservation for you. Below is a listing of some of our other motels in case you need them: Quality Inn & Suites 300 Tulane Ave. 432-264-7086 Laquinta Inn & Suites 1102 West IH 20 432-264-0222 Hampton Inn & Suites 805 West IH 20 432-264-9800 Motel 6 600 West IH 20 Please, mark your calendar now, and come to Big Spring, Texas to help us have a great Fellowship Meeting. And don't hesitate to call us if there is anything we can get done for you. We love you and can't wait until we see you. Your brother in Christ Check our website ibfi.us for Allon Serving Christ Together a schedule of the meeting RINITY BAPTIST CHURCH • 810 ELEVENTH PLACE • P.O. BOX 1448 • BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79721-1448 • (915) 267-6344 and speakers. UPCOMING EVENTS

**30th Anniversary Meeting** May 19-22, 2014

