
FOMenter – April 2008

Email Newsletter from the FELLOWSHIP OF MISSIONS

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FOM Prayer Concerns:

- **Report on Dave Marcum:** “Just a note to those of you who have called or E-mailed and requested ALL of our updates on this "medical journey." I am staying positive about the whole matter. Many of you have encouraged me to do so, and I deeply appreciate all of your encouragement. Yesterday was our second appointment with the Oncologist. Blood count was too low to start Chemo. Since I had problems with the after effects of taking the iron tablets, he decided to give me the iron through a 2-hour I. V. that would get me ready. I had an allergic reaction to it, after about 10 minutes and had to spend a good portion of the day in the Emergency Room being monitored. I am okay today and will start back trying to build the iron up by taking the iron tablets. Again, thank you your concern and prayers.” Dave for Alice and Andy too
 - **3/25/08 update:** “Just a note to let you know I am going through more blood work and tests this week. The doctor is trying to get me ready to start Chemo next Monday. “
 - **4/1/08 update:** “Just a note to let you know Chemo did start yesterday. It was a six-hour ordeal, so I was exhausted the rest of the day. However, feeling better so far today and able to be here at the office some, so that is our praise to our Lord. The doctor's office gave us three pages of possible side effects of the Chemo. We are staying positive, hoping and praying we do not have to deal with much of it. Again, your love and prayers mean so much to us during this time. As you know, I have had lots of time to meditate and pray recently, so have prayed for each of you who have responded.”

Editor: If you would like to send Dave Marcum a word of encouragement here is the information: Rev. David Marcum, General Director Titus International, 1515 McBrien Road, Chattanooga, TN 37412-3103; [423] 867-7079; info@titusinternational.org.

Where's the power? Dr. David Little, Chairman FOM Executive Committee

Paul the apostle was without doubt a good preacher. He was articulate, passionate and bold. Missionaries often refer to Paul as the greatest missionary that ever lived. Only God makes those

determinations, but no one modeling their ministry after Paul would go wrong.

In Paul's early church planting experience, he often started in the synagogue with the religious Jews (Note: believers make a mistake when they disregard lost religious people and go for the "unchurched" only). Paul enjoyed great success and blessing in seeing many Jews saved. Because of their former training in the Old Testament, these new believers quickly became leaders in the church.

After the Macedonian call of Acts 16, Paul could not use the same approach. In Philippi, there was no synagogue. In Acts 17, Paul confronts a crowd of people without knowledge of the Old Testament, people worshipping idols. I believe through the experiences of preaching and church planting, **Paul became convinced that the power of conversion was in the Word, not the presentation of the Word.** In I Corinthians 1 and 2, Paul without reservation demonstrates his confidence in the power of the Word. In chapter 2:1 he says, "And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God." Paul was convinced that the presentation was not nearly as powerful as some might think. The Greeks were all caught up with presentation! Don't get me wrong, I believe anything done for the Lord should be presented as well as possible. Anything less than our best is not glorifying to the Lord. The problem is that in our flesh, we are tempted to think the power is in the presentation, not the Word itself.

Today, we read many books and articles about how to reach the post-modern culture. There is a temptation to succumb to thinking entitled, "if only I." Beware! **If only I** could draw a crowd! **If only I** could present truth in a non-confrontational setting! **If only I** could get people involved! The logic sometimes sounds good, but the problem this thinking reveals is that our confidence is in the presentation, rather than the Word of God itself.

It always thrills me when I hear about someone being saved "simply reading the Bible." How can it be? No one presented the Roman's Road, Four spiritual laws, or the EE presentation? No, the Word of God, by itself "is sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the dividing of soul and spirit and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." He uses us when we use the Word and trust it to change the heart.

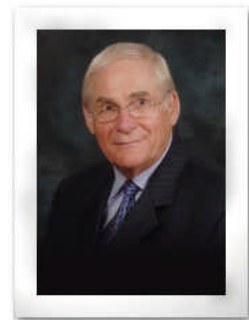
Let everyone of us fall before the Lord our God, confessing our confidence in the power of the Word of God alone.

ABWE former president, Dr. Wendell W. Kempton (1932–2008) with the Lord

Dr. Wendell Walker Kempton, who served as President of the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism from 1971–2001, died at home in Lititz, PA, on Sunday, January 6, 2008, following a brief battle with cancer.

Dr. Kempton's ministry was worldwide, impacting lives not only through his three decades as ABWE President and his continued representation of the mission as President Emeritus following his retirement in 2001, but also through his many years of service at Baptist Bible College of Pennsylvania and his ministry to professional sports organizations across the United States.

Dr. Kempton received Christ at the age of nineteen in Saylorville, IA, following his graduation from high school. At the time, he was facing a decision as to whether to go on to college or into professional baseball, in which he had received several attractive opportunities. On



the advice of his pastor and spiritual mentor, he enrolled at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, IL, earning a diploma with a Bible major and missions minor. He then attended Baptist Bible Seminary in Johnson City, NY, where he earned a Th.B., and Dallas Theological Seminary in Dallas, TX, where he earned a Th.M. He also did additional graduate work at Syracuse University in Syracuse, NY. An honorary Doctor of Divinity degree was conferred upon him by Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI, in 1972.

While attending Moody, Dr. Kempton met fellow student Karolyn Rose Koerber. They married in 1956 and had three children (Mark, Stan, and Wendy). In 1980, Karolyn suddenly went home to be with the Lord. In 1982, Dr. Kempton married Ruth Royer, who also had three children (Jennifer, Amy, and Tim) and whose first husband, Lee “Rock” Royer, a football coach and evangelist, had died suddenly nearly a decade earlier in an airplane accident.

In the fall of 1961, Dr. Kempton accepted an invitation from Dr. G. Arthur Woolsey to become a member of the staff of Baptist Bible Seminary. He served the school as the director of Christian education, director of public relations, athletic director, and basketball coach and helped to found both the baseball and soccer teams. From 1968–1971, he served as the director of development and was instrumental in helping the college transition to its current campus in Clarks Summit, PA. Later, in 1974, he was recognized as the Alumnus of the Year. During this time, Dr. Kempton was further honored by being nominated as Outstanding Young Man of America by the Outstanding Americans Foundation.

As ABWE’s presidential search committee looked for a successor to Dr. Harold Commons, they considered Wendell Kempton’s evangelistic fervor, his passion for preparing young adults to serve the Lord, and his outstanding leadership skills. On June 1, 1971, Dr. Kempton became President of ABWE, a position he would hold for the next thirty years. It was under Dr. Kempton’s leadership that ABWE made its major move from the greater Philadelphia area to Harrisburg, PA, which involved relocating more than forty families, as well as the corporate offices. God marvelously provided more than twelve hundred volunteers from twenty-seven states and eight foreign countries to build the new International Administration and Training Center in Harrisburg. Dr. Kempton’s ministry at ABWE included worldwide travel to encourage missionaries and nationals, to represent ABWE in churches and schools, and to develop a network of people interested in missions. During his presidency, the number of ABWE missionaries grew from 350 to 1,000 serving more than 60 countries. Following his retirement on March 1, 2001, and appointment as President Emeritus, he continued to actively represent ABWE through speaking engagements across the United States.

Dr. Kempton’s extracurricular ministries included speaking to various professional sports teams, and he was invited to speak at three Super Bowls and a World Series. He also held weekly neighborhood outreach Bible studies. He served on the boards of several well-known organizations, including a nationally known insurance company, Baptist Bible College of Pennsylvania, and Word of Life. Dr. Kempton traveled to every continent and spoke weekly throughout America in local churches, colleges, seminaries, and universities.

http://www.abwe.org/news/drk_obituary.asp

2008 FOM CEO Retreat—September 13-15 (Holiday Inn, Westlake, OH)

Our main speaker will be Dr. Doug McLachlan. Our hearts will be challenged and blessed from the Word of God and the experiences of our dear brother.

A donor has graciously provided for the housing and main meals for our retreat. (Your room, Sunday noon meal and Sunday night meal will be cared for.) However, you will be responsible for your Saturday evening meal, breakfast (see priority coupon-if you sign up, you get one free breakfast for each morning), and noon meal on Monday. The Holiday Inn is located near Crocker Park--a specialized shopping area with lovely restaurants and shops. Ladies, you will love the area. If you would like to see the possibilities, go to "www.crockerpark.com."

Each CEO should make reservations with Holiday Inn, as part of the Fellowship of Missions Retreat. Confirm with your own credit card. The number to call to make reservations is 800-762-7416 or 440-871-6000.

In addition, if you desire to use this hotel for the FOM Annual Conference (15-17th), you need to make reservations and you will be responsible to pay for the extra nights. The motel is located in Westlake, Ohio about 20 minutes from Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport and 25 minutes from Baptist Church Planters.

-- David Little, Chairman FOM Executive Committee

2008 FOM Annual Conference—September 15-17 (Baptist Church Planters' Home office, Grafton, Ohio)

*"...Information technology (IT) has created an entirely new playing field for missions...IT empowers people to get information for themselves...This is very fertile ground for the gospel."*¹

Mission Agencies need to recognize and avail themselves of ever-increasing opportunities to extend their ministries. Leadership must provide proactive direction to its personnel. Frequently, missionaries in remote areas are better equipped and informed than their home offices. It is time to change! Leaders take note!

Our 2008 Annual Conference will address the theme "Tools For the Trade".

- **The Tools of Leadership** (Plenary speaker Dr. Brad Quick, Elyria, Oh)
- **The Tools of the Internet** (Ron Winsek and Rob Heijermans)
- **The Tools of Publishing: Articles / Books** (Dr. William Smallman)
- **Women's workshops**
 - **Women Mentoring Women** (Joan Seger, Biblical Ministries Worldwide)
 - **Single Women serving in a Man's Mission** (Dr. Joy Anglea, BMM)

All conference sessions will be held at Baptist Church Planters new facility in Grafton, Ohio. This is located south of Elyria, Ohio. Further details regarding conference program, accommodations, meals, etc. will be available in the next FOMenter. However, it is not too soon to reserve these dates in your calendar.

Interruptions Are Opportunities For Ministry!

"And He entered a house and wanted no one to know it, but He could not be hidden. For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet."
Mark 7:24-25

Do you ever get irritated with the multitude of interruptions that occur each and every day? The phone? The doorbell? The "You've got mail" cry of the computer? The kids? The mailman? the wandering mind? I read where someone said that other people's interruptions of your work are

¹ Gary Corwin, "Missiology—God Medicine and a Fourth Leg," EMQ (July 2007): 282 (Notes from FOM 2007 Annual Conference workshop)

relatively insignificant compared with the countless times you interrupt yourself! And what about the interruptions of a good program while watching television? Rod Sterling once said, "*It is difficult to produce a television documentary that is both incisive and probing when every twelve minutes one is interrupted by twelve dancing rabbits singing about toilet paper!*"

Kevin Miller in his book, *Secrets of Staying Power*, states, "*Interruptions, ranked as the number one source of discouragement on the 'Leadership' survey, arise because pastors are on emergency call twenty-four hours a day.*" Another fascinating study, believed to be the first published research in the world to focus on interruptions at work, found that school principals spend around one-third of their day attending to interruptions. It went on to show that most principals were interrupted, on an average, between twenty-five and twenty-eight times a day. Interestingly, some experts say that interruptions are to be avoided at all costs, that there is no value in interruptions. Others say that interruptions are necessary and an important part of the day. They need not be avoided, simply managed better!

Well, friend, whether we like it or not, interruptions are a big part of our ministry. In a careful study of the Scriptures, we see that our Lord's daily activities were filled with interruptions! S.D. Gordon in his profitable little book entitled, "Quiet Talks on Service," mentions one of our Lord's interruptions by Peter. Peter, you know, was always interrupting somebody! Gordon stated "Interruptions never seemed to disturb Him. He seemed to regard them in the light of possible index fingers pointing out the next thing to be done. Every missionary, foreign and home, has to get practiced in just that, while holding steady to his underlying purpose."

Mark's Gospel, as well as the others, provides many examples of Jesus handling interruptions as an ordinary part of His day. In Mark 1:21-33, Jesus, after healing the man with an unclean spirit, was interrupted by an entire city who demanded His attention when they gathered at His door. In Mark 2:1-5, Jesus was interrupted continually by the large crowd that kept following Him. There are other examples, but one thing for sure, interruptions for our Lord were opportunities for ministry. He always responded graciously. He always made people a priority, the unknown as well as the known. Yet, while graciously allowing interruptions, He always kept in focus His ultimate purpose so that in due time He always got back on schedule. Minirth & Meier, in their book, *Before Burnout*, make an interesting observation, "Learning to handle interruptions in a Christlike fashion will take us a significant distance down the road of handling life's circumstances."

William A. Ward said that, "*Interruptions can be viewed as sources of irritation or opportunities for service, as moments lost or experience gained, as time wasted or horizons widened. They can annoy us or enrich us, get under our skin or give us a shot in the arm, monopolize our minutes or spice our schedules, depending on our attitude toward them.*" In I Corinthians 9:12, Paul said, "...endure all things (even interruptions?) lest we hinder the gospel of Christ."

I would like to say more, but two of my grandchildren just came over and want to play. My first thought was, no, I don't have time right now, but then I thought, maybe I should start practicing what I preach! Catch ya later!

[The Barnabas File April – 2008]

Maynard H. Belt, Baptist Mid-Missions
Special Ministries Representative - Bible/Missionary Conference
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[Editor's comment: Maynard Belt served for many years as the Michigan State Representative of the GARBC. He has published the Barnabas File monthly as an encouragement to pastors in Michigan and others who requested to be placed on his mailing list. When I wrote to ask permission to include this April File, he responded

"Thank you for your kind comments, Leigh. You are certainly welcome to use any of my Barnabas File articles. If any wish to be on the mailing list they may just send me an e-mail. Thank you for always being an encouragement to me. Maybe someday, as you suggest, I can get some of these writings into print. Blessings on you! Maynard"
He has been a blessing to me! If you would like to receive his monthly reports (without any cost to you) just drop him a line at mhbelt@sbcglobal.net]

Seminar Offered at Baptist Church Planters

"The Theology of Fundamentalism"

- *Instructor: Dr. Kevin Bauder, President of Central Baptist Seminary in Plymouth, MN*
- *Date: October 28-30, 2008, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily*
- *Place: Baptist Church Planters, Grafton, Ohio*
- *Purpose: To instruct and encourage Christian workers*
- *Cost: \$75, which includes lunches, refreshments, supplies and instructor. \$50 required for registration and remaining \$25 upon arrival*

Here is a description of the class:

"Fundamentalism is distinguished by a commitment to ecclesiastical separation. Contemporary fundamentalists, however, have become uncertain about the boundaries and implementation of separation. This uncertainty traces partly to a failure to understand the nature of Christian unity and fellowship, and partly to a failure to connect notions of unity and fellowship to a robust doctrine of the church.

Defining issues of separation is rarely as simple as just quoting texts. Rather, decisions about fellowship and separation must rest upon a comprehensive, theological vision of Christian unity. The development of this framework is an exercise in biblical and systematic theology, and it provides the mechanism by which individual texts can be brought to bear upon specific issues.

In this seminar, Kevin Bauder will teach a series of classes, which will explore the theological underpinnings of a biblical doctrine of separation. Bauder's approach takes full account of the nature of Christian unity and fellowship, understanding how unity and fellowship affect and are affected by the nature of the church. While the classes will occasionally deal with specific issues and situations, the thrust of the class is to articulate the timeless biblical principles that should guide Christians through every decision about ecclesiastical fellowship and separation.

To register, contact BCP, PO Box 836, Elyria, OH 44036 (PH: 440-748-1677 or bcp@bcpusa.org)

Subject: ATHEISTS HOLIDAY

In Florida, an atheist became incensed over the preparation of Easter and Passover holidays. He decided to contact his lawyer about the discrimination inflicted on atheists by the constant celebrations afforded to Christians and Jews with all their holidays while atheists had no holiday to celebrate. The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the long passionate presentation by the lawyer, the Judge banged his gavel and declared, 'Case dismissed!'

The lawyer immediately stood and objected to the ruling and said, 'Your honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and many other observances. Jews

have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah...yet my client and all other atheists have no such holiday!

The judge leaned forward in his chair and simply said, 'Obviously, your client is too confused to even know about, much less celebrate his own atheists' holiday!' The lawyer pompously said, 'Your Honor, we are unaware of any such holiday for atheists. Just when might that holiday be, your Honor?'

The judge said, 'Well it comes every year on exactly the same date---April 1st! Since our calendar sets April 1st as 'April Fool's Day,' consider that Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, in my opinion, if your client says there is no God, then by scripture, he is a fool, and April 1st is his holiday! Now have a good day and get out of my courtroom!

.....*Source unknown*