

VISION

Baptist Mission

NEWS



V B M NEWS

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Training & Empowering National Leaders

Director's Desk:

Working overseas for the purpose of missions work is one of the greatest privileges in the world. Seeing lives saved and transformed from darkness to light is incomparable and indescribable. Realizing that God has used you, a mere nobody, to help someone know Christ and grow in Him is beyond what words can depict.



Jeff Bush, Director
Vision Baptist Missions
Former Missionary to Argentina

However, like any other work in life, missions work has its end. The fact that the missionary will one day leave his post is inevitable. Although few missionaries want to think about it, let alone admit it, one cannot stay on a mission field forever. Whether by death, expulsion, age, furlough, health, or any other reason, a missionary will one day have to leave the country in which he has lived, loved, and worked. So **the greatest question for a missionary** can be summed up in this one statement: *“Will the work continue on when I leave?”*



When a missionary comes to the realization that he will one day leave, he can then begin working towards his goal of trusting and empowering national leaders. Sounds simple, right? Wrong! This is actually the hardest challenge for a missionary. Trusting and empowering national leaders may be the answer, but doing so rips the missionary from the pedestal of being the “one and only, God-sent man for this country.” But if the work is to continue after the

missionary leaves, he must begin searching for leaders, loving those leaders, equipping them, and trusting them enough to place them in charge of different ministries. Allow me to paint the picture of what trusting and empowering national leaders looks like by using this illustration.

Every few years in the Olympics, a big blunder happens that causes a country to lose the gold medal in a race. Runners may be quick, have raw talent, and be totally prepared for the big race, but *if the runner does not learn to pass the baton to his partner, all efforts are useless*. Some of the greatest teams and athletes lose because of a mistake in passing off the baton.

In the same sense, a missionary can run hard, draw big crowds, and be greatly loved by the people. However, if there is a blunder in passing off the baton to the next generation of leaders, the ministry will suffer and could possibly die. No one wants to kill a ministry, but it happens more than we want to admit. Of course there is the key moment when the “big” handoff comes (the missionary leaves the field), but not neglecting all of the “smaller” handoffs in a missionary’s ministry is key to a successful “big” handoff.

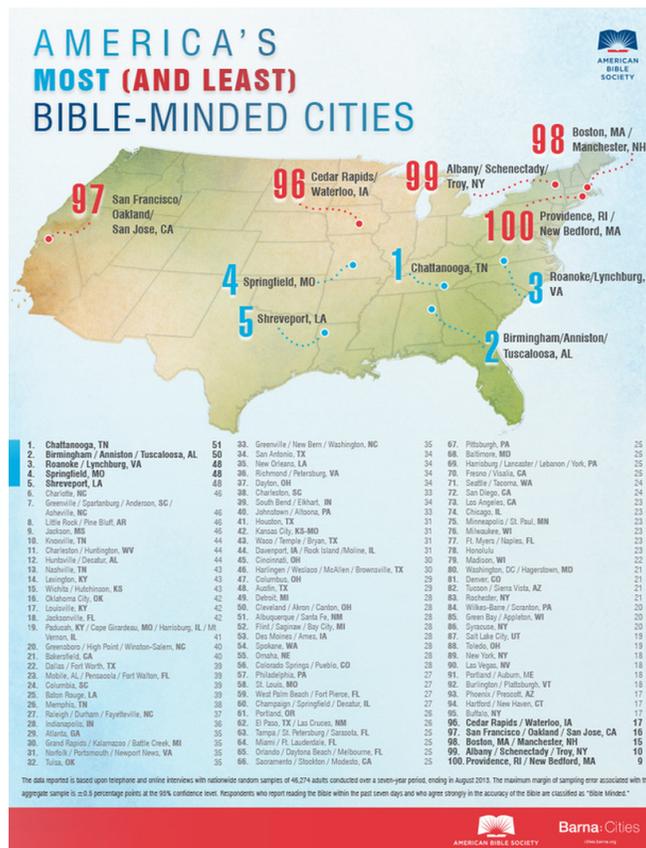
If the new leader has never had the opportunity to lead a group, earn the trust of the people, baptize, preach, and be in charge of every step along the way (financially as well as spiritually), it is not his fault when things fall apart. The handoff is largely the missionary’s responsibility. Yes, it is true that if the new leader does not receive the baton on the handoff, it will fail, but the missionary must prepare the new leader for such an occasion.

One of the greatest Bible examples of empowering a leader and passing off the baton excellently is that of Joshua and Moses. When Moses dies, the Lord tells Joshua to take courage and begin leading the people (Joshua 1:1-9). Joshua later becomes a very effective leader, piloting the children of Israel to the Promised Land as well as conquering much land for God’s people. But none of this would have happened without Moses preparing Joshua for the big day in which he would receive the baton and run the next leg of the race.

When Jesus Christ ascended up into Heaven, His earthly ministry did not cease. The church advanced and like a plague spread all over the known world. But how could the church grow after Jesus Christ, the head and leader of the church, was no longer present? Many organizations and ministries dwindle when the founder and leader leave. Yet, the church grew because Christ spent over three years with twelve men whom He empowered and trusted. The true missionary model and example, Jesus Christ, substantiates what a ministry should look like: trusting and empowering leaders.

Burden about Church Planting in the USA

If you know me and our ministry at all then you know that we have been pushing world evangelism. The need to get the gospel around the world is over whelming. Recently I was visiting a family in a medical rehab facility. While there I was asked what I was doing about reaching the USA. This person mentioned that every time I saw them I had a young missionary with me that was going to be going over seas. The question was why I didn't care about my own country. I do care about this country. I do want to see God doing great things here. I have just been so focused over seas because there are so many focused on the USA. I got home and within the next few days I saw a



been helping and here are a few articles that I would like to invite you to read.

- [Seeking a Man](#)
- [Unchurched Cities](#)
- [Churchless and Dangerous](#)
- [Providence, Rhode Island](#)
- [Church Planting in Boston, Massachusetts](#)
- [Albany: A Nearby Mission Field](#)
- [Burlington, Vermont](#)
- [Church Planting in New York City](#)
- [Manchester, New Hampshire](#)
- [Why Plant Churches?](#)
- [Chartering Your Church](#)

I just ate breakfast with a wonderful friend whose heart is breaking for a church here in the area with a need for a man to enter it and help. So much to do and so little time. Will you help me by praying for these many needs?

So it is my heart to see God raise up men that will come and train to plant churches in the USA. We want to

help you for 2 years here at Vision. Then help you get the money to go and make a difference. We need to see churches started in this unchurched, de-churched, churchless, cities. God is at work and we know that He will do and has been doing great things. If you are interested please contact me.



Pastor Austin Gardner
President of Vision Baptist
 Missions & **Pastor** of Vision Baptist
 Church

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World Evangelism CONFERENCES

September 3, 2017
 Commerce Road
 Baptist Church
 Pine Bluff, AR

October 21, 2017
 Baptist Tabernacle
 Dubois, OH

February 10, 2018
 Mt. Sinai Baptist Church
 Pickens, SC

Women Behind the Scenes: Donkey, Baking Soda and the Heat

By Charity Rishel

Some things just CANNOT be taught in the classroom. For instance, how to compete for attention with a mother donkey and her newborn coming to graze next to me while I teach. I took classroom management in college. It taught me many things including how to set up a classroom, how to keep a child's attention, and how to eliminate distractions, but how to deal with a donkey was not in the curriculum!

Thankfully, I observed this particular situation while a veteran missionary wife was teaching. Now I'll know what to do if I ever find myself in the same situation! There are countless advantages to working alongside veteran missionaries.

You can learn from a veteran by asking questions. Ask a **LOT** of questions. How do you greet people? Are there any offensive topics you might not be aware of? What mindsets may need to be addressed when discipling others? What dishes can you cook with the ingredients that can be found in your new country? Which laundry detergent seems to be most effective? What are the cultural holiday customs? etc. There are NO dumb questions, especially in your early days on the field. For example, we were told ahead of time to expect a lot of visitors both on Christmas and New Year's Day, and that it would be appropriate for us to have food to serve them. We were so thankful to know that ahead of time! What could have been an awkward experience for us, (being rude to our friends by not having food to serve) turned out instead to be great experiences. Veteran missionaries have already learned all of these things and you can save yourself a lot of time and trouble by asking them questions.

You can also learn a lot by watching veteran missionaries. Observe *EVERYTHING*! Watch how they converse with and relate to the people, how they teach. Ask to accompany them on visits and

pay attention to how they conduct themselves. Watch how they eat with others, and how they express their thanks. Every detail is important, especially when you are new to the culture. One thing that I learned, is that when I want to leave someone's home, I can "ask for the road". That is the polite way to let them know that I am going to be on my way. I have learned a lot of these seemingly little things just by watching others.

When you arrive on the field you'll be faced with countless new things. It's nice to have a friend that

understands what it is like to adjust to this new way of life. Before we moved to Burkina Faso, West Africa I purposed in my

heart to not complain about the heat all of the time. I knew it was going to be hot and I've never seen complaining about the weather to be effective in changing it! However, when hot season hit it was an encouragement to have a veteran missionary that I could go to and be reassured that my daily physical fatigue was a normal result of the heat and not just me being weak! In fact, the nationals suffer with it as well. It has been so helpful to have someone that can tell me how to make cream, or what to use as a substitute for sour cream, or where to purchase baking soda. Who would have thought that the pharmacy would be the only place to find it?!

While many missionaries are pioneer missionaries (without them none of us would have veterans to work with!) there are definite advantages and blessings to working alongside others who are willing to share with us from their failures and their successes. I am so thankful for Rebecca Shumaker, the veteran missionary wife that God has allowed me to learn from. I can only attempt to repay the kindness and time she's given me. I hope to some day pass along to a newly arrived missionary the tips and advice that I have been blessed to receive.



Jason & Charity Rishel, Missionaries
in the country Burkina Faso

A stylized illustration of two flowers, one yellow and one pink, with green leaves and small black dots, positioned on the left side of the teal background.

WOMEN BEHIND THE SCENES CONFERENCE

SATURDAY AUGUST 26, 2017

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Pioneer Senders:

Mission's Law of Inertia

I would like to address my college student friends for just a moment. Especially those college students who love Jesus and have full intention of being involved in missions with their lives – in their future. Regardless of what major you have declared you have also declared that you plan to be engaged in Great Commission work. I am excited and encouraged by you. I have often said that I think that one of the greatest needs in modern missions is for people to “pioneer” in the work of sending. We need people to show us what it looks like to be involved in missions as an accountant in Nebraska, a mechanic in Tennessee, but to be actively involved in helping reach people in Thailand.

Recently a wild and wonderful group of missionaries and college age students took a trip to a Christian college in Pensacola, FL to promote our upcoming missions events and challenge people towards greater missions involvement. I made that trip every year for about 8 years but have not in the last couple of

years. I hope to return in the years to come. When I do, I will ask this question, “How many of you do not believe you will serve as a foreign missionary, but will still be involved in missions using the degree that you are currently studying to receive.” After a vast amount of hands are raised. I will then proceed to kindly, yet bluntly tell them why I do not believe them. I will then drop the mic (okay I probably won't do that) and sit down. Before I do, I will invite them to come talk to me before I leave. I will help them develop a game plan on how they can make their intention a reality.

Here is the first point I will make to them. It is called the “Mission's Law of Inertia.” It is very similar to Newton's First Law of Motion or Inertia. Isaac Newton's law states,

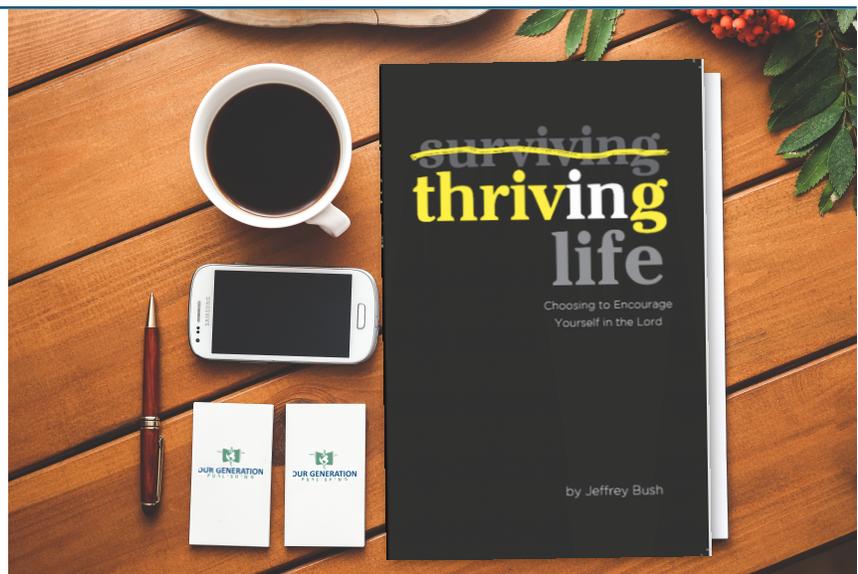
An object at rest stays at rest and an object in motion stays in motion with the same speed and in the same direction unless acted upon by an unbalanced force.

You will see the “Mission's Law of Inertia” is very similar in that the same math is involved.

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ROMANS 1:16

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Mission's Law of Inertia *cont.*

A Christian uninvolved in missions stays uninvolved and a Christian involved in missions stays involved with the same amount of commitment unless acted upon by an opposing conviction.

Let me put this in terms that the non-Biology majors will understand. If you say that one day after graduation you will use your education to be involved in missions but you currently aren't using what you know to be involved in missions, it isn't going to happen. Let me tell the another law of life. Things are going to speed up for you, not slow down. If you think it will be hard to go on the missions trip next summer wait until you have a spouse, house, 2.5 kids, and a picket fence to paint white.

You see the inertia of life will pull you away from living for God's glory! It will cause you to not think of His fame among the nations but your fame among those in your office. If we listen to the lies around us, we will begin to work very diligently to build a kingdom, just not the right one. If you have not prayerfully considered changing your address for the sake of the Gospel do not expect to make any significant difference in this world. If you will be as Luther Rice and all believers who have signed a blank sheet of paper over to God, you can position yourself to make a real difference.

I know you may not have heard this in the college infomercial but your diploma will not automatically

transform you into the type of person you desire to be. As my Pastor says quite often, "You will only be more of tomorrow what you are today!" If you believe 100% of the education you will receive getting a Nursing Degree will allow you to be involved in missions then wouldn't it make sense that 25% of your education should have you more involved than you were before. You need to start now developing a strategy, better yet a lifestyle that causes you to be involved in the world evangelism. Who do you think is responsible for this? In the words of Catherine Booth "If we are to better the future we must disturb the present." For you this means that if you truly want to be involved in missions in the future, you better disturb your inactive present and get involved! If you are struggling with this principle, get help from a History Major.

I will never forget when Philip told me that he was about to graduate with college debt. He told me about his desire to serve God in China and how he wanted to get there for an internship as soon as possible. I really felt for this guy. I honestly never thought it would happen. He told me of his plan to live on a small percentage of his income upon graduation and aggressively pay off his debt. I just didn't see how he would be able to ever get out of the hole he had dug. God opened up some wonderful opportunities for him. He knew he had to make a big change in his life to allow him to live out a God given dream in the future. I am proud to say he is currently in Taiwan for a year long internship with his wonderful, Jesus loving wife. I love stories that end like this, they are far too rare. >>>

On the Road



Miguel & Mariangela Sanabria, Missionaries to the country of Colombia

<http://returntocolombia.org>



Some years ago, I was sitting in a circle on the floor with a group of teenagers. We had just walked out of an awesome session at the Our Generation Summit. We had all been challenged to take our global responsibilities more seriously. We were going to take a time to pray together. Before we began to pray the students started sharing about some things in their lives they wanted to change or strengthen in preparation for their future. One teenager asked another teenager what he wanted to do when he grew up. I will never forget what he said. He said he wanted to be a professional basketball player. We all burst out in laughter. Not because you cannot be a Christian and play basketball. We laughed because this guy was not known for his basketball skills. He didn't play for his school. He never played on the weekends. I am not even sure he owned a basketball. We are still good friends today. At the time he didn't understand why we found this hilarious but now he gets it. There is a real correlation between what you are preparing to do today and what you will do tomorrow. There is a correlation between what you are passionate about and what you will invest your time in. I wonder if you were to tell your friends you planned to use your degree to be vitally involved in foreign missions, would they laugh? Would they see you involved in outreach on the weekend? Do they see you communicating with missionaries now? Are you partnering with others in the world through prayer?

If you are one of those rare anomalies, that will admit to me that you just simply know how to "use your degree in missions," aka the furtherance of the Gospel, then without reservation I tell you to proceed no further. It is most likely you could use your degree for the sake of advancing the Gospel, but if you had never thought this through, then what was your motivation in studying that topic in the first place? So are you at rest or are you in motion? Will you be able to continue what you are doing after graduation and be obedient to playing your role in the fulfillment of the Great Commission? I understand you may or may not have many clear, strong examples of people with your chosen occupation that are involved in world evangelism. That is why I call upon you to pioneer. I challenge you to start today.

I think at the heart of the issue of inactivity is a problem with accounting. If you only have \$4,000 then I might understand why you would be so cautious with your money. I might even understand, but not condone, you being selfish with it. This is not the case in the Christian life. We are like Scrooge McDuck in Ducktales. We have a pool full of gold coins in terms of our life. At the point of salvation you received eternal life! This means in comparison to what you really have four years is not all that long. You may be treating your four years as all that matters. You may be being selfish with it. How much easier is it to give up \$4,000 or four years when you realize what your Heavenly Father has given you by redeeming you! If you have trouble with this, talk it over with an Accountant Major.

To the Graphic Design major, why couldn't you be designing literature for churches around the world between your class work? To the Nursing Major, why couldn't you take a trip with Medical Missions Outreach next summer? To the Accounting Major, why couldn't you look to intern at the home office at a mission board next year? As a Business Major, why in the world haven't you read Stanley Tam's book, *God Owns My Business*? I could go on and on, but I will wait to do so when I meet you in person and hear your story. Allow this to help drive you towards a conviction in the here and now. Get involved now and continue it in the life you will live after graduation.



Trent & Stephanie Cornwell,
Assistant Pastor
at Vision Baptist Church

From the Field:

Reasons to Keep Sowing the Seed!

Evangelism is likened in the Bible at times to seed sowing. Most famously, Jesus told a parable about a sower going forth to sow. In that parable, Jesus highlights that the results of the sowing often are dependent upon the condition of the soil. In each instance, the sower was the same, the seed was the same, but there were wildly different results based upon the type of soil upon which the seed fell. A big part of world evangelism is evangelism, and one of the areas I think we fail in is to consistently sow lots of seeds. We often are too quiet to criticize, to say a method does not work, or to change because we don't see immediate fruit. But that does not mean that we should stop or that fruit will not come. I was recently reminded of this truth in our church-planting efforts here in London. Last autumn, we began a door-to-door survey

outreach. At one door, my daughter and I met a man who was very interested and had lots of questions. Shortly after we left, he phoned to ask if I would come back to chat with him more. I went back and had a very nice visit. I hoped to see him soon, but months went by and after contacting him a few more times, I still heard nothing. Then a couple weeks ago, he stopped by the church on a Saturday and told me he was going to come on Sunday. He did come, and I am excited about the work that God is going to do in his life. Let me give you one other instance where seed-sowing worked, but it took time. In December, we participated in a local community festival at a nearby leisure centre. We gave out invitations and gospel tracts as well as letting people enter a prize draw for a Christmas hamper/basket. To enter the draw, they had to give us their details. All those who filled out a card then

went on a list of people we contact periodically to invite them to church. This past weekend, I sent out a simple text: "We invite you to our services tomorrow at Downham Baptist Church at 11:30am and 6pm. Also, Sunday school and Bible class at 10:30am. Thanks. www.downhambaptist.org." The next morning, a young couple came 40 minutes on a bus to visit the church. They seemed to really enjoy the service and said they had been looking for a long time for a good Bible-teaching church.

I hope these examples and the following passage of Scripture will encourage you to sow your seed, keep on sowing your seed, and sow lots of it because eventually there will be fruit, even if it takes a long time and you are aware of all the fruit.

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 gives us 6 reasons to sow the seed:

1. We will reap after many days. (11:1 “Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.”) At the time, casting our bread upon the water may seem like a waste, but we will find it after many days. **Galatians 6:9** And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

2. We will not always have the opportunity to do so. (11:2 “Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.”) Give what we can to as many as we can, because there may come a day when evil may come and we cannot give.

3. We don't know who may really need our help. (11:3a “If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth:”) Adam Clark says: “Act as the clouds; when they are full they pour out their water indifferently on the field and on the desert. By giving

charity indiscriminately, it may be that thou wilt often give it to the unworthy: but thou shouldst ever consider that he is an object of thy charity, who appears to be in real want; and better relieve or give to a hundred worthless persons, than pass by one who is in real distress.”

4. We cannot sow after we die. (11:3b “and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.”) In whatever direction you fall, that is the direction you will lie. Death changes nothing; cleanses nothing; kills no sin; helps us to be righteous. One person said, “I am going to do my givin' while I'm livin', so I'm a knowin' where it's going.”

5. There will always be a reason not to sow. (11:4 “He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.”) If we go when everything is just right, we will never go. If we look at the wind or the clouds, we will never sow or reap.

6. We don't know how God is going to work; we are just responsible to sow our seed. (11:5-6 “As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all. In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.”) We don't know how God is going to work or who is going to get saved. We should just sow our seed in the morning and the evening, because we don't know what God will use to bring forth fruit.



Travis and Teri Snode
Missionaries to the U.K.
w/ MWBM
Vision Baptist Church

Deputation Corner



Brady & Sarah Van Winkle,
Church planters to the country Turkey

Deputation is the process by which missionaries raise their funds, so they can get to their appointed field and begin their ministry on the field.— Currently, my wife and I are on deputation going to the country of Turkey. When we started over a year ago, I had no clue how support was going to come in, or even how we were going to have money to pay our bills. It was a complete step of faith, but what is amazing is how faithful our God is! There has not been one time on deputation we have missed a bill or a meal! We serve a great God who will take care of His children! Deputation can look scary, but by trusting in God, He is well able to provide and raise your support!



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