

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 Peebles
IBFI Mission Director



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The Searchlight

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2013 VOLUME 30 ISSUE 2

A Heart for the Harvest: Fall Fellowship Meeting
October 15-17, 2013
Trinity Baptist Church | Big Spring, Texas
Host Pastor Randy Cotton

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.

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.

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



Missionary Melissa Houston



“...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 Commander-in-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!!

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 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

assimilate it into your spiritual being. I have one hundred Bibles in my home. Some people have a hundred Dalmatians; I have a hundred Bibles.

*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

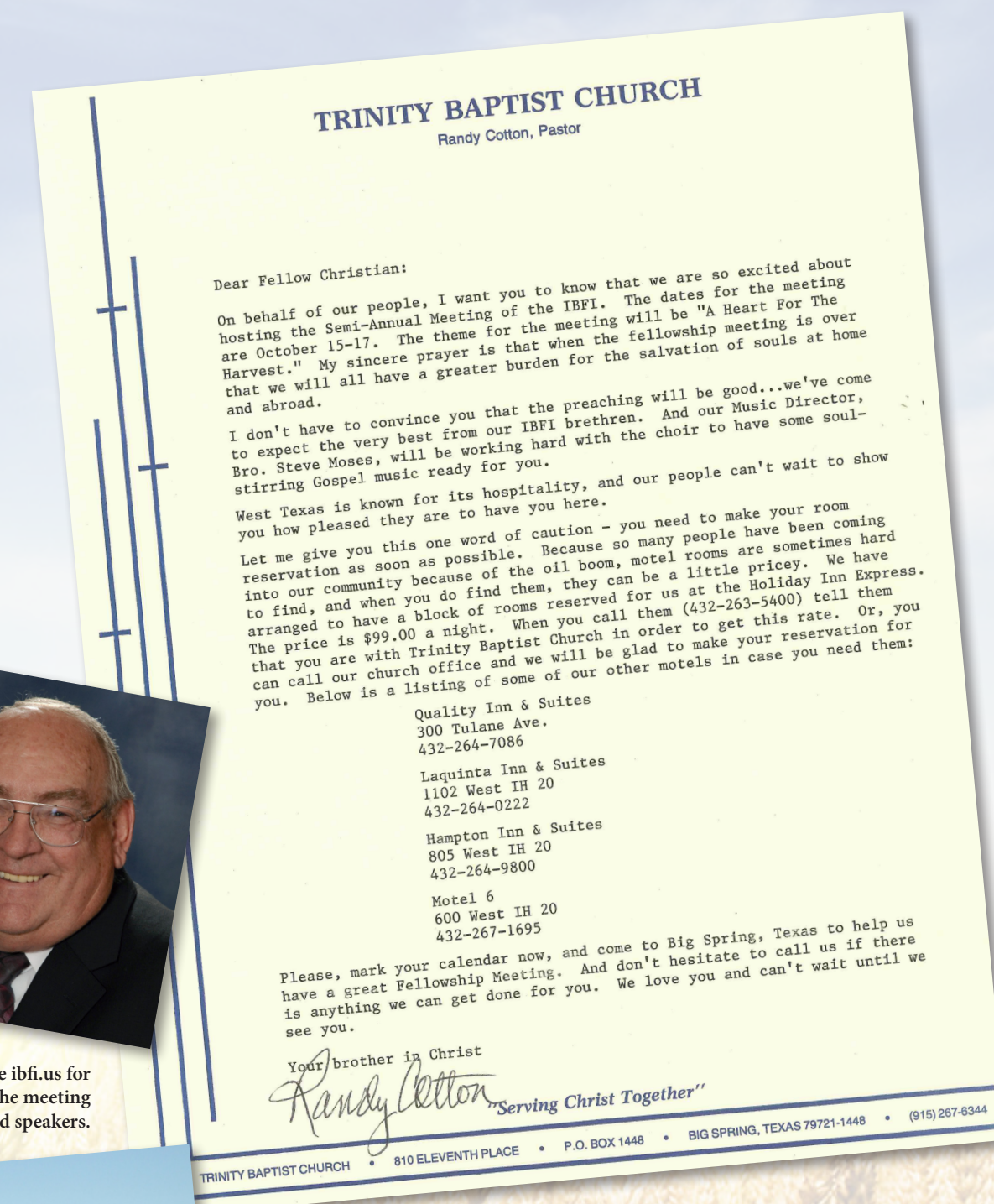
When I left my home in Danville, Virginia, to enroll in the Bible Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, under the tutorage of J. Frank Norris, my dad placed a Bible in my hand and admonished me to read a portion of it every day. I have kept that promise. I have memorized hundreds, perhaps thousands of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

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 —



Check our website ibfi.us for a schedule of the meeting and speakers.



UPCOMING EVENTS

30th Anniversary Meeting
May 19-22, 2014