

## **Good Shepherd Baptist Missions**

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"The risk is low and the decision is entirely up to you; however, I would not go." These were the words of Dr. Welch at the UAB Travelers Clinic in Birmingham, Alabama on Thursday, 7 August 2014. Two days before, on the Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> our Lord had already led the GSBM Pastors Training School team to cancel our trip to the West African country of Ivory Coast. Our greatest concern, from a common sense standpoint, in making the trip was confined exposure and personal contact with large numbers of world travelers in airports and on airplanes. Today 8 August 2014, Washington (AFP) made this statement "People with symptoms of Ebola will inevitably spread worldwide due to the nature of global airline travel." We just did not like the potential of bringing this disease back to our personal families, neighbors, and/or church families. Joe Williams, Steve Williams, Roger Hain and I who constituted this PTS team know that we have made the right decision.

In February of this year I drove to the UAB Travelers Clinic in Birmingham to get counsel so as to be properly prepared for the trip to the Ivory Coast. That was months before Ebola showed its terrible, violent, un-merciful and lethal head. Four of us were to make up a team of instructors for a Pastors Training School in the midst of travel dates August 28<sup>th</sup> through September 8<sup>th</sup> with Missionary Bob Mach in Abidjan, a city in the Ivory Coast. All of us worked for about a year to prepare for this trip and Brother Bob was doing the same from his end. The team decision to cancel the missions endeavor was emailed to Brother Mach on Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup>. Though the risk of contracting Ebola was small, the potential ramifications were too great involving, too many people to continue with our plans. The change of plans affected the team, our families, Brother Mack and his family, the numerous men coming to the Pastors Training School and so on. It was a grave decision involving many people not to mention the financial cost of cancellation. We may get by with only six hundred dollars each in flight cancellation fees (domestic and international), about five hundred dollars each in shot fees plus other incidental cost. No preacher wants to cancel such a trip that has the tremendous potential for the cause of Christ that this trip had.

I had the privilege of preaching daily at the Rock Cave Baptist Church, Rock Cave, WV at their annual camp meeting in July. Pastor David Jessie is a great pastor and several pastors in that area support this meeting. It is always blessed of God. Meige and I celebrated our 49<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary while at this meeting. Returning from that meeting, I had the privilege of

preaching the annual Missions Revival for our home church, Victory Baptist Church in Alexander City, Alabama, where John Watkins is the pastor. We had a wonderful week of revival and missions. Two of the missionary families from GSBM's last Missionary Training School that was conducted earlier this year were invited to participate in this Missions Revival and both were taken on for monthly support. Those missionaries were Nadar Barata (Ethiopia) and Denis and Brandi McIntosh (Belize).

The Online School for Ministry Leaders is up and running and can be entered at [www.school.gsbministries.org](http://www.school.gsbministries.org). Everyone is invited to take the classes. Juan Gonzalez and his daughter Aleana are translating the school into Spanish. This week they finished the home page and the first class "The Holy Spirit and the Church." French translations are being done by associates of Missionary Bob Mach. The worldwide potential for souls saved and ministries enhanced for this ministry remains enormous.

The emergency roadside helps ministry has picked back up this summer. We have had seven calls for help in the last six or seven weeks, so we are now averaging about one call a week. When the ministry started back in 1993, it was not unusual to be handling two or three calls simultaneously. We handled hundreds of calls each year for a long time. The emergency housing ministry has also slowed drastically. It is hard to believe that this is the 21<sup>st</sup> year of GSBM.

Our next scheduled Pastors Training School is in Leduc, Canada with national Pastor Jim Price. Dates for the school are November 10<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Have a wonderful day enjoying the presence and privilege of serving our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Q. H. Easter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "Q" and "H".

P.S. Meige's aunt, Ruth Johnson, died on May 30, 2014. Ruth lived with us for the last 22 years and the first 8 years of Meige's life. She would have been 95 years in this world on July 17<sup>th</sup>, had she lived.