



inside

FOURTH QUARTER, 2009

EST.
1973

BIBLE BASICS

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

EVANGELISM • RADIO • CHURCH PLANTING • PUBLICATIONS • DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

DR. EUGENE PRIDDY
Founder / President-emeritus

REV. EVAN DRAKE
President

We wish you a Blessed Christmas



Dear Friends,

Christmas is about Jesus – we celebrate His birth as He stepped out of heaven’s glory into that less than palatial stable in Palestine. This should teach us a couple of clear lessons about missions. First, those who profess to know and follow Jesus **must not choose what we call “creature comforts” over our clear duty to forsake all and follow Him.** We must follow Him even if it means giving up most of that which we hold dear. Peter exhorts us to keep this in mind: *“For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps”* (1 Peter 2:21). Jesus Himself also taught us that *“... a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him”* (John 13:16). Since Jesus left Heaven’s glory to come to this planet of sin and sorrow to die for us, why should we hesitate to bear witness to Him wherever He sends us, even if it is across the ocean – or only next door?

The second lesson we can learn from that stable in Bethlehem is this: **the environment into which a person is born has no bearing upon the worth of that person in the eyes of God.** Jesus died just as surely for the person born and raised in the streets of India or Africa as He did for the more fortunate person that sits in the pew next to you each Sunday morning. That is why Jesus calls upon each of us to do our part in praying, giving, and/or going to take the precious message of eternal salvation to those *“having no hope, and without God in the world”* (Ephesians 2:12).



Inside

*Keeping the
Main Thing
the
Main Thing!*

By Evan Drake

In view of these two lessons, Bible Basics International endeavors to faithfully carry out the Great Commission – to evangelize, baptize, teach, and train disciples. Evan Drake expresses that thought with clarity and conviction – please read *Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing!* inside. If you agree with these principles, then we need you to participate with us as we proclaim the good news of salvation. **Have a joyful Christmas season!**



Evan Drake

Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing!

Matthew 28:19-20 *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

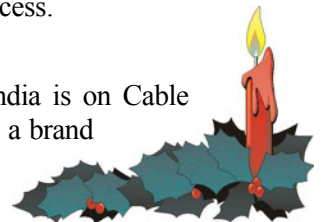
Whether you’re talking about a church, a school, a mission, or a business, it is important to know who you are and what you are trying to do. A lot of organizations have lost their focus and don’t even know it. It’s not always a bad thing to rethink your reason for existing and maybe adjust that to meet a specific challenge. As the new guy at Bible Basics International, I have tried to discern two very important things about BBI: 1) how do we do things, and, 2) why do we exist. I have been traveling to churches and talking with people who are not very familiar with BBI. They seem to always ask, *“What does Bible Basics do?”* Our mission does a lot of very important ministries that get people excited. As I was answering that question a few weeks ago, it hit me that my answers focused on the methods we use more than the reason we exist. I told people that we do radio ministry, publications, short-term evangelistic teams, youth ministry, church planting, and leadership training. I decided to stop and think more clearly about the *why* and the *what* of missions more than just about the how.

For a long time, the purpose of missions was defined by the word evangelism – reaching the lost world with the gospel. It should be obvious that everything starts there. The question we should ask is, *“how far do we go? Is winning a person to Christ enough to say that we are fulfilling the Great Commission?”* One pastor recently tried to persuade me that we weren’t fulfilling the Great Commission because our sole focus wasn’t on church planting. I responded to this pastor by trying to offer a defense that the Great Commission doesn’t say, *“Go therefore and plant churches,”* even though I have been a church planter. It is just as obvious that the baptizing and teaching part of the Great Commission implies the establishment of local churches where evangelism has taken place. However, I would still contend that reaching the lost and planting churches fall more into the *how* category than into the *what* or the *why* of missions. **So what is the main thing?**

Jesus’ word is *“make disciples.”* I believe this is the heart of missions. Discipleship has become a technical word to describe the teaching of basic truths to a new convert in order to help establish him in the faith. The word should be much broader than that. It describes the process of taking an unbeliever and helping him develop into a fully mature follower of Christ. It is the process of the entire Christian life and the main work of the church. Therefore, the main thing at Bible Basics should be *“the process of taking someone from birth to maturity.”* So, if you ask, *“what is the goal of Bible Basics International?”* I can answer it, *“make disciples.”* Let me describe the process.

NEW BIRTH

We use radio to spread the message of the gospel. BBI/Missions India is on Cable Television in India. We have been asked to partner with ABWE and set up a brand new radio/outreach ministry in predominately Muslim Northern Togo. We



Bible Basics' Missionary Ministry



Evangelize Them!



Baptize Them!



Teach Them!



Train Them!

use STAR teams to partner with local churches in a cross-cultural setting to reach out into the church's community with the gospel. We use door-to-door evangelism, children's clubs, youth meetings, medical evangelism, and work teams to build bridges to people. We have a youth ministry in La Ceiba, Honduras that is reaching young people for Christ. We are convinced that the gospel changes lives!

INFANCY TO MATURITY

Our radio ministries follow up on the people through visits, Bible studies, and directing new believers to good local churches. Systematic teaching goes out over the air waves. We are constantly developing publications and seminars that are designed to help young believers become stronger in their faith. We train ordinary Christians to share their faith on our STAR teams. We are working on WEB based discipleship that will allow us to teach and train men and women all around the world. We have teaching seminars in churches here in the US and on our mission fields that allow us to come alongside local church groups and teach the Word of God to hungry people. We have missionaries planting churches in Honduras and India to bring the work of discipleship full cycle.

MATURITY TO LEADERSHIP

Many mission churches have one thing in common. Their national leaders and pastors have very little Bible training. They don't have many tools, either. BBI desires to help those who have sensed a call to ministry to become trained in the Word of God and in the skills of ministry. We are helping to train pastors in Honduras, including those on the island of Roatán. We are becoming more actively involved in the teaching and training of leaders and missionaries in India at our new Missionary Training Center in Kerala. Our books, seminars, Bible study materials, and WEB based training can help a person become more grounded in their faith. It is our belief that when we win a person to Christ, we add someone to the family of God. When we disciple someone in the Christian life, we multiply ourselves as they go out and seek to reach someone else. When we train a leader for Christ, we reproduce ourselves exponentially as they will begin the entire process and do it much better than we could ever hope to do in a cross-cultural setting.

So, in answer to the question, "what is the main thing?" **DISCIPLESHIP!** – *"the process of taking someone from birth to maturity."* We do this through radio, evangelism, publications, teaching, church planting, and leadership training. Would you like to be a part of this exciting ministry? Join us by giving, praying, sending, or going yourself. Help us at BBI fulfill the Great Commission.

◀BBI-Missions India Training Center Graduation



inside

ESTABLISHED IN 1973

BIBLE BASICS

INTERNATIONAL

FOURTH QUARTER

Founder's Corner

Dear Friends,

Monna Dean and I are profoundly grateful for God's unspeakable gift of His only begotten Son. I know that there are a few who receive this letter who do not know Him personally. I urge you to receive Him as your own personal Lord and Savior today. God's Word says, ***"Today is the day of salvation."*** What better time could there be than right now in the midst of the time when we celebrate His coming.

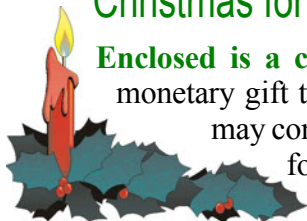
Another thing we are very grateful for is the way the Lord is using Bible Basics' missionary outreach. God has provided for a steady growth through the years and is now providing more missionaries and new leadership to see us into the future.

One thing we are concerned about, like many other churches and missions, is the economy. As I mentioned in an earlier letter, recent newsletters have been costing more than they are returning. That is true even though all of this is done in house at a cost far less than could be done outside. Those of you who know us personally know that we strive to be good stewards of the funds God's people send us.

If you can help the mission financially, that would be wonderful. If you can't, please do not forget to pray. We do appreciate all that you do. **God bless you; have a great Christmas and prosperous New Year!**

Christmas for Your Missionaries

Enclosed is a card explaining how you may send a monetary gift to your missionary for Christmas. You may contribute to either a **tax-deductible** bonus for the missionary of your choice, or send them a direct **non-deductible** gift.



**Emailed
"Inside BBI"
Updates**

**To cut costs,
we offer BBI
newsletters via
E-mail in PDF
format.**

**To receive BBI
letters by E-mail
you should have
high speed Internet.
Please E-mail us at
info@biblebasics.org
and put in subject
line "Please E-mail
newsletters."**

**To be dropped
from BBI's list
altogether, please
write or E-mail us
to remove
your name.**

**To continue
receiving
mailed letter,
do nothing.**



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*
Evangelical Council for
Financial Accountabili-

BIBLE BASICS INTERNATIONAL *the Greater Tampa Bay Area*

P.O. Box 726 • Odessa, FL 33556 • (813) 920-2264 • info@biblebasics.org



Evangelical
Council for
Financial

Donor Name: _____
Please print and indicate Mr., Mrs., Rev., Dr., etc.

Please use my tax-deductible contribution:

- Where most needed** in BBI's missionary outreach ----- \$ _____
- Other:** _____ \$ _____
- Toward a Christmas Bonus for:** _____ \$ _____
- \$ _____

Please give my non-deductible Christmas gift to: _____ \$ _____

Please return this slip with your gift to the Lord's work. See other side for explanation of above designations.

Bible Basics International - Explanation of Designations

Where most needed – will be used at the discretion of the mission to further its ministry outreach of the Gospel. This designation allows the most flexibility in doing God's work.

Other – For other specific designations. Examples: “New regular support for (missionary or project),” “One-time contribution for (missionary or project),” etc. **Please note:** In the unlikely event that designated donations exceed the amount needed for a particular project, the balance will be used toward another missionary ministry of BBI.

Toward a Christmas Bonus for: (insert missionary name) – If you want a tax-deductible receipt, your gift will be used to pay a Christmas bonus to the designated missionary, but payroll taxes must be withheld when paid to the missionary.

Non-deductible Christmas gift – Your Christmas gift will be passed on directly and in full to the designated recipient, but your receipt cannot be tax-deductible.

Required by the State of Florida: “A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE 1-800-HELP-FLA. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. ALL GIFTS ARE USED BY BBI; NO PROFESSIONAL SOLICITORS ARE USED. REGISTRATION # SC-05156.”