50 years BIMI 1960 - 2010

Celebrating the Past...
Challenging the Future

Spring 2010

Dear Pastor and Church Family,

"This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes." Perhaps there are no better words written by our Lord than those in Mark 12:11 to describe the marvelous things that the He has done through partnering independent Baptist churches and BIMI over the past 50 years. What a privilege we had on June 8 to celebrate that 50 year milestone, as we met under the tent at the world missions headquarters in Harrison Bay, Tennessee! *(see photo)*

During the spring months of March to mid June, we traveled 5,063 ministry miles by car in the West to present missions during one mission conference, preached five missions emphasis Sundays, was privileged to fill pulpits for two churches, visited nine churches when not in scheduled meetings, and attended three pastors' fellowship meetings in California. While at home, I taught one Sunday school class at our home church and preached at the LA County prison in Lancaster for their Easter services. While at home I had the privilege to substitute teach six missions classes at West Coast Baptist College, while Wilda substituted two classes. We helped with one MK (missionary kid) fellowship at the college, hosted six full-time Christian workers in our home, and attended the graduation exercises for the 15th graduating class at West Coast Baptist College in early May *(see photo below)*.

Our hearts were saddened to lose my uncle Darel to death in early May. Upon my aunt Donna's request, we traveled to Phoenix for me to preach his funeral to many unsaved that were gathered. Sadly, on June 14 we lost our former pastor, Dr. Roy Thompson, as his long fight with leukemia ended with his Heaven-bound home going. Though we were unable to attend his funeral at our sending church in Cleveland, Ohio, we did have the blessing of attending by live-stream video. What a great pastor he was to us over the years, a wonderful mentor and example, and our hero in the faith. Our prayers are with his wife Faith, the family, our church family there, and our beloved pastor, Kevin Folger, who carries on leading that wonderful church known for over 50 years as Cleveland Baptist Church.

In late May and early June we were blessed to get to visit with our children, grandchildren, and other family members in Virginia, South Carolina, and Tennessee *(see photo below)*, then attend the BIMI candidate school and 50th anniversary celebration, where three couples out of the nine couples and one single approved were all graduates of West Coast Baptist College. We had the blessing of working closely with two of those couples to encourage them along the way, as they stepped out by faith to become missionaries *(see photos of the two couples below)*. We also traveled to Phoenix again in June to attend the wedding of Joshua and Ruth, prospective missionaries to Ethiopia *(see photo below)*.

Though it was a very busy spring, we could have done none of it without the Lord and you, our faithful prayer partners and supporters in the ministry. May the Lord give you a fruitful summer!

Your friends in the harvest,

Mike & Wilda

Mike & Wilda McCombie
John 4:35

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