

Fundamental Baptist Missions International

A Ministry of First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana

Quickening Our Pace

As we make headway toward our goal of bringing an entire team to Eurasia, excitement continues to build as our pace continues to quicken. I am happy to report that our prospective members are making good progress. The Atkinsons, for example, have now completed the lengthy application process, quit their jobs, and launched out by faith on the full-time deputation trail. If your church would be interested in having them present their work, feel free to contact them directly at (219) 256-3289. Others are getting close to doing the same as they continue their training, continue their education, and continue serving with me in ministry here at First Baptist Church of Hammond. Some are working on learning Turkish; others are working on Arabic; all of them are working on reaching Muslims—both locally and by internet. Several team members have been involved in the making of Team Eurasia's first-ever promo video. It is almost complete and will be made available to your church, upon request, absolutely free of charge. What a great team God is putting together!

Most of you should have received packets of the Bachman family's new prayer card. If you have not received them, please contact us and let us know. We would be happy to get some to you, as we need as many of you remembering us in prayer as possible. My family and I have also been traveling a great deal lately. We are out many weekends visiting your churches. In between deputation and teaching college, I am also making missions trips. In fact, in the last month, I have preached in Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America. Yes, four continents in one month is a new record for me; and while I had the time of my life, I am delighted to be home again.

In Europe I preached for my good friend, Nick Maulucci, in Varna, Bulgaria. This church reminds me so much of the exemplary churches of Macedonia, in that, they give with great joy and great liberality, in spite of their deep poverty. This church has furthermore caught their pastor's vision to get the Gospel into every home in the entire country of Bulgaria. In fact, the church is well on its way to accomplishing this ambitious objective.

While overseas I was able to take my wife to both the European side and the Asian side of Turkey. This was my seventh time to travel to Turkey; but it was Cassie's first trip there, and I was so thrilled that she could make the trip with me. She wasn't feeling the greatest, as she was in the early stages of the first trimester of her pregnancy. Yes, you read that correctly. Cassie and I are expecting our 15th child! In spite of her morning sickness, she got a feel for Turkey and what it will be like to live there. I was able to witness to people while there, and the highlight of the trip for me was spending time with one of the converts from our first trip to Turkey. He told me, "Tell your team members that we wait for them in Bursa!"

I just returned from preaching in West Africa's Fifth Annual Pastors' School, hosted by the Ghana Team. (It has been such an important part of my training process to be able to visit some of these teams sent by the First Baptist Church of Hammond and learn from their experiences.) This Pastors' School was so exhilarating. Pastors and laypeople came from many regions of Ghana. There were also delegates representing other African nations, including a large number of delegates from Nigeria. What impressed me even more than the size of the church our team has planted was seeing the depth of their converts and learning of the numbers of churches they are currently pastoring and planting. The positive influence that this team is having on other national pastors is most encouraging. Pastors who are getting more grounded doctrinally and becoming aggressive soul winners and church planters make Pastor Schaap's goal of seeing one billion souls reached through the influence of First Baptist Church and its outreach ministries seem achievable.

Our plans for Team Eurasia are unprecedented in scope and will take another couple of years of preparation, but if you will continue to support us, we are convinced the rewards will be many. And even during the months of preparation, the cause of missions is being served by us at an ever-quickening pace.



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