



Dear FIP Partners, Friends and Family,

Linda and I just finished a 5-Day missions conference at No. FL Bapt. Ch. in Tallahassee Sunday afternoon. What a blessing! I was asked to preach in two grade levels in their Christian school...and extended it to 3 more levels since three of the teachers used to be in our Christian schools at BBC Hn'dv and at MBC! One of them was Rebecca (Siems) Simpson who went on a mission trip with a group of our teens we took to the Turks and Caicos Islands in the British Indies in 1988.

We also spent Tuesday night with Thom, Missy, and daughter Kendalyn (12th) who were in our young married couples class back in the late 80's and early 90's.

We had an equally wonderful time in the home of our hosts Roger and Cara Wynn and their two fine sons Zachary (9) and Jacob (14). Roger is an engineer, a deacon, and teaches the adult S.S. class which has "adopted" us, and Cara (a Liberty alumus) is the elementary school principal.

On Friday, Pastor Randy Ray and his staff took us missionaries out to lunch at the country club where he golfs. Surprise, Surprise, SURPRISE! He had invited his golfing partner former FSU football coach Bobby Bowden to join us...and I got to be his "right hand man"....what a great Christian this man is. He told us he still speaks in churches, etc. 3-5 times every week!

Sunday evening we had a wonderful time of ministry and fellowship with Maranatha Baptist Church and Pastor Butch CALAHAN. I had always wanted to meet "Dirty Harry", ha!

USA Evangelism Report:

Shortly after Linda and I returned home from SE Asia, our Senior Pastor Phil Martin gave all of us at MBC E1R1 (Each 1 Reach 1) wrist bands to remind us to pray for lost souls at 1:00 o'clock EVERY day. Linda and I were scheduled to leave home early Monday morning Feb. 20th for a missions conference at North FL Bapt Ch in Tallahassee but the Thursday before I received a phone call from one of my old teens from back in the 80's during my Youth Director Days at BBC. Bobby Nash had called to tell me that his younger sister Tiffanie had died the night before from diabetes and numerous other health problems. He asked me to do a grave-side funeral. We always try respond positively to the needs of people to whom God has allowed to minister in the past. Bobby and his older sister Diane had been very active in my youth department but their younger sister Tiffanie was only in elementary school at the time....in the same class with our youngest son Brian from 1st to 6th grade. The earliest they could have the funeral was noon Monday. Since the family as a whole had not chosen to make BBC their church home, I assumed that many of the apx. 3 dozen people in attendance were not consistently under the sound of the Gospel, so I chose to preach a gospel message and extend an invitation. I closed that message and led them in a sinners prayer about 1 o'clock Monday afternoon...the very time of day our

MBC people were praying specifically for lost people...and saw God bless with a dozen people raising their hands to say that they had prayed that prayer with me and were now trusting Jesus Christ as their personal Savior! I immediately encouraged them to tell someone else there that day of their decision and encouraged them to be in church this coming Sunday to profess Christ publicly there and follow him in believer's baptism. Thank you, Pastor Martin and Metro Baptist Church, for your prayers for the lost. I just wanted to share with you the power of your prayers I felt at that time and the way that God answered you! To God be the glory, GREAT things He hath done!

Since Tiffanie's two young sons Zach(6th) and Spencer(5th) and their father Nicholas Bautista raised their hands as a testimony of having just trusted Christ and live in Gallatin, I have already forwarded the information to some Christian friends in Hn'dv (the Damerests) to follow up on them.

Your missionary,

Ben Bounds

"The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms" Deuteronomy 33:27 Love in our Lord, Ben & Linda