



Montco Bible Fellowship

Lansdale, Pennsylvania

Montco Bible Fellowship (MBF) began with a Gospel Crusade at the Gwynedd-Mercy College outside Amber, Pennsylvania, led by my Father, Dr. B. Sam Hart. After a few months of home Bible studies, a core group of believers met for the first Sunday services the first week of January 1980. The meetings were conducted at one of the few drive-in theaters still in operation at the time. Cars pulled up and listened to the service. Truckers stopped and heard the Gospel in the clear, concise way that only my Dad could deliver. In 1981, the group began to meet at the American Legion building in the heart of Ambler, Pennsylvania where the assembly experienced growth.

A work started in Norristown at that time ran into financial difficulty, leading to a merger with the work in Ambler. The result was that my family ended up at MBF. The American Legion building quickly became insufficient for the assembly so the annex building of another church in the Ambler area was rented. The facility was a blessing, but the location was out of the way making it hard to find. Over the next 8 years the assembly was able to save money but experienced little growth beyond the 40-50 members.

In 1991, a warehouse in Lansdale became available. With the help of Stewards Foundation, we were able to purchase and renovate this building making it suitable for continued growth. Shortly after the move to Lansdale, my Dad decided to step down from leadership at MBF. I was asked to assume a full-time role even though the church was not in a position to fully support a full-time worker. After praying about God's will in the matter, I decided to accept. For the last 27 years I have served full-time along with three other Pastors/Elders that form the leadership team of the assembly. While there has been change in the team of elders, the Lord has been faithful to provide new leaders when others have moved away.

Since relocating to Lansdale we have seen

growth in the body. From the 40-50 who purchased the building, we now have about 185 adult members. We praise God for the families that have been drawn to Christ and for the constant flow of baptisms experienced each year. We also praise God for the gifts and ministries He has made possible through the believers in our fellowship.



We praise God for the music ministry at MBF where my wife, Carol has directed the choir for over 25 years. This group has ministered locally, in churches along the east Coast, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Uganda and Guyana. In 2013, Carol felt the Lord leading her into a new ministry to meet a growing need among immigrants in our community. After attending a conference in New Orleans, she resigned from the choir and began preparations to start an English as a Second Language school.

The ESL school opened at the church in January 2014. Each Tuesday evening there are 60-80 students learning English. They come from 20 different countries representing many languages. All of our teachers are trained in how to teach English to a group with multiple languages. Carol is also a trainer going to help other churches begin an ESL program. We

Continued on page 2



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

• Page 1:

Assembly Spotlight

Montco Bible Fellowship

• Page 2:

Commended Worker

Rebecca Moffitt

• Page 3:

Cheerful Givers, Unjust Stewards

I CORINTHIANS 4:2, "IT IS REQUIRED"

Continued from page 1

have seen fruit from this ministry as we build relationships through sharing Christ and answering questions. The results are not quick, especially among Muslims where it takes time to penetrate souls with the love of Christ.

Three years ago we adopted a middle school around the corner from our building. We provide Christmas gifts for needy students as recommended by the administration. Our prayer is that we might be able to provide after-school tutoring since it would be easy for the students to walk to our building. Please pray that we will have an inroad here as the administration is concerned about promoting a church program. Our desire is to find a way to notify parents of what is available without the school "promoting" our church program.

"We praise God for the families that have been drawn to Christ"

Another fruitful ministry over the last 2 years is what we call Wednesday Water Witness. Each Wednesday night after a time of prayer we divide up and give out cold bottles of water in the community. Gas stations, Walmarts, and super markets are excellent locations to secure permission to hand out free water along with an invitation to church meetings. The retailers see this as an added value to their business as long as the distribution takes place after customers leave their facility. Each invitation has the gospel printed on the back with the water providing an opportunity to start a conversation. This outreach takes place from the middle of May to the end of August.

There is much for which we thank God, including Stewards Foundation's help as an invaluable partner in our ministry. They enabled us to purchase the house next door to the main building to create meeting space for the ESL program and install an elevator in the main building to access the second floor sanctuary. We praise God for all that He has done and look forward to what He will continue to do till He comes again!

Commended Worker

Rebecca Moffitt

I was born in Oklahoma to parents who knew and served the Lord. It was not until I went to university that I became serious about my own faith. While at Oklahoma State University, I got involved in Intervarsity Christian Fellowship (ICF). At that time our local chapter of ICF really emphasized missions. I decided to use a gift I received upon graduation to go on a short-term missions trip. Don Norbie told me he had helped Operation Mobilization in France the summer before and recommended I get in touch

with Trifon Kalioudjoglou, an assembly missionary in Vichy, France.



I contacted Trifon who encouraged me to come to Vichy, even though he and his family would not be there that summer. My 2 months in France were spent helping in the Emmaus office. Upon returning to the States, I moved to Chicago to work in the Emmaus Correspondence School (ECS) office.

After moving to Chicago, I started going to River Forest Bible Chapel. One of the elders there told me he was praying about my return to France, but I informed him I wasn't planning to go back. He said he would keep praying for me and with me about France. The director of the ECS also started asking me about going to the mission field. I told him I didn't know what I would do. Both of these men kept praying for me and making suggestions from time to time such as writing to missionaries and seeing what possibilities of work there would be for me.

When I wrote several assembly missionaries, many of the missionaries wanted me to come immediately. However, I didn't think any of the needs they mentioned fit the gifts and abilities I had displayed so far. Three years later after receiving a letter from the assembly in Vichy asking me to come back to France, I was open to the idea. The elders of River Forest prayed with me, told me what they thought my spiritual gifts were, and commended me to the work in France.

I moved to France in June of 1980. After 9 months in language school and a short stint of Child Evangelism Fellowship training, I began working in the Emmaus office in Vichy. Eleven years later we moved the Emmaus office to a suburb of Lyon. Trifon was hardly involved in the Emmaus work by then but several French people became involved in different aspects of the Emmaus work. I enjoyed working with them as well as the assembly that loaned office space for the courses. I also worked with children during the 31 years I spent in France, mostly in weekly Bible clubs but sometimes at camps.

IN STEWARDS THAT A MAN BE FOUND FAITHFUL”

I was thankful my assembly provided health care for me through Stewards Foundation until 1990. In 1990 I learned there was an agreement between France and the U.S. It stated that any American who lived for more than 2 years in France must pay their taxes in France. Our understanding was that we had to pay into social security and social medicine in France as well.

In 2011, I moved back to the States to be a caregiver for my father. Ever since I have been trying to navigate the intricacies of U.S. medicine and medical insurance. Once again I am thankful for Stewards Foundation's help.

Since returning to the States, I have been mostly involved in after school Bible clubs and volunteer work, like a special needs school, a pregnancy center, hospice and tutoring in English. Several in my home assembly, East Tulsa Bible Chapel, are hoping to start tutoring in English this year. The goal is to have a greater outreach to the international people in the chapel neighborhood. Now there are apps that translate languages; perhaps I would not have had to learn French if these apps had existed in the 1980's. Now if someone would just invent an app to help understand medical practices and billing in the United States.

Cheerful Givers, Unjust Stewards

Letters of Interest Editorial, June 1952

There are generous, faithful givers to the Lord, whom the Lord loves as cheerful givers, who are yet unfaithful stewards.

Every child of God who gives to the Lord is a steward as well as a giver. When in accordance with the Scripture admonition, he sets aside as the Lord has prospered him, he is a giver. Then once he has set money aside for the Lord, he is a steward, responsible to the Lord for how the money is expended. It is no longer his money; it is the Lord's. The steward must wait on the Lord for instruction on how to dispense the funds.

Some of us give as we are tugged here and there by this appeal and that. Some give generously to the popular preacher, but rarely if ever remember the faithful worker in an obscure field. Some give according to their personal sympathies: they like this preacher or teacher; they don't care for the other man. They favor this particular work; the other does not appeal to them. Some give to the greatly publicized projects and preachers while utterly ignoring the plodding worker and his faithful little work.

And we all perhaps have a tendency to give that we might be thought of well. We do not want this evangelist to think we are parsimonious; we like that teacher to recognize our generosity. We want to contribute "our share" to this and that project.

But in all this we fail to remember we are but stewards, responsible to give that which is the Lord's only as He directs us.

How then are we to receive our instructions from Him? How are we to know just where He would have His money disbursed,

and how much should be given in each instance? There are so many worthy purposes. There are so many real needs. There are so many appeals: many vocal, some silent. How are we to know where to dispense and how much?

Surely our only recourse for instruction must be to study God's Word, and pray for guidance when we are uncertain on how to apply the Scripture in a specific instance.

"The steward must wait on the Lord for instruction ..."

The Word provides us with some guiding principles:

First, God is a generous giver. Since we have His purse in our hands, we ought to be liberal. Now liberality might in one instance be thousands of dollars, and in another two mites.

Second, God supplies the needs of those whose dependence is upon Him. Those preachers of the gospel and teachers of the Word who in the eyes of the world have no visible means of support, who are unsalaried by men, are the special objects of God's care. We will not be using His purse amiss when we dispense from it to such workers.

Third, God maintains that which is of Himself, that which is according to His Word, adhering to the pattern He has drawn. God's object in this age – we say it reverently – is not hit or miss preaching and teaching. His object is the edification, the building up of the Church. In every evangelistic message, in every word of ministry to believers, He has a definite purpose: the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ. If we invest His money in that which is according to His pattern, we will be investing wisely.

The Apostle Paul had the mind of the Lord when he wrote to the Corinthian assembly, "According to the grace which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon."

We are building upon the foundation which Paul the masterbuilder laid. That which we build thereupon must in that day go through the fire of God's judgment. If we build with wood, hay and stubble, it will not stand the flame. If we build with gold, silver and precious stones, our superstructure will endure.

How calamitous if we as God's stewards make use of His gold and silver to build structures of wood, hay and stubble! Let us then be diligent to have His mind in our stewardship.

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Psalms 126:3, "The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad"



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