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Bible Institute of Missouri
A Work of the [Kansas Expressway Church of Christ](http://www.bibleinstituteofmissouri.com)
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Faculty: Ray Sullins
Max Patterson
Chuck Northrop
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BIM Informer
Bible Institute of Missouri Newsletter

BIM Contributors (2013)

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Note:
Churches and individuals who send monthly contributions to support faculty and students are not listed here due to a lack of space.

Thank You
Thank you to all who supported the Bible Institute of Missouri in 2013. This includes those who support the school as well as those who support the faculty and students. Without your continued support the work of training the next generation of preachers at the BIM would not be possible. Continue to keep the school in your prayers and budgets in 2014. Thanks again!

BIM Informer
Bible Institute of Missouri Newsletter
January 2014

Climbing to the Summit

Brent Green

The Himalaya Mountains are some of the tallest and most majestic mountains in the world. They actually contain the highest peaks of any mountain range on earth, including over 100 mountains that exceed 23,000 feet. Among this unique range is the mountain of mountains—Mount Everest. The summit of Everest is the highest point above the surface of the earth, towering a daunting 29,035 feet above sea level. Many have dreamed about reaching the summit and breathing in the beauty of the Himalayas. Reaching the summit of Everest has long been a feat that explorers and adventurers have dreamed about conquering. They have sought to reach the highest point on earth. Only a few, however, have ever seen the majesty of the summit.

Most will never start the climb. Climbing Everest requires planning, tremendous effort, and sacrifice. When most consider all of the emotional, physical, and financial costs involved in climbing Everest, they quickly dismiss the enormous challenge as an impossibility. With this thought in mind, consider how most look at the idea of becoming a Christian in the same way. They look at God's plan and believe there is no way it would work for them. They consider the effort it is going to take to stay the course and think that it is impossible for them to succeed. They count the cost and feel the sacrifice required is just too much. The sadness of this reality is heard in the words of King Agrippa. He said, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian" (Acts 26:28). Indeed, most will echo these words and never begin their Christian climb.

Some will climb halfway. Of the billions of people who have lived on earth throughout time, only 4,000 have ever attempted to scale the face of Everest. They counted the cost and had enough courage to begin the trek. However, because of weaknesses, trials, lack of planning, and a slew of other reasons, they failed to climb all the way to the summit. Although most would not describe such attempts as mediocrity, the word does fit. Mediocrity literally means halfway up the mountain. Those who become Christians but fail to make it to the summit can also be described by such mediocrity. They indeed count the cost to begin, but when the trials, difficulties, and sicknesses of life come, they quit their journey to the top. How many have failed to reach the summit because they slid off into the abyss of sin? How many have failed to summit because they were content with mediocrity?

(continued inside)

"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:2



(continued from front)

All too many Christians do not feel the need to worship regularly (Hebrews 10:25), to keep their bodies pure (Colossians 3:5), to continue walking the straight and narrow path that leads to heaven (Luke 13:24). Indeed, some will begin the Christian climb, but will fail to reach the summit.

Only a few climb to the summit. Of the 4,000 who have attempted to climb to the summit of Everest, only 660 have successfully made it to the summit. Their stories of perseverance, commitment, and sacrifice are amazing. Many have lost fingers and toes to frostbite. Others have lost friends along the way. Yet, those who have made it to the summit all have this in common: They never stopped climbing! They trudged through the snow, scaled the icy bluffs, traversed the rocky cliffs, and tightroped the narrow ridges. They endured everything for the majesty on high. Jesus said, "Enter by the narrow gate . . . because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). Only a few of the billions who have lived will stay the course to the summit. Those who have the faith to reach the summit will have persevered through persecutions, shown themselves to be truly committed (Galatians 2:20), and sacrificed all of their being to daily take up the cross of Christ (Matthew 16:24). Indeed, only a few will climb to the heavenly summit to dwell forever in the presence of the Majesty on high.

Although climbing Everest may only be a dream for most, making it to that heavenly home is a hope that can be realized. God has not asked anyone to scale to the summit of Everest. However, He has promised salvation to those who will follow His plan of salvation. Hear the saving message of Jesus Christ (Romans 10:17; Ephesians 1:13). Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He died on the cross, and that He resurrected (Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24). Be full of godly sorrow and turn from the lifestyle of sin (2 Corinthians 7:10; Luke 13:3). Confess the name of Christ (Romans 10:10) and be immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27). Then, live faithfully unto to the point of death (Revelation 2:10; Matthew 10:22). This is God's plan to climb to the heavenly summit. Count the cost and "press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14). Climb to the summit!

Faculty Focus

This issue of the *BIM Informer* now completes the highlighting of the school's faculty members. Each instructor of the Bible Institute of Missouri is an important asset in the fulfillment of the school's mission. These men bring to the classroom their years of experience in preaching and teaching, both locally and abroad. They each are truly committed to teaching "faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2).



Brent Green graduated from Missouri State in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science in Education and then graduated from the Bible Institute of Missouri (BIM) in 2007. Since his graduation, he has worked with the BIM as a school representative and part-time instructor. He served as the pulpit minister for three years for the church of Christ in Carthage, Missouri before becoming a full-time instructor at the BIM in 2011. He also presently preaches for the Highway 13 church of Christ in Bolivar, Missouri. Since becoming a minister, he has also been on mission trips to Zambia, Ghana, and Mexico. He is supported in his life and work by his wonderful and loving wife Dedra. God has also blessed them with two children.

Student Showcase

Dustin McCrickard was born in Springfield, Missouri. He graduated from high school in Bolivar, Missouri. After high school, he worked at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri. Then, he graduated from the Drury Law Enforcement Academy in 2007 and went on to work for the Polk County Sheriff Department for five years. He was baptized into Christ on November 11, 1995. Since that time, he has been active in leading singing and working with the youth group. He is married to his wife Amanda, and they have three children. He has always had a tremendous amount of compassion for people and



a desire to minister to others. During his first year at the Bible Institute of Missouri, he has been preaching by appointment. Upon graduating in 2014, he hopes to be able to do even more for God.

This Little Light of Mine

Dustin McCrickard

John 8:12

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine." Brethren have been singing this song since the 1930s, and it has become a kid favorite in Bible classes. Brethren, we must ask ourselves what or who the light is and if obtained, how can Christians can keep the light in their lives.

In John, Jesus said He could provide the water and bread of life (John 4:14; 6:35, 48). In John 8:12, Jesus called Himself the "light of the world." Since Jesus was God in the flesh, this characteristic is also of God. "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5). Light and truth are His nature. In that passage, it literally means "no darkness in Him, no not even one." Jesus continued to say, "He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Christians walk in His light when they obey His word. This is because His "word is a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105). Christians are not only called to follow, but are also called to proclaim His light. "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). So if Christians are called to follow the light and proclaim the light, look inward and ask: "Do the actions in my life promote light or darkness?"

Christians have a choice to make. If light is chosen that would mean one would be following God's will and would receive blessings from the heavenly Father. By choosing light one would receive a continual cleansing of all sins by the blood of Jesus Christ. This does not mean Christians will never sin again. When they who are walking in the light sin, they must confess their sins so that they can receive forgiveness of those sins (1 John 1:7, 9.)

When one chooses light it means one must remove all the darkness found in one's life. This means a

change of life is required. This aspect will always be a stumbling block for those who want to walk in the light. There will always be the temptation to fellowship with darkness. If people claim to walk in the light but are really walking in darkness, then they are liars, hypocrites, and the truth is not found in them (1 John 1:6).

If people walk in darkness they separate themselves from God, because "God is light and in him is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5). God will not commune with darkness. If people choose to walk in darkness, then they will also be separated from their brethren because light cannot fellowship with darkness. "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14). When in darkness, a person becomes blind and begins to pull people into darkness. Many false teachers in the world proclaim they know and have the light, but in reality, they are like the Pharisees when Jesus said, "Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch" (Matthew 15:14).

As Christians, we become the light and should not hide it but let it shine to bring people into the light. People long for the light, especially if they have been in darkness for a long time. When Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount, He made this statement: "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16).

In the world today, the majority desire to live in darkness because they do not want their sins to be exposed. The church today should be a bright beacon drawing people in like moths to the light. However, so many churches' lights are becoming faded and slowly going out because many churches are falling into the temptation of being more like the world. Brethren, encourage one another to let your light shine and keep bringing souls into the light and never let anyone (including the devil) blow your light out.