

The Institut Biblique et Pastoral Baptiste is a private institution of higher learning that has operated in France since 1979. It's mission is to train future pastors, missionaries and church leaders who are apt to serve God wherever He leads.



"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15)



God our Defender and our Inheritance

Numbers 16-18 relate the attempted coup d'état in Israel during the time of Moses and Aaron. Insurrectionists justified their demands by saying that everyone was equally holy, which was true, and that Moses et Aaron had taken to themselves the honor of leadership, which was false. God intervened to defend His servants and confirm them in their roles by ordering two tests, that of the incense censers (ch. 16) and that of the rods (ch. 17). Then to reassure Aaron in particular, God spoke to him (ch. 18) emphasizing all that He had give to him. In other words, at the very time when his compatriots wanted to usurp his special place in the community, the Lord repeated several times, "I have given..." What an encouragement for His servant and what wonderful lessons for us! Among others...

1. Let God direct us to the place of service he wants for us. It's only there that our rod will bud.
2. We can trust God to defend us in the place He has assigned to us, not on the basis of our superiority, but of His grace.
3. We should carry out our responsibilities faithfully and with zeal.
4. Be thankful for our greatest possession, the Lord Himself. « And the Lord spake unto Aaron... I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel. » (Nom. 18.20)

For your gifts

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Workers in God's Harvest Field

Several biblical images make reference to farming and harvesting. God reveals Himself as a vine dresser who is very attentive to the needs of the vine He cares for with great care in the hopes that it will produce a good crop of plump grapes. In His parables Jesus also frequently mentions the practices of sowing and harvesting to explain the mysteries of the Kingdom of God. The earth with its wonderful capacity to grow all kinds of plants perfectly illustrates God's work, sometimes silent but none the less powerful, in human hearts.



God is both the Lord and the owner of the harvest. Jesus invited his disciples to pray the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth laborers into His harvest (Matt. 9.38) In specifying that the harvest is great He helped them to understand that there was plenty to do for many workers. He then sent His disciples out two-by-two to accomplish their ministries and so participate in the harvest.

By responding to God's call we have the privilege of working with Him in His marvelous plan of salvation for mankind. He invites us to be co-laborers with Him in His work on earth by entrusting to us the wonderful message of repentance and love. It's time to rise to the call, to disentangle ourselves from the pleasures of this world and to give ourselves wholeheartedly to the Lord's service. It is urgent for Christians to take the time to gain a better understanding of the Bible in order to become workers « that need not be ashamed » for God.

Dear readers, I'd like to invite you to come study the Word of God with us here in Algrange, France. We are a small school in the service of a great God. Our desire is to train faithful workers who proclaim forcefully and with determination that "Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father."

May God help each and every one of us to be workers in God's harvest field!

JM



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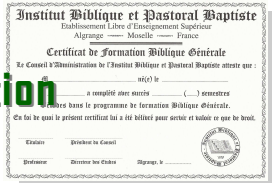


News briefs

- More than 20 young adult Europeans attended the « Turning Point » conference over the year-end holidays to reflect on the impact they can have for Christ on their continent. A follow-up conference is in the planning stage as well as opportunities to serve with active missionaries in their fields of labor.
- In February the Institute choir presented several hymns in its repertory during the worship service of a nearby local church. The service was followed by a fellowship meal prepared by the ladies in the church. It was an encouragement to the small group of church members and a wonderful experience for the choir that everyone hopes to renew in the future.
- One of our graduates, Emmanuel FISCHER, was officially ordained and voted pastor of the Église Baptiste in Reims Sunday February 28. Mike and Elva Farrell, founding missionaries, will be returning to the States soon to report to their supporting churches.
- Two other former students and their families, Luciano BRANCO et Jean-Claude DURAND have moved to ministry positions in the Église Évangélique Baptiste in Toulon and at Camp Matthanias.
- Several people have asked how our request to be registered in our region as a professional school is coming along. Please keep praying as our case is apparently still being studied.

Come visit us at www.ibpb.org

Graduation



The Institute would like to invite you to it's 2010 graduation ceremony that will take place here in Algrange, at 3:00 P.M. **Saturday, May 29**. One of our former students will be bring the graduation address. The service will be followed by a time of refreshments.

Please be in prayer for this year's graduation class as they finish their studies, which include the oral defense of their doctrinal statements on April 30. This year's graduates include...

- David CANFRAN
- Mathieu DUSSAUCY
- Cédric et Carine EUGENE
- John FITE
- Franck et Sophie GEORGES
- Jennifer TONEL

The majority of this-year's class has already made plans for the future: marriage, pastoral internships, further studies, missionary trips. May the Lord grant them much fruit in His service and continue to call others to train for work in His harvest field! We're praying for « 10 in 2010 »!



Speaking of Ecumenism...

Please be in prayer for our second pastors' continuing education seminar, August 9-11, 2010. Mr. Gérard Dagon, our speaker for this session, is often questioned by pastors who are solicited by Christians organizations wanting them to become involved in cooperative evangelism efforts. While some of these may be worthy groups, they do not always share the same doctrinal positions. What criteria should be used to determine whom one should collaborate with and to what degree? Taking the Word of God as an infallible guide, Mr. Dagon will lead us in a time of reflection and discussion around this important subject at a time when a national committee of evangelicals is being organized with a lot of pressure on independent Baptists to join.

If you would like to help a national pastor attend this seminar, a gift of \$75.00 will pay all expenses for this three-day seminar. They can be addressed to the French Bible Institute account at Baptist Mid-Missions, P.O. box 308011, Cleveland, OH 44130.

As last year, the Institute faculty will be meeting August 12, 2010 for their annual planning session, immediately following the pastoral seminar.

Orientation

It's that time in France when many young people are trying to decide what their future professional career will be. The questions they're asking themselves are similar to those of young people everywhere around the world. Then there are young adults already in the work force who are trying to decide if they really want stay at their job for the rest of their lives. Those are legitimate, but really secondary considerations for a Christian. What really counts is what God would have you do with your life. How will your life glorify God and count for eternity? You can trust God for your material security if you decide to honor Him in all you do.

Young person, in weighing your options, don't neglect the possibility of training to serve God. He is meek and humble of heart. He is faithful and will never abandon you. If the Lord is calling you, don't resist any longer! He may even be tugging at your heart to train for missionary service. Why not consider doing so right here on the mission field where at the end of four years you'll have an excellent Bible education, and know the language and the culture?

Christian Service

Did you know that students at I.B.P.B. do a minimum of 85 hours of practical ministry in local churches, not counting other special opportunities, by the time they finish their studies? Among the activities they are involved in are visits, evangelism, song-leading, preaching, and teaching Sunday School. This is key part of their training for future service in which they learn not only technical skills but also God's goodness to use them to lead others to Christ and grow in Him.



Grow in grace!