



# JB & LINDA GODFREY

VICE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## January – February 2024

These two months have been interesting. In January, I went to three funerals in one week! Linda and I were able to attend the memorial service for Larry Sellars. He was one of the first USA church planting missionaries with BIMI. God used him to plant multiple churches in the South, mostly in remote areas. When we left that service on a Sunday afternoon, Linda dropped me off at the airport. I flew to Norfolk, Virginia, for the funeral of my good friend Pastor Thornton Frye. He was pastor of Biltmore Baptist Church in Portsmouth, Virginia, for 66 years! The funeral was on a Monday morning. Flying back home that evening, I was stranded in Atlanta for the night because of snow and ice in Chattanooga. Later in the week, Linda and I attended the service for Jeff Woodson. Jeff headed up the Faith Bible Institute in our church. He and I sat side by side in Sunday school when I was in town.

It was my pleasure to participate in the ordination council and ordination service for Missionary John Jones. His father is pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Ooltewah, Tennessee. It was a blessed time and an honor to have a part. Also, I preached in several different churches.

February 10-11, I was at Heritage Baptist Church in Opelika, Alabama. Pastor Thad Endicott and his family have attended many events at BIMI. Linda and I met them years ago while they were on a mission's trip to Japan. There are many young people in the church. Sunday morning, four people were baptized. God has allowed them to put up a beautiful new church building in Opelika.

For most of 2023, Linda suffered with pain from a hip that was bone on bone. Our doctor referred us to a good surgeon, but it was two and a half months before he could see her. Linda continued to travel with me as much as possible. The doctor's first opening was on Valentine's Day. We were at the hospital at 6 am and the surgery was a success. The doctor called to tell me that her old arthritic hip was gone and she has a new one that will work well. She could have gone home that day but when the therapist came to get her up to walk, Linda passed out. That happened three times that day when she tried to sit up. Her blood pressure would drop, so there was no walking that day. The next several days she struggled with low blood pressure, low sodium count, and low hemoglobin. I was able to bring her home late Sunday afternoon. I am now nurse, helper, physical therapist, driver, and whatever else she needs.

The end of February, Jason and Mary Ritchie, missionaries to Mongolia and now heading up our CAMP BIMI program, took my place in a missions conference at Eastern Avenue Baptist Church in Saint Cloud, Florida. I thank them and Pastor Jim Callen for allowing me to be close to home for a few days.

Thank you for your prayers and your encouragement. Please pray for Linda as she recovers from her surgery.



J.B. and Linda Godfrey