

# UpLift



A Publication of Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver  
Under the Eldership of the Bear Valley Church of Christ

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SUMMER 2004

## Petrillo Named As Director

The elders of the Bear Valley Church of Christ are pleased to announce the appointment of Denny Petrillo as the 8th Director of the Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver.

Brother Petrillo has been on staff at the Institute since 1985. He has served as Dean of Students, Dean of Academics, and most recently as Vice President of Academic Affairs. Denny's educational background is extensive. He graduated from the Bear Valley School of Preaching in 1976, received an Associate's Degree from York College, holds a Bachelor's Degree in Bible from Harding University, a Master's Degree in Old Testament and New Testament Studies from Harding Graduate School, and a Ph.D. in Religious Education from the University of Nebraska. In addition to his academic achievements, brother Petrillo has gained many years of practical experience preaching in Mississippi, Arkansas, Nebraska and Colorado.

Petrillo is not only familiar with the stu-

dent side of academic life, but has taught at Magnolia Bible College (Kosciusko, Mississippi), York College (York, Nebraska), and has a number of classes available through World Video Bible School (Maxwell, Texas). This is in addition to the 18 years of teaching here at Bear Valley. Denny has also written extensively and has published exegetical commentaries on 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus, as well as on the Book of Ezekiel, soon to be released.

You do not have to be around Denny for too long to know that he loves the work of training preachers. When asked about his work at the Institute, Petrillo replied, "There is no greater, more effective work we could be doing for the Lord's church than to be training sound men to go into the world to preach the gospel." His passion and dedication to this work and to service to the Lord is a true strength.

Denny and his wife Kathy have been married for 26 years and have three chil-



**Dr. Denny Petrillo**

dren: Lance (23), Brett (18), and Laura (13). He replaces J.J. Turner who served as President of the Bible Institute for over seven years. Brother Turner was instrumental in establishing a number of extension schools, spearheaded a drive for new facilities in Denver, and acquired approval for offering degrees from the Colorado Board of Education as well as a host of other projects. He has returned "home" to Georgia, accepting work with the McDonough Church of Christ in the Atlanta area.

The Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver has been training men and women for service in the Lord's Kingdom since 1965. It currently has facilities in Denver, Colo., with Extension Centers in Pikeville, Ky., and Scottsboro, Ala., and Foreign Extension Centers in Kramatorsk, Ukraine, and Arusha, Tanzania. For more information about the Institute, visit us on the Web at <http://www.bvbid.org>.



Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver's first promotional dinner was hosted by the 29th and Yale congregation in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on March 27, 2004. See back page story.

**40 Years Of Harvest — Homecoming Lectureship September 26-29, 2004**

# BEAR TRACKS



Beloved Bear Valley Brethren,

John is finished with his outpatient therapy and can now walk with a cane. Our lifestyle is slower now, but we have lots of time for Bible tapes, prayer, reading and meditation.

In Him,  
**John and Betty Bromley**  
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Things are going well in Curitiba, Brazil. Four more souls were added to the Lord's kingdom during July and August. During August 15-17, the Curitiba congregation hosted the National Three in One Conference which focused on church growth and marriage and family. There were 160 representatives from 25 congregations who attended.

**Alan and Ree Nalley**  
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Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of **Don Sullivan** who passed away in August. He was suffering from cancer.

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**Jeremy and Erin Sprouse** are presently serving in Alamosa where Jeremy is working with the campus minister as an intern. They have been busy with Bible studies, reaching out to the community, and Erin is interpreting for a deaf lady during services. After the internship they hope to find an established mission work to join.

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**Tom and Sheryl Black** are continuing their work in Bulgaria. The congregation's main translator George and his wife Radka are both in their 80s and have decided it is time to retire from this work. They have been extremely helpful with services, book translations and many other works and will really be missed. There have been 19 baptisms so far this year and the Sofia church numbers 230 at this time.

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The work in Moorhead, Minn., has been exciting. We were able to have a booth at two different county fairs in order to plant the seed. Vacation Bible School was attended by 16 children who studied "Heroes of Faith." We have averaged nine visitors for Sunday morning worship and they have all expressed a desire to learn more about God. Please pray for the work here!

**Mike and Rae Jean Kinzler**  
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Greetings from Topeka! It doesn't seem possible I now am completing 12 years in Evangelism. My 70 mission trips have included 36 trips to India! Please pray for this work to continue and for my continued health.

**Russel Bell**  
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Congratulations to **Leonard and Marguerite Gray** who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

## Bear Valley Change Agents

We are living in historical times in the brotherhood. A handful of high profile congregations have unashamedly made it known they are adding instrumental worship services in order to attract the lost. Other congregations have determined deleting "Christ" from their marquee will help attract more people to Christ. Those who desire to bring about changes in worship through a "new hermeneutic" are gaining ground.

Are you concerned? Is there anything you can do to reverse the current trend? How about becoming a "Bear Valley Change Agent?" A BVCA can be anyone who believes that teaching sound doctrine to men in their initial training is the key to bringing about positive change in the brotherhood.

Bear Valley is preparing men who are not going to be "tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine" (Eph. 4:14). Faithful instructors are fulfilling the change to take the "pattern of sound words" (2 Tim 1:13) and entrust them "to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Tim 2:2). Through your monthly financial support you can become a vital part of the solution to current concerns. "Bear Valley Change Agents" can make a difference!

**Greg Clark**, BV graduate, Tulsa, OK

### Address Changes:

**Tim Smith**, 2900 Julian, Amarillo, TX 79102.

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**Wes Eastman**, 907 N. McKinley, Rotan, TX 79446.

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**Ron Kennedy**, 711 N. Bush Ave., Fresno, CA 93727.

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**Albert and Winnie Brown**, P.O. Box 2461, Cumberland, MD 21503.

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**Art and Mary Smith**, 7296 D. 1376 Road, Holdenville, OK 74848.

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**Darrell Decker**, 2608 16th St., Great Bend, KS 67530.

\*\*\*

**Greg and Carol Clark**, 1802 S. Fir Pl., Broken Arrow, OK 74012.

\*\*\*

**Tim and Samantha Walker**, 114 W. 12th Street, Yankton, SD 57078, (605) 665-6379, justhollar@mchsi.com, scwalk er1@mchsi.com.

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**Eugene Fadeley**, 1724 Eden Glen Drive, Dallas, NC 28034.

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**John and Linda Werhan**, P.O. Box 367, Sentinel, OK 73664.

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**Steve and Ruth Lech**, 120 Rainbow Dr., #2019, Livingston, TX 77399-1020.

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**Jeremy and Erynn Sprouse**, 10025 S Rd. 5 E, Monte Vista, CO 81144.

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**Mike and Misty Pratt**, 840 W. Center St., SW #2, Rochester, MN 55902-6285.

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**Richard and Colysta Wallers**, 1287 Horseshoe Bend #56, Camp Verde, AZ 86322.



# Campaigns Revitalize Congregations

by Wayne Burger

During November 16-20, 2003, 53 workers from Bear Valley Bible Institute assisted four different congregations in efforts to evangelize in their communities. Each local congregation determined what kind of effort they wanted to put forth in their particular campaign. In one effort, Tom Wright worked with six students. They knocked on 1,250 doors in the area of the Bear Valley church building, and set up seven studies, two of which began during that week.

Don Canter directed eight Bear Valley students as they evangelized in the city of Alamosa, Colo., and on the college campus of Adams State, and conducted a gospel meeting. They knocked on 1,700 doors and visited with college students on campus. Thirty visits and six follow-up visits were made and eight Bible studies conducted. Three college students were baptized and the congregation was left with 12 contacts.

The campaign conducted in Parker, Colo., was unique. Wayne Roberts, preacher for the Parker church, used the 12 Bear Valley students to help train members of his congregation in personal evangelism. In addition to the training sessions, 3,500 fliers were distributed in the community.

Timmy Walker, the preacher for the church in Yankton, S.D., had everything well organized for Wayne Burger and the 23 Bear Valley students who came. Four thousand, thirty-four doors were knocked and 3,934 pieces of literature were distributed. Workers visited with 986 families during their door-knocking effort. Six home studies were conducted, one young man was baptized, and the congregation was left with the names of 60 families with whom to study. Wayne Burger proclaimed a gospel message each evening. Plans are being made to have another group of Bear Valley workers return in November 2004.

Why not let the students from Bear Valley Bible Institute assist you in your evangelistic effort next year? Students are available to work with you, November 14-18. The cost is \$.30 per mile round trip for each car with four workers in each car. Also, there is a \$5 per student per meal on the road charge. If you are farther than a day's drive, other travel arrangements will have to be worked out. You will find that an evangelistic thrust not only produces conversions and contacts, but it also revitalizes members of the congregation. If you are interested, contact Wayne Burger at 7645 W. Ontario Pl., Littleton, CO 80128, or call 303-948-5928, or e-mail [burgpreach@prolynx.com](mailto:burgpreach@prolynx.com)



Victor Thuraka (1974 BV graduate) with staff and students of Bear Valley Bible School, Tanali, A.P., India.

## Mission Spirit Is Alive And Well

by Wayne Burger

It is probably true as someone has said, "Every heart with Christ is a missionary and every heart without Christ is a mission field," but the Bear Valley Bible Institute is getting our students to "Look Beyond" to certain lands as specific mission fields. The emphasis in our 40-year history has been to train men and women for service in the mission fields abroad as well as in the USA, especially the Midwest and Pacific Northwest.

For almost 40 years our zeal is still fervent to accomplish that goal. Our students are taught about missions through Dave Chamberlin, a former missionary. A program called "Mission Vision" has been introduced by this writer whereby we want to expose as many students as possible to the needs and opportunities of the foreign mission fields. This is done by (1) Asking missionaries around the world to allow a couple of our students to spend a few weeks with them during the summer to get a "feel" for life on the mission field, (2) By taking students on overseas campaigns each summer.

This summer a student and his wife are planning to work with Ed and Lina

Crookshank in Malawi, Africa. Though not confirmed, we also believe that others of our students will be going to Germany and to Canada. About a dozen students are going on an evangelistic campaign to the island of Espiritu Santo in the South Pacific country of Vanuatu. Through the efforts of this program in the past, we now have a missionary team of two married couples and a single man committed to moving to and working Vanuatu for the next five years.

Practical experience is also given in door knocking campaigns that are conducted in conjunction with the Personal Evangelism class. Also, we conduct about 12 campaigns each year in the United States. In these efforts our students use the skills they learn in classes and assist congregations in door-knocking efforts. Each year dozens of one-on-one Bible studies are conducted and souls are saved because we have looked beyond ourselves. God has blessed our efforts. We say with Paul, "**For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, (us) resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed**" (Romans 15:18).



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## Tulsa Church Hosts Bear Valley's First Promotional Dinner

On March 27, 2004, the 29th and Yale congregation in Tulsa, Okla., hosted the first promotional dinner for the Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver. Bill Stewart, Bear Valley's Director of Development, and Greg Clark, BV graduate and preacher for 29th

and Yale, directed the event. The purpose was to keep supporters of the school informed and updated concerning the school and to help BV celebrate 40 years of training preachers and teachers.

Invitations were sent to all Churches of Christ within a 100-mile radius. There were

80 in attendance representing 12 churches, including eight BV graduates and their wives. Those from BV in Tulsa for the event besides the Director of Development included Dr. Denny Petrillo, President; Gary Williams from the development department; and Pamela Stewart, Dean of Women.



Dr. Denny Petrillo, President, speaks at the first promotional dinner in Tulsa, Okla.

### *In Memoriam*

The faculty of the Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver wish to express our sincere sympathy to the friends and families of Jesse P. Wade, Avon Malone, Mildred Dunegan, Loretta Johnson, Mary Ann Ramsey, Larry McBride, Nell Leis, Paulene Glenn, and Richard DeBaer. The Institute has received a generous memorial contribution in their honor.

**In Memoriam of Jesse P. Wade:**

Art and Mary Smith

**In Memoriam of Avon Malone:**

Art and Mary Smith

**In Memoriam of Mildred Dunegan:**

Hyman Copeland

**In Memoriam of Loretta Johnson:**

Floyd Duncan

**In Memoriam of Mary Ann Ramsey:**

Frank and Karen Clark

**In Memoriam of Larry McBride:**

Anonymous

**In Memoriam of Nell Lewis:**

Terry and Karen Horne

**In Memoriam of Paulene Glenn:**

Terry and Karen Horne  
Cliff and Louise Phillips

**In Memoriam of Richard DeBaer:**

Floyd and Marjorie Elkinton  
Colby church of Christ  
Ross and Anna Rodenbeck  
James and Tamara Brown  
John and Elnor Van Der Wege  
Rex and Jeanette Poore  
\* \* \*

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of **Lonnie and Wanda Wilkinson** in the loss of their daughters: Katrina Jo Wilkinson Moss (age 49) on Nov. 4, 2002, and Janetha Wilkinson Hancock (age 46) on Oct. 20, 2003. Please pray for this family.