

Baptistries Around the World

Dr. Dale Underwood, Director

“Eliminating delays and excuses for not immersing taught believers”

FIRST QUARTER REPORT: 2024

Baptistries Around the World is now 33 years old (1991). The desire of this quarterly publication is to keep you up to date on progress, plans, developments, and needs as we move forward. We desire that you *know what we know* and share our excitement.

One of our other newsletters will share a few *special letters* received from our students in “live” classes and through our Bible Study-by-Mail Program. In this issue, we will give you a similar glimpse from a grateful soul baptized.

As of the end of the First Quarter of 2024, we have placed 481 baptistries in 38 states, including 146 in 41 foreign countries. With an average of 37 baptisms per baptism annually, this adds up to 17,797 each year! *Wow!* You are quietly making an “eternal” difference.

We are excited to think about how many more will be added to the kingdom before the end of 2024. Don Umphrey and Recardo Reyes baptized another 8 a few days ago at the McKenzie Annex!

“Dear brothers and sisters,

I am so happy! You not only brought me Jesus, you got me baptized! I am forever thankful. I would love to see you but that’s not important right now. My body may be locked up but I’m free inside. I can hear Recardo saying, **God is good** and I’m saying, **All the time—God is good!**”

What “Rededicating My Life to Christ” Means

This might look “out of place” in a report for **Baptistries Around the World** but think on its value to a newly baptized believer.

How does one respond if recently baptized and Satan begins to pull him down again? A new Christian may wonder if he needs to be baptized *again*. But God teaches us what to do. As with all sin, *godly sorrow leads us to repent to salvation* (II Corinthians 7:10) but in the case of a baptized believer like Simon in Acts 8:22, he is not taught to be baptized again. He is told to “**repent and pray**.” It is not accidental that in verse 24, Simon **asks Peter to pray for him**. Prior to his *baptism*, the eunuch confessed his faith in Jesus as the Son of God (Acts 8:37). But when we sin after baptism, we **confess our sins to each other and pray** for each other (James 5:16). This is *rededicating our lives to Christ*.

If serious, our lives drastically change once again, and we will demonstrate the “fruit” of genuine repentance (Matthew 3:8).

BRIEF HISTORY OF BAPTISTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

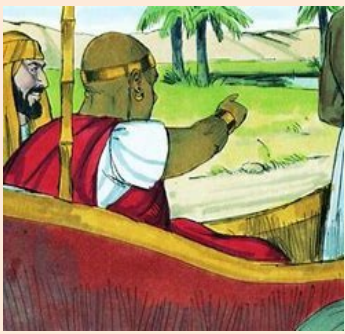
Part Five:

The cost of a portable baptism started out at \$250-\$300 in 1991. It has gradually climbed to \$500. Each unit weighs 31 pounds and holds approximately 150 gallons of water. We order custom designed boxes for shipping. We ship UPS to most locations in the USA for \$100 or less with contents insured for \$499 (if we insured it for \$1 more, the cost rises significantly). Shipping to a business address (like the church building) is less than to a residence. Baptistries Around the World is not a business that sells baptistries. **This is a ministry**. We seek financial support to only help cover actual costs when possible. Our costs far exceed the amount received. Thus far, nearly 210 congregations and individuals have donated some amount. A few donate monthly. We receive some baptism requests with promises to reimburse us 100%. Others send lesser amounts, according to their ability. Anything helps! However, if a baptism is needed, we ship it without hesitation or expectancy of financial help!

Occasionally, we are asked for an “invoice” but that sounds too business-like. So, we send a “notice” explaining that you are not required to reimburse us. We consider all amounts sent as donations. We do not send “reminders” or *late notices*. Brethren are amazed that we do not know how much they have “paid” or the “balance still owed.” We only keep a record of donations. We will continue to do it this way for as long as we can or Jesus comes. We are not asking anyone to feel sorry for us. This is a work of love with unimaginable rewards. To God be the glory!



DO YOU OR YOUR CONGREGATION HAVE A PORTABLE BAPTISTRY?



I doubt that Philip had a *portable baptistry* in Acts 8 when teaching the Treasurer from Ethiopia. Philip's observant and quick-thinking student saw some water (verse 36) and popped the question: "Why can't I be buried with Christ right now?" *It was done!*

Having a *portable baptistry* in your "chariot" or vehicle can simplify the matter. Even in rural or remote locations water is usually not the problem. With a *portable baptistry*, we are taking the "means" to the taught believer. Most jail or prison ministry workers have

a need for one. In this way, you remove excuses in advance for delayed obedience. Why put off until tomorrow what can be done today? The Philippian jailer was baptized about midnight. Lydia was baptized on a Saturday. No one knows the day and time that Philip immersed the eunuch. We believe in immediate baptism. Why wait? It is not necessary to gather an audience (even though Grandma would be thrilled to be a witness). Wearing the church's snow-white "baptismal robes" or drying off with *white towels* at the church building is not essential. More people than you think suffer "church building disorder" (CBD).

TWO MORE FOR MEXICO

You will soon see photos of baptisms taking place in two of our most recent portable baptistries going to mission points in Mexico. They are gifts made possible due to your generosity. We have now supplied eleven baptistries to Mexico with *more* on their way! Yes, 146 to 41 foreign countries. Wow!



Sponsoring USA congregations come to us more often to provide a portable baptistry to their missionaries. We ship them to sponsors and they carry them as brethren visit workers worldwide.

STATES TARGETED

Here are **ten** states where we have *not* yet placed a baptistry. Help!

Connecticut	Iowa	Hawaii
Delaware	Vermont	Utah
North Dakota	Rhode Island	Idaho
	South Dakota	

TAKING OUR CASE DIRECTLY TO PRISON CHAPLAINS

In the past, we have waited for prison ministry volunteers to call us when the need arose for a baptistry to be shipped to a prison. This "began" a time and labor consuming process plus, paperwork. You may not be aware that we are not allowed to simply supply a baptistry as a *gift*. Approval must be sought and various ones must "sign off on" it at different levels.

Consequently, *Baptistries Around the World* is at work "behind the scenes" in contacting prison authorities and chaplains directly to initiate this process. Chaplains rarely have funding, and many are unaware of what we can do for them. In this way we are placing baptistries on units in advance. Then, the baptistry is already present when it is needed by volunteers. It does not hurt when prison authorities discover these volunteers are connected with the ministry responsible for having donated the prison's baptistry.



Thank you for your kind support.

NEW TEACHING TECHNIQUE WITH A "STUDY OF BAPTISM"

Here is an idea you might want to try. We are seeing a better outcome with the "A Study of Baptism" course by taking the 7-lesson series in while teaching other NewLife Behavior courses. We take the response sheets back for grading at the end of each session and return them the following week. We are reaching more souls this way, saving postage, and speeding up *turnaround* time. The student's responses reveal their knowledge level prior to submitting baptism requests to the chaplain. It also helps surface further teaching needs. Then, the chaplain takes our request more seriously. He knows that the student and teachers have done their homework.

Baptistries Around the World is overseen by the shepherds, Kings Crossing Church of Christ, 5901 Yorktown Boulevard, Corpus Christi, Texas 78414 (Kyde Eddleman, Robert Illgen, Stephen Johnston, and Richard Scanio).

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