

RIGHT YOU ARE!

How Bible Bowl Changed Our Lives

Edited by Gamal Alexander and Deanna Lambert

AdventSource

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Available from
AdventSource
5120 Prescott Avenue
Lincoln, NE 68506
adventsource.org

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Printed in the United States of America

ISBN# 1-978-62909-984-2

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Preface

By Gamal and Deanna

It's hard to really appreciate a gift if you have no idea where it comes from.

If you've been to a thrift store then you've probably purchased something second-hand. Second-hand stuff can be incredibly valuable. There are some gems hidden deep within your local Salvation Army Thrift Store. The challenge, however, is that it is entirely possible to purchase an item second-hand and not fully appreciate its value. It really is hard to appreciate a thing if you have no idea where it comes from.

That's why we tell stories. Not only are stories interesting and entertaining and educational, but stories help to share the history behind our present experiences. That history is vital to our understanding and appreciation of the things we enjoy today. We become more grateful when we know exactly what our parents went through to purchase the home we now enjoy. We're impressed when we experience the journey the teacher took to gain the knowledge she now passes on to her students every day. We feel closer and more bonded to the grandparents who sacrificed so much to pass down timeless treasures to the family, no matter how small those treasures may seem.

This book is a compilation of stories that are designed to help us all appreciate a timeless treasure... the game of Bible Bowl.

Pastor Trevor H.C. Baker created this game while serving as the youth director for the Northeastern Conference, but the game has long since transcended the boundaries of its beginnings. The influence of Pastor Baker's interestingly innovative game has been felt by people, young and old, Adventist and other, all around the world. To this day young people still play the game, which has since become the inspiration and foundation for the Pathfinder Bible Experience. We do know that young people played the game. What we will never know is how many were affected by the game, and how many were blessed by the words of scripture they internalized because they played the game. We may never know the extent of how this one game, created by this one passionate, powerful, creative minister of the gospel, affected those who came in contact with its influence. What we can discover in this book, however, are the stories of at least some of those who were influenced by Pastor Baker's unique and dynamic ministry.

These are stories from all types of people who all have this game in common. These are the stories of people who learned from this game and loved this game and who loved the man behind the game. The more you listen to and learn from these stories, the more you know where the game came from and the more you will appreciate the gift of this game so many were privileged to enjoy.

And if while you read this you are wondering if God is calling you to do something creative and impactful for Jesus, I hope you find your answer wrapped up in the stories of these men and women whose lives were changed by one game and one man who answered the call of God upon his life.

If you're wondering, here's your answer...

Right you are!

Trevor Hugh Curtis Baker

A Short History

As a young boy, his life was marked with humility and a pride for his native island of Barbados. He was a supporter, protector, and mentor for his four younger siblings while living in the northernmost parish of the island. Though he frolicked through the fields of sugarcane and was surrounded by the crystal-clear waters of the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, his heart yearned for a more meaningful and brighter future. His love for music struck a chord in his heart at the age of four that would later become the tenor of his early life.

He was introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist Church but resisted any suggestion of becoming a member, stating that the girls were more attractive and fascinating to him than becoming a member of the church. Years later, when he was asked to become the musician for a crusade, he could not resist the compelling force of the Holy Spirit to submit his heart to God during the crusade.

Years later he and his siblings migrated to the United States and became members of the Bethel Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn. As a teenager, he became a very active member and under his leadership, the youth department revived and experienced exponential growth.

After all attempts to avoid the call of God, he gave in to the Spirit's call and entered Oakwood College in 1963 to prepare for the gospel ministry, and graduated from that illustrious institution in 1967. He subsequently matriculated at Andrews University Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan, from which he earned his Master of Divinity degree in 1969.

Following the seminary experience he began ministry in the Northeastern Conference, serving as pastor of the Mount Carmel Church in Syracuse, New York, and later at the Corona Church in Corona, New York.

In 1976, he was elected to serve the Northeastern Conference as youth director, a position which he held for 15 dynamic years (1976-1991). During that time, he, with God's help, was able to build a strong youth ministry throughout the conference. God blessed him to accomplish the following during his years in youth ministry:

- Creation and development of the Bible Bowl ministry.
- Instituted the annual Youth and Pathfinder Awards Banquet.
- Established the biannual Drama Festival for Youth.

- Established a local Conference Youth Advisory.
- Introduced the Youth Federation concept in the Northeastern Conference.
- Instituted an annual Bible Conference for Adventist high school students attending public schools.
- Instituted the annual Youth Olympics program.
- Created and established the Basketball Commission.
- Developed basketball and volleyball leagues.
- Introduced distinguishing shoulder cords in Pathfinders.
- Started the Pathfinder Examiners' Board.
- Began the Youth Multi-center Fund.

He was called from youth ministry to serve as the executive secretary of the Northeastern Conference, a position that he admirably executed for 12 years. In that capacity, he, with God's help, made the following contributions:

- Developed a policy manual for Northeastern Conference field employees.
- Led out in the development of an evaluation instrument for pastors and churches within the Northeastern Conference.
- Developed forms and protocol by which to better monitor accountability for office and field personnel.

In March 2002, he was asked to assume the office of president at a very critical time for the Northeastern Conference, and humbly and faithfully served through June 2012. Throughout his tenure as president, he:

- Promoted spiritual leadership within the conference administration.
- Fostered openness and honesty in reporting among and by the administration.
- Established annual soul winning and tithe goals for churches.
- Instituted an annual Pastoral Leadership Recognition and Award ceremony.
- Implemented Pastoral Ministeriums (districts).
- Led the administration in retiring two bonds that encumbered conference assets.

- Initiated annual tithing accountability from all conference employees and Executive Committee members.
- Encouraged and effected the merging of some small churches for efficiency and effective ministry.
- Oversaw conference membership surpassing 50,000.

Pastor Baker served as the pastor of South Ozone Park Seventh-day Adventist Church since 2012, and is supported in ministry by his wife, Eunice P. Senior-Baker, who served the Northeastern Conference headquarters as manager of information technology and, in cooperation with the administration, was the architect of the conference human resources department. Presently, she is on staff at the South Brooklyn Seventh-day Adventist Academy. They have one adult son, Joel Milliner, and one granddaughter, Jaydalyn Milliner.

Elder Baker received a B. A in Religion and Theology from Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama 1967. In 1969 he received an M. Div. in Applied Theology from Andrews University Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan. And in 2014 he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity from the Canadian International Chaplains Association International University and Seminary.

The Bible Bowl Quiz Game Its History and Development

by the Creator and Designer Trevor H.C. Baker

The Story of the Birth of the Game

Bible Bowl is a specialized ministry that I, Trevor H. C. Baker, created and developed in 1979 while I served as the director of Youth Ministries for the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (1976-1990). Recognizing the weakness that was at that time reflected in the devotional section of the monthly reports received from the Youth Societies, I sought to develop a method/program that would awaken and encourage an interest of the youth and young adults within the conference in the reading of the Bible. My thinking was that if a measure of excitement and friendly competition could be brought to this activity which was too often thought to be tedious, we could capture the attention of youth of all ages, and achieve the intended result of getting them involved in reading the Word of God. I believe that the Word of God is indeed the Living Word, and that reading it has a positive effect upon the reader.

After giving much study and prayerful thought, the idea occurred to me that the best way to achieve this desired goal was to create a game that would embody the elements of Bible reading, split-second recall, friendly competition, Christian fellowship and camaraderie, and team work that also created a degree of excitement.

So, what is now known as Bible Bowl ministry within the Seventh-day Adventist Church was created in 1979 in the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and has since been adopted with some variation by Seventh-day Adventist conferences and churches around North America and the world.

The game was patterned after the old television College Bowl quiz game of the early 1960's, and it awakened quite an interest among people of all ages.

.....
What Is Bible Bowl? A game of quick recall of Bible facts played by two teams comprised of four individuals each.
.....

.....
Philosophy and Purpose
To make Bible reading an enjoyable experience in the life of young people, by awakening an interest in reading of the Word, and thereby building and enhancing their faith in God.
.....

Theme Song by Trevor H.C. Baker

From the very beginning in 1979, the following theme song was composed and used to introduce the tournament games:

Welcome, welcome to the Bible Bowl,
Quizzes for young and old,
Jesus to behold;
Welcome, welcome to the Bible Bowl
Where we get to know the Word of God.
Hi there! My brother, hello! My sister,
Welcome to the Bible Bowl,
Jesus soon is coming, let us all be ready,
Welcome to the Bible Bowl.

The First Buzzer System

The first games in 1979 were played using simple front-desk bells as signaling devices. As can be imagined, that simple elementary system was difficult to accurately identify. Therefore, during that first year, spotters were utilized to aid in identifying players who were first in signaling.

The following year, I approached Pastor Larry J. Bailey, an electronic enthusiast and hobbyist and a friend, and challenged him to build an electronic eight-buzzer system that could replace the rudimentary bell system. He enthusiastically undertook the challenge, and needless to say, succeeded in constructing a system which gave each player an individual sound buzzer, but did not lock out another player. It was a marked improvement on the bell system. Not satisfied with his first production, Pastor Bailey continued to work, and later came up with a much-improved system that included lights, sound, and the capability to lock out other contestants once a buzzer was activated.

The Very First Game

In 1979, the very first game was played in the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Two Adventist Youth Societies were hand-picked to field two teams each (a Junior Youth Division team and a Senior Youth Division team) to study designated books of the Bible. A date was subsequently set for the demonstration of the actual game to which the churches of the Queens area were all invited. There was a standing room only crowd for that initial launch and introduction of this new ministry. Interest and excitement were awakened among all who witnessed the grand launching of this brand-new ministry in the conference.

The Youth Societies selected to showcase this maiden voyage onto the seas of Bible Bowl were from two churches from Queens, New York, namely: the Jamaica Seventh-day Adventist Church, led by Mrs. Doris Shorey, and the Springfield Gardens Seventh-day Adventist Church.

.....
Bible Facts

The intent of the game of Bible Bowl is to have the players recall Bible facts.
.....

Suffice it to say, word about Bible Bowl began to spread around the churches of the conference. So, it became necessary from that point on to include a segment on Bible Bowl ministry in the annual youth officer training workshops.

The First Inter-Conference Tournament

The spread of the Bible Bowl ministry beyond the Northeastern Conference territory began after I introduced the program to my friend and colleague Elder Joseph W. McCoy, who at the time was the Youth Ministries Director of the South Central Conference headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee. After promoting the Bible Bowl program among the Youth Societies of his conference territory, Elder McCoy proposed that there be a Bible Bowl tournament between the two conferences—Northeastern and South Central Conferences.

Subsequently, a weekend was set, and Elder McCoy, along with his South Central Conference team from Jackson, Mississippi, journeyed to New York for a weekend filled with excitement, friendly competition, and fellowship. The Linden Church in Queens, New York hosted the event.

In the subsequent years, the other Youth Ministries Directors of the nine Regional Conferences, along with the Greater New York and Bermuda Conferences, adopted the Bible Bowl ministry, and an annual national tournament was organized and continues until the present time.

The first grand stage that featured the Bible Bowl ministry was the United Youth Congress held in Detroit, Michigan's Cobo Hall Arena in 1980.

The Game

A Bible Bowl game consists of "toss-up" and "bonus" questions posed by a game moderator.

Toss-up questions are valued 10 points each, and are answered without assistance by the individual team member who signals first.

Bonus questions are valued between 10 to 25 points, and are posed to a team in correct response to a toss-up question to which the bonus is attached. Bonus questions may be answered in consultation with members of the team.

The duration of a game is 12 minutes, and is played in six-minute halves with a two-minute half-time intermission.

The team which has accumulated the most points at the expiration of the 12 minutes is the declared winner.

Each tournament is conducted on a double elimination basis. That means that a team is eliminated upon sustaining two losses.

Rules of the Game

A team is comprised of four members, one of which must be designated captain. However, a team can opt to play a game with a minimum of two members. It is recommended that teams also have a coach. Teams may make substitutions for individual team members at half time.

Four seconds is the time allotted for answering a toss-up question. Seven seconds is the allotted time for the answering of a bonus question.

Toss-up questions are worth 10 points. Bonus questions can be valued anywhere between 10 to 25 points.

There is no collaboration between members of a team in answering toss-up questions. Toss-up questions are answered by the individual team member who signals first and is recognized by the moderator.

If a toss-up question is answered incorrectly, any member of the opposing team, upon signaling, is given the opportunity to answer the question.

If a toss-up question has been read in its entirety, and the contestant who buzzes in first answers incorrectly, the contestant of the opposing team who signals is allowed two seconds to respond.

Should a contestant buzz in before a toss-up question is completely read, he/she is given four seconds to supply the answer without having the privilege of having the question completed. Should he/she answer incorrectly, the question is then read in its entirety for the opposing team and the contestant who signals is granted a full four seconds to supply an answer.

In the answering of bonus questions, there may be collaboration between team members. However, the collaboration and the response must be completed within the seven-second time limit allotted for bonus questions.

In the event that there be two different answers offered by members of a team in response to a bonus question, the team captain is called upon to provide the answer on behalf of the team.

Bonus questions that are answered incorrectly are not transferable to the opposing team.

If any time period expires while the moderator is reading a question, the period or game ends. Should the time expire while the contestant is answering, he or she is allowed to complete his or her answer.

Should a game end with a tie score, the teams are required to play a two-minute lightning round comprised of toss-up questions only. The team that is ahead at the end of the two-minute round is declared the winner. If at the end of a lightning round, the score remains tied, an additional lightning round is played until a winner is determined.

The Game Moderator

For most of the years that I served as conference youth director, I moderated all of the games. The reason for that was for maintaining crispness and tempo of the games, and there was no one who was trained at the time. The moderator can make or break the game. He or she can make the game come alive or put a wet blanket upon it.

To maintain interest and excitement of the game, the game moderator must be a person who reads and articulates well. He/She must be well versed in the rules of the game.

The questions are to be well formed and written. However, if the moderator does not understand a particular question, he/she should discard that question. Ambiguity on the part of the moderator can only result in ambiguity of understanding of the question for the team members.

The moderator's concern should always be to give the teams the opportunity to answer as many questions as possible within the time allotted the game.

Another key to maintaining interest in the game of Bible Bowl is the pace at which the game is conducted, and that pace is set by the moderator. The pace is to be crisp and quick. Therefore, it is essential that the moderator be able to read and articulate well.

The Anatomy of Writing Bible Bowl Questions

Bible Bowl questions are designed to elicit Bible facts that ask: Who? What? Where? When? Why? Questions also cover people, places, and things. Questions are not to require contestants to interpret Bible texts or passages. However, questions may require completing verses or supplying missing words.

The source material for Bible Bowl questions is the King James Version of the Bible. There were years that Seventh-day Adventist Church history was included in the study material. The purpose was to keep the youth informed and acquainted with the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

When writing questions it is important to know the age group for which you are writing and construct the questions with that age player in mind.

Writing Good Questions

Questions should supply sufficient context so as to reduce ambiguity and give contestants a fair chance in answering. Here are the keys to good question writing:

- Clarity – if you are not sure that the question is understandable, the likelihood is that it is not.
- Conciseness – avoid complexity and unnecessary verbosity. Questions are not to be paragraphs.
- Creativity – think outside the box.
- Variety – vary the form of the questions.
 - Who? When? What? Etc.
 - Multiple Choice
 - True or False (Bonus only)
 - Identify the Speaker and to Whom
 - Fill in the Blank(s)
- Context – supply enough context for each question to enable the players to have a fair opportunity at answering.
- Avoid ambiguity.

Write with the intent of keeping the game moving. It is a game of quick recall. Know the type of question you want to write, and structure it for that.

.....
Well-written questions contribute to the speed of the game.
.....

Sample Questions

Toss-up question: Who was it who told Naaman, the leper, about the prophet who could cure him of his leprosy?

Answer: The captive maid. 2 Kings 5:2-4

Toss-up question: Who was it who visited a tomb and was asked by two angels why she was crying?

Answer: Mary Magdalene. John 20: 11-13

Bonus:

For 10 points each, name the two disciples of Jesus who ran to examine His empty tomb.

Answer: Peter and John. John 20: 2-6

Toss-up question: "Now let me die." This man spoke these words after he was united with a son whom he thought was dead. Name him. (15 points)

Answer: Jacob (Israel) Gen.46: 29-30.

Game Officials

The officials of the game are:

1. The Moderator
2. The Game Board/Clock Operator
3. Scorekeeper
4. Researcher
5. Coach

Bible Bowl Teams

The first Bible Bowl games were played by teams of young people divided into two categories or divisions—Junior Youth (ages 10-15) and Senior Youth (ages 16-25). Since the game's early beginnings, the divisions have been expanded to include other age groups.

A full Bible Bowl team is composed of four contestants and two alternates.

Question Format

Questions should never require subjective answers.

English 101

Essential to good question writing is having a good command of the English language.

a. Grammar

b. Sentence construction

Teams of the same division or age category play (compete) against each other. However, a contestant from a younger division may choose to be part of an older team, but an older contestant cannot play on a team that is younger than his/her age group.

Over the years, the following Youth Societies within the Northeastern Conference fielded exceptional Bible Bowl teams:

- Brooklyn Temple
- Christian Fellowship
- Shiloh
- Flatbush
- Corona
- Jamaica
- Springfield Gardens
- Mount Vernon

Team Captain

Each team must designate one member as its captain. The responsibility of the captain is to answer for the team in the event that there is need for clarification on answers given on bonus questions.

Early outstanding Bible Bowl players in the Northeastern Conference were:

- Annmarie Fraser (Shiloh)
- Levis Davis (Brooklyn Temple)
- Lindon Davis (Brooklyn Temple)
- Langston Sylvester (Brooklyn Temple)
- Kenneth Jones (Christian Fellowship)
- Hillary Whonder-Genus (Mount Vernon)
- Wendy Nieves (Springfield Gardens)
- Camille Remy (Jamaica church)
- David Liddel (Christian Fellowship)

- Steve Jordan (Shiloh)
- Doris Harris (Christian Fellowship)
- Norris Pindling (Corona)
- Denise Cameron (Corona)

Team Coach

The team coach is the individual who leads and coaches the team members through their practice sessions, and supports, prays with, and encourages the team during tournament games. He or she determines the substitution of team members at half-time periods.

The following coaches in the Northeastern Conference led their teams with passion and to repeated championships at various times:

- Esther Harris (Christian Fellowship)
- David Davidson (Brooklyn Temple)
- Doris Shorey (Jamaica)
- Amboise Hunt (Springfield Gardens)
- Annmarie Fraser (Shiloh)
- Etta Liddel (Christian Fellowship)

Epilogue

It is my belief that participants in Bible Bowl are positively affected inasmuch as the Bible is the living Word of God. And regardless to the outcome of the game, theoretically there are no losers, because the biblical knowledge gained from the study of the Bible is invaluable, and the life-giving power which the Living Word imparts cannot be measured.

The Buzzer System

Larry J. Bailey

In 1979 I was approached by Elder Trevor Baker regarding building a buzzer system for his new Bible Bowl competitions.

Recognizing correctly who was the first to raise his/her hand when answering questions just wasn't working. Baker believed that adding a system which would utilize a combination of buzzers and flashing lights would contribute toward the overall accuracy and excitement of the games.

The proposed system had to be designed to recognize and separate responses from a total of eight players, four on each side. To accomplish that goal, I collaborated with a childhood friend, Rodney Walker, from the Brooklyn Temple Church, and in time, we were able to design the circuitry that would enable us to accomplish our intended goals. We went to Canal Street in Manhattan to purchase the needed parts such as relays, wires, lights, transformers, etc. Many of the items were surplus airline and industrial parts. Canal Street was chosen not only for the profusion of spare parts available, but also for their reasonable prices. Our financial objective was to keep cost down as much as possible.

The resulting buzzer system proved to measure up to Elder Baker's expectations. He was ecstatic. The system added so much excitement to the games. The players in their rush to answer questions first would at times hit their answer button so hard that they would smash their unit into pieces. We will always remember Sis. Joyce McClain from the Freeport Church, one of the top players, who would eagerly hit her button in anticipation of the questions.

In retrospect, I remain honored to have played a part in the success of the original Northeastern Conference Bible Bowl competitions. What Elder Baker initiated as a way of getting youth, young adults, and even adults more involved in knowing their Bible greatly inspired other youth directors to follow suit. It wasn't long before other conferences were asking for a similar system.

Today the competitions continue and the technology has advanced, but historically, its origin will always be traced back to the vision and implementation of one dreamer, Trevor H.C. Baker, who became affectionately known in the North American Division as "Mr. Bible Bowl."

The Bible Bowl was just one of the many events and projects that Elder Baker and I shared together over the years. This relationship has been and will always be a blessed one.

The Quizmaster Console

D. Wayne Davidson

Although some 50 years have come and gone, it seemed like only yesterday. I suspect that's how it is when you fall in love. It was the camp meeting of 1980. I had recently moved back to New York and was attending the Brooklyn Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church. Like everyone else, camp meeting at Victory Lake was the highlight of the summer. As I sat there under the youth tent, I became enraptured in the activities of the afternoon. The conference Youth Ministries Director, Pastor Trevor Baker, was asking a series of questions to a set of young people who were buzzing in and answering them as fast as he could ask the questions, sometimes before he could finish the question! I was compelled to pay attention. I did not want the games to end. It was breathtaking and loads of fun. He called it Bible Bowl.

As the LORD would have it, shortly after returning to church after camp meeting, I was asked to become the AYS leader for my church. Off again to Victory Lake. This time for Youth Leadership Training. It was filled with activities. Pastor Baker was there on the piano, teaching us scripture songs. He also taught us how to become creative when working with young people. We ate, we sang, we were filled with good food, experienced great fellowship, and lots of pertinent instructions. It was awe inspiring. Little did I know then just how my life would change because of these two visits to Victory Lake. The individual behind both trips was Pastor Trevor H.C. Baker.

I returned to Brooklyn Temple with a newfound drive to start a Bible Bowl team. Levis Davis, Lyndon Davis, Genelle McFarlane, and Steve Jordon were some of those who were drafted at first. We studied, we played, we lost, we won, we fellowshiped; but mostly we grew spiritually and inspired a new set of young people to pick up their Bibles and read the Word of God for themselves. Brooklyn Temple became one of the revered teams in Northeastern Conference and in 1984 represented the conference at the Atlanta Youth Congress. The moment was euphoric when the team was declared the Youth Congress champs. Thank you, Pastor Baker!

In the following years, 1985–1989, Bible Bowl advocates from across the footprint led by Bill Robinson began to invite the championship teams from all the participating conferences to meet at a designated location to play Bible Bowl. Others involved in this initiative were Ruth Patrick (Southeastern), Chris Campbell (Allegheny East), Edwina Mattox (Southwest Region), and D. Wayne Davidson (Northeastern). Recognizing that Bible Bowl was now an annual national event, Pastor Baker, along with the other Regional Conference Youth Ministries Directors, reconvened the games to Oakwood College. It was there that Bible Bowl expanded in 1990, from two divisions to three.

By this time, I had left Northeastern and had relocated to Atlanta, home of the South Atlantic Conference. I was very disappointed to learn that the conference did not have a Bible Bowl ministry, but I remembered the words of Pastor Walter Pearson, senior pastor of the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church: "And who knows whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" These words became my marching orders. I engaged my brother, Deni Davidson, to build a lockout system and we started to travel around the conference playing Bible Bowl and encouraging young people to pick up their Bibles. It was like old times while living in New York. When that system became overwhelmed, my brother redesigned it and engaged Microdesign, Inc. to manufacture it and in 1991, the *QuizMaster 1 Digital Lockout System* was birthed and was first used at the national games on the campus of Oakwood College in 1996.

In order to better manage these annual events, the Regional Conference Youth Ministries Directors formed the Black Adventist Youth Directors Association (BAYDA) in 1994. And in the same year, Alex Bryant, the chairperson, organized the coordinators from the various conferences into the National Bible Bowl Coordinators Association (NBBCA). NBBCA was birthed with D. Wayne Davidson as its inaugural chairperson.

In 1999, I had the pleasure of coauthoring and publishing, with Pastor Baker, *Bible Bowl, the Ministry and the Mechanics*. It was the long-awaited manual on how to build and maintain a Bible Bowl ministry in your church with tips and techniques of fostering a strong spiritual platform for young people.

With the spiraling growth of the ministry, question writing on index cards had become rather tedious. In 2003, in Kansas City, Missouri, the *QuizMaster Console*, a software package to manage the Bible Bowl game, was introduced. In 2005, it was incorporated into the national games in Cleveland, Ohio.

Bible Bowl has grown from two divisions and two conferences to five divisions, with at times as many as 12 conferences and national and international teams participating. It started with a youth director's dream to create a means that would encourage Bible reading and study among the young people, and to allow them to experience a measure of enjoyment while doing so. The sum of this genuine intent can be measured in the blessings that this ministry has had on lives across the globe. For me, I'm still in love. I stay engaged in writing questions and connecting with teams from across the Bible Bowl community, ever encouraging individuals to pick up their Bibles and put God first. My life has been changed because of this unique and captivating ministry. To God be the glory for what He has done and thank you, Pastor Baker, for a heart of love for young people.

Calling the Bible Bowl

Chris Campbell

The year was 1984 when I first learned about Bible Bowl. Our AY leader at the time came to four of us youth elders and showed us a letter from the conference youth department concerning Bible Bowl. She asked if we would like a chance at representing our conference in the Bible Bowl at the upcoming Youth Congress that was going to be held later that same year. Our team won and earned the right to go to Atlanta, Georgia to represent the Allegheny East Conference.

The 1984 Youth Congress Bible Bowl in Atlanta, Georgia was also my first encounter with Pastor Baker. Our team made it to the finals and Pastor Baker was the moderator for the games. It was Allegheny East Conference vs. Northeastern Conference. Our team gave Northeastern its first and only loss, but we would subsequently lose in the end. I was impressed with our team's performance at this event, but I was more impressed with Pastor Baker and his style of calling the games. This was something that has stayed with me even unto this day.

I would eventually go from Bible Bowl player, to coach, to assistant Bible Bowl coordinator for our conference, to Bible Bowl coordinator for the conference, and now a BAYDA National Bible Bowl moderator. I have a fond memory of being of being a moderator that I will never forget was when I was invited to Northeastern Conference camp meeting by Pastor Anthony Medley to moderate his Bible Bowl games. After the games I was greeted by several people including Pastor Medley, but none more memorable than shaking the hands of Pastor Trevor Baker. He told me how good of a job I had done and how he was proud of me as a moderator, an event in my Bible Bowl career I will never forget. After this event I had the privilege of helping to moderate Bible Bowl games with Pastor Baker. Being able to learn from the best there is in Bible Bowl was definitely a highlight in my Bible Bowl career.

I have now been involved in Bible Bowl for over 35 years. I have preached in many churches, while at the same time helping them to form Bible Bowl teams, and promoting Bible Bowl wherever I go. Bible Bowl has touched my life in such a way that I will always be grateful for being given the opportunity to participate in it. It has opened up a whole new way of studying God's Word, and sharing it to others.

The crowning act of Bible Bowl for me perhaps came while I was moderating games at the BAYDA National Bible Bowl one year. After the games, members from each team came up to me and said that they appreciated my style of moderating, and that they had not heard my style of calling the games since the days of Pastor Trevor Baker. As I look back over my career in Bible Bowl I have to say, being mentioned in the same breath with Pastor Baker was truly the hallmark of my Bible Bowl career. Pastor Baker, I want to truly thank you for coming up with the idea of Bible Bowl, and for allowing me to share in the game.

Welcome to the Bible Bowl

Sherrie M. Barton-Smith
Coordinator, Southeastern Conference

From the moment those opening chords are played, it brings a warm feeling that starts in my heart and ends with a mischievous smile on my face and a competitive twinkle in my eye.

"Welcome, welcome to the Bible Bowl, quizzes for young and old, Jesus to behold!" I sing it loudly, I sing it passionately, and I sing it with pride!

I first joined the Bible Bowl ministry in 1998 as a member of the Corona Seventh-day Adventist Church because of peer pressure. The good kind! I have fond memories of our practice sessions. We weren't just a team; we were a family. We worshipped together and propelled each other to be the best we could be, and most of all, that is where I learned the art of good sportsmanship! Ironically, the Corona Church boasts the long-standing membership of Pastor Trevor H.C. Baker!

Currently I serve as the Bible Bowl coordinator for the Southeastern Conference. I have participated in three capacities: player, moderator, and coordinator.

I have admired Pastor Baker from a distance for so many years. When he was a guest moderator, he carried himself so regally. A hush would come over the room and there was always a dramatic flair to his style and delivery of questions. The almost unbearable pause that he would give before saying, "You're right!" was always a treat! I owe my own ministry of Bible Bowl to him and for that I thank him! As of 2020, I have been serving in Bible Bowl for 22 years.

Bible Bowl has impacted my life and others in such a tremendous way! It has been a witnessing tool and I have seen lives changed for the better because of Bible Bowl. I have seen struggling students turned into A and B scholars. I have seen lifelong friendships that started because of Bible Bowl. I have carried the lessons I learned because of Pastor Baker and the Northeastern Conference and made sure that legacy has continued here in the Southeastern Conference. Bible Bowl is not merely a ministry, it is a lifestyle.

Thank you, Elder Baker, for your lifelong commitment to young people and to the ministry of bringing FUN to God's Word! Words are not enough, but for now, I simply say THANK YOU!

Bible Bowl Testimony

Maurice J. Turner
Southwest Region Conference

My fascination with anything Bible Bowl or otherwise started with a quiz bowl in the public junior high school I attended in Arkansas in 1983. I stumbled into finding out that I was decent at general knowledge trivia facts. So, while in the library during tryouts, I just knew the smart kids in my class would win, but my hand kept going up and not theirs and I kept getting the answers correct. Before I knew it, I made the team. We did pretty well in one tournament, besting the two rival junior highs in a larger town and getting a chance to play against high school teams even though we were younger. We gave them a run for their money too. The problem was that a lot of the tournaments happened on the Sabbath and that left me out.

In 1984 when I was 15 there was a Youth Federation at my home church and there was a guy asking Bible questions and so I sat in and listened and tried to answer a few. That was my first exposure to Bible Bowl. I didn't see it again until the 1993 Youth Congress in Tampa, Florida. Chris Campbell was calling the games. I was impressed with the enthusiasm Chris showed in moderating the games. Little did I know his style was patterned after Trevor Baker.

My participation started in 2002 when our pastor at the time asked us to get a team together. A friend and I played and later when they couldn't continue my wife Tonia and another couple, the Hicks, joined. We went on to the national games that year in Orlando, representing Southwest Region Conference in the Young Adult Division. We went 1-2 that year but I was so excited to win a nail biter 75-70 vs. Allegheny West. Over the next year I was asked three times by three individuals to be the Bible Bowl coordinator. First by our conference president Billy Wright, then by the BAYDA Pathfinder liaison Pastor Rogers Johnson, to which I said no because I wanted to be a player and not a coordinator. Then finally our youth director Keith Gray was asked by his peers in BAYDA who was his Bible Bowl coordinator and he said Maurice Turner. I took that as a sign that I should take on this role of coordinator going forward to ensure, with the help of the Spirit, that the ministry would thrive in our area. I've since gone on to be involved as moderator, secretary, and chairperson of the National Bible Bowl Coordinator Association.

Bible Bowl has had a tremendous impact on my life and family as I've travelled to places I never would have gone, met people I never would have met, and more importantly, gained a deeper knowledge of the Jesus of the Word. Bible Bowl has made a lasting impact in my life. Thank you, Elder Baker, for allowing the Lord to lead you in starting this ministry.

Thank You for Introducing Us to Bible Bowl

Bronx Seventh-day Adventist Church Bible Bowl Ministry

This news of your retirement was long overdue but was welcome to our ears. We all believe that it was a difficult decision because of your hard work you've put in throughout the years, your love for the Lord, and your love for young people.

Pastor Baker, you have been a pastor and friend and served in many capacities in the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as president, pastor, and Adventist Youth Ministries Director. You served as pastor in several churches in the Northeastern Conference and as the youth director. You introduced Bible Bowl to the local churches of the conference including the Bronx Church. You oversaw the yearly youth summer camp program at Camp Victory Lake for 10- to 15-year-olds as well as employing capable young people to help to train the campers. You also employed the youth around the conference to give them some experience and as a way to engage them into "doing the right thing."

In the late 1970s, you came to the Bronx Seventh-day Adventist Church and introduced us to this new phenomenon called Bible Bowl. A few weeks later, it was the highlight of our AY program when you brought members of the Christian Fellowship Church Adventist Youth Society to play our first competitive game, all with homemade buzzers. The entire congregation was on their toes as they listened as you would give a very excited and loud "YES" when the correct answers were given. Christian Fellowship had an amazing team with a young lady who answered the questions before they were even asked. It was an exciting time and we responded by forming our first Bible Bowl team. Bible Bowl became a favorite at the Bronx Church but lasted for only a few years.

One of the special things about you, Pastor Baker, is your love of singing and teaching us the songs that you knew, such as the Bible Bowl song, and various Bible verse songs including 1 Timothy 1:17, "Now unto the king eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever, amen" and Micah 6:8, "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." We have not forgotten those songs even after all these years.

In March of 2000, after a 15-year hiatus, the Bronx Church returned to its Bible Bowl roots and we have been avid players ever since. Because of the love of the game and the Bible, the Bible Bowl team members are asking questions and finding out answers they never knew were in the Bible. Bible Bowl has been a blessing to the Bronx Church because even if the church members do not play, we have their support. Thank you, Pastor Baker, for introducing us to Bible Bowl.

And so, Pastor Baker, at this pause in your life, Bronx Seventh-day Adventist Church Bible Bowl Program extends well-wishes to you for the next chapter in your life with your lovely wife, Eunice. We wish you both a relaxing future, with endless vacations and happy times spent with your granddaughter.