



Dr. Calvert, Pastor Calvert, and Pastor Jack pray for Bro. Boyd and Mr. Bradford during their recent ordination service.

Ordained!

Jay Bradford and Gary Boyd pass the rigorous trials of defending their faith

by Jenneth D, junior

On April 26, Bro. Gary Boyd and Mr. Jay Bradford were set before a group of well-trained and well-learned Christians to defend their faith and doctrine in order to become ordained men.

"I was the most nervous I've been in a long time. Probably since I got married," Bro. Boyd admitted.

"I was a little nervous. It's just kind of the unknown, but it was challenging. It really makes you think. I really enjoyed Bro. Boyd's and my time together studying," said Mr. Bradford.

The ordination council was convened that Saturday and lasted for a large portion of the

day, while the members of the council bombarded the two men with questions about their doctrine and faith.

"They had papers with their doctrines on them, and they went through their doctrinal beliefs, and then the floor was open to questions to ask to Bro. Bradford or Bro. Boyd," said Tim B, sophomore, who was one of the teenagers in attendance that Saturday afternoon to witness the ordination.

An ordination council may be hard to comprehend to some of the students at FBTA since none of them have ever been ordained before.

"I probably studied two and a half hours a day in addition to studying for sermons and teaching and all the other stuff that goes on. It

usually took place around ten thirty at night," said Bro. Boyd.

Bro. Boyd went on to explain that he had a stack of notecards (nearly two inches thick) that had doctrines and Bible verses written on them that he had to go through in his study time.

Each person has to undergo a series of questions presented to them by Pastor Calvert and other leaders of the church. A common thought from students was "Could either man get any questions wrong and still be allowed ordination?"

"It depends on your personal stance and opinion, but their answers were in line with the church's doctrine," Tim continued. "There are a lot of questions on what Bible to use,

whether the KJV or the NIV, and there were a lot of questions on the deity of Jesus Christ. It was interesting—it was long—but it was interesting."

"The best answers were with a verse. It's hard to argue with a verse," said Bro. Boyd.

That Sunday evening, both Bro. Bradford and Bro. Boyd were ordained by Pastor Calvert, Pastor Jack, and Dr. Bud Calvert, after an unanimous vote in approval.

"We think of ordination as a formal recognition following the Scripture and principles of a man who desires and demonstrates and clearly says of his own accord that he has been called of God into the ministry. It is a formal acknowledgment of the call of God that is already taken place on his life. It gives us an opportunity as a church family to recognize him as a minister of the Gospel, whether or not he ever serves as a senior pastor, but he is seeking to serve and making it known publicly that he definitely believes not by convenience, but by conviction, that God has called him into the ministry and that is the intention of his service and what he desires to do throughout the rest of his life," said Pastor Calvert during the ordination period.

Formerly, Mr. Bradford has been known simply as the Academy Administrator and now holds the title of Minister of Education, and Bro. Boyd, formerly Youth Director, is now officially Minister of Youth.

"It was a blessing to be at the ordination council and service. It is a joy to see one of our children serve the Lord with his life and go to the next level in his ministry. We were excited to see Gary defend his stand on doctrine and his faith," said Mr. Boyd, Sr., father of the new Minister of Youth.

"I am excited for my husband and proud of his recent ordination. In my opinion though, this accomplishment is just a continuation of his desire to grow spiritually, professionally and to know, love and serve the Lord," said Mrs. Bradford.

So what now? Bro. Gary informs the *Patriot Press* that he is looking at colleges where he can start working on his master's degree online.

Often, when a man in the church is ordained, it means he is moving on in the Lord's will—often moving or leaving the church to start his own, and several students and teenagers may jump to the conclusion that we are losing two people that we never want to see leave—after all, Mr. Bradford just got here!

But not to fear, neither Bro. Bradford nor Bro. Boyd is planning to leave the church or school. As Bro. Boyd said afterwards, "We're hopefully going to be staying around here for a long time!"



The halls are alive with a splash of creativity

During missions conference, the festooned halls show off elementary posters

by Victoria R, sophomore

Ordinarily, the downstairs corridors of FBTA are glaring white with the occasional smudge from an overzealous skipper. However, the halls are alive with color and heralding titles from all over the earth for only a few days out of the entire year.

Elementary missions posters plaster the walls for the entire week of missions conference. So why are these posters everywhere? Mrs. Rodriguez, 6th grade teacher, believes that the students receive a better understanding of the region that they are studying and some of the realities of the field before the missionary arrives.

This year there were seven different missionary families. What missionary did you choose and why?

"The Tignors. They were the only family with kids my age," said Julia C, 5th grade.

"The Hansens to France. I have been to France, and I have relatives there," said Soriya S, 5th grade.

Most students received a list of items that were required to be on the poster, but creativity is always encouraged. Where did you get your poster ideas?

"It just came to me while I was doing it!" said Haston H, 6th grade.

"From past years and just my imagination," said Amy F, 4th grade.

Obviously any project takes time to do well. How much time did it take to make your poster?

"Three days," said Priscilla B, 5th grade.

"Three hours," said Morgan P, 4th grade.

If you were able to make it to some of the evening services, did you get to talk to your missionary at the conference? If so, what did they say?

"Yes. They said 'I love your missions poster. I can't wait to tell my husband!'" said Matthew B, 4th grade.

"Yes. Daniel and I talked to Mr. Hansen," said Jameson R, 6th grade.

(Continued on page 2)



Beautiful, gorgeous, weekend ahead of us!

68°



Check our Facebook page at FairfaxBaptistTempleAcademy for more photos and information



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Girls' soccer team

The girls' spring soccer season is in full swing! Their next home game is Tuesday, May 6, at 4:00 p.m. Come by to cheer on our girls' team!



Boys' indoor sports

Mr. Bradford jumps in to coach indoor soccer

by Hunter H, junior

Since the girls are playing spring soccer and there were no organized sports for the boys, Mr. Bradford decided to change things up by allowing the 7-12 grade guys to come out to play indoor soccer on Mondays.

"I like the fact that it was something that involved everybody, so that was nice," said Mason L, junior.

Mr. Bradford splits the guys into two teams, and then they go at it, getting some

great coaching along the way and learning how to work together as a team. This will also help the team work on its ball-handling skills for the upcoming fall season.

Mr. Boyd is also giving some martial arts teaching on Thursday. Since he holds a black belt, he is well-qualified to teach the boys some of the basics.

Thank you to Mr. Bradford and Mr. Boyd for the opportunity for the guys to come out and be involved in some indoor sports.

Upcoming events!

Schedule changes for the next few weeks

Just a few schedule changes for May ...
The **Yearbook Dedication Ceremony** that was previously scheduled for this afternoon has been moved to Thursday, May 15, at 2:30 p.m. We will be treated to a "year-in-photos" video put together by our journalism staff, and the yearbooks will be handed out at the end of the ceremony. This is a fun event that you won't want to miss! (Apologies for the late notice on the date change for this one!)

The **Elementary Field Day** that was rained out has been rescheduled for Thursday, May 8, at 10:00 a.m. Elementary students from grades 4-6 will be competing in this ODACS sports competition. The students always enjoy the activities and being outdoors with their classmates. Pray for good weather and plan to come and cheer them on!

The **Spring Music Concert and Awards** is Tuesday, May 13, at 7 p.m. We will enjoy a beautiful evening of music and will be recognizing the hard work and dedication of our students after the performance.

Our **Silent Auction and Benefit Dinner** will be Saturday, May 17, at 4:30 p.m. The cost for the event is \$15, which includes a five-star dinner and the opportunity to bid on many items that have been donated by local businesses. This is a great event to help raise funds for our academy and a chance to visit with other parents and people from our community. Childcare will be provided.

We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to be involved in our academy!



Elementary students (and even teachers!) are looking forward to the reward of summer break!

The Busy Months of April and May

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A V M U R N W N B Z R P M T N B S O R W D H V G C

missions, posters, april, may, ordination, Patriot Press, summer, spring fever, playground, soccer, outside, sunny, schedule, field day, yearbook, newspaper

Forget spring fever! Bring on the summer!

Most students of FBTA are yearning for the summer season to start

by Annie C, sophomore

With the weather growing warmer and the greenery starting to bloom, many of the students are reminded that summer is tantalizingly close.

"Because I hate homework and my birthday is in summer!" said Holden Z, 5th grade, in response to why he wants to get out of school.

Besides school work, many want to get out of school for the free time and opportunity to participate in different, fun-filled activities.

"Since I can drive, I think it will be fun to hang out with my friends and see them a little more often than in the past summers," said Reagan R, senior.

"I'm going to be hanging out with my step family, especially my sister Emmy. We want to do so much fun and crazy stuff," said Veronica M, sophomore, anticipating the long-awaited summer.

"I'm going to learn how to plant flowers and swim in the swimming pool!" said Reagan P, K4.

"Well, I'm going to travel to Indonesia to visit my parents," said Miss Quinlan.

However, before summer comes on the scene, the students are faced with the final quarter of school. Summer will be more rewarding if they work diligently these last few weeks. But be of good cheer, all ye who labor! Summer is upon us!

Missions Posters (continued from page 1)

There are projects that we can't wait to start, and there are others that are more tedious. Was this project fun for you? Why or why not?

"I thought it was kind of fun," said Joshua B, 6th grade.

"Yes. I got to hang out with my bro." said Holden Z, 5th grade.

With all of the facts, research, and pictures, what did you learn from this project?

"Ecuadorians are very different," said Ashlyn M, 5th grade.

"They [people from the Republic of Georgia] like sugar," said Gabriel V, 4th grade.

In your opinion, should future students continue to do missions posters?

"Yes. It's good for your brain," said Charity B, 4th grade.

"NO! It takes too much work," said Heath H, 4th grade.

"Yes, I think it makes the missionaries happy," said Ashlyn M, 5th grade.

Missions conference this year has been a great experience for all involved. Whether learning about an unheard-of country or hearing God's call or pasting pictures onto a board, listening for how He is guiding is key. One should always keep his eyes open on the inspiring creations and keep doing what is right.

The elementary posters have done their job of brightening the halls and spirits of others with pizzazz, designs, and sparkles. For the rest of the onlookers, enjoy the hard work of the elementary before their beautiful posters come down like leaves in the fall, and the halls return to their bleached purity.