

# The Blanc Family

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Global Academic Director ... Teaching with a Mission

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## One Hour to Change Your Life

There is an ominous statement that appears in Revelation 18:17. The Greek renders the expression, "Because in one hour so much abundance has been ruined." With the emphatic double pronouncement of her demise, Babylon the Great had irretrievably fallen (v. 2). The fateful destruction of the economic empire and the complete reversal of her fortune are due to the deliberate resolve of God and in accordance with His timetable. So much can happen in an hour. We can waste it idly. We can spend it foolishly. We can invest it wisely. There are 108 occurrences of the Greek term "hour" (ώρα) used above in the New Testament.<sup>1</sup> English translations will vary from "moment" to "time" in order to indicate a period or point that is imminently important or to reference an exact occasion of fulfillment. God is not the God of the coincidence or the accident. Rather, God has ordered all things by appointment (Acts 15:18; Heb 9:27). Opportunities flow by like a steady stream. Those that are of God must be seized. He has chosen a time and a place and intends to unite His servant with an appointed task, a task for the hour, a task of imminent importance.

We often say, "Time is of the essence." This is actually a legal phrase indicating that "failure to act within the time required constitutes a breach of the contract." In God's timetable, there is "time" (καιρός) of favor and a "day" (ἡμέρα) of salvation (2 Cor 6:2). Failure to act, to seize God's gracious gift, is a breach of the offer (Heb 2:3; see also Matt 7:13-14). Opportunities are not open-ended. We must take every occasion to "redeem the time" (καιρός), that is, to "make the most of every opportunity" (Eph 5:16).



I digress...For the seasoned disciple, profound moves of God in small places are the rule and not the exception. Somehow the flesh craves the overstated, the ostentatious, the prolific, the thundering applause, and the packed auditorium. How satisfying to some to have their name prominently displayed in a headline, on a program, on the marquis, or our image displayed on some glossy poster or roadside billboard. The radio...the internet...the television...and the print media all clamor to quench the ambition of self-promotion. I'll attempt to stow my cynicism now and simply say that we have all seen this element in ministry *ad nauseam*.

Now walk with me for a few moments. Don't mind that it's raining. It's a short walk. We're making our way down Clinton Avenue in the Arbor Hill section of Albany, NY. This is the inner city. This is where dreams go to die. In fact, hope left the neighborhood long ago when misery moved in. It is a veritable stronghold for abuse and addiction. Up ahead is the Salvation Army. Its symbol is prominently raised as an ensign of hope to those who pass by and per chance to enter. Thanks to newly installed Captain Patrick and Captain Oxana O'Gara, this Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center stands for the truth and boldly proclaims the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. The 90-bed facility offers a regimen to assist addicts on their way to recovery. The O'garas are aware that a program cannot transform a life, but only a living Savior. Yet, by means of the program, the seeds of Biblical truth are sown into many desperate lives.

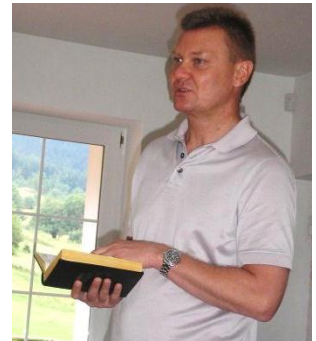
Who will reach the addicts of Arbor Hill? How will they hear the truth? When will this take place? To be honest, not many would answer these questions personally, but would gladly defer the task to others...and pray for *them* as *they* do the work. Well, let's enter the building. Having been administered (and having passed) the required breathalyzer exam, we are led up the stairs and eventually brought to the chapel. A service is underway for the men enrolled in the program. Not too many there, but who's counting anyway? It's a 6:00-7:00pm meeting. *One hour* to change your life. Leading the service are two unassuming men who have answered the call. Scott Jacobs and Philip Robinson are together Commandment 11. Their instrumental and vocal gifts are surpassed only by the profound integrity of their lives and the Spirit-filled influence of their message. In my humble opinion, these artists could fill any venue if that were their desire. Yet, place them in a room of addicts or in a cellblock of prisoners, and a satisfaction radiates from their faces. A contagion of hope permeates the room...despair flees...defeat is not welcome...misery is turned away...This is not about filling venues. This is about changing lives.

<sup>1</sup> Matt 8:13; 9:22; 10:19; 14:15; 15:28; 17:18; 18:1; 20:3, 5-6, 9, 12; 24:36, 42, 44, 50; 25:13; 26:40, 45, 55; 27:45-46; Mark 6:35; 11:11; 13:11, 32; 14:35, 37, 41; 15:25, 33-34; Luke 1:10; 2:38; 7:21; 10:21; 12:12, 39-40, 46; 14:17; 20:19; 22:14, 53, 59; 23:44; 24:33; John 1:39; 2:4; 4:6, 21, 23, 52-53; 5:25, 28, 35; 7:30; 8:20; 11:9; 12:23, 27; 13:1; 16:2, 4, 21, 25, 32; 17:1; 19:14, 27; Acts 2:15; 3:1; 5:7; 10:3, 9, 30; 16:18, 33; 19:34; 22:13; 23:23; Rom 13:11; 1 Cor 4:11; 15:30; 2 Cor 7:8; Gal 2:5; 1 Th 2:17; Phlm 1:15; 1 John 2:18; Rev 3:3, 10; 9:15; 11:13; 14:7, 15; 17:12; 18:10, 17, 19.

Let's find a seat. We listen as they sing. We are humbled as they speak...we are changed by the presence of the One who has captivated their hearts. *One hour* to change *your* life. As we sit, receiving and being blessed, perhaps the thought occurs to you that were it not for *these* men answering *this* call, what would become of *the* men sitting around us? Yes, there are decisions for Christ this night. Our friends rejoice and then gather up their equipment, bid farewell, before a night's rest and traveling south to other rehabilitation centers in New York City. *One hour* to be saved. *One hour* to heed the call of God. *One hour* to avert destruction. *One hour* to invest in matter of eternal consequence.

## **Powrót do Polska ("Return to Poland")**

Looking ahead to late July and to early August, I will be (Lord willing) heading back to Poland. Zbigniew Kołak (photo at right) is founder of *Theologos*, a publishing house for Christian books and evangelistic resources. He and his wife Beata partner with *Samaritan's Purse* and distribute the *Operation Christmas Child* packets that so many of you provide each year. With each packet an additional gospel booklet published by *Theologos* is presented at an evangelistic event organized for the occasion. You may see the publishing side of the ministry at: [www.wydawnictwo-theologos.pl](http://www.wydawnictwo-theologos.pl). As an outreach facet of the ministry, the Kolaks organize Christian camps for children at various times of the year. Zbigniew also has extensive contacts among the Baptist churches in Germany, many who support his ministry. I will be joining the Kolaks to assist in a summer children's camp as well as preaching in Poland and Germany. Please pray for this itinerary as it is developing, for many opportunities for the gospel.



Dr. Douglas A. Blanc, Sr.

### **Prayer & Praise**

- Praise the Lord for the opportunity to witness the powerful ministry of Scott Jacobs and Philip Robinson as they ministered in song and testimony as **Commandment 11** to the thirsty souls at the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center in Albany, NY. Visit their website at [www.commandment11.com](http://www.commandment11.com). Listen to their inspirational music on their homepage. These men are sold out for the Savior! Pray for them.
- Many thanks to **Scott Montgomery** who has undertaken no small task to translate some theological reference works written in German. Pray for this gifted servant as he labors.
- Please pray for the development of the **Mobile Bible Institute** as an impetus for spiritual renewal and training.
- Please pray regarding plans to be in **Poland** and **Germany** this summer. Pray for prepared hearts...
- Please pray for continued opportunities to present the ministry in local **churches**.
- Please pray for a growing network of **partners**. The opportunities are vast and support is needed.
- We are thankful for the **Bible study group** that meets weekly in our home. We're in a study on the book of Revelation, *A Mission Manual for the Follower of Jesus*.
- Praise the Lord for the privilege of being salt and light at **Fulton-Montgomery Community College**. Approximately 70 students this semester.

### **Itinerary**

January 26-May 13, 2011	Teaching Ethics and Comparative Religions at Fulton-Montgomery Community College (Johnstown, NY).
May 30-July 1, 2011	Teaching Ethics and at Fulton-Montgomery Community College (Johnstown, NY).
June 12, 2011	Grace Baptist Church (Tully, NY)
July 20-31, 2011	Preaching in local churches and ministering at a children's camp in Bielice, Poland.
August 1-9, 2011	Preaching in local churches in Germany
August 18-25, 2011	Mission Training School and Leadership Conference at IGM Mission Central (Rochester, New York).
August 21, 2011	Hedstrom Baptist Church (Cheektowaga, NY)
September 7-December 16, 2011	Teaching Ethics and Comparative Religions at Fulton-Montgomery Community College (Johnstown, NY).
October 30, 2011	First Baptist Church (Cincinnati, NY)

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