

Baptist Progress

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NEW VICE PRESIDENT



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BMA OF AMERICA NEWS

Charles Johnson: bivocational pastor, denominational leader

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

Baptist Progress Correspondent

Rosewood Baptist Church, located 12 miles west of Gilmer on U.S. Highway 154, is blessed with many factors, which lend themselves to success in outreach and growth opportunities in their East Texas community.

Not only can the church reach out to the community of Rosewood, which is estimated to have approximately 1,000 people within a one-mile radius, and Holly Lake, a resort community just 10 miles from Rosewood, which boasts of two lakes, an 18-hole golf course and a population of over 3,000 people, they are also near Antioch (Grice), Enon and Little Mound, each having a BMA church, and two other communities; Kelsey and Soules Chapel—all within five miles. In the early 1940s, Harmony School was built in the central point of where all the communities are situated.

It also helps the outreach of the church that Pastor Charles Johnson, and his wife, Charlotte, have been a part of Harmony School, which is about two miles west of Rosewood. Both have retired from the school. The pastor, while pastor of Rosewood Church, has taught math, history, English, gifted and talented students, served for five years as assistant principal, and for one year, as principal of Harmony School.

Another built in success factor is the fact over 20 people employed in Harmony School are active members of Rosewood.

For almost five decades, Johnson has been a bivocational pastor, and for a total of 39 years, he has been balancing his schedule between duties at school and leading a congregation which has easily grown large enough to have a fulltime pastor and staff.

“I have great respect for bivocational pastors,” Johnson said. “There are advantages and disadvantages. Being in the school system, I was certainly not in some ivory tower



CHARLES JOHNSON continued on p. 8 ▲ Charles and Charlotte Johnson with church sanctuary in background





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MAKING PROGRESS

Register now

By **JERRY FULTON**

Remember that Baptist Progress is more than just a BMA of Texas department that provides a monthly newspaper and the e-News Update to inform churches of what is happening throughout the association. Now our department offers Ministry Connection Workshops. Our next Ministry Connection Workshop, *Leadership Community*, is scheduled for May 3, 2022. The workshop will be led by Jason Collins, lead pastor of Crossroads Church in Rowlett. During the workshop, you will learn how to rely on other leaders, hold each other accountable, and guard against failure of any kind.

The workshop will be held at Crossroads Church, located at 7900 Chiesa Road in Rowlett. The registration fee is \$50 with lunch included. Scholarships are available, so please register as soon as possible. To register, mail your registration form with the appropriate fee to *Baptist Progress*, P.O. Box 33, Waxahachie, TX 75168 or visit www.baptistprogress.org > Resources > Ministry Connection Workshops.

2022 BMA OF AMERICA MEETING

Most subscribers will not receive this issue of *Baptist Progress* in the mail until after the 2022 BMA of America Meeting convenes in Springfield, Missouri. See our May issue for details about the business transacted and other items of interest that will take place at this meeting.



▲ Jerry Fulton



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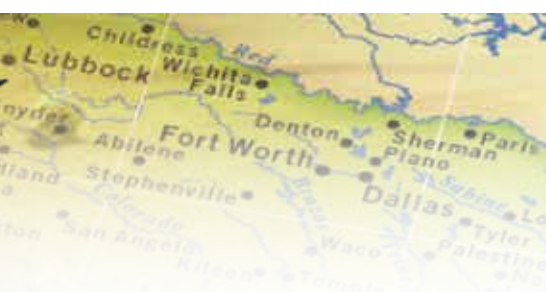
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BMA TEXAS

MISSIONS

Your Church's Mission Movement in Texas



A word from your Missions Office

By HEITH MITCHELL

I want to highlight a couple of big moments in your BMA Texas Missions this month. Carpenter's House Mission in Lake Jackson has completed their five years of support and is stepping out on their own! We are always excited when a church reaches this milestone and like to celebrate it. We try to have gifts and really celebrate the moment. Pinebrook, Tyler was the sending church of this mission. They are changing lives with the gospel and have started two ministries and a church in West Columbia.



Would you send a letter congratulating Bro. Cesar Cantu and Carpenter's House? Mail it to The Carpenter's House Church, 3023 Oyster Creek Bend, Oyster Creek, Texas 77541.

Due to the effects of inflation on cost of living, the trustees of your Texas missions gave each of your missionaries a 6.5 percent pay raise. They expressed a heart that the missionaries feel seen and cared for as they serve well in this trying time. Your generous giving to BMA Texas Missions made this possible.

BMA family, you responded lovingly and have come through to help your missionary, Kingsley Nduka, to get his family here from England. You blow me away with your love and generosity. I love being a part of our BMA family. You love each other and love missions. You provided the needed funds, now, let's pray that God will be with the details of their necessary documents and meetings. I can't wait to report back to you the celebration at their reunion.

A word from your missionaries:

**CHRIS MINDI—
ANCHOR AUSTIN MISSION IN LEANDER
CHRIS.MINDI@BMATS.EDU**

Trusting God has been the bedrock for us in the mission field from the beginning. From the moment God planted the seed about church planting until now. We know for sure that He is the one building Anchor, Austin. One verse comes to my mind, Proverbs 3:5, "Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go, He's the one who will keep you on track."

This reminds us every day that no matter how much we think about everything we're doing, which sometimes feels like not doing enough, going too slow, feeling like 'you're too small to do anything, trying to figure out everything, discouraged, not motivated and wanting to give up. The only thing that emboldens us being in His Word is that He is enough and He is the one Who is with us. He takes care of His church and we're to be faithful with the few He gave us to shepherd and spread the Gospel to people around us.

Prayer Needs:

Continue to pray for the souls that we are nurturing with the gospel, that they see the true Living God, put their trust in and confess their sins to Christ Jesus. Pray for Christians, with whom we are having relationships and that we meet more of them who are willing to be missional and "on fire" for God.

**HAITAO HE—
CORPUS CHRISTI MISSION
HAITAO.HE@BMATS.EDU**

Thanks for the salary increase and gift for church planters. Without the support of BMA churches, new churches and new missions would be impossible. I feel grateful to be a BMA church planter.

Prayer Needs:

Pray that God will open doors for us in this neighborhood and help us connect to each person nearby.

**ISAIAS MARTINEZ—
NEW SPANISH MISSION
AT NORTHSIDE, CONROE
ISAIASMJ1966@GMAIL.COM**

It was a wonderful opportunity to visit our family and also attend a



▲ Chris Mindi

beautiful missionary work of 10 planting churches in Cuba. Thank you BMA for your support in this project.

Prayer Needs:

Pray for our oldest daughter who is getting married next month.



**GUADALUPE ROBLES—
GOFORTH MISSION, KILGORE
ROBLESGUADALUPE51@
GMAIL.COM**

We are happy. God continues to guide us to reach the lost.

Prayer Needs:

Pray that we may be physically and spiritually strong to continue in God's work.



▲ Guadalupe Robles

**TIM ALBA—
THE BRIDGE IN SEAGOVILLE**

I have learned that dealing with the pressures of ministry involves ministers taking adequate time alone, relaxing and doing things that we enjoy without interruption. I have learned that finding our sabbath brings clarity and refreshes the mind to move forward. I know that trying to carry the ministry on your shoulders can be overwhelming. I have learned to allocate responsibilities to others and have let go of certain tasks in order for me to be free to visit with people after service. It hasn't been easy, but necessary. Letting go can be hard, but placing the weight of the world on your shoulders can also drown you as well.

Prayer Needs:

Pray that God will give me wisdom to reach our men in our church. It is quite challenging to reach men who have a lot of past issues with family, marriage and the church. I am trying to get this ministry off the ground but have had no success reaching a majority of the men who attend our services.



▲ Tim Alba



▲ Haitao He



▲ Isaias Martinez

**CESAR LEAL—
NEW MISSION IN SAN ANTONIO
CESARLEAL2002@YAHOO.COM**

We must consider with great importance the missionary work among Hispanics since the number of immigrants who

BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p. 4

BMA Texas Missions cont.

arrive in Texas every day is very high. Many are on their way to other states but a large number of them are settling in our state and need to be cared for spiritually. As a church, we are called to show them Christ with our words and with our lives as witnesses.

Prayer Needs:

Pray for effectiveness in preparing new leaders.



▲ Cesar Leal

CHRIS DRIVER—



WEST TEXAS MULTIPLICATION NETWORK/ TEXAS MISSIONARY CARE CJDRIVER316@GMAIL.COM

Hello! Thank you so much for your continued prayers for Oasis and west Texas. Things are continuing to move. As soon as we get the plans drawn for our remodel, we will be well on our way. We will be starting a Sunday morning group this month and having our first practice service. We are also planning our first outreach event for the summer as we start to emerge into our community as Oasis Church!



▲ Chris Driver

Prayer Needs:

Prayer for open doors for the gospel and our remodel plans.

RONNIE MILLS— KINGDOM CHAPEL IN FT. WORTH

BMA family, what a blessing it is to share with you some exciting news from Saginaw. We celebrated two Sundays ago with baptism for the first time in our new space. We are seeing people from our community come into our space each week and the Lord is blessing our labors and your prayers.



▲ Ronnie Mills

We certainly need your assistance and partnership in the gospel. If you can assist us in any way, financially, prayerfully or meeting any needs we have, and would like to learn more about us, please reach out to ronnie@kchapel.org

“Brothers, pray for us.” -1 Thessalonians 5:25

Prayer Needs:

Please pray for the Father’s provision over our church in many ways—our growth spiritually, numerically and financially.

We know God hears your supplications for us and we are so thankful to Him as He answers each request according to His will.

MINISTRY CONNECTION WORKSHOPS

REGISTER TODAY FOR BAPTIST PROGRESS MINISTRY CONNECTION WORKSHOPS AT BAPTISTPROGRESS.ORG > RESOURCES

LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY

- Led by Jason Collins, lead pastor of Crossroads Church, Rowlett
- You will learn how to rely on other leaders, hold each other accountable and guard against failure of any kind.

DATE & TIME: May 3, 2022, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch

PLACE: Crossroads Church, 7900 Chiesa Road, Rowlett

REGISTRATION FEE: \$50

PASTORAL HEALTH SUMMIT

- Led by BMA Texas State Missionary Brad Holcomb
- Based on what Brad has learned in a national cohort, he will discuss spiritual formation, emotional intelligence, marriage and family, adaptive leadership and friendship with the aim of staying true course and finishing well by God’s grace.

DATE & TIME: June 7, 2022, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch provided

PLACE: BMA of Texas Building, 632 Farley Street, Waxahachie

REGISTRATION FEE: \$50

INTERIM PASTOR TRAINING

- Led by Jerry Fulton, who has served numerous churches as an interim pastor
- Those who complete the training will be certified as an interim pastor for the BMA of Texas.
- All potential interim pastors must have pastoral experience.

DATE & TIME: Aug. 17, 2022, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch

PLACE: BMA of Texas Building, 632 Farley Street, Waxahachie

REGISTRATION FEE: FREE

LEADING THE SMALLER CHURCH WITHOUT SETTLING FOR LESS

- Led by author, blogger and small church pastor Karl Vaters
- You will learn how to redefine success in ministry, the difference between big churches and small churches, how to discover and use what your church does well, as well as how to find and mentor volunteers in today’s and tomorrow’s small church.

DATE & TIME: Sept. 13, 2022

PLACE: BMA of Texas Building, 632 Farley Street, Waxahachie

REGISTRATION FEE: \$50

BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p. 11

News of Texas



Long named vice president at Jacksonville College

By **JOE LIGHTNER, D.Min.**

Jacksonville College is excited to announce Danny Long as the new vice president of student leadership. Danny currently serves as the director of athletics for Conroe Independent School District, which serves approximately 62,000 students. Long currently oversees the athletic programs for six high schools and seven junior highs for Conroe ISD.



Long's area of oversight includes staffing and directing activity for the district two 10,000 seat football stadiums and an Olympic size competitive swimming facility. He has been instrumental in the development of athletic facilities that the district needed to facilitate the population growth of the area. Before Conroe, Long served lengthy tenures as director of athletics for Tyler and Jacksonville Independent School District.

Dr. Joe Lightner, Jacksonville College president said, "I am excited to welcome Danny back home. His proven track record of success will be an incredible asset to the vision we have for our athletic program."

While at Jacksonville Independent School District, he served at the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, spoke at our college and implemented a curriculum called Coaching to Change Lives which is a systematic plan to develop athletes into leaders that exhibit character and integrity.

Dr. Lightner further stated of Long, "His career-long passion for student success on game-day and in life will be thrilling for our College."

Danny will officially begin with the College mid-summer.

Dr. Joe Lightner is the president of Jacksonville College. Contact him at 105 B.J. Albritton Drive, Jacksonville, Texas 75766, 903-586-2518 or jlighner@jacksonville-college.edu



From Cleaver's upcoming book

"So David inquired of the LORD: "Should I launch an attack against these Philistines?" (1 Samuel 23:2)

What courage! What audacity! What brilliance! What boldness to inquire of the Lord! Was not David a great military general? Could he not rely on his inner self to guide this plan? Didn't David have those around him he could rely on to plan an attack on the enemy? Yes, David could have brought a plan to fruition by his own design, or he could have relied on a strategy produced by his staff. He didn't do either. Many times, we as humankind seek the best advice and guidance from fellow human beings. Much of counsel from humankind is based on failure or inability or illogical reasoning. Advice is at an overflow in our land. Some advice is multiple hundreds of dollars an hour-and that hour lasts only 40 to 45 minutes. Those who are the wizened wonders of advice giving are often postcard picture perfect failures in their own lives. Remember the "how to raise your child" written by those who have no children? These guides or life

coaches depend on their own educational accomplishments, their past experiences, even the advice of their contemporaries. They really don't know much more-if anything more-than you do. At best their words aim at "making you better." Their counsel or advice at best works in a paltry manner, if at all. Wonder of wonders as to the outcome when we inquire of the Lord! There is guidance that leads from the miasma swamp. There is direction beyond the human mind when we will but seek it. This is the leadership we get from God. Dear Reader, in life's quandaries-right now-let us inquire of the Lord. David inquired of the Lord. The Lord responded. It did not cost David anything. It provided him everything.



▲ Dr. Tony Cleaver

Liberty Association hosts TBHC Rally

By **CHARLES JOHNSON**

Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer

Liberty BMA held a rally for Texas Baptist Home for Children (TBHC) at Woodland, Gilmer March 17. Woodland Pastor David Mayhan welcomed the 10 churches and messengers. The association's moderator, Billy Byrd, presided over the business meeting. The association's treasurer, Leon Ross, reported on the results of the recent "March Missions Madness" conference hosted by Liberty BMA. After all travel expenses were paid, almost \$500 was added to the resource fund of each of the four state missionaries who served as speakers.

Jason Curry, president of TBHC, was the main speaker for the rally. He reported there has been a great response to his podcasts, *Bringing Kids Home*, with around 500 listeners on each broadcast. TBHC ministered to 213 children last year and completed twenty adoptions.

Curry shared his personal testimony of his salvation. He shared of his adoption into the family of God when he repented of sin and trusted Jesus as his personal Savior as a youth.

He brought a challenging message from Daniel 3:8-12 titled, *All In*. He encouraged the audience to stand up for God no matter what. He emphasized that three Hebrew children walked fearlessly in a world of idolatry.

Curry inspired believers to do likewise as well as walking equipped to oppose unrighteousness. We must be "all in" when thrown into life's fires, so the flames will refine us instead of bringing destruction.

The host church served a delicious meal for their guests following the service. The next meeting of Liberty BMA will be at Antioch, Gilmer at 7 p.m., May 12. This will be a rally for Baptist Medical Missions International.



Charles Johnson: bivocational pastor, denominational leader cont.

somewhere. I had the pulse of the community; I was out among the people and I always knew very quickly when new people were moving in.

But the schedule was taking its toll on Johnson, and he knew it was time to step down from school duties.

“Our church was growing, and I was meeting myself coming. I had to do something,” he said. “I went to see the principal and told him that I was neglecting my church, but I still wanted to be a part of the school. I wanted to do something part time where I could set my own hours.”

He began working 20 hours a week in school maintenance, working out an arrangement which allowed him to be free to conduct funerals and other duties associated with the church.

During the earlier days, Johnson, who surrendered to the ministry in 1968, was raised in Rosewood Church. His first pastorate was Holly Springs in Camp County (1971-1973). Next, he was pastor of Little Mound (1973-1981), then Rosewood for the first time (1982-1990). He resigned as pastor of Rosewood to return to Holly Springs (1990-1992), before finally returning to Rosewood for the second time (1992-Present).

The original auditorium was new when Charles and Charlotte returned to Rosewood in 1982. The following year, the church built a fellowship hall beside the auditorium. (1992-Present)

“In the late 1970s and early 1980s, we realized that Rosewood had all the characteristics of a dying church, according to Tom Rainer’s book *Autopsy of a Deceased Church*,” said Johnson. “Soon afterward, we had the Department of Church Ministries to present a church growth seminar. One of the suggestions during the seminar was a program called *Bakers of Men* which involved an outreach activity whereby men would meet together to prepare baked goods to deliver to prospective members. This was a turning point for our church and it started growing.”

In 1993, Rosewood built a new gym building and a few years later, the church was packing the 200 seat auditorium.

“We were at maximum capacity and discovered it was not practical to add to the auditorium, so we decided to start a building fund and move across the road and build a new 350 seat auditorium.”

Eventually, the Wednesday night services had grown past the size of Sunday services with over 180 in attendance, including 125 youth meeting in the gym, and the rest meeting in the worship center.

Rosewood is in the completion stage of a new 12,000 square feet fellowship building, with a large fellowship hall and education space.

“This building will enable us to put everyone in the one place,” said Johnson. “The new building is 120 feet by 100 feet, the same size as our new worship center. The old auditorium, which had been made into the fellowship hall, will now serve as the youth building.”

Charlotte explained the Wednesday night program, likening it to the way most churches arrange their Vacation Bible School.

“We begin at 6:30 p.m. with the opening assembly with singing,” Charlotte said. “Then we rotate to lessons, food and games. It works really well. Our grades 3 through 6 program is called RBC Basic Training.”

But Charles and Charlotte not only serve their church, but are active in the associated work, with Charles having served on the trustee boards of Baptist Publishing House, Texas Baptist Home for Children and presently Jacksonville College. Charlotte serves on the board of the Texas Baptist Home for Children, Daniel Springs Camp and until recently, served on the Jacksonville College board.

Their local association, Liberty Baptist Association, with 28 churches, hosts several rallies each year to promote the BMA work, BMA Seminary, National Missions, State Missions and Texas

Baptist Home for Children. Liberty is billed as the largest local association in the state work.

Bro. Charles Johnson presently serves as first vice-president of the BMA of America; Charlotte is past president of the BMA of Texas WMA, and is presently serving as president of the National WMA.

“We have changed some things in our national WMA. Instead of just having a business session, we take care of business by condensing it into a booklet, so our business meetings are no longer than 30 minutes,” she said. “We conduct the meeting like a women’s conference, usually on Tuesday of the association. We have a main speaker, serve lunch and then have breakout sessions. We encourage women from all the churches in the BMA to participate. We don’t care what they call themselves as long as they know they can still come and participate.”

Charlotte noted that attendance has really increased as a result, and the WMA has raised over \$50,000 for the Darlene Cary project.

“We have a new theme song titled, “Called,” written by Jerene Reddin and Judy Wallace,” she added.

When the Johnsons returned to Rosewood, one of the first things that was done was to change the deacon’s meeting to a men’s meeting.

“It took a generation to completely convert to the men’s meeting,” Charles said.

Charlotte added that the older deacons responded well to Charles’ leadership because they knew him personally. They had virtually raised him as he had come up in the church.

“He had the backing of those people. They knew who he was and what he stood for and they had trained him,” Charlotte said.

As for the music, Johnson said it is blended, with a couple of traditional hymns and a couple of contemporary songs.

“I could go to my grave singing southern gospel and I’d be happy with it,” Johnson said. “While teaching, I noticed that every campus where I taught, people were listening to contemporary Christian music stations,” he said, noting that he asked the church to try the new style for a couple of years. “We had a deacon leading music. He was so gracious and willing to step aside to give opportunity to younger men.”

Five years ago, Johnson’s faith was put to the test when he went for tests and found that he had prostate cancer. His doctor made arrangements for him to go to a colleague where he was told it would either be surgery or radiation.

“This doctor told me he wanted to suggest another approach,” the pastor said. “He told me that the type of tumor I had was the type that feeds off of sugar. He also told me that if I go to a sugar free diet, it’s going to knock that tumor for a loop. When he gave me the choices of surgery, radiation or diet, it didn’t take me long to decide.”

Johnson said the doctor told him that within two years, there had been a dramatic change, and another biopsy revealed that the cancer had been reduced to half the size. He went back for another biopsy in another two years, and the cancer was gone, but the doctor told him he was unable to declare him cancer free, until another biopsy two years later would reveal that.

“He told me, ‘I have some good news and some bad news. The bad news is, that you are going to die from something, but the good news is, you are not going to die from prostate cancer.’”

Johnson rejoiced over the miracle he experienced, saying, “All the glory goes to God.”

In his preaching ministry, Johnson says he loves to preach expository sermons, but he also likes series.

“Right now, I’m doing a series on Jesus coming soon. I have also preached a series on Paul’s letters, and Old Testament symbols of Christ.”

Johnson also wanted to extoll the value Jacksonville College had been in his life.

“There’s not a week that goes by that I don’t use something that I learned at Jacksonville College in the ministry,” Johnson said. “I received so much from Bro. Barnwell Anderson, Dr. Leon Gaylor and Bro. Harold Small. Not only did they teach in college, but they pastored churches too.”

Johnson also recalled how Bro. James Poole, who was a bivocational pastor at Crossroads, Pittsburg, and who used Johnson in several revivals, was one of his mentors.

“I saw all of these men do bivocational work, and they made a success out of it,” he said.

Charlotte added one more statement concerning her husband’s ministry. She said, “We couldn’t do what we do here if it wasn’t for (Charles’) ability to build stuff. He has spent many hours donating free labor, building all the cabinets and other things—saving the church thousands of dollars.”

Rosewood has all volunteer staff with the exception of the pastor. Youth Pastor Brian Mauk, who is track and football coach at Harmony School, is also Charles and Charlotte’s son-in-law. Both Brian and wife, Mary Ann teach in Harmony School.

The Johnson’s son, David, is an optometrist in Tyler. The Johnsons have two granddaughters, Triniti and Allie, who are students at Harmony. Triniti will be high school mascot, and Allie will be junior high mascot next year.

Both Charles and Charlotte feel confident that when the church moves into the new fellowship building it will be debt free.

For further information about Rosewood Baptist Church, log onto their website at www.rosewoodbaptist.net



▲ Youth Pastor Brian, Mary Ann, Triniti and Allie



▲ Fellowship hall and youth building



▲ New fellowship building, currently under construction

The Master's Builders return to Daniel Springs Camp

By **NELDA MALONE**

The Master's Builders Reporter

The Master's Builders began their 175th job at Daniel Springs Camp in Gary in March. Daniel Dorm, the event center, needed some more room in the kitchen and bathroom areas. This event center has been such a blessing to the camp. The kitchen and bathrooms, on the west side of the building, were extended into unused space which will give them more room for use with larger groups.

The men also added eight recreational vehicle electric hookups and three water spikets to outside wall on the west side of Daniel Dorm. This will allow people with campers to use the event facilities at Daniel Dorm.

The summer staff break room, which was built in 2020 by The Master's Builders, was converted into a staff residence for Morgan Sandifer. The men added a bathroom/closet to the 18' x 24' building, which already had a kitchen, washer/dryer, and appliances.

While at Daniel Springs, The Master's Builders had the opportunity to hear more about the work called "Kingdom Kids" in Haiti from Holly Greer who mentors and cares for her "street kids." Joy and love overflow from Holly as she talks about her kids there.

You can follow the work of The Master's Builders on Facebook. Like us at "The Master's Builders." Rose Bittner does a wonderful job keeping our posts up to date.

Thank you to all our men and women who work with this ministry. To all who have gone before us and the ones God will provide for the future. To God be the Glory!

If you have questions about this ministry or if your church has building needs, please contact, Eddie Sikes at 479-462-1675, Mike Green at 972-935-3877 or David Axe at 903-918-0720.



▲ The Master's Builders

A Night of Transformation

called out of
darkness
into **light**

*Faith, Mental Health
and Addictions*

By Dr. Cliff Robertson, Jr.

YOUR LIFE MATTERS

The Tool Kit to Change Your World

DR. CLIFF ROBERTSON, JR.

TRANSFORMED

A MEMOIR OF A LIFE
CHANGED BY GOD

CLIFF ROBERTSON Jr.

Mental health and addictions are tough topics. In this mini-seminar, we will boldly deal with these challenges by applying God's Word to them and in doing so we will find His healing.

Friday night and half day on Saturday (this schedule is flexible)

So many times in life, we come to crossroads and we question if the struggle is worth it and does my life really matter? While in the light of day, when times are good, these questions are easy to dismiss. But what about when we are dealing with tragedy, loss, grief, emotional pain, broken relationships, depression, anxiety, PTSD, disabilities and/or chronic illness?

In this book, we explore your value and ways to make an even bigger impact. This would be an inspiring message for churches, corporations, civic organizations and schools.

"It started as a normal day. But when I pulled into my office parking lot, my entire world turned upside down."

At my lowest point, when I wanted to die, God intervened and changed everything. He turned my mess into a message.

This is a transformational message that will resonate with those in need of a second chance.

To discuss mini-seminar options, speaking or more, email Dr. Cliff Robertson, Jr. at drcliff@waypoint-ministries.com or call at 979-203-6470.
Waypoint-Ministries.com



TBHC

FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

I'm just sayin'

By **JASON CURRY**

No one can survive without community. Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

I love the word "assemble" in this context. Construction is a hobby and I enjoy building projects. There is a challenge to assemble things correctly. I don't mind instructions, but I don't mind building it from scratch and discovering it as I go either. When God's Word talks about "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves" there is a construction accruing when we do. That when we come together there is something being built in our midst. It is community! Fellowship!

Mrs. Dove was facing some very difficult circumstances and needed help. She helped to stir up love from the community. The community stepped up around them there were clubs that came to their aid to construct projects and the city furnished it. God uses all his resources to supply our needs and in this he used the people of Ellis County to meet the needs of the orphanage.

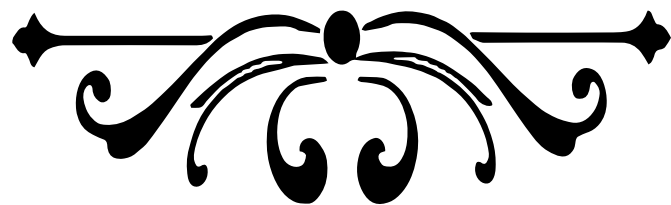
What does your community look like? My hope is when you think of TBHC you're not thinking of a place but of a person when you think of your community, I hope you don't think of a building but a person. God is not an entity in the sky that is a vague creator. He is a person who cares about us. And has surrounded us with others to exhort and to love and be loved by. TBHC continues in the manner of Mrs. D.C. Dove. Our community is vital to who we are. God will use all his resources to provide, and we will act in his character and allow his blessings as they come our way. Don't forget to stir up love this week in someone's life.

I'm just sayin'.

Jason Curry is the president of the Texas Baptist Home for Children. Contact him 629 Farley St, Waxahachie, Texas 75165, 972-937-1321 or jcurry@tbhc.org. For more information, visit www.tbhc.org.



In Loving Memory



JAMES EDGE

James M. Edge, 96, of Carthage, passed away in Mission April 9, 2022. He was born May 3, 1925, served in the U.S. Army during WWII and was honorably discharged. Edge earned his Master of Religious Education and served as a Baptist minister for 70-plus years and pastored New Hope, Jacksonville; First, New Caney; Central, Haskell; First, Talpa; Lakeland, Richland Springs; Calvary, San Angelo; Western Hills, San Angelo; Davis Street, Sulphur Springs; Richland, Quitman; Lake Highlands, Sulphur Springs; Rockdale, Sulphur Springs; Calvary, Cooper; Elm Ridge, Como; and Liberty, Henderson.

A funeral service was held at Jimerson-Lipseley Funeral Home in Carthage April 15, 2022.

Memorials may be made to the Old Center Cemetery, c/o Jimmy Sheffield, 173 CR 416, Tenaha, Texas 75974.



An expression of everlasting love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend, or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in bold letters are those honored or remembered from Feb. 1-28, 2022.

ENDOWMENT:

E ANN PACE: Karl & Martha Pace

MYRA STOKES: Billy Stokes

HONORARIUMS:

ALFRED E SRINGER V: Leon & Johnnie Ross

HOLLIN ANDERSON: James & Susan Anderson

KENNETH CLINE: Cynthia Ulen

MATTHEW LOW: Leon & Johnnie Ross

MR. & MRS. ALVY COLLINS: Tom Tolar

MR. & MRS. DARRYL LOW: Leon & Johnnie Ross

PALMER ANDERSON: James & Susan Anderson

SARAH LOW: Leon & Johnnie Ross

MEMORIALS:

FRANK HOOD: Jed & Glenice Whitaker

BILLY W KEELING: Ida & Billy Keeling

CHARLES MITHCELL: Gay Mithcell

DAVID STANLEY: Jack & Janet Scott, Victor & Elizabeth Miranda, Jackie Ward, Terry Burns, Marilyn Harris, Brenda Simmon, Ken Dulany

DON PARMER: Larry Poe

DOROTHY WRIGHT: Thomas Jeter

EDDIE BYRD: Darinda Medcalf

ELAINE JORDAN: Mr. & Mrs. Andy McCuiston

ENON BAPTIST CHURCH: Jed & Glenice Whitaker

GLADYS MASSINGILL: L C & Jennetta Whitehead

J C LASSITER: John & Brenda Davidson, John & Dora Barnett

J. T. GOEBEL: Judy Goebel

JACK PARKER: Betty Minter

JAN MCCUISTION: Mr. & Mrs. A W McCuiston

JANIE DUNAVANT: James & Margaret Wolf

JOHN MY GRANDSON: Eva Evans

JOHN WOLCOTT: Gay Mitchell

JUDY SINCLAIR: Tony & Lisa Sinclair, Randy & Vikki Odom

JUNE LAGRONE: Sandra Juarez

KARL ONEY: Cecil & Jackie Blair

KAY WOLCOTT: Gay Mithcell

KENNETH CLINE: Cynthia Ulen

KIMI WATKINS: Mr. & Mrs. A W McCuiston

LARRY & ROSELEN BOBO: James Bobo

LOUISE BATTERTON: Carolyn Gibson

LOVITA LOU OUIMET: James Ouimet

PAT DOWDEN: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

POLLY AUSTIN: Mr. & Mrs. Andy McCuiston

SONNY DUNAVANT: James & Margaret Wolf

STEVE FOWLER: Rose Hill BC

W. V. RAY: Brenda Ray

WANDA STRACENER: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

memorials-honorariums



Meet BMA of America Missions relationship manager Sidney Vines

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

BMA of America Missions

“When I was in high school and the summer after, I was invited to serve in middle school ministry. And that’s where my love for middle school and high school girls began. Really, that’s where my love for ministry began.”

Sidney Vines has a heart for ministry, particularly to young girls, which is the perfect calling for a youth pastor’s wife who serves alongside him. Since September 2021, she has served as relationship manager for BMA of America Missions. A lifetime BMA church member, she grew up at Mount Olive, Guy, Arkansas, attended college at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, then met Chris Vines at a Passion conference in her sophomore year.

A year later they married and moved to Fort Worth while Chris attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and she served in student ministry at a church they attended. During their time at Southwestern, she was event coordinator for the Department of Institutional Advancement, a job she loved.

In 2014, Clif Johnson asked Chris to join the staff at Garrett Memorial, Hope, Arkansas, as student pastor, so they moved to south Arkansas with their son, 10-month-old Carson. Two years later Elliot was born. Hope has been their home for eight years, and they feel blessed to serve alongside and be discipled by Clif and his wife Kristi.

As her boys got older, Sidney began doing wedding planning. In college she had completed a year-long internship plus certification in the business, then worked for a wedding florist in Fort Worth, great training for later when church members and friends began asking her for help with weddings. Four years ago, she went full time in the wedding planning and floral design business.

Chris and Sidney have also been on mission trips, served on Volunteer Student Missions teams, and led their church on trips in the States and abroad.

Sidney says, “I’ve always seen wedding planning as a ministry and thought of it as an avenue to do backdoor discipleship. I feel blessed that God has given me those experiences in planning and mission trips and now merged the two as I serve BMA Missions.”

Sidney says, “My job is our people, our pastors, our church members. I want to be the liaison between

them and ‘the office’ and talk about what’s going on, answer their questions, and help connect them with our missionaries.”

In her first months at BMA Missions, she has called pastors to introduce herself, let them know what she’s doing, why she’s calling, and how they can connect with the Missions team and with missionaries.

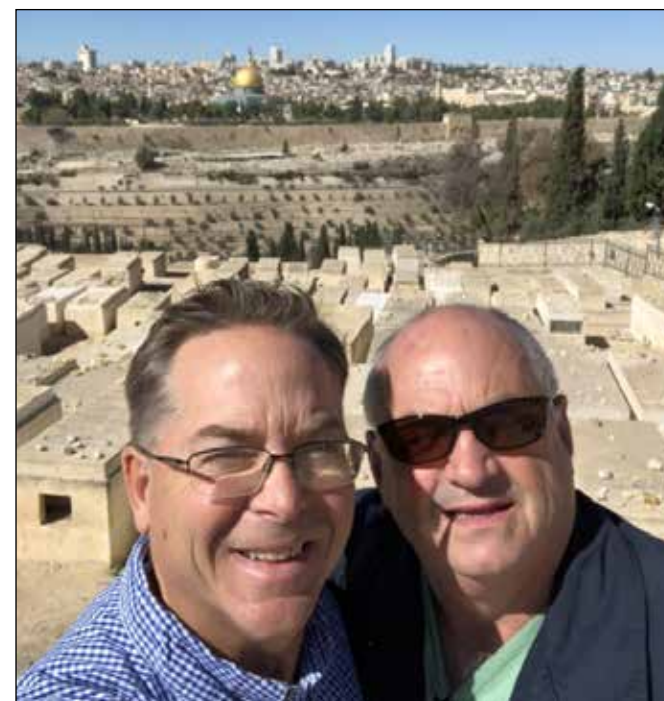
She says, “I want to let our people know how they can serve or give, become more integrated and involved, and just get the Missions message out there.”

If you have questions, concerns, or more about Missions, please call Sidney at 870-826-7757.



▲ The Sidney Vines Family

Israel trip invitation



▲ Bryan Atwood and Bob Burch, Israel 2018

By **BRYAN ATWOOD**

Pastor of Harvest, Gulfport, Mississippi

Stroll down Bethany road to the Mount of Olives and Gethsemane. Take a moment to look across the Kidron Valley toward the Temple Mount in Jerusalem at the Eastern Gate. Walk through the Old City, pray at the Western Wall, witness sights that you have read about and imagined. Visit the Garden Tomb, walk the Via Del Arosa, take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, and watch the biblical narrative come to life as you listen to the sounds, see the sights and interact in this unique culture.

This is only a snapshot of what will be experienced by those of you who will join us Oct. 20-Nov. 5 for the trip of a lifetime. The countries of Greece, Israel and Jordan provide breathtaking views, unexpected encounters and a depth of biblical study that in my estimation is irreplaceable. This is a trip that will enrich your journey as a follower of Jesus, and it will provide images and memories that will last a lifetime.

This trip is for everyone! We would love for you to go with us. Don’t just dream about going or think about going. Contact Angela Rice at the BMA Global Ministry Center by emailing angela@bmamissions.org or calling 501-455-4977 to reserve your spot. Church leaders, there is no greater gift that you could give your pastor than a trip to the Holy Land. Prepare now for Pastor Appreciation which is in October by making this reservation today. I look forward to experiencing this trip of a lifetime with you.

Editor’s note: Bryan Atwood is pastor of Harvest, Gulfport, Mississippi. He has travelled to Israel, Jordan and Greece with Baptist Medical Missions International.

Support needed for missionary Global Care Conference

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

BMA of America

When most of us think about BMA Missions, at least one name quickly comes to mind: Jerry Kidd. Bro. Jerry has embodied BMA Missions for many years and inspired countless generations of missionaries. Not only has he served as a North American church planter and a foreign missionary, Bro. Jerry also served for several years as Director of International Missions and was the first Director of Missionary Care. He has truly been a “pastor of missionaries” through his spirit of encouragement to those serving Christ worldwide. Bro. Jerry has a long legacy of faithful missionary service within our association. It is no surprise he was included in the inaugural class of Legacy Missionaries for BMA Missions.

For several years under his leadership of Missionary Care, Bro. Jerry has dreamed of having an opportunity to gather all our missionaries in one location for a care conference.

Bro. Jerry said, “My hope has been for us to get all the missionaries together in one place so they can experience the same spiritual blessing as a team. There is a spirit of solidarity among our missionaries. BMA Missions has become a worldwide effort of advancing the gospel. We have the witness that is going out all over the world. And when our missionaries can all come together, they will easily see the global aspect of their team’s far-reaching effect.”

Since its earliest days, conferences have been an essential aspect of Missionary Care ministry. Several regional conferences were held to encourage BMA missionaries.

Bro. Jerry stated, “Our people understand that missionaries make tremendous sacrifices when they leave home to serve on a foreign field. But one thing they may not fully realize is that often our missionaries work in isolation. When they have the opportunity to come together, they can exchange stories about their work. Sharing both their accomplishments and disappointments with each other is important for our missionaries because no one else can completely comprehend what they are going through except another missionary.”

Although there have been regional care conferences in the past, there has yet to be a Missionary Care conference for all the missionaries at one time and in one location.

Bro. Jerry’s goal of bringing all BMA missionaries together has become our own, as Missionary Care has started making plans for a global care conference for November 2022. We hope to make this truly a global event by providing every BMA missionary family

the opportunity to attend this conference planned for Thailand. The primary purpose of this conference is to provide a time of worship, fellowship, and mutual encouragement for our missionaries. We hope this event will be inspirational, refreshing, and relaxing. In telling stories of past conferences, Bro. Jerry has always commented on how much of a bright spot these events have been in the lives of our missionaries.

In addition to the spiritual aspects of this care conference, our security consultant will be leading training sessions to help our missionaries review their security contingency plans. We are daily reminded by international news reports that there are growing dangers in many spots on the globe.

According to Bro. Jerry, “The way things are going today, we need to continuously equip our missionaries to be aware of their security needs while still focusing on their primary need of sharing the gospel with the lost.” Several hours of the Global Care Conference’s schedule will address safety and security issues.

Because it is Missionary Care’s goal to gather all our missionaries for one event, we intend to cover their expenses for the flights and lodging of each missionary family. We are confident God will supply the resources needed to accomplish this ambitious undertaking. We rejoice that the number of BMA missionaries continues to grow. The gospel is advancing in more areas of the world, and that is good news! But as the number of missionary families grows, so does the budget for this global conference.

While there is an immediate need to give towards Missionary Care so this conference can be fully funded, the work of this ministry is not limited to conferences alone.

Bro. Jerry said, “I am sure our churches will consider sending an offering for this event. But I also hope many will think about giving regular support down the road to help with the ongoing ministry of Missionary Care. We have helped our missionaries in so many ways through Missionary Care. We must keep supporting this ministry as it supports our missionaries.”

The churches of the BMA are faithful to pray and support our missionaries serving at home and around the world. Let us all keep praying for the work being done to share Christ with those who have yet to hear about His love. And please pray for the Missionary Care team as they work hard to organize and plan this Global Care Conference. We trust that the dream of bringing all BMA missionaries together in one location for a conference will be fulfilled this November. And we are trusting God to lead us in that direction.

events

2022 SOAR STUDENT CONFERENCE

DATE: June 29-July 1, 2022

PLACE: Hilton Anatole Hotel, Dallas

2022 RE:CHARGE LEADERS OASIS

To be decided

2022 BMA OF TEXAS MEETING

DATE: Nov. 7-8, 2022

PLACE: First Baptist Church, Livingston

2022 NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

DATE: Nov. 15-17, 2022

PLACE: Chateau on the Lake, Branson, Missouri

personnel & positions

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

PASTOR—Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden is seeking pastor. Send resume to pr2bcsec@gmail.com or mail to Pilgrim Rest #2 Baptist Church, P.O. Box 99, Golden, Texas 75444. 6/22

PASTOR—Jackson Missionary, Joaquin is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to Jackson Baptist Church, ATTN: Pastoral Search Team, P.O. Box 1047, Joaquin, Texas 75954, or by email to jacksonbaptistchurchjoaquin@gmail.com. 4/22

YOUTH/STUDENT MINISTRY—Afton Grove, Jacksonville is seeking a biblically qualified candidate. This is a bivocational position. We are looking for a minister with a heart for God, a heart for students and who is ready to plunge into the work. The candidate will love the Lord and love and lead our students in a growing relationship with Jesus. Please send your resume to Eddie Richardson at fasteddie999elr@gmail.com.

PASTOR—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a pastor. Send resume to 148jimmysealy@gmail.com or to FMBC, Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346. T/FN

YOUTH DIRECTOR/MINISTER—New Harmony, Tyler is seeking a full-time youth director/minister. Send resume to the church at 10251 FM 724, Tyler, Texas 75704 or to Russ Jackson at rgjackson63@yahoo.com.

YOUTH DIRECTOR/PASTOR—Old Tyme Baptist Church is seeking a bivocational youth director/pastor. Send resume to Pastor Jim Crump, P.O. Box 9637, Longview, Texas 75608.

**If you are aware of pastor and staff changes, please notify us by emailing editor@baptistprogress.org.*

Auxiliaries

National GMA Summer Retreat

By **GLENDA CHAMBERLAIN**

National Girls Missionary Auxiliary will hold their annual summer retreat in June at Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment, near Gary. The schedule is slightly different, as the camp will be held Wednesday, June 16 through Saturday, June 18, 2022.

The theme for the event is *Bread of Life*. The theme verse is John 6:35, "Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall not thirst."

There are daily themes for the retreat:

- Wednesday—WATER, Jesus is the Living Water John 4:10 and 7:37-38
- Thursday—YEAST, our growth as believers in Christ 2 Peter 3:18
- Friday—WHEAT, wheat never grows alone Ecclesiastes 4:10 and Proverbs 11:14
- Saturday—SALT, we are called to be the salt of Christ on earth Matthew 5:13 and Colossians 4:6

The 2022 project is Morgan Grace Fellowship, Gavin Roberts, Utah Mission. The goal is set for \$10,000. Project money is due by May 15. Send offerings to Kristin Herring, National GMA Treasurer, at 12 Spring Drive, Maumelle, AR 72113.

Bro. Gavin Roberts is slated to be the camp pastor for the retreat. Early registration begins April 15 and runs through May 28. You can register at www.danielspringscamp.com. The cost is \$150 per camper and includes a Daniel Springs T-shirt. Late registration begins May 29, and the cost will be \$165 per camper and does not include a Daniel Springs T-shirt.

There is a New Camper Fund available that can help a new GMA group attending for the first time. Contact Mrs. Herring for more information, 501-425-4780 or email krisherr12573@gmail.com.

The ever-popular *After Glow* will be held after service Thursday night. Check the website, www.nationalgma.org, for more information. Other events scheduled are Shining Stars, Queens' Day, Coronation, Miss/Jr. Miss GMA Presentation, breakout sessions, silent auction, a fun photo booth, and much more.

If you do not have a GMA program currently at your church, and you have girls between 4th and 12th grade, give them the opportunity to come and have fun, meet new people, and most importantly, worship the Lord with girls their own ages. Please be in prayer for the Retreat to be fun, successful, but most of all, pray that the Lord would use it for His glory!

DISTRICT NEWS

The Liberty District WMA met at Friendship, Pittsburg April 9. The meeting was opened by President Teresa Gipson with scripture from James 1: 14-16. The opening prayer was offered by Ms. Charlotte Johnson. Ms. Linda Kiser gave a warm welcome to everyone and President Gipson led the ladies reciting the WMA motto.

The offering for the district project for this year, the BMMA Spanish Publications, was received while being accompanied by Ms. Michelle Ayes at the piano. The offering was \$243, leaving a balance of \$242 to reach our annual commitment of \$2500.

President Gipson opened the business portion of the meeting by asking for project reports. Ms. Shirley Hoffpaur reported that the Sunbeams will be sponsoring a program titled, *Sirens of Rescue* as part of the theme *Operation Rescue* at Camille Acres, Longview at 9 a.m. May 14. She asked for suggestions for sounds we would consider as sirens or calls for help. Sirens was an obvious response but others could include running feet, Cavalry bugle, whistles, 9-1-1 call, hospital code blue or code red, shout, HELP scream, or a telephone call to friend or family member. She suggested that at such a time we should remember to use "grace" words or encouraging words, because our words matter greatly.

Ms. Lynea Mejia performed a vocal music special presentation of *More Than Wonderful*. Thank you, Ms. Mejia. Your rendition was a blessing to everyone and matched up perfectly to our third quarter theme *Living God's Word*.

Mrs. Johnnie Ross introduced our guest speaker, Ms. Cindy Allen. She is currently our National WMA 2nd vice president and a gifted lady. She took us through the book of 2 Chronicles, introducing us to each of the kings mentioned. Along with the number of years they each reigned, we heard about their accomplishments and their downfalls, depending on whether they obeyed God or strayed. In some cases, there was a little of each. She referenced a missionary couple currently in Ukraine that have sent their children to safety while they stayed behind to serve the Lord in spite of the war raging around them.

She urged us to take a look at our own lives and compare our "Living God's Word" and see if it is pleasing to God. If not, she suggested a task similar to cleaning out a closet to get rid of actions and thoughts that are not pleasing to God. We all mess up from time to time but God is faithful to forgive if you ask in belief. Then celebrate and go tell others what God has done for you.

She ended her presentation with prayer and Ms. Elizabeth Midkiff extended the right hand of appreciation.

Our next meeting will be at Rosewood Baptist Church, Gilmer July 9.

The closing prayer was offered by President Gipson and all were invited to stay for delicious soup, sandwich and dessert lunch in the fellowship building.

Glenda Chamberlain is the Texas Women's Missionary Auxiliary (WMA) editor. Contact her at gcham33@yahoo.com. For more information about the Texas WMA, visit www.texaswma.com.



BMA Texas Missions cont.



**ROBERT LEE—
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH IN
NORMANGEE REPLANT
BRO.ROBERT.F.LEE@GMAIL.COM**

This month has been exciting. We restarted our children's and youth ministries this month, and within three weeks, we had a total of nine kids. We are excited to have the opportunity to show the love of Christ to the families in our community, both the parents and the kids!

Prayer Needs:

Pray for more workers for the harvest.



▲ Robert Lee

**JAIME HENRIQUEZ—
FUENTE DE VIDA ETERNA MISSION, HOUSTON
DAIRYJENY@YAHOO.COM**

Here in our mission, God continues to move, saving the lost and transforming lives. We are growing slowly and making disciples. Thank you for all your prayers and support. We are in the process of buying our own building for our services. We are very excited to start a new beginning in this community. Please pray for us as you always do.

Prayer Needs:

Pray that the Lord will touch the hearts of the people to whom we witness and that we will have a harvest of souls as we remember the Lord's death.



▲ Jaime Henriquez

**BICHITRANANDA SATPATHY—
INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST MISSION, FORT WORTH
BICHITRANANDA31@GMAIL.COM**

Prayer Needs:

Kindly pray that God will continually encourage me to reach out to the people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. I do have a need for a car and my finances are tight to be able to buy one. Please pray that God will provide me with a car.



▲ Bichitrananda Satpathy

Heith Mitchell is the director of BMA of Texas Missions. Contact him at P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, Texas 75168, 972-923-0757 or hmitchell@bmatexas.org. For more information, visit www.bmatexasmissions.org.



BAPTIST MISSIONARY
BMILA
LOAN ASSOCIATION

Did you know that the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas has its very own loan association?

The Baptist Missionary Loan Association (BMLA) provides loans for new construction, remodel projects and property purchases.

To qualify for a loan, your church must be associated with the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas or the Baptist Missionary Association of America, as we provide loans all over the Lone Star State and throughout the United States.

Visit bmla.org and click "Apply Now" to download an application.

For more information, contact 972-923-0758 or email Director Jerry Fulton at jerry@bmatexas.org.

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BRAD FAULH



CHRIS VINES



BRYAN RISNER

2022 CALLED SOAR CONFERENCE

LOWERED PRICE THIS YEAR

**100.00 PER PERSON
DEADLINE IS JUNE 1, 2022**

**125.00 PER PERSON
AFTER JUNE 1, 2022 DEADLINE**

**HILTON ANATOLE
DALLAS TEXAS**

**145.00 PER ROOM
BY JUNE 7, 2022**

FOR MORE INFO GO TO WWW.SOARCONFERENCE.COM