

Baptist Progress

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HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND STOP CHURCH BULLIES



By DR. THOM RAINER

Church bullies are common in many churches. They wreak havoc and create dissension. They typically must have an “enemy” in the church, because they aren’t happy unless they are fighting a battle. They tend to maneuver to get an official leadership position in the church, such as chairman of the elders or deacons or treasurer. But they may have bully power without any official position.

Church bullies have always been around. But they seem to be doing their work more furiously today than in recent history. Perhaps this look at nine traits of church bullies can help us recognize them before they do too much damage.

They do not recognize themselves as bullies. To the contrary, they see themselves as necessary heroes sent to save the church from her own self.

They have personal and self-serving agendas. They have determined what “their” church should look like. Any person or ministry or program that is contrary to their perceived ideal church must be eliminated.

They seek to form power alliances with weak members in the church. They will pester and convince groups, committees, and persons to be their allies in their cause. Weaker church staff members and church members will succumb to their forceful personalities.

They tend to have intense and emotional personalities. These bullies use the intensity of their personalities to get their way.

They are famous for saying “people are saying.” They love to gather tidbits of information and shape it to their own agendas. See my previous post on this one item.

They find their greatest opportunities in low expectation churches. Many of the church members have an entitlement view of church membership. They seek to get their own needs and preferences fulfilled. They, therefore, won’t trouble themselves to confront and deal with church bullies.

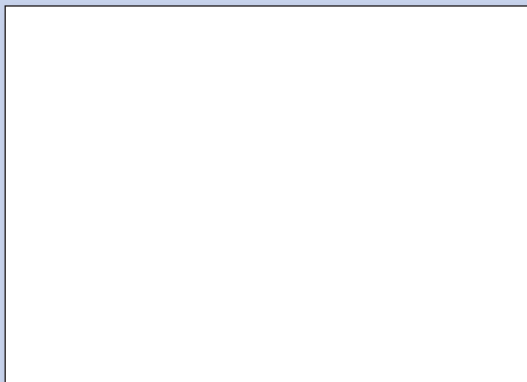
That leads to the next issue, which is a consequence of this point

They are allowed to bully because church members will not stand up to them. I have spoken with pastors and church staff who have been attacked by church bullies. While the bully brings them great pain, they have even greater hurt because most of the church members stood silent and let it happen.

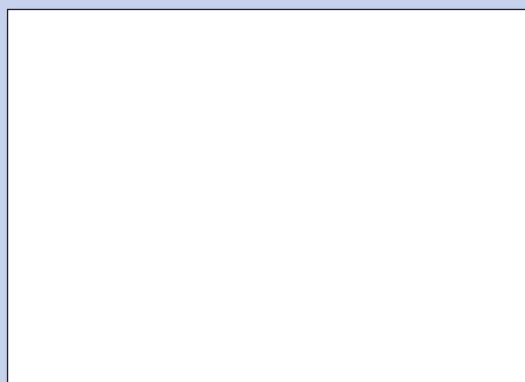
They create chaos and wreak havoc. A church bully always has his next mission. While he or she may take a brief break from one bullying mission to the next, they are not content unless they are exerting the full force of their manipulative behavior.

CHURCH BULLIES continued on p. 2

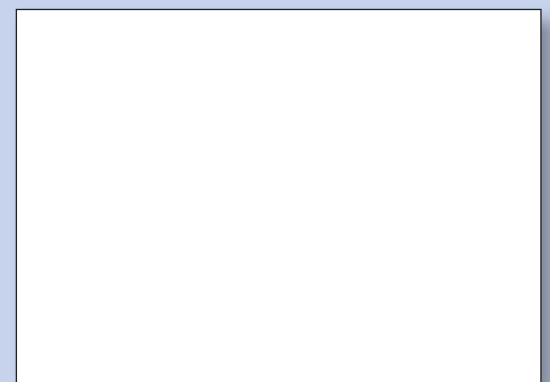
Inside



Page 7



Page 8



Page 12

How to recognize and stop church bullies cont.

They often move to other churches after they have done their damage. Whether they are forced out or simply get bored, they will move to other churches with the same bullying mission. Some bullies have wreaked havoc in three or more churches.

So how do we deal with church bullies? What can we do to prevent such bullying? Here are nine of my suggestions:

Fight bullying with the power of prayer. The most common targets of church bullies are the pastor and church staff. I encourage everyone in vocational ministry to ask humbly for people to pray for them daily. In two of the churches where I served as pastor, I had as many as 100 or more people committed to pray for me daily. They typically prayed for me for only two or three minutes each day at noon. Their intercessory prayers for me were brief, but they were powerful!

Seek to have an Acts 6 group in the church. I am specifically referring to the manner in which the Jerusalem church dealt with murmuring and complaining. They appointed a group to take care of the widows who were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. The seven who were appointed to the task were thus not only to do that ministry, but they were also to preserve the unity of the church. Churches need either informal or formal groups that see their ministry as dealing with conflict, complaints, and

dissension so that unity is preserved.

Have a high expectation church. I have addressed the issues of high expectation churches and low expectation churches many times on this blog. Higher expectation churches tend to be more unified, more Great Commission focused, more biblically defined, and more servant oriented. Stated simply, high expectation churches don't offer an environment conducive to bullying.

Encourage members to speak and stand up to church bullies. Bullying thrives in a church where the majority remains in silent fear of church bullies. Bullies tend to back down when confronted by strong people in the church. We just need more strong people in the church.

Make certain the polity of the church does not become a useful instrument to church bullies. Many churches have ambiguous structures and lines of accountability. Polity is weak and ill-defined. Bullies take advantage of the ambiguity and interpret things according to their nefarious needs.

Be willing to exercise church discipline. Church discipline is a forgotten essential of many churches. Bullies need to know there are consequences for their actions, and church discipline may be one of them.

Have a healthy process to put the best-qualified persons in positions of leadership in the church. Bullies

often are able to push around less qualified people who have found themselves in positions of leadership. There should be a spiritually and strategically designed process to choose and recruit people for key leadership positions.

Have a healthy process to hire church staff. For example, an egregious mistake would be the church's hiring of a senior staff member without the enthusiastic support of the pastor. If the pastor and new staff member do not have good chemistry, a church bully can quickly pit one against the other. A unified church staff is a major roadblock for a church bully.

Encourage a celebratory environment in the church. Joyous churches deter bullies. They like somber and divided churches.

Church bullying is more widespread than we often like to admit. I hope these nine suggestions can help keep the bullies out of your church.

Thom S. Rainer serves as president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources. Among his greatest joys are his family: his wife Nellie Jo; three sons, Sam, Art, and Jess; and seven grandchildren. Dr. Rainer can be found on Twitter @ThomRainer and at facebook.com/Thom.S.Rainer.





Family Matters

Attention all backbiters

By DR. TRAVIS PLUMLEE

As I travel around the country, I am discovering some really interesting things about local churches. Each church has its own flavor, an impression you get from the congregation as you visit. It must be what visitors see when they come to a church for the first time.

You can pick up on it rather quickly. You can tell if there is a sweet spirit and one where all are welcome. Conversely, you can feel unwelcome when people stare with judging eyes or there is a tension present so thick you could cut it with a knife.

I want to focus my article on the local family of God, and in particular those families whose flavor leaves a bad taste in the mouth of their visitors. This may be a startling revelation to some of you, but it is never the church. The institution of the church is as perfect and pure as when Christ so ordered it, but the people in the church need to be vigilant in checking their attitudes to make sure they reflect a loving, accepting, Christian light.

Yes, I am speaking to you backbiters and murmurers out there. We all better take heed lest we fall. “Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now all of these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition. upon whom the ends of the world are come...” 1 Corinthians 10:10-11

The church is full of backbiters and murmurers. We must not do this. It is so repulsive to the unbelievers to come into our presence and find such things.

Some of us surround ourselves with other backbiters and think we are okay because everyone else is like us. We are so quick to compare ourselves to other Christians. When you gossip or backbite, what fruit of the spirit are you revealing?

Not all people who destroy the atmosphere of the church are trying to do so. They may be very loving Christian people. Sometimes they are charming on the surface, but are really undermining the church as a power play. Others might not be emotional wrecks or psychos. They are loyal church members who are convinced they serving God but are usually doing more harm than good.

They are there nearly every Sunday. Everyone knows them when they walk in and people are thinking, “Well here comes Conan the Irritator and his lovely wife, Atilla, the Agitator.”

Here is a list of some other common members who hurt the church:

- Stanley the Steamroller — He is a graduate of the Saddam Hussein school of diplomacy. He speaks with total authority and his sentences all end with an exclamation point. He is right and everyone else is wrong and he does not mind standing up in the business meeting and saying so.

- Daddy Warbucks — This person uses his money to bend the church’s work toward his liking. I recently read the

story of a small church in Oregon, where the owner of the local school bus company and his family represented 50% of the church’s income. When the new pastor went in for his first haircut, the barber said, “Oh you’re at the church Mr. Peabody owns.” The pastor couldn’t tell if he was joking or not. He later discovered that he wasn’t.

- Aunt Bea — She just loves telling everyone else how they should do their job.

- Pistol Pete — He loves to shoot everyone in the back. Sometimes it is subtle remarks like, “Let’s pray for our pastor because you all know he has such problems right now.”

- H & R Blockbead — He keeps record of every wrong and can pull up a full account on anyone, whether they repented or not.

- Mr. Gloom and Mrs. Doom — They always find an audience and tell everyone all the bad things going on in the church. Nothing will ever be the same again. Everything is just going downhill.

- Judge Ito — The legalistic, dogmatic person who must start a fight on everything from the number of verses sung in the hymns to whether or not it is scriptural to eat dinner at the church.

“These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts: and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men’s persons in admiration because of advantage” Jude 16

How can I tell if I am one of these people? It is not what you say that counts. Sometimes, it is perfectly acceptable and necessary to disagree in a business meeting. It is how you say it that determines if you are one of the rabble-rousers. These people would rather play the role of adversary than ally. They

are quick to vilify and slow to apologize. They can’t even see that they have done anything wrong and, therefore, don’t ask for forgiveness. They end up destroying the enthusiasm and the morale of the church. People no longer feel good about inviting friends to worship services because the air is tense, the church depressed and everyone is aware of “us” and “them.” Unfortunately, the most visible person often times becomes the unrelenting target of these people — the pastor.

Stuart Briscoe said the qualifications for a pastor are: “The mind of a scholar, the heart of a child and the hide of a rhinoceros.” There have been too many men psychologically maimed by a congregation, and I pray that it stops.

We all need to focus on the positive thing of our churches. Praise the good things publicly. Enjoy the diversity of church members. Be thankful for the candor of critics as long as it is well-intended. Everyone, even those I listed in this article, are welcome in God’s house. We must always foster that atmosphere.

We need to focus on ourselves and let our light so shine before others that visitors will be attracted to the family of God that gathers at our local church. “And be renewed in the spirit of your mind... for we are members one of another.” Ephesians 4:23-25

Dr. Travis Plumlee is a full-time professional speaker and leads Family Ark Ministries. He is national board certified as a therapist/specialist in various areas of human behavior. For more information or to contact him, visit www.travisplumlee.com.





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From the Editor

His grace is sufficient

By **JERRY FULTON**

The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.” 2 Corinthians 4:8-11

While the context of Paul words involved the persecution he and other early believers were experiencing, I too have been troubled, perplexed, persecuted (the devil will make sure of it when you are at your lowest) and cast down, but for different reasons. You see, one month and three days after my precious mother was called home to be with the Lord, my father left this earth for Glory on March 24, 2015.

There was very little warning that Dad was ill. In fact, he had just received a fairly clean bill of health from his physician. When he suffered a heart attack, underwent bypass surgery, began recovering nicely, then suffered a series of strokes and finally death, I found myself in disbelief. After all, my wife and I had hoped to take Dad on vacations, visit his siblings and just enjoy life with him for a while. Of course, our Lord had better plans for him. Where Dad’s future was concerned, the Lord had Heaven on His mind.

Because both my parents passed away in such a short amount of time, a lot of people have asked me how I do it, how I keep going, how I muster the strength to get up each morning and face another day. The answer I give to those who ask is that His grace is sufficient for me—the joy of the Lord is my strength. For these reasons, I am not distressed, in despair, forsaken nor destroyed.

Do I have moments when I miss my parents terribly, want to answer the phone and hear their voices, seek their advice or give them a hug? Sure! But I have seen the Lord use the deaths of my parents

for His glory. People I know, whom I thought would never repent of their sin and follow Christ, are on the verge of surrendering their lives to Him. I know of individuals who have turned from their sinful ways and rededicated their lives to the Lord. In addition, some of my relatives have realized that life is too short to hold grudges, and could be seen talking and laughing with one another as we all gathered to say farewell to Mom and Dad.

Other blessings the Lord has given me throughout the entire experience are the reminders of how much He cares for me, helping me see how many truly love me and showing me the incredible impact my parents had on the lives of scores of people.

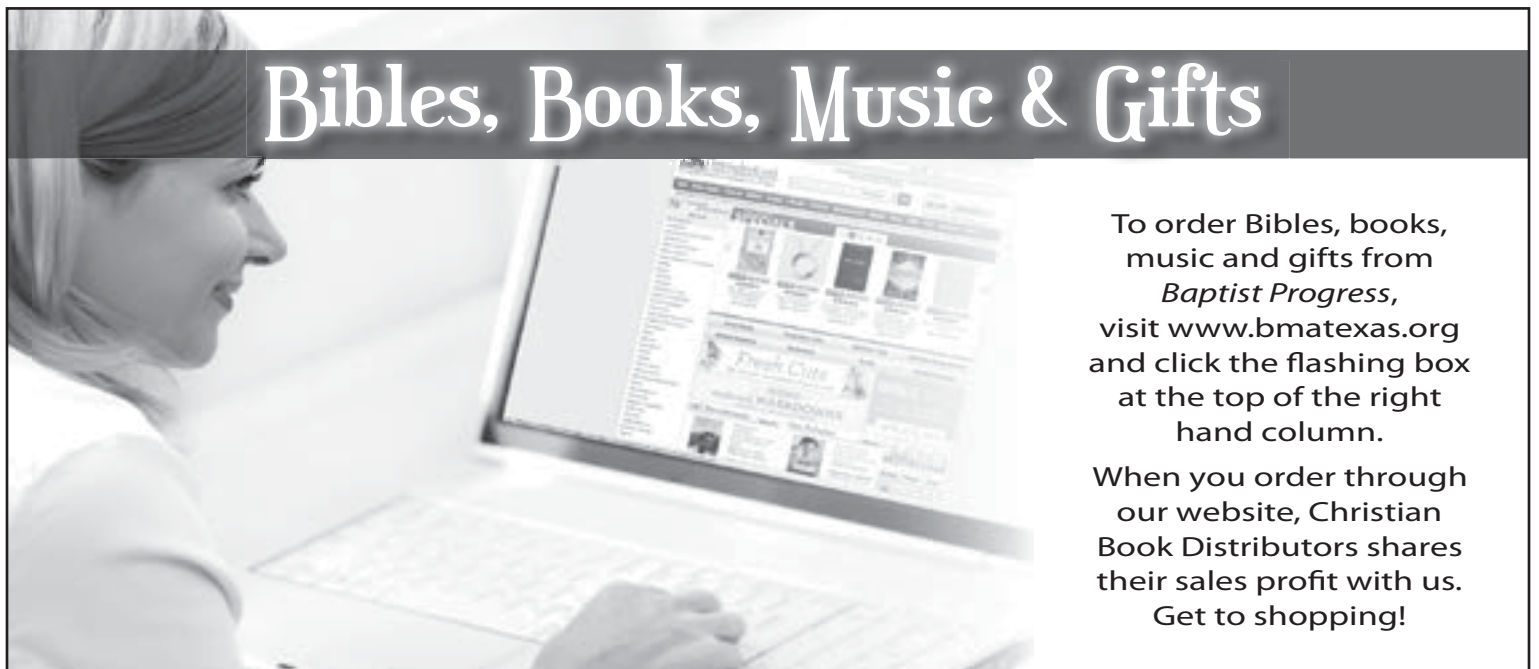
I might shed a few tears before night falls, catch my mind wondering throughout the day to come or wonder if there was something more I could have done or said. Even so, I am alive and well, determined to serve the Lord and invest my time, talent and treasure for His Kingdom’s sake, and have the blessed assurance that my Mom and Dad are safe in the arms of Jesus.

When trouble comes your way, do not distress. Should you become perplexed, do not despair. When people revile and persecute you for the cause of Christ, remember you have not been forsaken. And while you may be cast down today, you are not destroyed. Hold on! Joy comes in the morning. The darkest hour means dawn is just in sight.

The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord!



▲ Jerry Fulton



Bibles, Books, Music & Gifts

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When you order through our website, Christian Book Distributors shares their sales profit with us. Get to shopping!

EVENTS

APRIL 6-10, 2015

Revival
@ Woodland, Gilmer
Monday: The Hamptons
Tuesday: Trent Preuninger
Wednesday: Wade Maberry
Thursday: Rily Pate
Friday: Jim Crump
7 p.m.

APRIL 20-22, 2015

66th Annual Session
of the BMA of America
@ University Plaza Hotel
and Convention Center
Springfield, Missouri
Headquarters Hotel:
University Plaza Hotel

MAY 3, 2015

Legacy Sunday
@ Calvary First, Mesquite
10 a.m. service
Lunch served
Afternoon service following

MAY 14, 2015

Liberty Association BMMI Rally
@ Concord, Gilmer

JUNE 2, 2015

Administrative Committee Meeting
@ Rosewood, Gilmer
10 a.m.

AUGUST 13, 2015

Liberty Association Lifeword Rally
@ Cross Roads, Pittsburg

OCTOBER 11, 2015

Liberty Association Annual Meeting
@ First, Judson
Begins at 3 p.m.
First Session Speaker—Charles Johnson
Dismiss for Supper at 5 p.m.
Begin second session at 6 p.m.
Second Session Speaker—
Randy Stracener

NOVEMBER 10-11, 2015

115th Annual Session of the BMA of Texas
@ Champion Forest Baptist Church
15555 Stuebner Airline Road, Houston

APRIL 25-27, 2016

67th Annual Session
of the BMA of America
@ Gatlinburg Convention Center
Gatlinburg, Tennessee
Headquarters Hotel: Glenstone Hotel

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE MINISTERS

ELDON BUSENITZ is available for pulpit supply or to serve as interim pastor. He has 46 years of experience as a pastor, with a passion for clear, practical Bible teaching. He is a member of Heritage, Waxahachie. Contact him at 214-399-9522.

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

YOUTH—Antioch, Gilmer is seeking a bivocational youth/student minister. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 688 Gilmer, Texas 75644; Contact person—Michael Pool, pool-michael@hotmail.com. 903-315-6822.

PASTOR—Pine Acres, Gilmer is seeking a bivocational pastor. Email merrillgl@aol.com for more information.

PASTOR—Grace Temple, San Angelo is seeking a full-time senior pastor. He will also oversee associate pastors and child development center. Send resume to Pat Jackson 7809 CR 339, Christoval, Texas 76935, email pwjack@aol.com or call 325-651-7875. TFN

PASTOR—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346 or to jimmysealy@aol.com. TFN

PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

DICKY MAUK has accepted the position of interim pastor at Oak Hill, Gilmer.

CHURCH NEWS

PINEVIEW, WINNSBORO had a spring revival March 25-27, 2015. Bro. Donny Chamberlain from Coldwater, Winnsboro, was guest speaker on Wednesday, Bro. Perry Shirley from Sharon, Winnsboro, was guest speaker on Thursday and Bro. Riley Pate, 15, was guest speaker on Friday. Pineview hosted 15 churches with over 130 attending on Friday. TeamKID was started at Pineview on Feb. 22, 2015. TeamKID started with first through sixth grades, but within a couple weeks added preschool-age children. TeamKID averages seven to nine kids each Sunday evening.

CHURCHES IN REVIEW

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For publication, statistics for Churches in Review must be received by Monday at 5 p.m. on Monday.

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 capital letters are those honored or remembered from March 1, 2015 – March 31, 2015.

ENDOWMENTS

E ANN PACE: Mr. & Mrs. Karl Pace; R.T. Willis
MYRA STOKES: Mr. Bill Stokes

HONORARIUMS

ALL MY CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN: B. W. & Ida Keeling
JOSH & CHEYANNE BURK'S WEDDING: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson
JERRY FULTON: Nathan & Carolyn Andrews
DENTON & KALEY JACKSON'S WEDDING: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

MEMORIALS

EVELYN AMBUEHL: Mary Sprunck; Willing Worker's SS Class
WALTER BECKER: Dennis & Ilona Myrice
MICAH BERRY: Bro. & Mrs. Duane Turner
ELIZABETH BOURGEOIS: Johnnie & Jane Myers
EDWIN ODEAN BROWN: Nila Brown
J. W. COX: Geraldine Cox
CHARLES CRISP: Tommy & Monna Albea
LYNDA CRUMP: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson; Bro. & Mrs. Duane Turner
JAMES DAVIS: Tommy Gipson
BILL EASTERING: Mildred Burkhart; Linda Hightower
WINDELL EVENS: Nelda & Donald Muirhead; Donald, Jack, & David Muirhead
ANN FULTON: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson; Nathan & Carolyn Andrews
BOBY GAGE: Timothy & Rhonda Thompson
LAVERNE GALLAWAY: Nathan & Carolyn Andrews
LOIS & HESTER GIBSON: Janice Dore
SPUD GREEN: Linda Lewis
BONNIE HARRIS: Blanche Lasiter
LIANE HAYES: Michael Hayes
JAN HORNE: Welch Watt
JULIA HOWE: Temple Baptist Church
LEROY HUFFMAN: Jerry & Melinda Armitage
KATHRYN JORDAN: AW McCuiston; Joan Hopson
BILLY HOWARD KING (SON): Margaret King
BURNELL KNIGHT: AW McCuiston
WANDA LANGFORD: Latch Baptist Church
DANIEL LEHRMAN: Delmarie Middleton
BOBBY DON MEADOW: Bonnie Howell
KENNETH MONTGOMERY: Jed & Glenice Whitaker; Larry & June Johnson
ELIZABETH MULLINAX: Raymond Howell; Betty Noggle; Scott & Dawn Raye; Nathan & Carolyn Andrews
LESLIE RAY PARTIN: Eugenia & Timothy Boley
A. D. PEVETO: Cecil & Jackie Blair
EDDIE RINEHART: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson
JOSIAH A. RUIZ: Concha Rouse
BOBBIE LEE RUSSELL: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson
TIMMY SAXON: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson
JEFFREY SEETON: Glenn & Deborah Pool; Doyle & Annie Farmar; Dirk Gray
SAUL TREJO SEGURA: R. T. Willis
DUANE SHAW: Leon & Linda Lee
LEE SHORT: Florence Short
IDA WADDELL: Richard & Kay Jones; Linda Watts; Rick & Lisa McNeal; Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson; Elizabeth Midkiff; Elwyn Henderson; Aleta Berry; Bennie Lybrand; Bro. & Mrs. Duane Turner; Timothy & Rhonda Thompson; Mary Dunavant
LISA ANN WILKERSON: Harold & Jean Jacobs
ANN WILLIAMS: James & Linda Sockwell
MARY WOLFINGTON: John Wolfington
BEVERLY ANN WORTHINGTON: Mary Edmondson

Invitation to the BMA of America Annual Meeting

By **DR. JASON AULTMAN**

BMAA President

The time is quickly approaching for the national meeting of the BMA of America. I hope you are planning to attend. The meeting will take place April 20 – 22 at the University Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield, Missouri. We will convene with a time of worship at 7:00 that Monday evening.

This year's theme is "We're All In This Together." What any of us can do individually might seem small, but what God can use us to accomplish collectively can have an impact beyond our imagination. Our time in Springfield will provide a wonderful opportunity to hear about what the Lord has been doing in the work of our association and to look forward and dream of what He might have in store as we continue to follow and serve Him together.



▲ Dr. Jason Aultman

In addition to our times of worship and conducting of business, we also look forward to opportunities to hear from several folks that will be offering elective training sessions. It is our hope that these times will encourage, sharpen and prepare us to serve with even greater effectiveness when we return home.

It is my understanding that the headquarter hotel has sold out of rooms, but additional rooms are available at the Holiday Inn on Glenstone. You can reach them at 417-865-8600. There is a special rate of \$99 if you tell them you are with the BMA.

I am praying for and anticipating a great time together. Hope to see you there!

Seminary to Offer DiscipleWay Training Summer 2015

By **DR. PHILIP ATTEBERY**

BMA Theological Seminary Dean

Since 2000, the BMA Seminary has offered intensive week-long studies each summer that focus upon various areas of religious education. The 2015 summer schedule includes a unique opportunity for individuals to gain certification for DiscipleWay. Non-degree seeking students may enroll as auditors in Theology of Disciple Making (PM 517). Auditors should sign up for the course prior to May 22, 2015.

PM 517 includes an introduction to the biblical, educational, and philosophical principles that undergird DiscipleWay curriculum, exposes individuals to each DiscipleWay discipline, and gives particular attention to the disciplines of Bible study and witnessing. DiscipleWay's goal is to teach individuals how to perform disciplines without the help of a teacher while also developing the ability for those same individuals to teach others without the help of a teacher.

The course is scheduled to meet June 8-11. The 2015 schedule also consists of three online courses: Oral Communication, Old Testament Theology, and Greek



Appreciation held May 25-July 17, 2015. On campus courses include Church Administration on July 20-22, Sermon Preparation on July 22-24, Theology of Disciple Making for credit-seeking students held June 8-12, and advanced levels of DiscipleWay held June 8-12, 2015.

Individuals interested in enrolling in courses for credit must register before April 24, 2015 by contacting the seminary dean's office for more information. Courses require the completion of research and writing assignments prior to their scheduled meetings on campus. Individuals interested in auditing the DiscipleWay training should also contact the seminary dean's office for registration information.

Pool ordained to ministry

By LEON ROSS

Bro. Michael Pool was ordained to the Gospel Ministry on March 29, 2015. He is the new pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Grice.

After an opening song, the invited deacons and pastors met to organize the presbytery. Bro. Ray Thompson led in prayer, Bro. R.D. Turner was elected as the moderator and Bro. Leon Ross was elected as the clerk. Bro. Tommie Gipson was chosen to introduce and present the candidate. Bro. Jed Whitaker was selected to question the candidate. Following the questioning, Bro. Eddie Elms moved that the presbytery recommend Bro. Michael for ordination. This was followed by a motion and second from the church to continue with the ordination service.

Bro. Ray Thompson brought the charge and message. Using 2 Timothy, he reminded Bro.

Michael of his heritage then charged him to remember his calling, to preach the Word and to be strong. In the message Bro. Thompson further charged the candidate to feed the flock using both 1 Peter 5:1-3 and the 23rd Psalm.

Bro. Michael's father, Joe Pool, led the ordination prayer and presented him a Bible. After the laying on of hands and receiving the right hand of fellowship from the church, Bro. Michael Pool was presented with the signed certificate of ordination by the moderator. A reception followed in the fellowship hall.

The presbytery consisted of Ray Thompson, R.D. Turner, Leon Ross, Charles Johnson, Eddie Elms, Don Cox, Jacob Conner, Jeff Crossland, Jed Whitaker, Larry Johnson, Larry Lansdale, Joe Caudle, Alan Senn, Joe Pool, Stephen Gipson and Doyle Woodlief.



Bro. R.D. Turner – moderator and Joe Pool presenting the Bible to his son, Michael Pool

DiscipleGuide

CHURCH RESOURCES

“We Believe” Series Focuses on the Church this Summer

For over thirty-eight years, Dr. E. Harold Henderson wrote BMA adult Sunday school literature. His writings helped shape the theological foundation of our association. Interestingly, Dr. Henderson surrendered to the ministry on the day the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor when he was fourteen years old. Throughout his life, he pastored seven churches in Texas and Oklahoma. At one time, he was chairman of the Bible Department at Jacksonville College.

Dr. Henderson served on numerous committees and trustee bodies in BMA associations from the local to the national level. He was past president of both the BMA of Texas and the BMA of America and ministered personally in more than thirty countries worldwide. In 1996, Dr. Henderson passed away; however, his impact has continued through the “We Believe” series of the Compass Sunday school quarterly.

This four-quarter series has featured Dr. Henderson's writings regarding what we believe about doctrine, God, and Jesus. Each lesson in the series has been published to help congregations affirm and review our basic beliefs as BMA Baptists. The “We Believe” series will conclude this summer with a study of what we believe about the church.

If you have adult Sunday school classes who are not currently using the Compass quarterly, ask them to consider this important summer study on the church.

For more information, or to order, call DiscipleGuide at 1-800-333-1442 or go to discipleguide.org.

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EAST STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

BRO. DENNIS HUDDLESTON



Eighth Street Baptist Church would like to express its appreciation to a longtime servant—Bro. Dennis Huddleston. Dennis has recently retired his role as music minister of our church after 30 years of faithful service. He grew up at Eighth Street Baptist Church, as his father, Bill Huddleston, was one of the men who built the church building, and he raised his family here also. During his many years as a member, he has served in the following capacities: Bus driver 1976-1980, Youth Director 1976-1980, Children's Minister 1980-1985, Adult Sunday School teacher 2013-present, Director of Communications/Media 1978-present. He was licensed as a minister in 1980, and was ordained as a deacon in 1998.

We praise God for Bro. Dennis' many years of dedicated service to the Lord and His people. Thank you Bro. Dennis Huddleston, we love and appreciate you.

Church Health

Oikos Connections

By LARRY BARKER

All of us need to identify our circles of influence, our “oikos.” It is simply defined as our household; our extended family and friends. Years ago, Elmer Towns talked about and even had an outreach program called “F.R.A.N.gelism.” It was a challenge to focus sharing Christ with our friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors first. These are the natural relationships already in our lives that God has placed there for us to share His love with. Our circles of influence!

In The Multiplication Workshop, Dave DeVries defines “oikos” as “the fundamental unit of society involving families, friends, neighbors, and associates. The New Testament describes churches meeting in the ‘oikos,’ and it teaches that believers belong to the ‘household’ of God. The spread of the gospel happens most effectively through close relationships. Therefore it is vital to explore and expand our ‘oikos’ evangelism.”

Dave designates 5 keys to working effectively in reaching your “oikos” with the gospel:

Time and Availability – relationships that are significant take time.

Hospitality – changed lives and kingdom values are best seen in everyday living.

Spiritual Intuition – listen carefully to others and the Holy Spirit.

Generosity – people are drawn to those who give freely and cheerfully.

A Transformed Life – new life in Christ is contagious.

Central Church and church planter Anders Lee in

Southaven, MS, have taken their “Oikos Connections” seriously. They are not just talking about reaching their circles of influence; they are doing something about it. They schedule events for their people to invite those who they know are unchurched or dechurched. Recently they invited over 60 people to an evening of bowling and then a meal at Jason’s Deli. They funded the evening for those invited based on one of their core values, “Our Dollars match our DNA.”

There were 34 “Oikos Connections” that showed up. Several couples were asked to greet and have conversations with their guests using the “tap” method. If one couple was talking to a guest and another couple came up, before they could leave they had to “tap” them on the back to let them know they were handing them off. It worked, because 26 of the 34 came to worship the next Sunday and 4 families said they would definitely be back! Of the 26 who attended on Sunday, six raised their hands to be contacted to discuss what it means to be born again.

Anders attended The Multiplication Workshop and immediately began implementing the training into the outreach strategy of his church plant. It is not just for church planters but will benefit anyone desiring to make disciples who make disciples. The training is based upon the Multiplication Cycle developed by DeVries. It has seven elements:

Seize the Mission of Jesus - Embracing the mission of Jesus as your own.

Adopt Missional Thinking and Behavior – Thinking and acting like a missionary in your zip code.

Exegete the Culture – Identifying your unique circle of accountability.

Incarnate the Gospel – Being Jesus to everyone everywhere around you.

Multiply Disciple Makers – Helping others to help others follow Jesus.

Form Communities/Churches – Gathering disciplemakers into Missional communities.

Mobilize Leaders and Teams – Empowering others to lead on mission.

If you have never gone through The Multiplication Workshop you should. We will be hosting the next training August 18-20 at the Global Ministries Center in Conway, AR. You can contact me at larry@bmaam.com or contact Dave DeVries at davedv@me.com. Also, check out Dave’s website: www.missionalchallenge.com

Healthy churches are always focused on building strong relationships through “oikos” connections!

Larry Barker is the operations director for North American Missions. For more information or to contact him, visit www.bmamissions.org.



Mission Life

By **JERRY BURNAMAN**

Three months have passed in the New Year. Our Church Planters are faithfully developing strategic ministries for reaching people, recognizing and developing leaders and providing teaching methods for all believers to grow toward maturity. The ideal result is reproducing new believers and multiplying.

The new work at Tyler with co-leaders Dewey Davidson and Rick Sydnor have made significant progress since starting in January. Recently they had 20 families at their meeting. They will soon need a store front, or some building to meet in on a regular basis. I appreciate Pastor Robbie Caldwell and the New Harmony Church for being the mother church.

I ask you to pray for these men and their families. Last year there were many that trusted Jesus for salvation, new leaders discovered, and communities impacted with the gospel. This year will be more fruitful as all our churches and planters work together to bring reality to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).

Here is the list of our Mission Projects:

Gary & Rhonda Southard
18366 Hollow Oaks Circle
Porter, TX 77365
(832) 231-6506
gary@churchvalleyranch.com

Cecil & Sue Linke
1712 Grand Canyon Way
Allen, TX 75002
(972) 678-0277
cecil@peopleonajourney.com

George & Nicole Martinez
1693 Niagara Falls Blvd.
Lewisville, TX 75077
(214) 684-4057
george.martinez1693@yahoo.com

Darren & Becky Lemons
PO Box 2068
Terrell, TX 75160
(972) 822-1690
darren@gototherefuge.com
Will & Kellie Hutchinson
122 Mossy Rock Cove
Hutto, TX 78643
(512) 354-6703
will.hutch1@yahoo.com

Matthew & Amy Prather
13332 Missouri Street
Celina, TX 75009
(469) 296-8557
matthew@discoverthebridge.com

Dewey & Denise Davidson
4089 Hogan Dr. #2214
Tyler, TX 75709
(678) 524-2722
dewey271@cs.com

Rick & Glenda Sydnor
PO Box 239
White House, TX 75791
(214) 405-2418
Ricksyndor@suddenlinkmail.com

Arnulfo Maldonado
Houston, TX

He has seven projects in the greater Houston area and has plans for more groups in the future.

These men and their families appreciate your prayers and support and they would like to hear from you. Send some words of encouragement by a card, email message or a telephone call. Take the opportunity to visit one of our mission projects and personally discover how they are making a difference in people's lives.

Jerry Burnaman is the executive director of State Missions and the Baptist Missionary Loan Association. Contact him at jerryburnaman@yahoo.com or 972-923-0757.



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Auxiliaries

Surf into the Son

By SHARON COLE

Excitement is building as the National GMA Officers and Director of Youth Auxiliaries, Mandi Townsend, are preparing for National GMA Retreat, June 16-17, 2015 at Daniel Springs Encampment, Gary, TX. The cost is \$120 for cabins and \$130 for dorms. Registration begins May 1st and can be done easily online at danielspringscamp.com. Click on the Overview Link at the top of the site. Then click on Registration Details on the right-hand side. On this site you will find the registration information as well as the required medical release forms that every camper must complete. All chaperones/counselors must complete the mandatory background check before they can attend retreat. This is Texas state law. To find this information, click on the Camp Chaperone link. Every two years each adult in your group must undergo the background check. This year's theme Scripture is Psalm 139:17-18 and the theme song is "Dive," by Steven Curtis Chapman. Camp Pastor is Andy Comer of Davis Street Baptist Church, Sulphur Springs, TX. The project for the year has been 90% Daniel Springs Encampment Improvements, (in honor of Bro. James Speer), 10% General Fund. The goal is \$25,000. Please send your offerings and donations to: Ruby Poteet, 8303 Middle Warren Rd. Pine Bluff, AR. 71603, 870-879-1378; rwp8303@aol.com. If you are a new GMA group and would like to attend camp for the first time, we have funds available to help with part of the registration. For more information, as soon as possible, contact Mandi Townsend at 6 Broadmoor Dr. Conway AR 72034. Also, further information can be found at the National GMA website: www.nationalgmaofbmaa.net. During recreation time we will again have "GMA Pin and Button Trading." Bring pins or buttons from your state. You might also want to bring a towel, scarf, lanyard or notebook for displaying your pins. "AfterGlow" is a fun time on Wednesday night after services where girls can present a special song or talent. Participants need to have all props, music, and instruments ready when called on to perform. When you arrive at camp, see Kaylen Fagala, National GMA Song Leader to be included on the program. The plan is for these performances to be "commercials" during *AfterGlow*. The officers are asking everyone to wear a white or neon colored shirt to *AfterGlow*. Glow sticks and bracelets will be available for purchase at the project promotion table near the silent auction area. Lane Flynt and Addie Bender are planning an exciting day for Queens Day on Wednesday morning. "Shining Stars" is a special event on Wednesday for girls working on their Maiden through Princess Steps. The Coronation Registration form available on the website needs to be filled out and sent to: Mrs. Lisa Christian, 2315 Bankhead Rd, Fulton, MS 38843; 662-322-1581. Counselors, please mail this form by May 15. State GMA Promoters need to send your state's Miss/Jr. Miss GMA participant's folders by April 15 to the National GMA Promoter: Jayna Williams, P.O. Box 321, Mineola, TX 75773, 903-258-0284; jaynaw@gmail.com. We want to encourage ladies to teach Forward Step classes at GMA Retreat. If you are willing to teach a forward step class this year, please call

or send your name and address as soon as possible to: Karen Luck, 956 Joseph Drive, Conway AR 72034, 501-472-7384; kluck84@att.net. One of the most popular project promotions at Retreat is the Silent Auction. Everyone is invited to bring several items to this auction. It can be something homemade or bought. Enlist your WMA or other church members to donate items. Bring things that would appeal to either counselors or girls. Program booklets will be \$2.00 this year. The information that is usually in the Counselor's packet will be in the program book. Programs may be purchased at the Hospitality Center located by the camp office when you register. Information for Cabin Captains and Cabin Spiritual Leaders will be included in the booklets. Workshops will be held for GMA Counselors on Wednesday from 9 a.m.—10:30 a.m. and from 11 a.m.—12:00. Mrs. Sherry Laminack, National Sunbeam Promoter and Mrs. Sandra Kizer, Asst. Sunbeam Promoter will conduct Sunbeam Counselor Workshops on Wednesday and Thursday mornings in the west room of the Tabernacle. Project fundraising events will be fun this year including: silent auction, officer competition, candy grams, grab bags and buttons. Hailey Hughes, 1st Vice President, has challenged each girl or each GMA group to decorate a "beach-related" item (sand pail, beach ball, sand castle, etc.) and fill it with money. Be creative. Enlist your church to help fill it with loose change for the National Project. These "beach-related" items will be judged at Retreat. A new project for the coming year will be chosen during the business meeting. Please pray about this and if you have a nomination, please submit it by 1:30 p.m. Wednesday to Mrs. Mandi Townsend. Each nomination should be signed by a counselor and should include the name of the church and cabin number. Retreat T-shirts will be sold for \$12.00. The order forms are on the website and must be sent to Mrs. Ruby Poteet by May 15. Many more activities are planned and other information can be obtained on the website or by contacting

the National GMA Promoter.

Literature Recommendation-Cindy Allen, Texas WMA 3rd Vice President—"I wanted to share with you a new study series I have discovered and that my Sunday School class has enjoyed. The series is "Explore the Bible," edited by Dr. Tony Evans. We have been using the Nehemiah study and it is very interesting. The series is published by Lifeway and the series I have used has 6 sessions in it. The series also includes 13 session studies. Also, I want to remind everyone about The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren. I read the book years ago, as I'm sure many of you did. This year I have been reading it again and it is still a GREAT book. I highlighted lots of good information the first time I read it and I am finding this time new things are jumping out at me. Isn't God great how He reveals what we need just when we need it?"

The Wood County District WMA had their annual Ladies Tea on Saturday, March 28, 2015 at Hubbard Chapel Baptist Church. The theme was "Let the Son Shine" with decorations and food representing Hawaii. President, Jackie Ricks, welcomed the 49 ladies present. The ladies were dressed in mu-mus, bright floral blouses, grass skirts and flowers in their hair. The Wood County ladies provided the food and decorations. Each lady sat at the table having the last digit of their birthdate. A fun time of hula hoop contest, games and door prizes was enjoyed by all. Special speaker was Kristi Key, Texas GMA Promoter. She spoke on how we can let the Son shine in our lives.

Sharon Cole is the editor for the Texas WMA. Contact her at S9Co@aol.com. For more information on the Texas WMA, visit www.texaswma.com.



Sunday School Lessons

Today, with me

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: April 19, 2015

TEXT: Matthew 11:28; Luke 23:35-43

THOUGHT PRIMER

You've heard the saying, "by the skin of your teeth," or "just in the nick of time."

For 21 years, the venerable pastor, Bro. C.R. Meadows served First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Texas. In his biography, *"The Steps of a Good Man,"* written by his daughter, Mary Meadows Utt in 1964, an account was recorded of a man who, one Sunday night, during the invitation, after Bro. Meadows' sermon, came forward to accept Christ as his Savior. The pastor invited the new candidate for membership to be seated on the front pew. Before the church could take action on receiving the man, he died suddenly on that front pew. It was literally a last minute salvation opportunity.

In the movie, *God's Not Dead*, an incredibly popular 2014 movie about a courageous young college freshman debating an atheistic professor, the story line reveals how one of the characters who experienced a tragic, and untimely death, placed faith in Jesus Christ just seconds before he died. Perhaps you know of other instances where a person gave his or her heart to Jesus while on their death bed.

Our lesson this week is about one of the two thieves that was being crucified beside our Savior who placed his faith in Him just in the nick of time.

It's glorious when this happens to a person who has lived a life as an unregenerate, but how much more blessed is it when someone receives Christ at a tender young age and has a lifetime to devote worship and service to God the Father.

STUDY

Chief priests and scribes accused Him

It's significant that there were many individuals noted in scripture who uttered these most accusatory, and slanderous words to the Savior, "If you be the Christ..."

In Luke 22:67 as Jesus stood before the chief priests and the scribes, one of them asked, "Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe." Their minds were already made up - either by using their own reasoning, or following the philosophy of another. To say to Christ, "If you are the Christ" is indication they do not believe, or receive that truth. Jesus' retort was, of course, brilliant. He said, "If I tell you, ye will not believe."

Satan accused Him in the wilderness

Satan was His chief accuser - after all, he is the accuser of the brethren. (Revelation 12:10.) In Matthew 4, during the first two of Satan's three attempts to tempt Christ, he made the familiar statement, "If thou be the Son of God..." It is a deeply accusatory phrase.

There were at least two reasons why this question would be asked - a desperate attempt to cast aspersions on Jesus' credentials; or doubt.

The soldiers:

In Luke 23, the mocking soldiers said, "If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself."

In light of Jesus' answer to the scribes, when He said, "If I tell you, ye will not believe." Jesus knew that nothing would convince this evil, hardened crowd of His credentials. He knew that even if He walked down off the cross, with all his wounds and scars instantly healed, (which by the way it was entirely within His power to do so) they still would not have believed.

Like the rich man in Hell, who begged Abraham to send Lazarus back to warn his brethren of that horrible place. Abraham answered, "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." Luke 16:31

The truth is, if one's heart is so given over to a reprobate mind, no grandiose, miraculous display will soften or convince that heart.

THE HARDENED THIEF:

I call him the hardened thief because he has absolutely

no receptivity to the Savior. He chimed in with all the rest, "If thou be Christ, save thyself and us."

Far be it from me to judge one's experience of grace, but I have heard people pray, "Lord, if you're really up there, I need you now." Some may consider that an act of faith, but a prayer of genuine faith says, "Lord, I know You are there, and You hear me.

THE CONFESSING THIEF:

There were several components in the confessing thief's repentant heart.

(1) He saw the fallacy of the doubting thief, saying, "Dost thou not fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?" Luke 23:40

(2) He saw his own undone condition: "And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward for our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss." Luke 23:41

(3) He turned to Jesus in childlike faith: "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." Luke 23:42

(4) He was redeemed instantly: "And Jesus said, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43

He wasn't after any proof. He didn't try to summon Jesus to perform a miracle. His heart was willing and ready to be received by the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

APPLICATION

Did you notice how instantly and willingly Jesus extended His great Salvation to the believing malefactor? Did it not seem like, although Jesus was in the midst of excruciating pain and suffering, He seemed to have joy in His voice as the malefactor confessed Him as Savior? Scripture says there is joy in the presence of the angels when one repents - and I can imagine Jesus, at the right hand of His Father, has to be leading the cheer.

How do you perceive Jesus as you seek to walk with Him daily? Movies and many sermons have portrayed Him as rigid and stoic - with no patience with people, nor a tender heart toward people. They view Him as One Who is just waiting for someone to step out of line so He can scourge them. No! People hung on His every word - they saw love and compassion and wanted to be near Him.

Here is the heart of Jesus Christ: James 2:23 said, "And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God."

It would help to have an understanding of the word "impute." It simply means to transfer or attribute a trait from one person to another. When the malefactor placed his trust in Jesus, the righteousness of Christ was imputed - attributed to him.

This is the heart of a loving God - a loving Savior. First of all, when we believe in Christ, and receive Him as our Lord and Savior, we are not only saved from eternity in torment, but we have begun a close, intimate, friendship with the Creator of the Universe. He loves us, He wants to hear from us, and He wants us to trust Him for everything. Only when we express this kind of faith in Him, can we please Him because "... without faith, it is impossible to please God." Hebrews 11:6

CHALLENGE:

Here is a suggested program of prayer in response to this week's lesson, but use your own words, and let it come from the heart.

1. Share with the Father how thankful you are that He saved you instantly as you confessed Him as Lord.

2. Tell Him that, as He enables you, you are going to walk with an even greater realization of His imputed righteousness upon you.

3. Pray for those who seem to project a cynical, doubtful attitude toward your Lord and Savior. Remember what Jesus prayed, concerning them - "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

4. Tell Him how much you love Him.

Woman... Son, Behold

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: April 26, 2015

TEXT: Isaiah 53:4; John 19:23-27

THOUGHT PRIMER

Sunday school teacher, It might behoove you to lead in a brief discussion of modern-day adult children caring for aged parents.

In frontier days, when the farm community was the center of American culture, the children often remained home to run the farm, while the parents aged out of the process. The hard life, limited medical advances, and unbridled diseases all contributed to brevity of life, more so than today. Children may have only had a limited number of years of providing for, and caring for elderly parents. Often another room or two was added to the family farm house to care for the parents.

Today, because of modern medical breakthroughs, along with other factors, people are living longer, and coupled with that fact, is a significant number of baby boomers who are finding themselves as primary care givers for their aged parents - parents that may live to a "ripe old age." And a significant number of adult children are stepping up to the responsibility - adding small self-contained apartments onto their houses and having a direct hand in attending to parents' needs. I believe God will bless such caring children.

Most offspring of modern-day aged parents are consumed with life, themselves, and may have to prevail on professional care institutions, or government assistance to help. In recent years, the popularity of assist living facilities has skyrocketed in popularity.

What does our lesson reveal about our Lord's care for his aged mother?

STUDY

Someone once estimated that, prior to His turning 30 years old, Jesus probably spent about 90 percent of His time with His mother. They obviously had a close relationship.

A tender scene around the cross was that of the Savior attending to the needs of His mother. Even as He was suffering unthinkable pain and agony on the cross, for the remission of all the sin of mankind, still, He was cognizant of His own mother's future needs and saw to them with his dying breath.

If Mary was a late teen when she gave physical birth to Jesus, then she had to be at least 50 years of age when Jesus died on the cross - not such an advanced age as we think of it today. But since there is no mention of Joseph, she could have been a widow.

Attending to His mother was His final task. After He had settled the issue with the care of His mother, He was satisfied that everything had been accomplished. (John 19:28)

JESUS'S ATTENTIVENESS TO HIS MOTHER:

1. Jesus left His mother in capable hands. It was "the disciple whom Jesus loved," John, son of Zebedee, brother of James, and the two were referred to as the Sons of Thunder. What an honor it must have been to John to be considered worthy and capable, by the King of Kings, to care for His mother for the rest of her days. Apparently John was one of Jesus's closest friends and confidants.

2. Jesus left his mother in the hands of a disciple - a believer. Jesus's own siblings did not believe on Him, which is probably why He did not direct her to them. There is a principle here - whether you are leaving your parents, or your toddler-aged children with

babysitters or a daycare, make sure it is among believers - in a place where Jesus is Lord, and spiritual principles are emphasized.

2. Jesus loved His mother, and perfectly followed the mandate of the Ten Commandments to honor His father and mother. To address her as "woman" was not a sign of disrespect.

3. Jesus was able to strike a perfect balance between being the good, obedient Son of Mary and Joseph, and at the same time carrying out His Heavenly Father's business on earth. When they expressed concern because they thought they had lost him on a return trip home from the Passover, His answer was, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" Luke 2:49 Even as a 12-year-old boy, He perfectly balanced His honor toward His parents with His devotion to God the Father.

MARY'S PERSPECTIVE ON HER SON.

1. She knew throughout Jesus's life that, being His mother, she would experience tremendous grief: She no doubt was aware her Son would one day have His heel bruised by the evil one (Genesis 3:15) She was aware of the hatred the pharisees had for Him as He preached and taught.

2. Simeon told Mary in Luke 2:34-35 that "the child was set for the fall and rising again of Israel." She was also informed that she would experience much grief as she was told a sword would pierce through her own soul also. Luke 2:34-35, which was in reference to her sorrow as she witnessed her Son's death on the cross. She saw Him as the Savior of the world - but at the same time, being a mother, she had to have looked upon Him as Her Baby Boy.

3. Mary expressed great faith in her Son. When the wedding party at Cana (John 2) ran out of wine, Mary knew Jesus was perfectly able to save the day, although He noted that His "hour had not yet come."

APPLICATION

The very essence of a Godly, obedient life, can be pictured in two activities as prescribed in James 1:27. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

To. (1) shun the sin of the world, and (2) give of oneself to those who cannot pay recompense (widows and orphans) is the character of the spirit-filled life, and was perfectly modeled by our Savior, throughout His life on earth, and particularly as He sacrificed His life on the cross. This is essentially what we are called to do today - live a righteous life, and minister to those who can pay no recompense.

CHALLENGE

May we constantly examine our lifestyles to see if we are, at least, making steps toward fulfilling these two mandates of James 1:27 - and most especially when it comes to honoring our aged parents. Jesus has set the standard, and He has modeled it. May our heart's desire be to seek to more closely emulate the lifestyle of Christ. Paul told us that we are to examine ourselves, when we come to the Lord's Table.

Paul Gauntt is the former BMA of Texas Department of Church Ministries director. He has served several churches as pastor, and is a correspondent and featured article writer for Baptist Progress. Contact him at paul.gauntt@att.net.

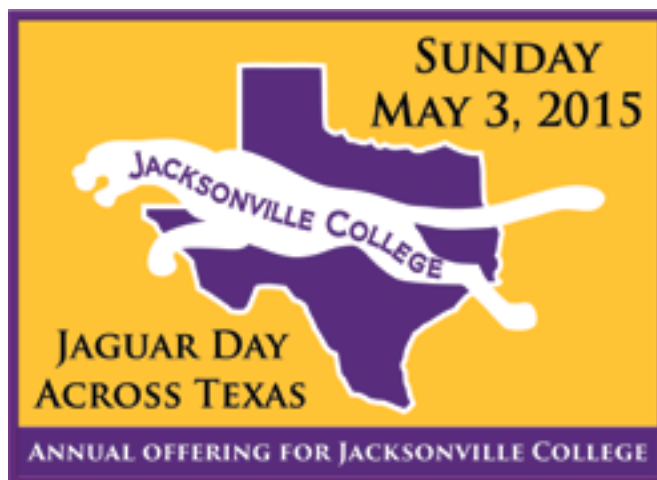




JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

Jaguar Day



By DR. MIKE SMITH

The Jaguar Day Across Texas offering is Jacksonville College's annual effort to raise money for the needs of the College. We ask you to pray and give sacrificially on Sunday, May 3 or at any other time during the months of May or June to support Jaguar Day Across Texas.

This offering will help Jacksonville College

- make it financially through the lean summer months,
- paint and repair facilities—\$30,000.00,
- buy security equipment—\$10,00.00.

Every church or individual who gives a donation at or above the suggested amounts will receive a gift of appreciation:

\$50.00: Creation Proclaims DVD Through encounters with wild animals, Dan "The Animal Man" Breeding and Dr. Jobe Martin show how creation proclaims the character, majesty, and power of our Creator.

\$100.00: The NET Bible (New English Translation) The NET Bible is a new translation with 60,932 notes. This Bible is used by Wycliffe Bible Translators to assist their field translators.

\$150.00: Constitution Alive DVDs

David Barton, an expert in historical and constitutional issues, and Rick Green, former Texas State Representative, discuss the purpose of the U.S. Constitution.

\$200.00: The Patriot KJV Audio Bible

This set includes 60 audio CDs, America's Most Pressing Concern DVD, Indestructible Book DVD, MP3 CD of America's founding documents, and a copy of the U.S. Constitution.

\$400.00: The donor will receive all of the above gifts.

Make checks payable to Jacksonville College, and make a notation on the check for Jaguar Day. Mail checks to 105 B.J. Albritton Drive, Jacksonville, Texas 75766.

Dr. Mike Smith is the president of Jacksonville College. Contact him at msmith@jacksonville-college.edu or 903-589-7106. You may also visit the Jacksonville College website, www.jacksonville-college.edu



On Friday, March 27, Jacksonville College employees attended a seminar led by JC President Mike Smith on conflict resolution. The text used for the seminar was Bro. Mike's Conflict: Causes & Cures. Pictured above, attendees take a survey as part of the seminar to identify personality traits, which play a major role in conflict and resolution.

New Online Program Approved

After a 17 month process, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) has approved Jacksonville College's request to offer 50% or more of the credits for degree and diploma programs via electronic distance learning (online courses), effective this May. This will allow the College to offer an associate degree fully online. God has indeed been good to allow us to make this dramatic addition to our academic curriculum.

Be sure to take advantage of Jacksonville College's online courses. Registration is ongoing for Maymester, Summer I and II, and Fall 2015.

2015 Class Sessions:

Maymester: May 14 - May 29

Summer I: June 2 - July 2

Summer II: July 8 - August 6

Fall: August 17 - November 24

Full course schedules are available at www.jacksonville-college.edu. Online registration is available.

PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

Spring Concert

April 14 at 7:30 p.m. in Buckner Chapel

Region XIV Regional Tennis Tournament, hosted by Jacksonville College

April 16-17 at the Jacksonville ISD Tennis Complex

Tournament Director: Lynn Nabi (903) 589-7137

Spring Show: A Little Theater

April 23-25 at 7:30 p.m. in the new Performing Arts Center on the Joe Wright campus

Donkey Basketball

May 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Curtis Carroll Field House/Gymnasium
Jacksonville Fire Department vs. Jacksonville Police Department

Jaguar Day Across Texas

(annual day of giving for Jacksonville College)

May 3

Commencement

May 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Curtis Carroll Field House/Gymnasium