

Baptist Progress

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Marsh Resigns

AS PRESIDENT OF TEXAS BAPTIST HOME, PLANS FOR REPLACEMENT TO BE DECIDED

By CHARLES JOHNSON

*Texas Baptist Home for Children
Board of Trustees Chairman*

WAXAHACHIE—On March 2, 2017 Texas Baptist Home President Eddie Marsh resigned his position. The Home board of trustees met in special session on March 9 and officially accepted his resignation. Bro. Eddie had earlier informed the board of his intent to announce his retirement in April, but the move was expedited.

CURRENT HOME STATUS

By policy, Randy Odom, executive vice-president of TBH, automatically became interim Home president upon the vacancy. He has been with the Home for 26 years, and we are blessed to have his experience of having been through a presidential transition two other times.

We are also blessed to have an experienced program administrator Jami Hogan who has served at the Home for 15 years. In addition, the current Home staff is one of the strongest in recent memory. So, with the grace of God and guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Home will continue to function as fully and normally as possible until a replacement president can be elected.

PLANS FOR REPLACEMENT

With the aforementioned experienced staff on board, the TBH trustees decided to give a month of prayer to the Lord for guidance and wisdom in proceeding with a search for a new president nominee. At our next regular trustee meeting on April 11, the trustees plan to decide on a selection process and timeline in



seeking a nominee to present for consideration by the BMA of Texas churches. We hope to have this person named by mid-summer.

Whenever the board is ready to receive applications and resumes from potential candidates, this will be announced through *Baptist Progress*, *The Southern Baptist Texan*, and the *Baptist Progress* website.

HONORING BRO. EDDIE

Bro. Eddie Marsh has served as TBH president for the past 12 plus years. He was also a TBH trustee for several years prior to becoming president. In addition to serving at TBH, Bro. Eddie and his wife Lynda have been faithful servants of the Lord in various capacities of the BMA. He served as an interstate missionary when a BMA church was

planted in Bowling Green, Kentucky. He also served in the establishment of a State Mission project at Meadow Park, Mt. Vernon.

Bro. Eddie has been pastor of the following BMA churches: Clear Creek, Marquez; Temple, Marshall (youth pastor); Sheppard Drive, Euless (3 times); Opelika, Brownsboro; and First, New Summerfield.

The trustees have voted to continue to provide salary, insurance, etc., for Bro. Eddie until he can get his social security, Medicare coverage, and retirement benefits started.

The board plans to honor Bro. Eddie and Lynda with a reception at the state association in November at New Harmony, Tyler. It is also customary to honor retiring department heads with honorarium love offerings from the churches. Therefore, the Home trustees are suggesting local churches send a letter/card of thanks to the Marshes and include an offering if possible. Your church might consider giving \$12 for each of the 12 years of service (\$144) or any amount more or less that you are able.

You may send your gifts to the following:
Bro. and Mrs. Eddie Marsh
315 Choctaw Trail
Waxahachie, TX 75165.

Please keep Bro. Eddie and Lynda in your prayers in their transition time. Please continue to pray daily for Texas Baptist Home's staff as they care for the children. Pray for the trustees to have Divine guidance as we seek God's replacement for the Home president.



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68th Annual Meeting of the BMA of America

Greetings to the churches of the BMA of America!

Well, it is nearing that time of the year we have an opportunity to gather and conduct the Lord's business as an Association. This note is to remind each one that this May 1-3 has been set aside as the time for our 2017 annual meeting to convene in Arlington, Texas. It is my prayer that God will continue to bless all our departments, agencies and churches. I hope you are already making plans for your church to be represented at this year's meeting.

Again this year you will be given the opportunity to choose between several great breakout sessions presented this year by our National departments and agencies. It is the desire of your officers and those involved in planning to provide you with materials and practical instruction that you will be able to use in your respective fields of service. Of course, these are provided in addition to the times of conducting business and opportunities to gather for worship.

This year we will have a special ceremony to recognize those who have served in the

ministry for over sixty years. It is only proper that those (preachers) who have given a lifetime to serving God be honored by receiving a Life-Time Achievement certificate.

Remember, this year's theme, "Brick by Brick", is built around teamwork with the emphasis on increasing our attendance for strengthening every area of our ministry. Make plans now to join us and may God bless every aspect of our time together.

In His Service,
Paul White
BMAA President

Annual church survey, it's not too late

By **JOHN MERIWEATHER**

BMA Information Services

BMA Information Services would like to express our appreciation to the large number of churches that have provided updated information for our upcoming BMA Directory. The response this year has been great and we are truly thankful. However, there are many churches we have not heard from. **THERE IS STILL TIME FOR YOUR CHURCH TO BE INCLUDED!** If you have not yet completed a survey, we **WANT** to hear from you.

There are two easy ways to make sure your church's information is accurate:

Complete your form online at www.bmaamerica.org/annualchurchsurvey/

Contact John Meriweather (john@bmaamerica.org / 501-499-6810) or Lauren Noland (lauren@bmaamerica.org / 501-358-4007) to receive a survey already complete with your church's most recent information. You can simply make the needed changes and return via email or physical mail.

The BMA Directory serves a very vital purpose, enabling our association to remain informed and connected. However, we also know much of the information in the directory is inaccurate and out of date. BMA Information Services is committed to providing BMA churches with complete and accurate information, but we cannot do that without you. Just a few minutes of your time will help ensure that we have the best possible publication for all of our churches.



Pastor, serve it up fresh

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

When I resigned my last pastorate in 2006, we packed up all the belongings we needed and cherished, and sent the rest to the landfill.

One of the items that went to the landfill was my metal file box, filled with hundreds of sermons I had preached over the previous four decades. In following years, whenever I mentioned this from the pulpit, the responses were gasps, winces and grimaces. How dare a man, who calls himself a man of God, discard sacred sermons which God had laid on his heart through the years? Why, that borders on blasphemy! They could have been bound in a book and placed in seminaries for other young preachers to study.

The discarding was not done out of a temper tantrum, neither in defiance of God — nor the church, or anything else. It was a result of the suggestion by a preacher friend years earlier who made the statement, "The best thing a pastor could ever do for his church is to discard all his old sermons and start afresh."

I found that in looking at those pages in my metal box, many were worn and tattered around the edges from having been retrieved and preached again, and again. Many which I retrieved were sermons which I glared at, with a perplexed, puzzled look wondering what on earth I was thinking when I prepared it.

Did you notice the two-word phrase used in a previous paragraph — "start afresh?"

Regretfully, on numerous occasions when I stepped into the pulpits, with a recycled sermon, I was anything but fresh. Warmed-over, molded mac and cheese could not have been more stale.

Discarding the old sermons was my way of expressing a desire and intention to God the Father, to never again, step into the pulpit warmed over and stale. Never again would I just whip out a "Saturday night special" just so I would have something to say the next morning.

Preacher, if we have nothing to say, we're better off to follow Charles Spurgeon's example, and walk into our pulpits, weeping bitterly, and confessing to our congregations, "I have no message today - you are free to go home."

The story goes that on that day, the congregation of the great Metropolitan Tabernacle of London, left that morning, likewise weeping and mourning over their broken pastor, and the majority spent the entire afternoon agonizing over, and praying for God to endue him with power. That night, it was noted that he stepped behind his "rail" and preached with unusual power and fire.

Today, the First Baptist Church of Palmer may have messages lacking in the luster of a great orator — or the depth of a great theologian or biblical professor. But what they do have are messages which have been labored over, and which were born out of an intense desire to search the scripture and find age-old truths

which have perhaps never been explored by him — to find the meaning of a context, and to try, as best as the pastor can, to extract those truths and make the right application. To do otherwise is like loading my gun with chewed bubblegum.

Pastors, our churches do not need our warmed overs, our Saturday night specials, or a borrowed sermon from someone else. I don't know about the rest of you, but if I stood in the pulpit and read someone else's sermon, I might as well read "The Great Gatsby" to my congregation.

Pastors, our churches want to hear the pure, unadulterated word of God, preached with fervor, with power, from a heart which has obviously labored in tears. They can overlook our poor grammar and a few annoying mannerisms — but they do not want to hear what Charles Stanley, John MacArthur or John Hagee has to say — if they wanted to know that, they would have stayed home in front of the TV.

We enter our favorite restaurant, expecting freshness, heavenly aroma, great flavor, and the satisfaction of a full stomach when the last bite has been consumed. If we receive otherwise, we will likely not return. In like manner, your congregation enters the house of God to absorb a fresh, "labored over" carefully prepared, fervently delivered, genuine word from God. When we give them less, we have deprived them, and worse, we have dishonored our loving God.

New Harmony Baptist Church Celebrated 150 Years

By **TRECIA BASS**

New Harmony, Tyler

The New Harmony Baptist Church, located in a small community twelve miles northwest of Tyler, celebrated its 150th anniversary on April 15, 2017. New Harmony has long been a member of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas. In the first 100 years of existence, the church had 35 pastors. In the past 50 years, two interim pastors and two pastors have served the church. Bro. W.H. Hodges preceded Bro. H.L. Lee for a short time. Bro. Lee led the church for almost 23 years. Bro. Ralph Cottrell was an interim prior to the calling of Bro. Robbie Caldwell, who has recently celebrated 25 years of service to the church.

It was a step of faith when 18 residents met on the Saturday before the third Sunday in April 1867, to establish the Harmony Baptist Church. The church changed its name to New Harmony Baptist Church when it joined the old Cherokee Baptist Association in 1869, because a Harmony Church was already an association member. Many of New Harmony's charter members had previously belonged to Indian Creek Baptist Church, which had been located near what is now called the Beard Cemetery, just off Highway 64. Unable to survive after the Civil War took all of the men of the church into battle, Indian Creek Church disbanded. When John Wood Barron returned from his duty of service, he tried to rally the members only to find that the deep wounds from the war would not allow that to happen. Moving north to what would become the New Harmony community, Mr. Barron took the leadership role to establish a new church in the spring of 1867. Twelve of his family members and five neighbors joined him. Today, there are 38 members of New Harmony Baptist Church who are descendants and spouses of the original 18 charter members.

In the 150 years, the church has worshipped their Lord, there have been 22 men who were licensed or ordained to the ministry, and a total of 67 deacons have served the members of the church.

Six sanctuaries have housed the members. The first was a log



structure built near the present cemetery in the community on land that was donated by William and Julia Gimble. By 1887, there was a need for a new structure, and once again John Wood Barron stepped up in a leadership role and donated land for that building site that later became the address for the parsonage. By 1907, a need for a new sanctuary existed. The son of John Wood Barron, Joseph Franklin Barron, donated land across the road, where all future church buildings would be constructed. That worship center only lasted eight years, when a storm damaged it. A fourth building was erected in 1915 while World War I was raging. That site of worship would also serve the church through World War II. Just prior to the end of that war, the church, in another step of faith, began the discussion for a new church building. John Barron, Rush Beasley, Coke Barron, Edell Cates, Carl Adams, and Jodie Newton all planted one acre of cotton and gave the proceeds to the building fund. In May 1949, the church dedicated their fifth site of worship. This structure still stands today, and is used for classrooms and the library. In 1993, the sixth sanctuary was built where two services are now held with an average attendance of 400.

Church Leader's Cruise

DiscipleGuide's Church Leaders Cruise, Jan. 13-18, will provide an opportunity for vocational and lay leaders to rest, relax and recharge. Church Leaders Cruise combines the best of the former Great Escape conference and Pastors Oasis conference in an environment from which any church vocational and lay leader can benefit. According to DiscipleGuide's Director, Scott Attebery, "We wanted to find ways to serve those who serve our churches, and we felt that branching out in this way would accomplish that goal."

Three conference tracks and a flexible schedule allow leaders to customize the experience for their particular needs. The cost for the conference is \$80 per person until Sept. 1, and \$100 per person after that date.

The five-day Western Caribbean cruise will depart from Galveston, Texas with ports of call in Progreso and Cozumel. Cruise reservations may be made with Carnival Cruise Line at (800) 819-3902, ext. 85267. Remember to request "Church Leaders' group with early dining," and book early for best rates.

For more information visit discipleguide.org/cruise.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

• Inspiration Track — Do you need to be refreshed by God's Word? The Inspiration Track aims to uplift and strengthen leaders struggling with discouragement and burnout. Join Brent

Summerhill, pastor of First Baptist Church in Magnolia for encouraging messages from God's Word.

• Family Ministry Track — Dr. Timothy Paul Jones will equip leaders to reach children, students and parents in a biblical model. Jones is a popular speaker, author of Family Ministry Field Guide and serves as a professor at the Southern Baptist Seminary. He has been featured on American Family Radio and The Gospel Coalition blog.



▲ Dr. Timothy Paul Jones

• Leadership Skills Track — Matt Perman, author of *What's Best Next: How the Gospel Transforms the Way You Get Things Done*, will help you become a more effective leader. Matt has been featured in Christianity Today and The Gospel Coalition blog. Matt will share insights for ministry leadership and productivity.



I am excited to welcome guest writer, Fran W. Hoover, author of our April Connection. She is a member of Lonesome Dove Baptist Church, Grapevine, TX, writing and teaching Sunday School curriculum for over 30 years. - Pat Quesenbury

The hill is quiet now. The Jews celebrate, their hated rival is in the grave. The soldiers celebrate, their work is done. But I didn't celebrate. I was there that day. I'm Mary Magdalene.

I gasped at the whirring sound of the Roman whip as it shredded His human flesh. Jesus no longer resembled the teacher who walked our towns teaching, healing, loving. I wept as I saw how they pushed that mocking crown of thorns into His scalp . . . until His face shone crimson with His own blood. When I looked up at Him, my heart refused to register what my eyes witnessed. His breathing was becoming more shallow, the movement of his chest barely visible.

He could no longer push Himself up to get a breath. His flesh tore where the spikes had been driven. This was the end. The man, Jesus, who had loved me was gone. Dead.

That was Friday. Today is Sunday. We're going to the tomb. No words flow from our lips, only fresh tears that wash our cheeks and broken hearts that are heavy with grief. The hill seems steeper, but finally the tomb is in sight. We manage to run the last few steps . . . only to see that something is terribly wrong. The stone? It has been rolled away!

How can I bear this? He was the only person who ever treated me with dignity. How I loved Him! I thought He was Messiah, that's what Peter and the other apostles thought too. Wasn't it enough that He died? Now this. Someone has stolen His body!

We rushed inside. Am I dreaming? Has grief stolen my mind? Suddenly, two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside us. Terrified, we hit the ground face down, bowing low before those . . . those beings.

The words they were about to speak would change the world, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!" (Luke 24:6-7). Then I remembered.

As you read my story today, ponder this. What is your response to the empty tomb? Are you puzzled as I was? (Luke 24:4). Are you, like Peter, wondering if Jesus was just a prophet, a mighty teacher, or a miracle worker? But Messiah? He didn't think so. Not now. (Luke 24:12, 19).

Maybe this is what I'm really asking, has the empty tomb made any difference in your life? Whatever your answer, would you come with me . . . back to the grave where He lay so we can remember . . .

Yes, the hill is quiet. Evidence of the bloody cross washed away by time. The empty tomb unnecessary, diminished by unbelief and forgetfulness. Whatever the rest of the world may say, we will remember the words of the angels on that first Resurrection Sunday. We will remember that the best news of all still comes from that one empty grave. He is not here. He has risen! I'm Mary Magdalene and I serve a risen Savior!

Pat Quesenbury has been active in ladies' ministry for years. She is a pastor's wife, mother and active member of the Women's Missionary Auxiliary. Contact her at pquesenbury@gmail.com.



BMA of America



Recommendations for BMA of America

By **JERRY FULTON**

Baptist Progress Editor

Recommendations for the BMA of America Meeting, scheduled for May 1-3 at the Arlington Convention Center in Arlington have been released to Baptist Progress and include the following:

COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee on Arrangements is recommending that the 2020 meeting be held at the Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie, April 27-29, 2020. The Fairfield Inn & Suites Marriott will serve as the lead hotel.

MORAL ACTION

1. That Dr. John M. Adams stand as a nominee for Executive Director of Moral Action.
2. That the proposed Moral Action budget be approved. (\$65,464.98)
3. That our churches and pastors embrace and support our nation by participating and promoting the National Day of Prayer, May 4, 2017 to join other Americans in praying for our nation. Meetings can be conducted at town halls, city halls, county courthouses and State houses.
4. That all our BMA churches schedule June 25 or July 2, as the Moral Action "Freedom Offering" Sunday. This is an opportunity to honor or give memorials for our soldiers, both past and present.
5. That our local associations, our local and state WMA and Brotherhoods, and our local churches be encouraged to give a financial gift or a budgeted monthly gift to Moral Action. These funds will strengthen this ministry.
6. That Dr. John M. Adams, Executive Director, represent the BMA of America in Washington, D.C. by encouraging and contacting our United States Senators, Congressmen, and other Christian moral/political organizations such as the American Family Association (AFA), Focus on the Family, Family Research Council, Alliance Defending Freedom, Heritage Foundation, and AFA.
7. That our Baptist Missionary Association of America reaffirm and approve these six (6) Moral Action resolutions and that they be mailed to the President, United States Senators, the United States House of Representatives, and the United States Supreme Court.
8. That we humbly request that these resolutions be printed in our BMA state newspapers.
9. That the BMA churches recognize and honor our grandparents and great grandparents on Grandparents Day September 10, 2017. They have so often set the highest of morals.

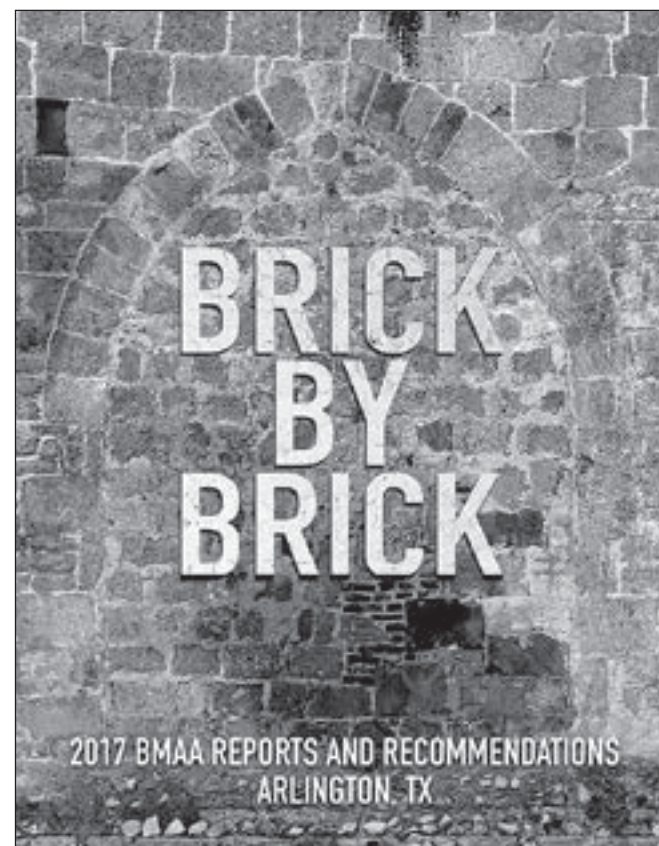
10. That our churches, pastors, and church staff /deacons utilize the 2 Moral Action web-pages: www.macbma.net and www.moralactionofms.net

LIFEWORD MEDIA MINISTRIES

1. That we adopt the proposed operating budget for 2017. (\$1,305,519)
2. That Sunday, October 22, 2017, be set aside as Lifeword Sunday.
3. That the housing allowance be set at \$2,500 per month for the broadcast officer, creative officer, financial officer, program director, and executive director for this year and beyond until amended.
4. That the executive director be paid a base salary of \$76,984, one-half of Social Security/Medicare, health and dental insurance, retirement at 6 percent of salary and an auto allowance. Note: The recommended compensation is based on an independent evaluation of the executive director position by Phillip Blount and Associates, an independent compensation consulting firm used by a number of Baptist groups. Compensation levels are determined through a three-step process—job analysis, job evaluation, and extensive market research. The recommended amount is at the 25th percentile level.
5. That Lifeword change from a calendar financial year to a fiscal financial year beginning June 1 and ending May 31, effective June 1, 2017.
6. That a rising vote of appreciation be given for the following board members who have completed their second term of service: Arthur McMillen and Barbara Steele, as well as Pat McNeel, who passed away in 2016.
7. That Donny Parrish stand as a nominee for Executive Director.

MINISTERS RESOURCE SERVICES

1. That Ron Chesser stand as nominee for Executive Director of Ministers Resource Services.
2. That the Executive Director's annual base salary remain the same at \$63,800 with \$18,000 of that amount being designated as housing allowance for IRS purposes.
3. That the budget of \$249,113.57 be approved.
4. We urge each church to enroll her pastor and church staff in the BMA Retirement Plan at Ministers Resource Services.
5. We urge our pastors and their wives to enroll in the Ministers Benevolent Society and Auxiliary.
6. We urge each church to include Ministers Resource Services in her monthly budgeted offerings to the various



departments and agencies of the BMA.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

1. Affirmation of the proposed budget (\$1,483,218.73)
2. Re-affirm the appointment of Dr. Charley Holmes as president.
3. Each church observe Sunday, May 21, 2017, as Scholarship Sunday with:
 - special prayer for our graduates.
 - receive a special scholarship offering to support the training of future BMA pastors and missionaries on that Sunday.

DISCIPLEGUIDE

1. We recommend the adoption of the 2017 DiscipleGuide Budget. (\$1,070,063)
2. We recommend that Scott Attebery stand as a nominee for the position of Executive Director of DiscipleGuide.
3. We recommend that the executive director be paid a base salary of \$49,646, a housing allowance of \$32,000, one-half of Social Security/Medicare, health and dental insurance, retirement at 6% of salary and an auto allowance. Note: The

RECOMMENDATIONS continued on p. 5

BMA of America



Director of International Missions to step down at BMA Missions

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

BMA of America

After serving for the past four years as director of International Missions, Bro. Phil Knott shared with BMA staff and missionaries his decision to retire from his position in May 2017. He will continue to serve in his current role through the BMA national meeting (May 1-3) and beyond as the transition takes place.



▲ **Phil Knott**

Bro. Phil said, “As we all know, in leadership you never work alone. Time and space fails me in order to mention all those who have had key roles in shaping and nurturing our

global mission effort in recent years. I would, though, like to mention particularly David Dickson in Latin America, Charles Costa in the Middle East, Doyle Moore in Southeast Asia, Jeff Franks in Eastern Europe, and Buddy Johnson, our training coordinator. Going far beyond their own unique missionary experience, they have all have taken on larger roles of coordinating, equipping, encouraging and mobilizing many others. Their ongoing contribution to BMA Missions is invaluable, and it is my great joy to serve alongside them.

“Obviously, we owe a lot to Dr. John David Smith. Leading change in an organization is one of the most challenging aspects of leadership, and I think he has done it remarkably well. Personally, I also owe a great deal to Jerry Kidd, who first gave me the opportunity to help lead this great global endeavor. I am humbled by the trust that I have been given,” said Knott.

Bro. Phil began his career in ministry at the age of 19, serving churches and doing pastoral work in Texas throughout the 1970s. He was commissioned as a BMA missionary to Costa Rica, a ministry lasting 18 years. After phasing out of this ministry in 2000, he began working for BMA Missions as an assistant to International Director Jerry Kidd then as Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, and four years ago, he took on the leadership role of International Director.

“My plans are to continue in missions ‘post-retirement,’ taking on some field assignments for which I have developed an affinity and calling. If the Lord continues to lead in that direction, LaJuana and I will be joining the ranks of all of you who go out there and raise support funds. I’ll have an opportunity to ‘practice what I preach.’ Whatever our future ministry may be, I look forward to the new and exciting challenges ahead. We desire your prayers,” said Knott.

Johnson to replace Knott as director of BMAA International Missions

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

BMA of America

Bro. Eric Johnson, former missionary to Mexico, will replace Bro. Phil Knott as director of BMA of America International Missions, effective in May. Bro. Knott recently announced his retirement after four years in that position.

Johnson was born into a family of BMA missionaries, and he and his wife, Kelly, and three children, Audrey Lee, Matty Ann, and Abram Gaylan, began serving as church planters in Pachuca, Mexico in 2008. In 2011 Kelly was diagnosed with an illness that, over time, God has used to lead them back to ministry in the United States. Since then Johnson has continued to serve in BMA Missions through church planter training in evangelism, discipleship and biblical studies. Knott will work with Johnson during the next year as Johnson transitions into his new role as International Missions Director.

“We give praise and glory to God, our Healer, for the work he has done during the difficult time of Kelly’s illness and diagnosis, and we are very grateful for his mercy in our lives. Because of the strict nature of her diet and her immune system we had to conclude that it was not God’s will for

us to live in Mexico. This was not an easy decision, but an obvious one. Dr. John David Smith, Bro. Phil Knott and BMA Missions staff were very helpful to us during this time. I am very grateful for this opportunity to serve the Lord and our churches, and I believe that God has much more in store for our future.”



▲ **The Eric Johnson Family**

An occasion 60 years in the making!

We want to invite you to join us for a very special dinner celebrating the 60th anniversary of the BMA Theological Seminary.

When?

Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

(in conjunction with the BMAA Annual Meeting)

Where?

Rooms M5-M8 - Arlington Convention Center

Cost?

\$30/ticket

Deadline: Tickets must be purchased no later than April 20, 2017.

Every guest will receive three (3) very special gifts. It will be a wonderful opportunity to rejoice in what the Lord has done for BMA Seminary and to look forward to where He is leading.



Please contact Keri Southern at the BMA Seminary for more information. She can be reached by telephone at 800-259-5673 and by email at president@bmatr.edu.



BMA of America



Volunteer Student Missions trains over 100 for mission trips



By **EMILY BRANTLEY**

TEAM Washington Leader

Recently, nearly 100 students and leaders going on 12 different international/national mission trips gathered at Petit Jean Mountain for World Missions Weekend. This is the new name for the training of Volunteer Student Missions. The time was divided into team times and lessons on how to prepare our hearts spiritually, how to be respectful of the various cultures we will be encountering, and how to serve and encourage the long-term missionaries in any and every way.

This was the first time and only time teams met together to plan before heading to the mission field. This weekend was vital for teams to learn how to work together, despite differences, to accomplish their goal of encouraging and aiding the missionaries in any and every way possible. Many teams used this time to plan for the activities, such as Vacation Bible Schools, that they had scheduled for their trips. Other teams used their time to really get to know each other and to form bonds and friendships that would enhance their experience on the mission field.

During the course of the weekend we heard from great disciple-makers and missionaries: Bro. Donny Parrish, Dr. John David Smith, Bro. Phil Knott, Bro. Eric Johnson and Bro. Andy Comer. We were challenged to be global Christians, to seek service and not glory while on the mission field, and to have a heart rooted in the Gospel. We were encouraged and challenged to be on mission in our communities while preparing for our mission trips. We were also taught important protocols and procedures for traveling to foreign countries and being respectful one there.

World Missions Weekend is a time of training, fellowshiping and worship that is indispensable for the students and leaders going on these trips all over the world. Going into a different culture can shock all of us and we must be prepared for those circumstances before they come. This weekend is all about preparing our hearts and minds as we go into these new places and without it, we could not be effective on our trips.

Recommendations for BMA of America cont.

recommended compensation is based on an independent compensation-consulting firm used by a number of Baptist groups. Compensation levels are determined through a three-step process—job analysis, job evaluation, and extensive market research. The recommended amount is at the 25th percentile level.

4. We recommend that churches participate in DiscipleGuide's special emphasis month.

BMA FOUNDATION

1. That the proposed 2017 operating budget be approved. (\$114,345)

2. That the Executive Director's compensation be set at \$9,600.

3. That \$7,200 of the Executive Director's compensation be designated as housing allowance for income tax purposes.

4. That Charles Attebery stand as a nominee as Executive Director.

5. That BMAA church members prayerfully consider including the BMA Foundation in their estate plans with a bequest of at least 10%. An undesignated bequest will benefit all BMA of America departments and agencies or individuals may designate their bequests as desired.

BMA OF AMERICA MISSIONS

1. We recommend the election of Stan and Donna Scroggins as missionaries to the Philippines.

2. We recommend that Jayna Williams is an endorsed missionary candidate.

3. We recommend the following concerning the retirement age missionaries: The retirement age for BMAA missionaries will correspond with the SSNRA +1 year (Social Security Normal Retirement Age). If the missionary intends to continue in some capacity after the SSNRA +1 year, he or she will need to re-apply through the Missions office, advisory committee, and the association. The missionary will be responsible for raising his or her funds based on an approved budget that will provide whatever personal support and ministry funds needed.

4. We recommend that Michael Barton be extended for one year in Canada, to be reviewed on a yearly basis.

5. We recommend to partner with the replant of Temple Baptist Church (Little Rock, AR) now called South City Church, at \$2,000 per month stipend for one year, to be re-evaluated after one year.

6. We recommend Jordan and Sarah Bowen to a self-funded missional church planting residency/internship.

7. We recommend Nathan Brewer as a church planter to Oklahoma City with a stipend of \$2,000 a month. We also recommend Thomas Mobly as Nathan's associate church

planter, Thomas will raise his own funds/support.

8. We recommend forgiving the loan amount of \$39,965.32 on the four loans in South Korea.

9. We recommend a stipend of \$2,000 through May 2017 for John Bienlein to continue the ministry for the deaf.

10. We recommend the election of Eric Johnson as the new International Missions Director effective May 2017. We also recommend that Phil Knott stay on in his role until June 2018, this is to help Eric transition into his new role.

11. We want to commend Dr. John David Smith on his selection of Eric Johnson as Director of International Missions.

12. We want to express our thanks to Phil and LaJuana Knott for their work in Costa Rica and in the Missions Office.

13. We recommend the 2017 budget as presented by the Missions Department. (\$2,974,178)

14. We recommend the re-election of Dr. John David Smith as Executive Director of BMAA Missions.

15. We recommend that the Executive Director's salary be set at \$44,000. Along with all director's housing allowance set at \$24,000.



Senior Adult Conference details announced

DiscipleGuide's annual Senior Adult Conference is your opportunity to catch up with friends in the beauty of the Ozarks. Join seniors from around the BMA November 13-15, 2017 at the Hilton Convention Hotel in Branson, Missouri. Enjoy the powerful preaching of Don Chandler, inspirational music of Steve Green, and encouraging ministry of the Central Baptist College Singers. Plus, Neil Dumas and David Attebery will lead everyone in singing! This year's conference includes tickets to Sight & Sound Theaters' special Christmas show, Miracle of Christmas when you register by October 19. Plus, enjoy a fully catered breakfast each morning. And in your free time, walk across the street to Branson Landing for food and shopping.

For more information about the conference, or to register your group, visit discipleguide.org/senior or call 800.333.1442.



He's worth it

By LARRY BARKER

Fellowship is key to our relationships in life. Someone has said, "To dwell up above with those that we love, oh, that will be glory. To dwell down below with those that we know, now that's another story." Philippians 3:10 says, "My goal is to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death." The key to understanding this verse is the word fellowship. It is a sense of closeness to God and the intimacy we can experience with Him. Jesus is worth the effort to know Him better!

This passage can be broken down into four parts. **First, it's personal!** "That I may know Him." We can easily fall into the trap of being more focused what we "do" for Christ rather than "who" we are in Him. "Doing" is marking things off of our to-do list, but being in Christ transforms our lives. **Second, it's powerful!** "The power of His resurrection." Many think that God doesn't place more on us than we can handle although, actually, He may. But, He never places more on us than HE can handle. We are able to do all things through Christ who strengthens us!

Third, it's painful! "The fellowship of His suffering." Paul considered it a privilege to be able to suffer for Christ. He courageously declared from prison that to live was Christ and to die was gain. It is not always easy to follow Christ, but He is worth it. **Fourth, it's practical!** "Being conformed to His death." Every day you need to have a funeral for the flesh. Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live." Jesus said, "If any man come after me, let him deny himself, daily, take up his cross and follow me."

We must think in terms of relationship and not just in terms of information. We can readily see the historical facts of Christ's resurrection and His suffering, but these are spiritual truths that we need to grasp over and over again. Christ considered us worth the suffering and dying on the cross for us. He is worth whatever "suffering" or "sacrifices" we have to make. Jesus moved the disciples along a trajectory from "Come and See" to "Come and Die!" The reality is that the only reason we can have fellowship with Him is because He suffered for us!

Jesus' resurrection enables us to live by His power and His suffering allows us to live in His presence. You cannot separate the two! This biblical foundation allows us to build a philosophy of ministry that clearly states the following clearly:

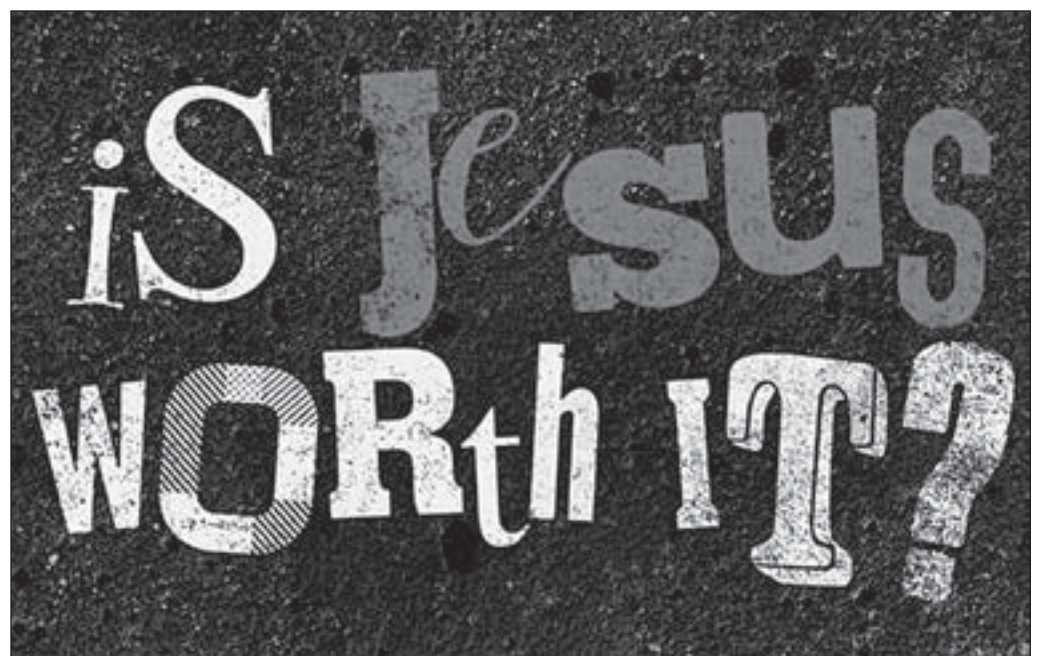
1. He is worth whatever He asks us to do! Jesus did not die on the cross of Calvary for our comfort. Worship is giving God the worth He deserves in our praise and singing. It is saying with every fiber of our being that He is worth it. He is worth every sacrifice, everything it might cost us, and every loss that might occur. Paul says in Philippians 3, "Because of Him I have suffered all things and consider them filth, so that I might gain Christ." He is worth it!

2. The real goal of life is to know Christ! Sometimes we think the object of life is to never suffer and to do all we can to avoid pain. Certainly, no one looks forward to pain, but we must remember that the only reason we can have fellowship with Him is because He suffered for us. After Paul stresses this lesson he says, "Therefore, all who are mature should think this way. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this also to you."

3. Real joy comes through us saying yes to the cross! There is a cost to joy. Jesus proved this principle in that He endured the cross for the joy set before Him. Saying yes to the cross means doing what you are supposed to do, when you are supposed to do it, whether you feel like it or not. Paul knew what it was like to experience persecution. Check out II Corinthians 4:7-10 where he declares that through his suffering the power of Christ was then evident.

4. You can trust Him with and in times of suffering! Christ is with us in and during the trials and tribulations of this life. He asks so little of us and gave His life so that we might have eternal life. Even in suffering you can trust Him...especially in times of suffering. Someone has said, "In happy moments, praise God! In difficult moments, seek God! In quiet moments, worship God! In painful moments, trust God! In every moment, thank God!"

5. Is what I am living for worth Christ dying for? In



his first book (2:21), Peter says, "For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you." Jesus has a mission for His church and that involves more than nice buildings, great programs, and ice cream socials. Is your church passionately pursuing the lost so they might know Christ also? How can we sit around, seemingly unconcerned, while multitudes die without Christ facing eternal punishment in hell?

The real transformation in our lives comes from knowing Christ and the fellowship of His sufferings. A willingness to do whatever He asks. Actually, I like what Luke McCown recently said, "Jesus doesn't need Christians who are willing to go. He needs them to go." Talk is cheap but the time has come for churches to rise up and be who He intended us to be. God's plan of making disciples as described in His word will work if we will work His plan. There is no plan B! He is worth it!

Larry Barker is the pastor of Cornerstone, Jacksonville. He also serves as the operations director for North American Missions. For more information or to contact him, visit www.bmamissions.org.



BMA TEXAS

MISSIONS

Your Church's Mission Movement in Texas



By HEITH MITCHELL

A WORD FROM YOUR MISSION OFFICE

God is answering your prayers on behalf of Texas Missions and each of your missionaries. He is faithful and gracious like that, isn't He? I thank each of you who are reading the updates in Baptist Progress each month and then lifting up each of the requests. You mean so much to each missionary as a faithful prayer partner.

I have some open dates in the next few months and would love to share with your church about your Texas Mission Movement. Also, feel free to contact us anytime with questions and concerns. Call me at the Missions Office or email me.

A WORD FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES

MATTHEW PRATHER – THE BRIDGE MISSION, MIDLOTHIAN/WAXAHACHIE

Over the past several months we have been serving our community and building relationships with those that we come in contact with. We do this to show people the love of Christ. Recently we received this message from a local leader in our community: "I'm truly amazed at the positive examples and generosity of your church." I am excited about the impact we are beginning to make. We launched weekly services on Easter Sunday. We are excited about this next step as a church and ask that you would continue to lift The Bridge up in prayers. If you or your church is looking for a place for you youth or church to serve this summer please let us know. We are planning dates now and are looking forward to the impact that different teams will help us make over the summer. Thank you for your continued payers and support!



▲ Matthew Prather

BRANDON DURHAM – REDEEMER'S LOVE MISSION, HOUSTON

We're exceedingly grateful to the BMAT Churches for all your prayer & support as we work to establish a new church in the heart of Southwest Houston! March was a whirlwind of activity for Redeemer's Love Houston. We moved our Sunday gathering into a new venue and attendance is steadily growing to around 40 every week. We launched three new midweek community groups that meet in homes. We're presently training team leaders and will launch our service teams soon to manage all the weekly "ins and outs" of ministry. Please continue to pray for God to send His workers into His harvest field as we aim to recruit a team of 40 plus men and women prior to our mid-August "New Church" inaugural service. Exciting times! To God be the glory!



▲ Brandon Durham



ARNULFO MALDONADO – TEXAS HISPANIC MISSION COORDINATOR

God continues to open doors to visit for possible new church plants. We definitely will need more leaders and more training and more funding. God has provided but I'm at a standstill because we are using all of our funds. This month we will start evaluating some church planters and will need wisdom and discernment. Pray for us.



▲ Arnulfo Maldonado

JOHN HARRIS – FOUNDATION COMMUNITY MISSION, BENBROOK

We are excited to have begun discipleship with 2 of our small group members, and have 3 more that will hopefully begin soon! Thank you for your continued prayers. We would love to come and speak to your church and tell about what God is doing in Benbrook, Texas!



▲ John Harris

GARY SOUTHARD – THE CHURCH AT VALLEY RANCH MISSION, NEW CANEY

We have moved into the Valley Ranch area where our mission is planted. It was and still is a step of faith. The families we have reached in Valley Ranch are super excited that we are there. We have already met three of our neighbors and their families. We just know the Lord is going to bless our move as we connect with and minister to the families in Valley Ranch. Our prayer is Luke 10:2b - "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." We ask that you, our BMA of Texas family, to set the alarm on your phone to go off at 10:02 a.m. and then say the above prayer in our behalf. Thank you for your support, words of encouragement and prayers!



▲ Gary Southard

TOBY GOODMAN – INTERN, JACKSONVILLE

This is my thoughts on this passage, and what I gather in my time in life of waiting and stretching. James 1:2-4 "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." The "temptation" mentioned here is not a sin temptation, but rather hard times. Trials, or "tough times." This, I believe is what God is allowing me to go through in my life. Many of you are the same way. Wondering, "Why God?" But don't worry, look at the rest of the passage, and you'll see that you'll gain patience and wanting nothing. This is part having trust, becoming like Christ. Just hang in there and keep obeying God's commands.



▲ Toby Goodman

RICK SYDNOR – LIFE CHANGE MISSION, LINDALE

Our church plant is experiencing some stalemate obstacles at this moment. There are times in life when we experience moments or seasons of moments when a situation in which you think cannot change or no action can be taken can creates anxiety and hopelessness. That is usually the case when we take our eyes off Jesus Christ and try to overcome the stalemate by your own strength. The Apostle Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6:10-11 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." God wants us to rely on Him in all situations. That requires daily spiritual armor clothes so that we fight through the devil's schemes. One way for Satan to halt progress in church planting is to create stalemate situations where you see no way to move and you think he has you in check. (Game of Chess) But God actually has Satan in Checkmate and we at times forget that. God has the power to guide us and move us to victory. When we operate in His strength and power those stalemates in life will evaporate and His will prevail. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus tells Peter "And I tell you Peter that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." This promise from our Lord and Savior keeps my wife and I going because He has checkmated Satan and our church plant is planting roots in the Rock Himself. Hallelujah!



▲ Rick Sydnor

BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p.11

Making everlasting Smiles

By ANGELA RICE

BMAA Missions Short Term Mission Coordinator

The meaning of “Everlasting Smiles” has taken on a new meaning for me since becoming personally involved with the Short Term Missions department of BMA Missions. I’ve had the privilege to work with the Everlasting Smiles Shoebox ministry of Baptist Medical Missions Inc. (BMMI) For many years my daughters and I have had the joy of packing shoeboxes to send to our missionaries around the world. This year, I’ve seen the full impact of “the life of a shoebox” and how each one is used to not only bless the children that receive them, but to open the door the missionaries to have many new ministry friends.

After you pack your Everlasting Smiles Shoebox, it comes to the BMA Missions Office where teams of teams of volunteers go through each box carefully to make sure that they have the correct items in them. The boxes are sorted and are placed into larger boxes to ship. We have limited space in our office warehouse, so the boxes are kept at a storage facility until shipping time. Shoeboxes are collected until Sept. 1. In Oct., BMMI rents a large cargo container and ships the shoeboxes to our missionaries around the world.

This year the shoeboxes were sent to the children of El Salvador and Jordan. I visited with our missionary in El Salvador just after he passed our boxes to children in villages and hospitals all over his country. He reported that many children came to get a shoebox and that they were able to tell them about Jesus and play with them. This opens a door for him to make further relationships with the children and their families.

I’ve always wondered what it would be like to watch the faces of children who are receiving the gift of a shoebox. In February, I was blessed when God provided a way for BMA Missions Office Manager, Paige West and I to go to Jordan to help deliver the boxes.

The first day in Jordan, we had an event at the Zarqa Baptist Church. Many people came. Children flooded in the doors of the church. We had to ask parents to stand at the back and outside as the church filled with children of all ages. The student team from the church lead them in songs and worship. They played games and listened to a Bible story. BMA Missionary to Jordan, Pastor Sam Jordan, told us that 98 percent of the children there were Muslim. I watched in awe as the children listened and participated in the activities. We gave out about 400 shoeboxes that day. As we finished, I started watching a few children open their boxes and look at the things inside. They didn’t take things out, but carefully put the top back on so as to protect the box from someone that might take it. They held them tightly as they left with huge smiles.

The next time we handed out boxes, we went into the desert near the Syrian boarder into a Bedouin community. As we pulled up, the people were waiting in the streets for us. We handed out boxes to many children at one camp and continued to the second camp. The children were waiting for us there also. They took us into a tent. When the tent was opened I was shocked to see that there was a classroom. The children piled in and sat on the floor with

their “desk” which was a small step stool. There were charts and worksheets covering the walls of the tent. School started in January for these students. Some of them were 10 years old but could not write their name. As a former teacher, I was so blessed by this ministry of the church. We gave out shoeboxes at the school and followed the children outside where they were huddled around their boxes. I realized why this ministry was given the name, “Everlasting Smiles.”

Yes, when they open each present there were huge, happy smiles. But there was much more to this ministry than just smiles. A seed has been planted in the hearts of these children. The gospel of Christ was given an opportunity to grow in little hearts and minds. Those shoeboxes that cost us very little money, time and effort were the vehicles of an invaluable gift. They provide an opportunity for each child and their family to come to know Christ. And THAT’S the Everlasting Smile!!

I want to challenge you...

Pray for those children that received those shoeboxes in El Salvador and Jordan. Pray that they will remember the people who gave the shoebox to them and that they will seek a



relationship with the missionaries. Pray that they will attend church. Pray that they are saved.

Make plans to pack an Everlasting Smiles Shoebox! I’ve already started packing boxes. Will you join me? What a great way to open many doors for our missionaries for just a little time and effort on our part. For more information on what to pack in your box, visit bmamissions.org. Information will be coming to your church soon on how you can get involved. If you have more questions, contact angela@bmamissions.org or 501-455-4977.

HAPPY RETIREMENT!

You are invited to a retirement reception in honor of

Eddie Marsh
President of Texas Baptist Home
2004-2017

Sunday, April 30, 2017 at 4-6 p.m.
Farley Street Baptist Church
1116 Brown • Waxahachie, Texas



TBH 5K Flashback for Their Lives Run Walk

Date: April 22nd, 2017
Time: 8:00 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. Race Start
Place: Getzendaner Park
400 S. Grand Ave
Waxahachie, TX
Cost: \$30 per person
\$25 per person for groups of 4 or more

Awards
Bounce House
Fun Activities for all ages

Proceeds support Adoption Services at

HOME
TEXAS BAPTIST FOR CHILDREN

Register at www.tbhc.org
Sponsorships or Questions contact Alec Franco at af franco@tbhc.org or call 972-937-1321

80's Style Wear your best

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 Mar. 1, 2017 – Mar. 31, 2017.

ENDOWMENTS

MYRA STOKES: Mr. Bill Stokes
E ANN PACE: Karl & Martha Pace

HONORARIUMS

BECKY BENNETT: Robert & Dorothy Olchesky
CHUCK BOSTON: Elizabeth Denton English Chapter, Winnsboro
BRO. EDDIE MARSH AND FAMILY: Earlene Crenshaw
JEAN WASDEN: Refuge Place

MEMORIALS

DAN ADAMS: James & Susan Anderson
LARRY ADAMS: Travis Chambliss & Joel Chambliss
NANCY 'LAYNE' AUSTIN: Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church
PERRY BEARD: Red Springs Missionary Baptist Church, Tyler
WALTER BECKER: Dennis & Ilona Myrice
CHARLES BLOODWORTH: Pecan Baptist Church Sunday School Class, Robert Lee
JOANN BLOODWORTH: Pecan Baptist Church Sunday School Class, Robert Lee
BRO. RAYMOND BRADY: Sheppard Drive Baptist Church
SANDRA BRISTER: Leonard & Jerre Haag
RONNIE BROWN: Calvary Baptist Church, Midlothian
BILLIE BRUCE: Pecan Baptist Church Sunday School Class, Robert Lee
MICHAEL CARTER: Patsy Bishop
SYBIL CONDOR: Charles & Eileen Kubala; Nita Condor; Jamie Woods
BENNY CORLEY: Pecan Baptist Church Sunday School Class, Robert Lee
JOHNNY DODSON: Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Bertha McCool
Cecil Downey: Carlie Downey
TOMMY FIKES: Ladies & Mens Sunday School Class @ First Baptist Church, Blooming Grove
NORMA FREEMAN: Mary Sprinck and Willing Workers Class
AUBREY GANDY: Jerry & Virginia Gandy
PAULINE GANDY: Jerry & Virginia Gandy
HESTER GIBSON: Janice Dore
LOIS GIBSON: Janice Dore
JAMES GLASS: Margaret Tankersley; Rayburn & Margaret McCown
ROY HARRIS: Ladies & Men SS Class, Blooming Grove
HEATH: Jimmy Ray & Cynthia Green
CRYSTAL HEISCHMANN: Missionary Baptist Church, Paducah
FRANKIE HILLMAN: Frances Townlin; Mr. & Mrs. Donald Trawick
JO HORN: Worker's SS Class, Jacksonville; Margaret Tankersley; Robert & Jo Ann Bass; Rayburn & Margaret McCown; Maxine Caveness
JIM HUGHES: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
JAMES 'JIM' HYMER: Dale & Trena Tillery; Garry & Bonnie Miller; Wendell & Glynn Horton; Thais D. Meyer Beshirs; Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Donna Johnson; James & Jackie Glasscock; Jeremy, Justin, Nicole, Peyton & Jessica Glasscock; Marvin & Evelyn Gardner
CODY KEEL: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
BILLY KING: Margaret King
BILLY H. KING: Margaret King
LEOLA KINCAID: Linda Carnes
RUBY PAULINE MILLICAN: Pecan Baptist Church Sunday School Class, Robert Lee
MR. & MRS. HARRY J. MEYER: Roy & Elizabeth Talbot
CHRISTINE MOORE: Margaret Tankersley; Rayburn & Margaret McCown; Maxine Caveness
NUEL MYERS, JR.: Harold & Jocie Lewis
ALICE HALL PACE: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
DARRELL PARKER: Roland & Sandra Plaster
MARION E. 'PETE' PATTERSON: Pecan Baptist Church Sunday School Class, Robert Lee
JAMIE PAYNE: Joseph & Norma Martin
JUDY PUGH: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
PATSY RAINEY: Charles & Portia Gordon
ALEXANDER JOSIAH RUIZ: Concha Rouse
MRS. SHEARON SHELTON: Sheppard Drive Baptist Church, Eules
LINDA SMITH: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
JACKIE RAY STEGALL: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
JOHN ALAN TURNER: Jerry & Jackie Blalock
MARY WOLFINGTON: John Wolfington
MIKE WOODS: Little Flock Missionary Baptist Church



Texas Baptist Home recognizes Child Abuse Prevention Month

By **JENNIFER WALKER**

Texas Baptist Home for Children

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The statistics can be staggering when you discuss abuse but we must reach out to the victims of child abuse because “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction” (KJV, James 1:27). The children of Texas Baptist Home have come to us because they were abused or neglected. We seek to provide a safe, loving, Christian home that will nurture and care for them as they heal.

These kids feel so loved when they come to Texas Baptist Home foster care. They are provided with food, a clean home and bed, and parents who provide and care for them as the children’s biological family works on healing and becoming the type of family that the child needs. TBH works closely with CPS to provide the needs for the

child but CPS cannot provide everything the child needs. That is where your help comes into the picture. With your donations and support, you provide the tangible needs of the 120 plus children who are in our care every day. Children like Jason, who came into care with only a backpack full of a few clothes. Jason now has everything he could need or want, including toys and games. His favorite thing to do is ride his new bike that he received because of your generous donations.

On April 30, join with us and thousands of churches and individuals for Blue Sunday. Blue Sunday is a day to take time and pray for these children affected by abuse. Please visit our website www.tbhc.org or call us at 972-937-1321, to see how your church can get involved today in foster care and adoption with Texas Baptist Home.

Texas Baptist Home Trustees host staff appreciation lunch

The trustees of the Texas Baptist Home for Children hosted a catered lunch in honor of their staff April 11, 2017. Gifts were given to employees in recognition for their years of service.

Interim President Randy Odom said, “Our ministry is only as good as our staff.”

Charles Johnson, chairman of the board of trustees, told the staff, “In one sense, you are our employees and what you do is your job. But really what you do is a ministry.”

Texas Baptist Home for Children definitely performs ministry as they offer foster care services, adoption services and help for mothers with unexpected pregnancies. For more information on Texas Baptist Home for Children, visit www.tbhc.org.



▲ Randy Odom



▲ Texas Baptist Home Staff



▲ Charles Johnson



▲ Texas Baptist Home Trustee Chairman Charles Johnson presents Programs Administrator Jami Hogan with a gift in recognition of her 15 years of service.



insights for pastors

Successful time management

By **DR. ALLEN TILLEY**

Being like a pastor is like pushing marbles uphill by hand. Just the time you think you've got everything going in the right direction, they come tumbling down. A pastor friend of mine said, "Pastoring is why I like watching sports. At the end of the game, at least everything is settled." Pastors not only work at least forty hours a week, but they are also on call seven days a week including vacations. If you are having trouble managing your time, here are some suggestions that might help.

PERSONAL TIME MANAGEMENT

Like me, most pastors suffer from the need for approval. We want to be liked, appreciated, and thought of as a caring pastor. But for the sake of our sanity and the health of our homes, we need to set boundaries. To keep from feeling guilty, let your church know that you love them and want to minister to them, but that your family is just as important. Not more important, but just as important.

Don't be afraid to turn your phone off at mealtime. If it is important, they will leave a message. Afterwards, you can return the call and respond. Set a date night or family game time once

a week. Let your church know this date is nonnegotiable and that as soon as possible you will be available to their needs. Leave the church behind on vacation. As I look back, this is my biggest regret. If you are a solo pastor, ask a pastor friend to be available for funerals or hospital visits in your absence. With his permission, give your church his phone number for emergencies.

Attend your children's school activities. Remember they are church members too who need their pastor/father just as much as anyone else in the church. Schedule important dates for your family when they won't conflict with church obligations. For me, because I never knew where I would be at night, I missed birthdays until we decided to have birthday breakfasts complete with cake and ice cream. This has become such a cherished time that now my children are grown, we still celebrate that way. With a little patience and effort, you can be a great dad/father while being a successful pastor.

PROFESSIONAL TIME MANAGEMENT

Because the demands of ministry are many, you can feel overwhelmed with all your responsibilities. The key is to set your schedule ahead of time instead of letting the "fires" of ministry

set your schedule. Here's how. Make a weekly to-do list. List everything you need to accomplish that week, then prioritize that list. Then do your best to stick to your schedule. Set a time for personal prayer and Bible study. If you're really busy, this time might be before your day starts or after it ends. You will never grow deeper than the time you spend in the Word.

Go off the grid for sermon preparation. It might mean getting out of the office, or notifying your secretary that you are in "do not disturb." Your greatest responsibility is your sermon, so treat it that way. Use your phone. Sometimes a call will mean just as much as a personal visit. Enlist others in the work of the ministry. By letting others help, you will not only train leaders, but you will ensure that your health holds up for the long haul.

Dr. Allen Tilley is pastor of First Baptist Church of Carthage, Texas. He has over 30 years of pastoral experience, and God has continually blessed his ministry with dynamic spiritual and numerical growth. Contact him at allen@firstbaptistcarthage.com.



BMA Texas Missions cont.

CLIFF ROBERTSON – CARPENTER'S HOUSE MISSION - LAKE JACKSON/CLUTE

We are working hard toward our launch. We are meeting every week and growing. The volunteers are getting excited as they see their hard work beginning to show fruit. Keep us in your prayers. We have a long way to go!



▲ **Cliff Robertson**

Prayer requests from the field

-Cliff Robertson and Carpenters House Mission of Lake Jackson/Clute asks you to pray for God to send them a worship leader.

-Pray for outreach fruit at Foundation Community Mission in Benbrook and for a new home for John and Sarah Harris.

-Pray for Easter Sunday Service and for a new worship location for Life Change Mission.

-Interns Toby Goodman and Christian Martinez are seeking God's direction about where they should start a church.

-Intern Christian Martinez asks prayer for his expecting wife and

baby. Please pray for both of their health.

-Arnulfo Maldonado asks you to pray for more funds, more leaders, and more churches.

-Matthew Prather with The Bridge Church of Midlothian asks you to pray for their Launch Service this Easter Sunday Morning. He also asks that you pray his wife Amy finds a new teaching job and that the many more will come to know Christ as their Savior.

-Brandon and Redeemer's Love ask us to pray for Wisdom to manage his time well and to invest in the right places. More workers as we strive to reach our goal of 40 launch team members, and 6 community Groups.

-Pray for new families reached at The Church at Valley Ranch Mission. They are specifically praying for 8 new families.

-Neptaly Molina from the Nacogdoches Mission is waiting on his Religious Work Visa approval.

PRAISE REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

-5 Salvations were reported from the field this month!

-Carpenter's House Mission in Lake Jackson/Clute is up and going! They are reaching out in their community and saw two

saved this month! Cliff Robertson has spent the last year as a intern preparing for this work. He began as missionary in March.

-John Harris of Foundation Community Mission in Benbrook sold their house! Small groups and discipleship has begun in Benbrook!

-Redeemer's Love Mission is moved into their new rented facility and they saw two saved this month!

-Gary and Rhonda Southard have completed their move into the Valley Ranch Community! This is an exciting ministry move but also a step of faith for this couple.

-It's a boy! David and Bethany Smart welcomed Ezekiel David Smart this month. The baby is healthy and blessed. David is Associate at The Bridge Mission in Midlothian and Missions Assistant in the missions office.

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





auxiliaries

Texas GMA, under construction

By SHARON COLE

The theme for this year's Texas GMA Houseparty was "Under Construction," focusing on Ephesians 2:22, "... and in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit." This year only 68 girls and counselors attended the Houseparty at Daniel Springs Encampment March 17-18, 2017. The theme song was "He's Making Diamonds Out of Dust." The project this year was Will and Kelly Hutchinson, missionaries and church planters in Hutto, Texas. A video of them was presented explaining their work and how, as an outreach, distributed blankets and scarves to the homeless in the area. A total of \$2,036.16 was given toward this project with New Harmony, Tyler being the group who gave the most.

The new project for 2017-18 is: 90 percent Daniel Springs kitchen equipment, and 10 percent General Fund.

Mary Key presented a special in song, "How Can It Be." GMA Promoter, Kendra Verhelle, honored Kristi Key for her years of service as GMA Promoter and was given a gift of appreciation. The Jr. Miss GMA candidate, Autumn Brown of Van Zandt County, and Kristi Key were honored with a reception in the cafeteria. Special speaker for the houseparty this year was Shawn Hammontree from Conway, Arkansas.

Going along with the theme of construction, Bro. Hammontree spoke about guardrails and how they are important as we travel on the road and the personal and spiritual guardrails that we need to watch out for. We have to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit as He directs us and remember that the ultimate guardrail is Jesus. A special treat was enjoyed by everyone as the Texas WMA officers served ice cream sundaes to show their interest and support for GMA. Bro. Hammontree again spoke to the audience about surrounding yourself with wise and godly people and you will be less likely to go the wrong way. Our friends have more influence on us than anyone else. So when we catch ourselves trying to be someone that we are really not, put up a guardrail and do not compromise.

Officers for the year 2017-2018 are: President-Cheyenne Collard, Old Bethel, Canton; 1st Vice-Chloe Key-Old Bethel, Canton; 2nd Vice-Kaitlynn Crudginton, Oak Grove, Canton; 3rd Vice-Sarah Kizer, Fellowship, Pittsburg; Secretary/Project Promoter-Jenna Schmidt, First, Palmer; Historian-Megan Gebauer, Oak Grove, Canton; Song Leader-Mary Key, Old Bethel, Canton; Praise Team-Sarah and Abby Phillips, Enon, Gilmer; Adult Project Promoter-Darla Gardner, First, Palmer;

Adult Secretary-Hayley Maynard, First, Palmer; Adult Song Leader-Laura Hazzard, Oak Grove, Canton; Adult Historian-Tracie Gebauer, Oak Grove, Canton; Adult Treasurer-Jeannie Walker, Northside, Conroe; Adult Assistant Treasurer-Lisa Maynard, First, Palmer.

Advisory Council members are Glenda Chamberlain, Lisa Maynard, Makenna Wilson and Renee Rodriguez. Texas WMA President, Sherry Decker, led in the installation of the new officers and charged them and all the girls to choose to follow Phil. 4:4-9. They are to focus on "whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable or praiseworthy. Each officer placed a road construction sign into the top of an orange construction cone representing each topic of the scripture. Sherry challenged all girls to not give up, keep working and pushing forward and look to see where God wants to use them in His plan for their life.

In the Saturday afternoon program, Cheryl Hughes, Assistant GMA Promoter led in recognizing the girls who reached special accomplishments during the year. Recognition was given to those who were saved and passed a Forward Step. Approximately 30 girls participated. Katlynn Crudginton and Mary Key presented a song: "Oh, God, How I Need You." The Jr. Miss GMA, Autumn Brown, representing Van Zandt County, was introduced and given the title sash. The Texas WMA President, Sherry Decker presented Autumn with a gift. Representing the Baptist Progress, Teel Witt presented Autumn with a Bible and a gift for the previous Jr. Miss GMA, Kara Buck.

NATIONAL WMA-MAY 2, 2017-ARLINGTON, TEXAS

"Grace Wins" is the theme for the National WMA meeting this year in the Arlington Convention Center, May 2, 2017. This year we are excited to bring you an all new schedule to help empower us as ladies with our unique needs. The schedule begins at 8:45 a.m. with registration. The meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. with the business meeting. Then at 10:00 a.m. there will be "Break-out" sessions and topics from which to choose to attend. Each session will last 10 minutes and time to get to the other sessions that you wish to attend. Topics will cover "Grace Wins" in: Minister's families; Working with Youth; Through Sickness; In the Mission Field; and in Your Golden Years. At 10:30 a.m. a chalk talk will be presented by Shirley Hoffpauir. Several changes will be made this year allowing National WMA officers to be a member of any BMA church that has a WMA or Women's Ministry

and that she also is a member of that church's WMA or Women's Ministry Group. The WMA is to open their arms to all women of the BMA churches. If they choose a different name to create interest in their church and reach their women, they may be allowed to do so. All women of the BMA churches tailor their groups to fit individual churches. Most ministries and programs need some adjustments as they are implemented from one church to another. The Standard of Excellence will no longer be used or recognized on the national level. The Growth and Development Committee feel that it has served its purpose. Only the top 10 contributors to the project will be recognized and listed in the program book. For more information check out the National WMA website at www.nationalwmaofbmaa.net. You can still send your offerings for the project: "Computers for BMA schools in Gubbarga, India. Send to: Pat Duncan, P.O. Box 30, Hardy, Arkansas 72542.



▲ Autumn Brown

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.



EVENTS

ENGAGE: BUILD A LEGACY OF CHURCH LEADERS, A CHURCH-WIDE LEADERSHIP EVENT

DATE: April 27, 2017

PLACE: Genesis Metro, Frisco

SPEAKERS: Tommy Nelson, Denton Bible Church; Brandon Cox, Grace Hills Church/Pastors.com; Shane Pruitt, SBTC Missions; Will Heath, Auxano

More information: www.gootherefuge.com/engage-2017

2017 SESSION OF THE BMA OF AMERICA

DATE: May 1-3, 2017

PLACE: Arlington Convention Center, Arlington, Texas

Headquarters Hotel: Sheraton, Arlington, Texas

104TH ANNIVERSARY

DATE: June 4, 2017

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

PLACE: Little Flock Baptist Church, Lufkin, Texas

SPEAKER: Former Pastor Gene Hazel

Dinner on the grounds

SOAR

DATE: July 5-7, 2017

PLACE: Gaylord Texan Hotel, Grapevine, Texas

SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

DATE: November 13-15, 2017

PLACE: Branson Hilton Convention Center, Branson, Missouri

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION 117TH ANNUAL SESSION

DATE: November 14-15, 2017

PLACE: New Harmony Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas

BIBLE CONFERENCE

Security Calvary Baptist Church, 5442 S. Duck Creek Road, Cleveland is hosting a one day Bible Conference on April 22, 10:00 Am-3:00 PM. We invite all surrounding community churches to join us for this day of worship and fellowship. There are many guest speakers and singers. Lunch is provided. For more information call Pastor George Drodgy at 713-320-0695.

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PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE MINISTER

EDDIE BALLARD is available for pulpit supply. Contact him at 936-635-4195 or eballard-228@att.net.

DR. BOBBY ADAMS is available for pulpit supply or interim pastor. He may be reached in Belton at 972-342-3085.

ROGER MANNING is available for pulpit supply, interim pastor duties, or a permanent call as Senior or Associate Pastor. He is ordained and has over nine years of preaching experience. Resume and past sermons are available at www.rogermanning.com. Roger lives in Waxahachie and can be reached at roger@rogermanning.com or at 402-510-3019.

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

PASTOR—Ashmore, Loop is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Tom Ingle, HCR 1, Box 23, Loop, Texas 79342, ingle@scogginkey.com or call 806-928-8843. ^{7/17}

PASTOR—Shawnee Prairie, Huntington is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to Shawnee Prairie Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1480, Huntington, Texas 75949 or shawneeprairiechurch@gmail.com. ^{4/17}

PASTOR—Hill Creek, Whitehouse is seeking a pastor. Send resume and recorded sermon to Hill Creek Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 1287, Whitehouse, Texas 75791.

PASTOR—Lost Prairie, Groesbeck is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to 514 FM 3371, Groesbeck, Texas 76642. ^{TEN}

PASTOR—Enon, Iola is seeking a bivocational pastor. Parsonage available. For information, call 281-731-7850. ^{TEN}

PASTOR—Oak Grove, Canton is seeking a music minister to serve in a bivocational capacity. Applicant must be willing to lead traditional hymns as well as current contemporary music in worship services. Please contact Bro. Randy Crudginton at trcrudgi@msn.com for more information.

PASTOR—Jim Bosley is available for pulpit supply. Contact him in Cisco at 254-442-1939.

Church news

SECURITY CALVARY, CLEVELAND will host evangelist speaker and vocalist, Dennis Rehders, at 5 p.m. May 21, 2017. Come enjoy his great testimony and singing. Fellowship and refreshments after service.

LITTLE MOUND, BIG SANDY reports that you don't need a passport to spread God's message. Little Mound's Galileans took part in a recent short mission trip right here in the states. They traveled to association sister church, Campground Baptist Church in Gulfport, MS to help them in sharing the word of God, by passing out Bibles and offering to pray with attendees of the Madri Gras parades in Gulfport. This is an outreach that God put on the heart of Pastor Bryan Attwood 12 years ago, and this was the first year to open an invitation to the other BMA churches to rally with them in this effort. There were churches represented from Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas. We showed up at the church on Friday and attended an orientation and training class to know what to expect and the purpose of the event. Then we prepared close to 3000 Bibles for the next day's events. The next morning, after a terrific breakfast, we headed to the Gulfport parade route and set up a grill to cook hamburgers and hotdogs to pass out to people that passed by and split up into teams and hit the street to spread the good news of God's love for all. "We got to hand out Bibles and speak to some people from New York." Neil Aga from Little Mound recalled. "It was a great experience." This was a great opportunity to serve the Lord and help spread His love and gospel to those who needed to hear it, and we didn't even need our pass ports.

Churches in review

MARCH 18, 2017

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	57	114	
First, Blooming Grove	202		1 by baptism
First, Palmer	52	80	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	15	34	
Jackson, Joaquin	76	126	
Little Flock, Lufkin	58	70	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	37	43	
New Harmony, Tyler	261	342	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	36	46	
Pine Brook, Tyler	32	48	
Piney Creek, Kennard	14	25	
Rosewood, Gilmer	133	268	4 by baptism, 1 by letter
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	15	21	2 by statement

MARCH 27, 2017

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Blooming Grove	211		1 by baptism
First, Crandall	78	114	1 by statement
First, Palmer	48	73	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	17	37	
Jackson, Joaquin	73	130	
Little Flock, Lufkin	58	78	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	35	45	
New Harmony, Tyler	293	366	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		55	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	44	57	
Pine Brook, Tyler	28	55	
Piney Creek, Kennard	11	22	
Rosewood, Gilmer	143	270	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	19	22	

APRIL 2, 2017

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	43	74	
First, Palmer	44	64	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	18	26	
Little Flock, Lufkin	53	60	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	32	44	
New Harmony, Tyler	277	338	1 by letter
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	40	40	
Rosewood, Gilmer	143	245	4 by baptism
Security Calvary, Cleveland	18	25	

APRIL 9, 2017

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Blooming Grove	200		2 by baptism
First, Omen	35	66	
First, Palmer	45	67	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	14	36	
Jackson, Joaquin	70	127	
Little Flock, Lufkin	60	70	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	10	18	
New Hope, Mineola	51	105	3 by baptism
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	40	45	
Pine Brook, Tyler	31	53	
Piney Creek, Kennard	12	23	
Rosewood, Gilmer	144	250	1 by baptism
Security Calvary, Cleveland	26	60	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	16	22	

Sunday School Lessons

Caleb's bold request

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: May 7, 2017

TEXT: Joshua 14:6-15

JOSHUA 14

Our lesson today focuses on the faith and boldness of Caleb. When the Israelites provoked God to wrath in the wilderness (Numbers 14) judgement was pronounced upon every Israelite with the exception of everyone under the age of 20, and also Joshua and Caleb.

Now, lots are being cast to determine the inheritance for the nine and one half tribes. Caleb and his heirs inherited Hebron. There were several factors in this blessing being

conferred upon Caleb.

1. Caleb trusted God. (Numbers 13) The faith of the rest of the company of spies who went in to scout out Jericho, faltered, but Caleb's faith never wavered. All the rest brought back "an evil report: concerning the descendants of Anak in Jericho. But Caleb stood strong among them, saying, ""Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." Numbers 13:30.

2. Caleb demonstrated through his faith, his great regard for God's promise. Faith says, "we cannot, but God can.." Caleb's words signaled to Israel. He was confident the "Anakim" or giants inhabiting Jericho, were no match for

the power of God.

3. Caleb's faith caused him to remember God's promise: Joshua 14:9

4. Caleb was aware of God's provision and blessing upon his life Joshua 14:10

5. Caleb's faith in God created a boldness within. Joshua 14:12 —"Now therefore, give me this mountain. . ."

6. Caleb and his heirs inherited Hebron because of his faith: Joshua 14:14

Caleb was not strong in his own flesh, nor was he boastful of his own strength, but his total trust was in God the Father.

The division of the land

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: May 14, 2017

TEXT: Joshua 18:1-10

Why did Joshua, after all the victories, and the promised possession of land as a result of God's covenant with Abraham, find himself chiding the remaining seven tribes, who were yet to arise and go possess their inheritance? Verse 3

Scholars have offered conjecture as to what was going on with these seven tribes.

1. They had become content with the abundance they had as a result of the spoils of victory over past conquests.

2. They may not have been excited about being a people scattered abroad, but were content to be together.

3. Perhaps the tribes of Judah and Joseph, who had already received their land, were generous in entertaining brethren yet unprovided for.

4. Taking possession of properties once controlled by the Canaanites would mean diligent, perhaps tiresome and painful work of rebuilding.

A SYMBOL FOR BELIEVERS TODAY

Could the affections of these seven tribes being turned away from their home in Canaan, serve as a picture of believers today. We sometimes get too comfortable here on earth and fail to set our affections on things above. Perhaps Paul had in mind, the lethargic spirit of these seven tribes when he admonished the church to: "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Colossians 3:2

The great old hymn, On Jordan's Stormy Banks, which we used to sing, projects that longing spirit for things above.

"Filled with delight my raptured soul would here no longer stay;
Though Jordan's waves around me roll, fearless, I'd launch away.

I am bound for the promised land, I am for the promised land;
O, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land,"

The writer of that hymn, Samuel Stennett, used Canaan as a metaphor of our heavenly abode. The seven tribes were not "casting a wishful eye." Are we?

May we as believers in Christ, never cease to look longingly to eternal bliss in glory with Christ our Lord.

Paul Gauntt is the pastor of First, Palmer. He served for a number of years as the 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 pop.gauntt@gmail.com.



OBITUARIES

DENNIS WAYNE HUDDLESTON, 68, of Grand Prairie, passed away on March 28, 2017. After a prolonged struggle with complications from a bilateral lung transplant, his precious Lord took him by the hand and led him into the Promised Land. Funeral services were April 8, 2017 at Eighth Street Baptist Church. He was born in Dallas, Texas on July 18, 1948 to William Leroy (Bill) Huddleston and Dorothy Grace Huddleston. During his many years of service at Eighth Street, Dennis served as a Bus Driver, Youth Director, Children's Minister, Minister of Music, Communications Director and Adult Sunday School Teacher. He surrendered to the ministry and was licensed as a minister in 1980. He was ordained as a deacon in 1998. Dennis was preceded in death by his father, William Leroy (Bill) Huddleston and his mother, Dorothy Grace Huddleston. Dennis is survived by his wife, Debra Jean Huddleston of Grand Prairie; son, Christopher Michael Huddleston and wife, Cheryl Dawn Huddleston of Frisco; brothers, Donald James Huddleston and wife, Dorothy Ann Huddleston of Grand Prairie and Douglas Roy Huddleston and wife, Tina Louise Huddleston of Forney; grandchildren, Kristyn Nicole Huddleston of Ft. Worth and Alyssa Michelle Huddleston of Frisco. Many nieces, nephews and other family and church members and a host of friends. Adopted in love are his close and adoring friends, Mike and Linda Vaughan, Lety Woods and Mike Johnson.



more news

BIBLE CONFERENCE

Security Calvary Baptist Church, 5442 S. Duck Creek Road, Cleveland is hosting a one day Bible Conference on April 22, 10:00 Am-3:00 PM. We invite all surrounding community churches to join us for this day of worship and fellowship. There are many guest speakers and singers. Lunch is provided. For more information call Pastor George Drodody at 713-320-0695.

FROM JOHN LADD

March 31, 2017, marked the last day of my employment with the BMAA. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the churches and individuals, who have made it possible for Shirley and me to live the past 52 years with great joy being a part of God's plan for us in His kingdom work in Nicaragua and Mexico. We plan to continue working with Dr. Izard in BMMI as well as the Good Samaritan Clinic in Mexico. Thank you once again. —John Ladd, M.D.

Sunday School Lessons

The cities of refuge

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

DATE: May 21, 2017

TEXT: Joshua 10:1-9

THE CITIES

Cities of refuge were not established to protect a person, who intentionally caused the death of another, from revenge. Deuteronomy 19 explains the process.

The cities named in Joshua 20, were Kedesh, Shechem, Hebron, Bezer, Ramoth and Golan.

THE PROCEDURE

According to Deuteronomy 19, a hypothetical incident of accidental death is given. (i.e. a man cutting wood when his ax head flies off the handle and strikes a working cohort - verse 5) Such a person who accidentally kills another, can

flee into a city of refuge and live. He is to remain in that city until the high priest in the city dies, then the one causing the unintentional death may return to his original home city.

But a man who intentionally kills another, then the elders of the city may send for him and have him delivered to the “avengers.” verses 11-12

One cannot be convicted of a crime unless it is on the testimony of two or three witnesses. verse 15

If one brings false charges against another, after it has been verified by investigation, the one bringing the false charges will receive the same sentence he intended for the one he falsely accused. verse 18-19. The result will be that others will be discouraged from committing false accusations. verse 20.

THE PICTURE

We see in the cities of refuge, a picture of Christ. Satan wants to destroy us, but we can run to Christ for refuge. An Israelite who committed the unintentional death, must flee to a city, but he could possibly be avenged before he could reach the city. Jesus meets us where we are and provides us with refuge — or everlasting life. He is our High Priest who died on the cross to save us. The blessed old hymn addresses the subject:

“How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith, in His excellent Word!

What more can He say, than to you He hath said, who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?”

Joshua's final charge

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

DATE: May 28, 2017

TEXT: Joshua 24:1-28

Joshua was a bold, articulate, influential speaker and leader. He delivered a firm charge to the Israelites soon after he was chosen to be the successor to Moses. He charged the people saying that Moses was now dead -- so arise and go in and possess the land which the Father has already promised to them. Over and over again, Joshua commanded the Israelites to “be strong and courageous,” and “The Lord will not fail you nor forsake you.”

Now it is Joshua’s final charge to the people. He delivered a strong message from the Lord, basically recapping their experiences all the way back to Abraham.

RECAPPING THE JOURNEY

He reminded them of the plagues He sent to engineer their escape from Egypt; Then came the Red Sea incident, where God rolled the waters back and the Israelites went across on dry ground, while Pharaoh’s army was drowned. He reminded them of His destroying the Amorites, the rescue from Balak, and the treacherous crossing of the Jordan, to go over into Jericho.

DELIVERING THE CHARGE

Joshua admonished the people to (1) Fear the Lord; (2) Put away Idols; (3) Follow his lead:

Joshua not only was a leader of the people, but the leader of his family. He surely knew that “as the home goes, so goes the nation.” So he commanded them to choose whom they would serve, and made his famous declaration, “But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15.

Joshua gave the people a vivid description of God the Father saying He is holy and jealous, demanding total devotion. Joshua charged them to put away their idols, and turn their hearts to the Lord.

There may be dozens of factors in the fall of a nation, but the greatest cause of national destruction is the destruction of the family, refusing to follow the Lord God, and turning worship to idols. Men, may we all say, in agreement with Joshua’s declaration, when he said, “as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

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*Annuities issued by the National Christian Foundation on behalf of the BMA Foundation

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JC UPCOMING EVENTS

SPRING THEATER PRODUCTION OF HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON: MANY A TALE TO TELL

April 20-21 at 6:30 p.m. and April 22 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the Mary S. Lewis Theater Admission: free for children through 5th grade; \$5.00 for other students; \$7.00 for adults

SPRING CHOIR CONCERT

Tuesday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m. in Buckner Chapel

FINE ARTS SHOWCASE (Music, Theater, and Visual Arts Programs)

Thursday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary S. Lewis Theater

JACKSONVILLE CHOIR PERFORMS AT THE BMA OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m. in Arlington, Texas at the Arlington Convention Center

JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, May 6 at 10:30 in the Curtis Carroll Field House/Gymnasium

REGISTRATION

Registration is ongoing for Maymester, Summer I and II, and Fall 2017. Reduced tuition rates are offered for Maymester and Summer I and II.

2017 SUMMER SESSIONS:

Maymester: May 17–June 2

Summer I: June 6–June 29

Summer II: July 11–August 3

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

SUNDAY
MAY 7, 2017

JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

**JAGUAR DAY
ACROSS TEXAS**

ANNUAL OFFERING FOR JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

Dear Jacksonville College Supporters,

Thank you for your faithful support and prayers. God is blessing Jacksonville College. Following our March 22 Chapel service, 24 students came forward and made commitments to follow Christ. These students are now being disciplined. Also, a number of our students are going on mission trips, working in Christian camps, and helping churches during the summer.

God has also blessed us with a spring enrollment record of 574 students. Because of our continued growth, we need to add more bedrooms and bathrooms in some of our housing. To help with this project, The Master's Builders plan to be on campus in the latter part of May.

Sunday, May 7 is Jaguar Day Across Texas, and we ask you and your church to pray about giving a special offering at that time to Jacksonville College. However, while May 7 is the designated date, any date in May will work. This offering helps JC through the lean financial months of summer, benefits our students, and supports the special projects needed for continual improvements to our campus.

This offering will help the College in the following ways:

1) Pay expenses during summer months	We ask for the following:
2) Paint buildings such as the historic Newburn house	1) That 100 churches/individuals give \$200
3) Add bedrooms and bathrooms for student housing	2) That 200 churches/individuals give \$100
	3) That 300 churches/individuals give \$50

**JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE
JAGUAR DAY ACROSS TEXAS
OFFERING GOAL**

\$55,000.00

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

**JOB OPENING AT
JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE**

MATH INSTRUCTOR


Job Description: Jacksonville College is seeking a full-time Math instructor for the fall semester of 2017. Teaching responsibilities include College Algebra, Statistics, Trigonometry, Calculus, and remedial Math. Instructors are also required to keep ten office hours per week.

Qualifications: Required qualifications include a master's or doctoral degree or 18 graduate hours in the relevant field. Job related experience is preferred, but not mandatory. Must possess effective verbal and written communications skills, as well as strong organizational and interpersonal skills. Computer proficiency is also required.

Mission Statement: Jacksonville College exists to provide a quality education from a biblical worldview that challenges minds, transforms lives, and equips students for servant leadership and lifelong learning.

Statement of Faith: A deep faith in God is the foundation of Jacksonville College. The College believes that no education is complete until a student understands who God is and how to relate to Him through His Son Jesus Christ. Doctrinal beliefs influence all that the College does and teaches.

Download an application form online at www.jacksonville-college.edu/contact by clicking on the *Application Form* link under *Employment*. Mail the form to Dr. Mike Smith, Jacksonville College, 105 B.J. Albritton Drive, Jacksonville College, 75766. Applications may also be submitted via email to msmith@jacksonville-college.edu. Include your resume and certified copies of your academic transcripts with your submission.

 **JACKSONVILLE**
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of*

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Fairfield, Texas

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017

*A day of reunion and remembrance
A day of worship and observance*

Special guests include
all former pastors and staff members and their families
as well as all previous members.

Services include
Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. • Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Noon luncheon and afternoon anniversary festivities