

# Baptist Progress

Baptist Progress, P.O. Box 2055, Waxahatchie, Texas 75168  
Postmaster: send change of address to:  
50125

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS | AUGUST 2019 | VOL. 106 | NO. 08

INSIDE



PAGE 8  
BMA TEXAS MISSIONS



PAGE 9  
JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE



PAGE 12  
BMA LOCAL MEETINGS

## 2019 Lifeword Sunday season begins

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**  
*Lifeword Media Ministries*

Lifeword Sunday season is upon us! We pray your church family will plan to join the Lifeword team in a day of informing, praying and giving. Oct. 20 (or whichever date your church may choose) is Lifeword Sunday and our desire is for your church members to understand how Lifeword helps them fulfill their Great Commission calling.

Here's how you can participate in 2019 Lifeword Sunday:

- Register your church at [lifeword.org/lifewordsunday](http://lifeword.org/lifewordsunday) or call Lifeword to register at 501-205-1127. (You'll be entered to win an Apple watch!)
- Be on the lookout for your church packet in the mail this week. Enclosed in it are two posters and a bulletin insert sample you can use to highlight the day. A short video will be available for you to download at [lifeword.org](http://lifeword.org) or email [lauren@lifeword.org](mailto:lauren@lifeword.org) for a DVD. This will help your church understand what Lifeword is all about.
- Order Lifeword Sunday T-shirts at [lifeword.org/lifewordsunday](http://lifeword.org/lifewordsunday). This year our t-shirt company will be printing and shipping shirt orders every two weeks, so we encourage you to **place your shirt orders at least three weeks before** your Lifeword Sunday event to ensure they arrive on time!
- Pray for the millions who need to hear the gospel on Oct. 20 and take a special offering for Lifeword.

Thank you in advance for your partnership with Lifeword. We appreciate you!



**Lifeword**  
MEDIA MINISTRIES



WWW.BMATEXAS.ORG



**BAPTIST PROGRESS**

Jerry Fulton, Editor/Business Manager  
P.O. Box 2085, Waxahachie 75168  
972-923-0756 • www.baptistprogress.org

**BAPTIST MISSIONARY LOAN ASSOCIATION**

Jerry Burnaman, Manager  
PO Box 73, Waxahachie 75168  
972-923-0758

**BMA OF TEXAS MISSIONS**

Heith Mitchell, Director  
PO Box 73, Waxahachie 75168  
972-923-0757

**JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE**

Dr. Mike Smith, President  
105 B. J. Albritton Drive  
Jacksonville 75766  
903-586-2518  
www.jacksonville-college.edu

**TEXAS BAPTIST HOME**

Jason Curry, President  
PO Box 309, Waxahachie 75168  
972-937-1321 • www.tbhc.org

*Baptist Progress*

USPS: 043120 • ISSN: 005-5751

Published every third week of the month by  
the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas

**Jerry Fulton, Editor/Business Manager**

editor@baptistprogress.org  
P.O. Box 2085 • Waxahachie, Texas 75168  
972-923-0756 (office) • 972-923-3534 (fax)

**www.baptistprogress.org**

Periodical postage paid  
at Waxahachie, Texas 75165  
and at additional mailing offices

**SUBSCRIPTION RATE:**

**Mail Church Plan:** \$1.75 per month  
**E-Mail Church Plan:** \$1.25 per month  
**Mail Subscription:** \$24.00 per year  
**E-mail Subscription:** \$18.00 per year  
(Advertising Rates Available on Request)

Postmaster: Send address changes to  
Baptist Progress, P.O. Box 2085,  
Waxahachie, Texas 75168



# MAKING PROGRESS

## More give to *Baptist Progress* Anniversary Offering

By **JERRY FULTON**

We are so appreciative to those churches, groups and individuals who have given to our *Baptist Progress* Anniversary Offering. In addition to those listed in our last issue, those listed below have also given. Thank you for your partnership in ministry.

<b>Already reported</b>	<b>\$12,538</b>
Anthony Drive, Ennis	\$107
Anthony Drive, Ennis Willing Workers Class	\$107
Bethel, Port Arthur	\$125
Calvary, Arlington	\$107
Calvary, Centerville	\$100
Corinth, Grand Saline	\$107
Cornerstone, Jacksonville	\$107
First, Bardwell	\$214
First, Blooming Grove	\$107
First Missionary, Terrell	\$107
Little Flock, Jewett	\$107
New Beginnings Bible, Ferris	\$107
Pilgrim's Rest, Emory	\$107
Salem Missionary, Huntington	\$107
Sheridan Terrace, Palestine	\$75
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,229</b>



▲ Jerry Fulton

## OBITUARY

### LAJUANA JO "TINY" DEAN

Lajuana Jo "Tiny" Dean was born on Dec. 29, 1930 in Lubbock to William Riley Dean and Lola Lena Hacker Dean. Saved at the age of nine, she was baptized and became a member of Central, Lubbock. Tiny graduated from Lubbock High School in 1948. Afterward she attended Draughton's Business College, where she was trained in secretarial skills. Next came a move that would change her life. She enrolled in Jacksonville Baptist College, Jacksonville. There Tiny met a young preacher boy, fresh out of the United States Navy. She and Gordon Renshaw were married on August 18, 1950. Tiny and Gordon both graduated Jacksonville Baptist College with their Associates Degree. While in Jacksonville, they were blessed with two children, a son, Richard Curtis, and a daughter, Rhonda Gail.

Gordon was pastor at several churches in East Texas over those years. In 1960, Unity Baptist Church in Hope, Arkansas extended a call to Gordon, and the family moved to what would be their home for 20 years. Another daughter was added to the family, Regina Sue. Tiny put her secretarial training to work as secretary and bookkeeper for many years for General Farms Services of Hope, Arkansas. Her other role as the preacher's wife kept her busy - teaching Sunday School, VBS, WMA, typing and editing Gordon's sermons, and helping with all activities of the church. Tiny served as church secretary for Gordon when he was called to pastor the Farmington Baptist Church, in Farmington, Mississippi, in 1980. In 1982, Tiny and Gordon moved back close to her roots in West Texas. Gordon began pastoring College Avenue Baptist Church, in Levelland. Tiny was able to spend family time with her mother and her brothers and sisters that were still in Lubbock. During this time, she worked as a secretary for the Hockley County District and County Clerk's office.

The next move was to Morton, where Gordon pastored First Missionary Baptist Church. This would be the couple's last pastorate, as the Lord called Gordon home on March 30, 1999, after a battle with cancer. The couple was a year short of their 50th anniversary. It was a happy marriage of two people who loved each other and enjoyed serving their Lord.



During the years in Morton, Tiny worked at the Cochran County Clerk's office, and she continued her work there until her retirement in 2002. Where would Tiny go now that she could live anywhere? Lubbock, Texas, of course! She moved into the first home she ever owned, and became a member of Central Baptist, her childhood church home. When the church disbanded, she joined Lakeridge, Lubbock

In 2015, the west Texas city girl began spending her last years living on an East Texas ranch, with her youngest daughter and family, north of Paris, Texas. She lived in her little Grammy apartment until April of 2019, residing at the Heritage House of Paris until the time of her death, July 30, 2019.

Survivors are her children, son Rick Renshaw and wife Sharon of Waxahachie, Texas; daughter Rhonda Irvin and husband Tim of Hope, Arkansas; daughter Regina Hodnett and husband Greg of Paris, Texas; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Her request was that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to: BMA of America Missions, P.O. Box 878 Conway, Arkansas 72033 or Lakeridge Baptist Church, 4601 82nd Street, Lubbock, Texas 79424.

# Lifeword welcomes Lauren Crawley

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

*Lifeword Media Ministries*

It was Jan. 4, 2014, my first day at Lifeword, and the beginning of a new area of ministry for me. My role was to fill the shoes of Diane Ward, who had been the national walk coordinator for many years. Five and a half years later, my role is changing but my love for BMA ministries is not.

The months and years have flown by, and although I have very few skills to offer, God has shown me that he can make a lump of clay become a beautiful vessel for his Kingdom.

Your Lifeword team serves humbly, selflessly and enthusiastically as vessels to be used by the Lord. Each team member has talents and skills that they lay before God's throne every day. I am blessed to be a part of a media ministry that does that for one purpose: Spreading the gospel to the world.

Since I began serving at Lifeword, those team members have changed. Steve Crawley was executive director when I started, and Donny Parrish has been since 2017. Carol Gipson and Rick Russell have retired. Jon Dodson has joined the team in the last year and another change has taken place recently.

My title has been director of church connections, but Lauren Crawley now has that role, and I will begin to support all ministries at the Global Ministry Center as lead writer.

It is with joy that I hand over the reigns to a young lady who loves the Lord and loves people. In the next few months Lauren will be planning her first Lifeword Sunday, Oct. 20 and the Central Arkansas Area Walk, Oct. 9.

She is coming on board at an exciting time for Lifeword: Media content at [lifeword.org](http://lifeword.org) (currently in twenty languages but quickly growing) allows millions more people to hear and understand the gospel message of hope through Jesus.

Lifeword contributions during this giving season allow that to happen.

October 20 is 2019 Lifeword Sunday, but it really

doesn't matter what date you choose. Since the first Walk for the World in 1980, churches have sponsored walks and other fundraising events during this season of giving.

But whatever event you decide on, we just want church members to know about, pray for and give to this unique ministry that has used the latest technology for God's Kingdom work since 1965.

So, for the last time, here is your to-do list from me:

Register for Lifeword Sunday at [lifeword.org/lifewordsunday](http://lifeword.org/lifewordsunday).

Once you've registered and sent in contributions before Dec. 9, pastors will be entered to win his and her Apple watches on the Dec. 11 drawing.

Order T-shirts at [lifeword.org/lifewordsunday](http://lifeword.org/lifewordsunday)  
Contact [lauren@lifeword.org](mailto:lauren@lifeword.org) for more information.

Please join us as we pray for a God-honoring Lifeword Sunday and our global partners as they upload content to [lifeword.org](http://lifeword.org).

Thank you all for your partnership with Lifeword and our efforts as "We Tell the Story" to a lost world.



▲ Lauren Crawley



## Got An Emergency? Make Your Call Today!

She couldn't hear. She couldn't walk. She was paralyzed and confined to the bed, but Winnie Buck wasn't about to give up or give in without a fight. Even though she was nearly 92 years old, she was still strong on the inside with a bigger than life determination that refused to accept defeat. Not even a stroke could keep her from her favorite hobby of crocheting beautiful, colorful afghans. By squeezing a rubber ball, her right hand was rehabilitated and she was back in business doing what she loved best. Her daughter, Petronella Arledge, had grown up watching her mother substitute, improvise and "make do" in many tough situations, but this one topped them all! Her mom had called 911 and when the dispatcher asked, "What is your emergency" this was her response:

This is Winnie Buck, and I am a patient over here at St. Elizabeth's Healthcare Center in Baker City. You may not think that this is an emergency, but I need some help and I don't know how else to get it. My call light has fallen on the floor, and I can't reach it. I have hollered my lungs out, and no one has come to help me. The window is up in my room and it has turned cold. In fact, my teeth are chattering, and I have only one thin blanket over me. Here is what I want you to do: Call the healthcare center and tell them to come down to my room and pull my window down. Thank you. Good-bye.

Her daughter concluded by saying:

In less time than a giraffe can swallow a drink of water, someone raced into Winnie Buck's room, and down came the window. Apologies spouted from the attendant's mouth while Mom thought smugly, 'There is more than one way to get a little attention around here.'

I'm not sure Winnie chose the best way to deal with her "crisis"; however, sometimes an out-of-the-ordinary situation calls for an extraordinary response. This true story reminds me of Abigail who also faced a critical situation and wasted no time creating her own bold, courageous plan. The entire story is in 1 Samuel 25. Here are the highlights. David, soon-to-be king, was in the desert hiding from King Saul where Nabal's shepherds were tending his sheep. This was a dangerous area, so David instructed his men to watch out for the shepherds. It seemed only reasonable that Nabal might share his food with them, but when he heard David's request he was indignant. Talk about fire works! David's response was swift, simple and severe. He instructed his men to strap on a sword and follow him. The mission? To kill Nabal and every man in his house.

When Abigail (Nabal's wife) heard the news, she wasted no time. With an enormous peace offering of food, the journey was begun. Would it be enough? Be sure to read verse 23 and following to catch the magical moment when they first met, and for the rest of the story. As you do, remember that God intervened for Abigail and David and He wants to do that for us . . . even when it's not an emergency! Make your call today!

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](mailto:pquesenbury@gmail.com).



# Just the Crumbs August Update

By **LAVON HADEN**

*Just the Crumbs Disaster Relief Ministry/BMA Support*

In Mid-June the Just the Crumbs Disaster Relief Ministry set up at Immanuel Baptist Church in Greenbrier, Arkansas, and began reaching out to as many of the 1,600 families displaced by the Arkansas River flooding as possible, feeding residents and volunteers and handing out cleaning and basic daily living supplies.

We delivered meals to displaced people and volunteers assisting in clean-up in Pine Bluff, Willow Beach, Conway, and Greenbrier. We contacted the Arkansas Disaster Relief Recovery organization to find where we could do the most good. They kept us informed of volunteers coming in and residents who may need help. The area we were in had the second highest number of flooded houses.

During the first week of August, we began packing up our equipment. The various communities were taking care of their own and helping with recovery efforts; therefore, we felt that our services were no longer needed.

We extend a grateful and heartfelt thank you to the many local and non-local people who helped us with the loan of equipment, working where the need was at any given time, helping financially and just being kind and helpful. We were impressed with the spirit of giving and caring in Greenbrier and the surrounding areas.

We will be getting our equipment serviced and ready for the next event where God gives us an open door. During this downtime we would love to visit your church and give further details of this ministry. You may contact me, Lavon Haden, at 601-522-6055 or [jtcops@gmail.com](mailto:jtcops@gmail.com), and we can set a date. Your prayers are always desired and appreciated.



# Ron Chesser, former MRS director, celebrates 60 years in ministry

Ron Chesser will celebrate his 60th anniversary in the ministry on Aug. 30, 2019.

He was born in 1943 and married Gloria Hudson in 1962. They have two daughters, Stephanie Coleman and Ronda Porter; four grandchildren, Heather Coleman, Jared Porter, Kristin Loughmiller and Elizabeth Buford; and seven great grandchildren.

He was saved in 1952 and surrendered to the ministry on

Aug. 30, 1959 at Central Baptist Church, Lubbock. His pastor at that time was Dr. John Duggar. He was ordained in Nov. 1962 at the same church when Dr. E. Harold Henderson was pastor.

He enrolled in Jacksonville College in 1961 where he graduated with honors, earning an AA degree. Continuing preparation for the ministry, he enrolled in the BMA Theological Seminary, Jacksonville, where he graduated with high honors in 1965, earning a Th.B. degree. Since then he has continued his education at Dallas Baptist University.

He served as pastor of seven BMA churches over a span of 40 years. New Hope, Streetman, TX; River Oaks, Baton Rouge, LA; Parkview, Clovis, NM; First, Blooming Grove, TX; Beacon, Bryan, TX, Bethel, Dallas, TX for 20 years and Central, Ashdown, AR. In Dec. 1999 he accepted the position of Executive Director of Ministers Resource Services for the BMA of America until he retired in June 2018.

Other places of leadership include: BMA of Texas vice president and chairman of the Nominating Committee, trustee for the Baptist Progress, Jacksonville College and BMA Credit Union, where he was chairman of the Board of Directors for 15 years. He has also served on the BMA of America Nominating Committee and as a trustee of the BMA Theological Seminary, serving as chairman of the board from 1996-2000.



▲ Ron Chesser

# The Darlene Carey Christian Academy

By JIMMY WALKER

BMAA Missionary to the Philippines

As many of you have heard, lifelong BMA missionary Darlene Carey passed away last month. To have known her was to know a true warrior for our Lord. For many years, she served as a missionary in the Philippines traveling from village to village, evangelizing, doing women's ministry, establishing Christian Kindergartens and assisting church planters in whatever they needed to help grow the church. She was the first single woman elected by the BMA of America to be a missionary. Her example for young girls and women across our work is remarkable. So today we announce the name of our new Christian Academy at the Bible College: The Darlene Carey Christian Academy.

I first met Darlene at the student SOAR conference many years ago. I remember being moved by her compassion for the lost and her willingness GO! That legacy is still very much alive here in the Philippines. Whenever her name is mentioned among our churches here, faces light up with joy. Last month, we launched our fundraising campaign to build 12 new classrooms to accommodate a 1st-12th grade Christian academy. We are excited that her legacy will live on in the life of this new grade school and that it will challenge young girls and boys to follow in her footsteps.

You can help be a part of this great legacy by giving to the construction of this new school. Please send your offering to the BMAA missions office in Conway and designate your gift to "The Darlene Carey Christian Academy."

Why start a Christian grade school? This will be a tremendous outreach to the community around the college. It will be a place where children can come each day and receive a Christ-centered education. It will be a place where disciples are made. The school will also give us opportunities to reach parents with the Gospel.

The grade school will also be a financial blessing to the BMA Bible college. Right now, around 95 percent of the college's operation budget comes from churches and individual donors in the US. We anticipate that the grade school will be able to provide around 40% of the funds needed to perpetuate the college ministry. This is the first step in helping the college to become a self-supported ministry.

Here's what we need in order for us to grow the grade school we need 12 additional classrooms. It is not necessary to have all of them at one time but we will need three by next July and we would need to begin construction by January. Each classroom will cost around \$10,000. Can you help provide a classroom? Can your church help provide a classroom? Your gift will be a blessing that will have an impact for decades to come. Please prayerfully consider being a partner in this project!

Offerings can be sent to:  
BMAA Missions office: P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033  
or Garrett Memorial Baptist Church: PO box 223, Hope, AR 71802

Designate your gift to The Darlene Carey Christian Academy, Philippines

If you would like to talk further about this, email me at [bmabcphilippines@yahoo.com](mailto:bmabcphilippines@yahoo.com).

# Baptist Publishing House update

Baptist Publishing House is excited to share some great news with you! We have had a very strong start and are already seeing orders for the fall quarterly come in via our new, easy-to-use website ([baptistpublishinghouse.com](http://baptistpublishinghouse.com)). We have been encouraged to see some churches who have not ordered BMA material in several years return to us. We have also seen many churches increase their orders. This is very encouraging and we would like to thank our churches for their overwhelming support.



▲ Baptist Publishing House staff

We are looking forward to shipping out our new Bible study quarterly, the "Baptist Expositor," this fall. This curriculum is going to provide our churches a great deal of flexibility. In addition to the traditional lesson format, students and teachers alike will have Bible study helps within the books to help them prepare throughout the week leading up to class time. The "Baptist Expositor" is designed to be used for all age groups, from seventh grade to senior adult.

Another exciting thing to share is that printed children's materials are back! We are offering curriculum for ages two through sixth grade. Teacher books will help leaders prepare and teach the weekly lessons, while the student books will be full-color and include activities to help children learn God's Word.

If you would like to ensure that your church is using BMA curriculum, give us a call at **1-800-333-1442** or visit our website: [baptistpublishinghouse.com](http://baptistpublishinghouse.com).

# Thank you from Donny Parrish; Lifeword executive director injured in bicycle accident

By HOLLY MERIWEATHER

Lifeword Media Ministries

Lifeword Executive Director Donny Parrish was involved in a bicycle accident last Tuesday and has spent time in ICU at Baptist Health Medical Center in Conway, Arkansas. He is being treated for multiple broken ribs, a broken collarbone, and a collapsed lung. At present, Parrish is still under hospital care but hopes to be released soon.



▲ Donny Parrish

"I'm grateful for the many of you who have reached out to our family during this difficult time and I'm praying for God to grant a full recovery soon. The excellent team at Lifeword has stepped in to make certain Lifeword's programming and operations are not affected by my absence. I covet your prayers," said Parrish.

Lifeword's teams and families around the world continue to lift up Donny in prayer. Updates on Donny's progress will be released via Lifeword's Facebook page.

For Donny's scheduled speaking engagements and appointments in August and September, director of church relations Lauren Crawley and director of operations Luis Ortega are reaching out to either reschedule or have Luis Ortega fulfill them.

For any immediate needs contact Luis Ortega at 501-329-6891, directly at 501-358-3835, or [luis@lifeword.org](mailto:luis@lifeword.org).



Contact BMA Foundation Executive Director Charles Attebery for more information.  
[charles@bmaamerica.org](mailto:charles@bmaamerica.org) or call 501-472-2183

*A Gift That Keeps Giving*

Gifts to the BMA Foundation are never spent. They are invested and the earnings benefit BMA departments annually until the Lord returns.

Some Ways to Give

- Cash
- Stocks and bonds
- Life insurance policies
- IRA Rollovers
- Bequests



# TEXAS BAPTIST HOME FOR CHILDREN

## The goal is not failure

By **JASON CURRY**

How many of us have seen ourselves in light of our failures? As a man, I can think of many times that I have simply failed in my journey: walking with God, nurturing my wife, disciplining my kids, leading in my ministries. Over and over again, failure is something that seems to plague the human race. It's never more evident than with children. We had taken one of our children to church and he was running around with a kid he had just met. Rounding the corner trying to keep up, we heard the thud of a collision. We come and check on the kid and as suspected he had run into a stand for signing in and handouts for the day. We comforted the child and then, after the tears stopped, he looked at me and my wife and said I didn't catch the other kid. The pain did not stop the feeling of failure this child was experiencing. Pain is normally a teacher and for this kid, it was no different. The pain was the consequence of real failure. For him the prize was not avoiding the obstacles he faced, it was in catching the other child.

An interesting lesson to say the least, right? That the prize is not in avoiding pain and obstacles that get in our way. Though, if we are to catch the prize, we also have to be good at avoiding the pitfalls and barriers we face. The prize is not dodging pain but in the pursuit. I'm not advocating running in church. I am advocating that we create environments for kids to be kids, especially at church. Failure will happen in life but what is it that we are after? Pain is a teacher and helps us do better the next time. No matter what stage of life we are in the pursuit, is the prize not avoiding pain or obstacles?

In the end, no one is going to escape failure. So let us make the church the place to recover from failure, the community hospital for wounds that won't heal without our Savior. In 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Paul is speaking of his own infirmities then God answers him:

<sup>9</sup> And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Our failures are our opportunity to acknowledge that God is in charge and we are not. That only in him can we do as we should. For me, this is His day to work in me, through me, and despite me. I pray that my life would be for Christ sake so that when I am weak (when am I not?) He is strong. Helps the kids you minister to understand that avoiding pain and failing is not the prize... its capturing God's heart! God bless and thanks for helping bring kids home.

*Jason Curry is the president of the Texas Baptist Home for Children. Contact him 629 Farley St, Waxahachie, TX 75165, 972-937-1321 or [jcurry@tbhc.org](mailto:jcurry@tbhc.org). For more information, visit [www.tbhc.org](http://www.tbhc.org).*



## 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 for Children, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from July 1-31, 2019.

### ENDOWMENTS

**RICKI MARIE JOHNSTON:** Duane & Charlotte Turner

**E ANN PACE:** Karl & Martha Pace

**MYRA STOKES:** Bill Stokes

### HONORARIUMS

**WINNIE LOWE BARNUM:** Gail McVey

**CONSTANCE BOLLEN:** Jean Eshelman

**WILEY (JR.) CRENSHAW:** Earlene Crenshaw

**MR. & MRS. KEITH FAULKNER:** Leon & Johnnie Ross

**SHELBY JONES:** Leon & Johnnie Ross

**IDA KEELING:** Liberty Baptist Church, Henderson

**MR. & MRS. ALAN LENNOX:** Leon & Johnnie Ross

**JOSIAH LEVENDUSKY:** Leon & Johnnie Ross

**MERLENE LOYD:** WMA, Glade Creek Baptist Church

**MR. & MRS. KEVIN PHILLEY:** Leon & Johnnie Ross

**MR. & MRS. COLTON STEGALL:** Leon & Johnnie Ross

**ALLISON STOKES:** Leon & Johnnie Ross

**LANDEN WILKERSON:** Leon & Johnnie Ross

### MEMORIALS

**TOMMY BLAKLEY:** Betty Blakley

**JOHNNY CANNON:** Tommy & Virginia Gipson; Antioch Baptist Church, Gilmer; Jed & Glenice Whitaker; Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**J.W. CARMON:** Community Baptist Church, Killeen

**DORIS COLEMAN:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**GEORGE CONN:** Oma Conn

**BILL ENGEMANN:** Rosewood Baptist Church, Gilmer

**LOIS & HESTER GIBSON:** Janice Dore

**BILLIE GRIMES:** John Grimes

**MACK HICKS:** Neta Hicks

**MAX & OPAL HILL:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**D.K. JOHNSON:** Westside Baptist Church

**ROLAND JONES:** Linda Lewis

**BRO. LARRY LANSDALE:** Latch Baptist Church, Gilmer

**KEVIN LEWIS:** Linda Lewis

**OMEGA MCCELLON:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**KAY MOORE:** Larry & Carol Lesh

**LINDA PERKINS:** Westside Baptist Church, Nacogdoches

**W. DON ROSS:** Jed & Glenice Whitaker; Tommy & Virginia Gipson;

**DONALD SMITH:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**JEAN THURMAN:** Mr. & Mrs. James Buchanan; Berenda Mewborn; Central Baptist Church, Mineola;

**BILLIE JEAN WHITEHEAD:** Linwood & Jeanetta Whitehead

**BILLY WHITENER:** Temple Baptist Church, Mexia

**E.T. WILLIAMS:** Minnie & Tamba Williams

**WINFRED WILLIAMSON:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson

memorials-honorariums

## Bibles, Books, Music & Gifts

To order Bibles, books, music and gifts from *Baptist Progress*, visit [www.bmatexas.org](http://www.bmatexas.org) and click the flashing box at the top of the right hand column.

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



# CHURCH HEALTH

## Are you running on empty?

By **LARRY BARKER**

In my sophomore year at Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas, I was leading the singing in revival services about 100 miles to the south of our campus. Money was very tight and as I was driving down for the services one evening my gas gauge began to stare back at me reaching “empty.” It was so low that I began praying for God to stretch out what little fuel I had. Then I covered up the gauge on the dash with a piece of paper so I could not see it any longer. Fortunately, I made the services, on fumes, and a member filled up my tank after the services.

Some of you are going full steam ahead while running on empty right now and you are trying to not look at your dashboard that is showing empty. You cannot give what you do not have and you will come to a screeching halt at some point. Your focus on ministry, mobilizing your team, and planning your next steps has caused you to begin running on spiritual fumes. Those times of joy, being full of His presence, along with His daily freshness and vitality in your spiritual walk are only a memory. What you do is very important but who you are is even more important.

The danger is real because it is very easy to become so focused on the external issues of getting your ministry where you believe God desires it to be, that you ignore the crucial internal issues of spiritual transformation and health. In *Leading on Empty* Wayne Cordeiro says, “We don’t forget that we are Christians. We forget that we are human, and that one oversight alone can debilitate the potential of our future.” We all have limits (spiritual, emotional, physical, time, gifts, etc.) and we need to see them as a blessing from the Lord and not a curse.

2 Corinthians 12:9 says, “But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness.’ Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may reside in me.” You may not like admitting your weaknesses or your inabilities but it is wisdom to understand you definitely have limitations and God shows up when we embrace that reality. Your nature may be that you want to go around your limits, conquer limits, deny, and break through them. Actually, they are a gift from God to protect you!

God gave us limits to serve as guardrails placed in our lives to keep us from straying outside His will

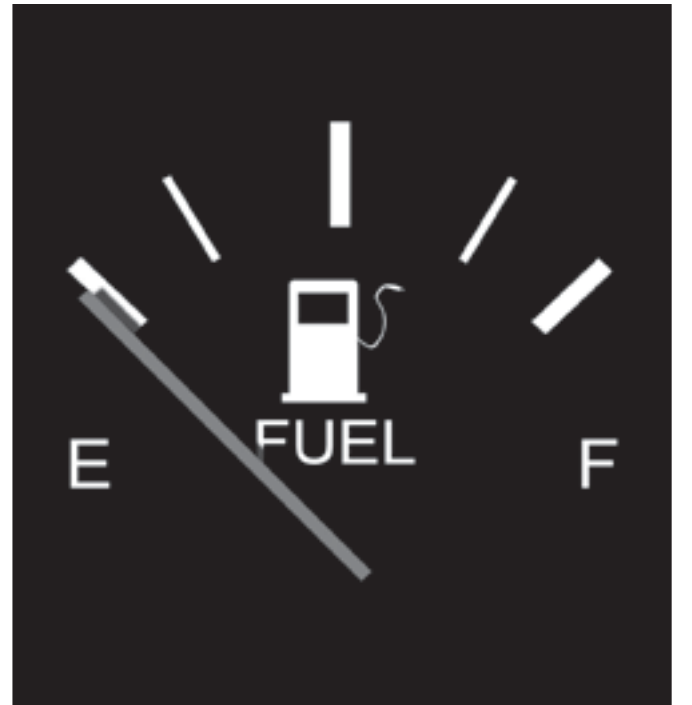
and to continue trusting in Him. This is actually counterintuitive to us as it goes against our culture that teaches us that we can handle it ourselves and we don’t need anyone’s help. Be a self-made leader and pull yourself up by your own bootstraps may be how you were raised. Don’t depend on anyone else because you can do anything you put your mind to. You have to reconcile that with what Jesus said, “Without me you can do nothing!”

One of the greatest dangers of leadership is the temptation to rely too heavily on our charisma and competencies while paying too little attention to our character and core identity through our personal walk with Christ. It is easy to lead without Jesus short term but you will end up paying a very steep price long term. Pete Scazzero says, “The reality is that it is easy to live as a Christian doing religious acts and doing Christian things without necessarily being in loving union with Jesus.” Sometimes we live out the old adage, “fake until you make it!”

First, learn to slow down and abide in Christ. Abiding means you remain in Him and you are able to relax in Him. You cannot live at warp speed without warping your soul! Think of Mary and Martha. You may be a Martha who is a doer and what you do is important but who you are is of even greater importance. Sometimes our doing exceeds our being in Christ and before you know it you are running on empty and getting close to shutting down.

Second, think about silence and solitude so you can hear God’s voice in your life. Dallas Willard referred to silence and solitude as the two most radical disciplines of the Christian life. Solitude is finding that quiet space where you intentionally remove yourself from people and things in order to focus 100% on God. Silence is striving to quiet every inner and outer voice to be attentive to the Lord’s direction and presence. Silence is the Christians number one need while being the hardest to develop. It is very challenging in this busy and noisy world.

Lastly, wait on the Lord. King David stressed its importance by saying it twice in Psalm 27:14. Do not



wait on the Lord only for what He will do for you or for the results you desire but simply to spend time with Him. David reminds us of this in Psalm 27:4, “I have asked one thing from the Lord; it is what I desire: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, gazing on the beauty of the Lord and seeking Him in His temple.” You must actually limit what you are doing by focusing on being with Him realizing that He can accomplish so much more than you can!

Without slowing down, being silent and in solitude, and waiting on the Lord it will be almost impossible to live a healthy spiritual life! Are you running on empty?

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](http://www.bmamissions.org).





# INSIGHTS *for* PASTORS

## Pastors need friends

By DR. ALLEN TILLEY

A pastor's life can be lonely. While we are expected to be a friend to everyone in our congregation, finding someone with whom we can be honestly transparent can be difficult. Over the years, I've heard horror stories of pastors who confided in a church member, only to have their faults thrown into their faces at a business meeting.

While God never intended pastors to walk alone, we must be careful about selecting close friends. Knowing pastors and their friendship needs are different, here are some suggestions for developing the right kind of friendships.

**Maintain childhood friends.** Sometimes the best friendships are those we established before we entered into ministry. These people knew us before we were preachers and maybe even before we came to Christ. Although they will not understand the pressures of being a pastor, they've already accepted you, warts and all. If you've moved from your hometown, try to find them on Facebook so you can reconnect. One of my best friends is someone I led to Christ years ago. Both of us have moved, but we manage to call and visit each other regularly. I've confided things in him that I would never share with a church member.

**Develop relationships with other pastors.** It's true some pastors are territorial, jealous, and suspicious of other pastors, but most long for legitimate fellowship with other pastors. At the next local associational meeting, broach the subject by asking if anyone would enjoy meeting over coffee, a meal, or devotional so they can carry out the biblical command to bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2). Set a date and then meet. You might be surprised by how many offers you receive.

**Test the waters slowly.** If you decide to develop a close friendship in the church, move slowly. Get to know the person well before sharing anything too personal. Guard your speech; let him earn your trust over time. If you go this route, be aware of two possible unintended side effects. First, don't show favoritism. Treat everyone in the church with dignity and respect by including them. Second, don't spend all your time with this friend. Others in the church may grow jealous and resent your friendship. Remember your job is to pastor all the people, not just one person. And, never make a close friend of the opposite sex. The warning the apostle Paul gave Timothy still holds true (2 Timothy 2:22).

**Guard your heart.** Remember a friend is just that – a friend. If you carry emotional scarring from ministry, seek professional help by turning to a qualified counselor. Most friends are ill-equipped to offer lasting solutions for deep-seated problems. If you're struggling with marital issues (ministry puts a heavy strain on pastoral marriages), don't gossip about your spouse. Together see a Christian marriage counselor who can help resolve your issues.

Let me conclude by reminding you that social media like Facebook and Twitter are poor substitutes for real friends. At times every pastor needs someone who can listen, give a firm handshake or hug, and provide feedback. If you don't have a friend, find one today.

---

*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](mailto:allen@firstbaptistcarthage.com).*

---



## Meat or cotton candy?

By PAUL GAUNTT

*Pastor of First, Palmer*

What best describes the sermons you hear each week at church? Sirloin steak - or cotton candy?

Are you substantially fed from the message, or are you hearing that which tickle your taste buds? Can you describe them as messages of substance, or are they fluff?

What kind of sermons are you getting a steady diet of today when you attend church? What TV preachers attract you?

I saw two images on Facebook today. One was of a large church—actually a gigantic sports arena converted into a church, with thousands of people jammed into the seats. Below that image was a church with people sparsely seated around the auditorium. The caption on the large church said, “When you preach what they want to hear”—and the caption on the other photo read, “When you preach the truth.”

Paul told Timothy (2 Timothy 4:3-4) “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be

turned to fables.” Those words, simply put, say, “the time will come when people will no longer listen to “warning” sermons that convict, but rather “feel good” sermons that soothe.”

Folks, those days are now upon us. The trend today is for a large number of the population, if they go to church at all, they are drawn to a place of entertainment—a place where they can come away feeling good—a place where either Jesus is totally left out of the message, or else, He is portrayed in whatever way pleases the crowd.

I just wonder how many of the thousands of people that jammed that sports arena would shuffle out the door if Jonathan Edwards of the 18th Century would show up unannounced, some Sunday morning and preach his sermon, “Sinners in the hands of an angry God,”—or 20th Century Baptist preacher, R.G. Lee, preaching his famous sermon, “Payday Someday?” It was common for people sitting under the sound of those messages to break out in shrieks and cries of conviction of sin,

and openly cry out to God. In my 71 year lifetime, I have seen very few instances of that.

What preacher among us wouldn't want people to leave the church house with hope in their hearts? But the way for people to leave with hope in their hearts, is to leave with assurance that Christ lives in their hearts—rather than giving some sort of hope of blanket prosperity and health.

There are “preachers” today who “preach” to throngs of people every week, who will stand before the God of judgement at the Great White Throne one day, and cry out, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:22-23).

My long-time friend, Waxahachie native, Hunter Bonner said recently, “I'll take a revival in a small church preaching the truth of Christ, than an arena full of people wanting their sins validated.”



## A word from your missions office

By HEITH MITCHELL

*“To everything [there is] a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck [what is] planted;”* (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 NKJV)

I was reminded of this beautiful passage this week as I witnessed the pain of death in the hearts of a group of believers who knew their church was near its end. A church closing is tragic, painful, and I wish it could always be avoided. I am reminded though that in this life, death is as certain as life. With the joy of the miracle of new birth comes the certainty of death. Our culture sanitizes and avoids this truth. Death is part of life on this sin sick planet.

The church doesn't escape this. It is alive and has a lifecycle. For 2,000 years of church history churches have been born, matured, reproduced and eventually died. There has been the occasional church that lived to be 150 or more. The average lifespan of a US church is 40 years. Most BMA churches have outlived that average but we can all name churches that haven't. I'm not saying this to discourage, but to give perspective. People panic and despair without perspective.

The season we are in today is like any that came before it.

**Churches are being born:** The BMA of Texas currently has 29 churches in the exciting fragile stage of birth. These young churches are practicing simple faith while facing challenges and taking risks. They are seeing hundreds saved and are making disciples. The BMA of Texas is seeing more new churches begin than at any time in its history! Praise the Lord!

**Church's are growing:** In fact there are BMA churches right now seeing the largest attendance ever. Several have passed 1,000 in attendance. I am witnessing growth in small churches and larger churches. There are rural and urban churches that are growing. I can even point to some churches that have known long decline that are now in a season of growth.

**Churches are reproducing:** All 29 of your mission points have a mother church. Keltys First Baptist in Lufkin is sending a planter and around 10 members to start a church. Antioch Baptist of Conway, Arkansas sent multiple families to Georgetown, Texas to plant there. The Spanish congregation at Suburbanwood Baptist in Humble has sent three planting teams out in two years. The Carpenter's House Mission in Lake Jackson has sent out two planting teams.

**Churches are dying:** Every year we witness a few churches that end. In the last 12 months we have seen Dallas Park in Cockrell Hill; First, Gary and Oak Grove, Canton pass. We hate to see this day but we must recognize that it comes. Each of these churches saw many decades of fruitful ministry and have had an impact. They all exceeded the average lifespan by many decades.

I want to challenge us as BMA Baptists to have a Kingdom perspective. We must understand that struggle, age and death are an inescapable part of living. We must focus on

faithfully submitting to Jesus and being about His Mission. We must be faithful to reproduce. We must be fruitful and multiply. The mission requires that our **birth rate** far exceed our **death rate**.

Will you join us in praying and working toward::

### PROJECT 2029

#### 100 New Churches/10 years

- That we see an aggressive multiplication movement of churches who make disciples, equip and release leaders and start churches for the glory of God and the advancement of his Kingdom mission
- That each new mission begins with a plan to begin three new churches in their first 10 years
- That pastors and churches of the association be encouraged and equipped to start new churches
- That we connect, evaluate, identify and train new prospective church planters

I would love to come and share Texas Missions with your church or association. I have open dates and look forward to hearing from you.

### A WORD FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES

**CHRIS DRIVER—  
WEST TEXAS MULTIPLICATION NETWORK/  
TEXAS MISSIONARY CARE  
CJDRIVER316@GMAIL.COM**

What a month! Our west Texas plants shared the blessing of the missions trailer for the month. We had five separate events where we ministered to about 400 people and every single person had a chance to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ! Seed was sown, relationships built and fun was definitely had by all!

We are praying for fruitful follow-up with the families we met. Thank you again to the ladies of our amazing WMA for providing the trailer! God is definitely bearing fruit from your faithfulness and generosity!

**GAMALIER LUNA—  
NEW MISSION IN EL PASO  
GAMALUGA@HOTMAIL.COM  
Prayer Needs:**

Pray for encouragement, and strength to continue.

**MATTHEW PRATHER—  
THE BRIDGE MISSION, MIDLOTHIAN/WAXAHACHIE  
MATTHEW@DISCOVERTHEBRIDGE.COM**

Summer is coming to a close and students and teachers will soon return to school. As summer ends, we are excited

to see what God is going to do through The Bridge this new school year. Believe it or not, 2019 is over halfway over! God is up to some big things in 2019!! Here are just a few things we are celebrating:

1. God answered our prayers and provided us with a building to meet in!
2. We have seen five salvations so far this year!
3. We had our first baptism since we moved into our new building!
4. We have seen more first time families in 2019 than we did in all of 2018!
5. The best thing is God is not finished with 2019 yet!!

We are praying and planning for big things for the remainder of 2019.

We just want to thank you for your continued support of The Bridge Church as we carry out the mission God has for us to lead people from where they are to where God wants them to be. We appreciate your continued support and prayers.

**JAIME GARCIA—  
IGLESIA BAUTISTA NUEVA VIDA MISSION, GILMER/MESQUITE  
JAIME.GARCIA2911@GMAIL.COM**

Thank God for his goodness and his mercies, and all the brothers who support the missionary work as well as Hispanics and other languages, or ethnic groups, from all continents. God willing more workers will become involved in the Great Commission. There are many needs in the hearts of people and God continues to speak in one way or another. But what a privilege it is, and how important also, that He chose us to participate in this special thing, and that people find out and hear that Jesus is life and the mediator between God and men. God use us and let us continue proclaiming to everyone that Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost.

### Prayer Needs:

Thank you for including me in your Prayers, for me it will always be of great importance and great help in the Ministry and the preaching of the Gospel, since through the prayer there will be many open doors. Help me pray for my wife and her health. Also pray for my son, Isaac Garcia, who is a very good son to continue supporting me and getting more involved in the ministry.



▲ Matthew Prather



▲ Chris Driver



▲ Gamalier Luna



▲ Jaime Garcia





# JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

## Jacksonville College Board of Trustees Report

The Jacksonville College Board of Trustees met on Saturday, May 11, 2019 following the May graduation ceremony. Since 2015, when Jacksonville College received approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to offer a completely online associate degree, the College has seen steady growth in the area of distance education. At graduation May 2019, the College awarded the Associate of Science degree to the first two completely online graduates. Jacksonville College awarded a total of 98 associate degrees in the 2018-2019 academic year.

For the 2017-2018 academic year, Jacksonville College reported an unduplicated enrollment of 1,145. The 2018-2019 academic year unduplicated enrollment increased by 18% to 1,397. Enrollment for Jacksonville College remains strong with 552 enrolled in the Fall 2018 semester and 499 in Spring 2019. Short terms show a consistent growth from an average of 222 students in the previous two summer terms to an enrollment of 340 in the current summer term.

Jacksonville College is preparing for its decennial Reaffirmation of Accreditation review by SACSCOC in 2020. The College submitted the Compliance Report to the Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee in March, and will submit a Focus Report to the On-Site Reaffirmation Committee in September. Additionally, institutions are required to submit a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) as part of the reaffirmation process. Jacksonville College's QEP is "Going the Distance with Distance Education." The On-Site Committee will visit the college campus on October 21-25, 2019, to finalize their compliance review.

The College is a member of the College Consortium, an entity that provides a platform for cooperative course sharing among private institutions via distance education. Jacksonville College is a teaching member of the College Consortium and leads the Consortium in the number of agreements with member institutions. At present, the College has agreements with 14 member institutions.

The student life theme for the 2018-2019 academic year was "Captive," based on 2 Timothy 1:7 (NASB): "For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline." To enrich students' lives, Jacksonville College implemented a new program called "Life-Groups." These Life-Groups serve several different purposes. The initial purpose is to allow our diverse student population to intermingle and bring students together to form bonds with their classmates that may not be formed otherwise. A second purpose of these groups is to keep our students informed about news happening on and off campus that affects their lives both directly and indirectly. Finally, we use these groups to enrich our students' lives spiritually by giving them faculty/staff leaders who facilitate discussions based on Chapel services topics such as gender, abortion, and salvation. As with everything at Jacksonville College,

we use our Life-Groups to challenge minds and transform lives through meetings and discussions and by encouraging spiritual and mental growth.

Jacksonville College is proud to report a financial net gain for the 2018 fiscal year. Our auditors reported a \$69,686 change in net assets as of year-end December 31, 2018. This net gain is due to several factors. Over the past 18 months, the College has gone through a recalibration and stabilization period to cut over \$800,000 in operational, personnel, and scholarship/discount expenses with the consulting assistance of the Southern Baptists of Texas Foundation. Intentional efforts have been placed on donor development and student recruiting. The new venture with the College Consortium

has allowed Jacksonville College to fill open seats and enroll students from across the nation into online courses taught from a biblical worldview, generating \$153,000 in additional revenue to date. Year-end gifts from individual donors, BMAT churches/associations, and the SBTC of over \$400,000 attribute to the net gain as well. The College has also paid off 33% of long-term debt year-to-date.

The Board is thankful for the many miles that Dr. Smith travels to promote Jacksonville College. He promotes the mission of the College as he travels: 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.



▲ The C. R. Meadows Building got a facelift for Fall 2019 thanks to the generosity of friends of the College. Red Springs Baptist Church gave a donation to pay for new LED lights in the hallways and in some classrooms. JC Board member Carole Lybrand and her husband, Bennie, provided the funds for laminate flooring in the hallways and paint for the walls and doors.



▲ In the JAG Store, volunteers prepared welcome gifts to give students during Fall Orientation.



▲ JC students having fun playing Pulse in the cafeteria before the start of the Fall semester



▲ Cornerstone Baptist Church of Jacksonville hosted its Vacation Bible School, Rock the Block, on Jacksonville College's East Campus in June.



## More of Him, Less of Me

By **GLENDAM CHAMBERLAIN**

We are excitedly anticipating the 2019 Texas WMA Women's Conference! The event will be held Sept. 20-21, 2019 at Antioch, Gilmer.

This year, our theme will be "More of Him, Less of Me." It is based on the verse John 3:30, "He must become greater; I must become less." This is where John the Baptist was reassuring his disciples that he was one that was to go before Jesus, and make a way for him. His job was now complete, and Jesus must become more.

The speaker this year is Suzie Umbel. She is a singer, speaker/teacher and a writer with a passion for the Word of God. In addition to her speaking engagements, Suzie has recorded Christian CDs, leads worship and facilitates women's Bible studies. Suzie feels called to take women deeper into the Word because that is how lives are transformed.

Suzie moved to Texas in June 2018 from the Minneapolis/St. Paul Area. She had a speaking ministry in the midwest and has been a group leader for Bible Study Fellowship for many years. Suzie transferred as a group leader to Boerne last year. She and her husband, Tom, are members of Boerne First Baptist Church. They have four grown children and three grandchildren.

In all of her talks, she incorporates singing with the message. Often music seems to reinforce the spoken points and triggers those thoughts later when we hear the songs again. Suzie's website is [www.suzsongministries.org](http://www.suzsongministries.org).

This will definitely be a time of Christian fellowship with other ladies from around the state. There will be two main sessions with our speaker and breakout sessions in between so that we can share what God is speaking to us, and how we can all become more humble in His sight.

Come join us for the food, fellowship, and fun! Register online at [texaswma.com](http://texaswma.com), click on the events tab and the link for registration. Overnight accommodations can be made at Executive Inn and Suites, 920 US 271, Gilmer, 903-843-6099.

### 2019 TEXAS SUNBEAM HOUSE PARTY

The Texas Sunbeams met at Jacksonville College, June 28-29, with 44 in attendance from six churches in three districts. The Sunbeams raised \$994.57 for Water for Christ. The theme was "Dive In!" with Colossians 3:16 as theme verse: "Let the Word of God dwell in you richly."

Meeting in the SUB (Sunbeam Underwater Basin), the Officers and Sunbeams learned to "Dive In" to God's Word. Mellissa Henry led the children in diver training and safety lessons. Training sessions included: Why learn to dive? (2 Tim. 3:14-17); Don't swim alone (Acts 8:26-39); Bring your life jacket (Matt. 4:1-11); Dive in! (Acts 2:42-47); Tell others what you found (Deut. 6:4-9); and Keep swimming (Acts 6:1-7). The Sunbeams received a sea creature at the end of each session.

Bro. Cumbey from Jacksonville College welcomed the Sunbeams. Jean Galyean, presented each Sunbeam with a sea creature and a bracelet in a sand pail when they visited the bookstore.

Song leaders Kainan Moy and Daelan Mathis led the Sunbeams

in many "sea" songs. Treasurers Ellyssa Pool and Aiden Seahorn collected offerings in sand pails. Historian Kaleb Moy took many pictures for the scrapbook.

Abby and Eli Norris helped Shawn McVay-Norris direct the Sunbeams in learning about the Water for Christ ministry.

Game time made a big splash with the Sunbeams! They swam thru an "underwater cave", dug for seashells, threw rings at a dolphin, and many other fun games.

Vice President Cayden Koonce led the business meeting. New officers were elected and Water for Christ was selected again as the new project.

Cindy Allen, Texas WMA president, installed the new officers. Vera Koonce presented each Sunbeam, Galilean and GMA a sand dollar to use as a witnessing tool. The House Party was closed with the Sunbeams praying the Model Prayer.

### DISTRICT NEWS

**The Cherokee District WMA** met July 9, 2019 at Afton Grove, Jacksonville. The host church served a delicious meal with desserts provided by Cornerstone, Jacksonville WMA. As always, the fellowship was great.

President Cindy Allen called the meeting to order with opening prayer by Esther McClurkin. Cindy led congregation in singing 'Because He Lives' accompanied by Eloise Thomas on the piano. Sharon Wilson of Afton Grove gave a warm welcome to all.

Special song, "Didn't I Walk on the Water?," was sung by Annie Williams and Cheryl Richardson.

The speaker for the evening was Teresa Richenberger of Rahab's Retreat and Ranch from Kilgore. She described her life of prostitution and dancing in topless clubs, and how she was changed when she met the Lord. She spoke of how the Lord led her to start a ministry to help women and their children who are trapped in the sex industry. Teresa also authored a book called 'Sold to the Highest Bidder'.

The following officers were nominated: President: Cindy Allen, Vice President: Nancy Washburn, Secretary/Treasurer: Carol Shine, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer: Shirley McAnally, Pianist: Eloise Thomas, Historian: Stephanie Kizer and Prayer Chairman: Alicia Johnson.

The Attendance Banner was awarded to Cornerstone Baptist WMA. The next meeting will be held on October 9, 2019 at Cornerstone Baptist Church.

WMA's outreach for this quarter was to bring supplies for incoming students at the BMA Seminary and Jacksonville College. In total, 29 baskets were collected for the BMA Seminary and 14 for Jacksonville College. The project for October will be cookies for JBC students during final exams.

**The Liberty District WMA** met at Enon, Gilmer on July 13, 2019. The meeting was called to order by President Johnnie Ross with a reading from Deuteronomy, the opening prayer was given by Ms. Ava Pool. We were graciously welcomed by Enon's WMA Leader, Ms. Sandra Lewton. The WMA motto was led by President Johnnie Ross.

July is always a joyful meeting when we get to see all the young

members and hear all the accomplishments of the Sunbeams, GMA's and Galileans. Once again, we were not disappointed.

Ms. Shirley Hoffpaur, Sunbeam promoter, introduced the 10 Sunbeams that were present, their theme for the year: "Camping with the B-U-G-S." The children sang their Sunbeam song, "Jesus wants me for a Sunbeam," much to the delight of all. Certificates of Accomplishment were given to each one present.

Ms. Mellissa Henry and Ms. Tami Blackburn, GMA promoters, reported on the GMA year. Only two girls were able to be present, one from Fellowship, Pittsburg and one from Camille Acres, Longview. Antioch, Gilmer reported that five girls received certificates and one recently graduated. It was noted that Emily Henry of Camille Acres, Longview was recently selected as a national GMA officer. Enon, Gilmer reported that they had two girls working on their Maiden step and one which graduated. A video of the GMA activities for the past year is on Facebook at Liberty District Girls Missionary Auxiliary.

Mr. David Price reported on the local, state and national Galilean events throughout this past year. There were two Galileans present.

Music for the day was led by Charlotte Price with Maeva Thompson/Michelle Ayres playing the piano.

Ms. Charlotte Johnson introduced the National WMA project with a video on "Missionary Care". The goal for this project is set at \$85,000.

The Liberty District project, The Equador Church, is \$49.50 from meeting its \$3,000 goal and there is still one meeting yet to go. Perhaps we can exceed this goal mightily on their behalf. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

Ms. Glenda Chamberlain offered prayer for Maeva Thompson as speaker and also the guest speaker of the day, Miss Valerie Holman. Miss Holman spoke on "We are called to be Prayer Warriors" and what it means to be a Prayer Warrior. Her primary scripture reference was Matthew 7:22-23.

During the short business meeting, nominations for 2019-2020 were presented by Ms. Elizabeth Midkiff and following the floor nominations to complete the roster, all were approved and next year's officers were installed by Ms. Sandra Kizer, newly elected 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president.

Mrs. Ross passed the gavel to newly elected president, Betty Stokes, who offered the closing prayer and adjourned the meeting.

Many thanks to Enon, Gilmer for a sumptuous luncheon and their hospitality.

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



# 2019-2020 Theme

## Women's Missionary Auxiliary

### Baptist Missionary Association of America Share Vision

Last year, I asked you to “Catch the Vision” and I hope each of you caught the vision and reached out to those around you. Our theme for the coming year will be “**SHARE THE VISION**”. Once we have caught the vision, we don’t need to keep it to ourselves. We need to “**SHARE THE VISION**” as Paul did in Acts 26:19-20.

What is the vision? It is sharing the good news of Jesus Christ to all people and nations. Jesus loves the little children—red and yellow, black and white. He loves not only the little children, but also the adults, even those we may consider unloveable because of their actions and positions in society. Jesus loves them and we need to share the gospel with them.

Max Lucado says that what God desires most is that we walk with Him humbly, quietly and obediently. In thinking about Peter’s vision last year, we see that he immediately acted on that vision and shared the gospel with Cornelius’ household. He was obedient. In Acts 26:19-20, we see Paul explaining how he was obedient to the vision God gave to him.

I believe that Jesus gives a vision to each of us who accept Him as Lord and Savior—a vision of sharing what Christ has done for us. Let us “**SHARE THE VISION**” with the world!

At our Women’s Ministry Conference at the National BMA meeting in April of 2020, our breakout sessions will be looking at “**SHARE THE VISION**” in several different ways.

- **Share the Vision through Women’s Ministries**
- **Share the Vision through Gospel Music**
- **Share the Vision through the Written Word**
- **Share the Vision through Community Outreach**

I challenge each of you to “**SHARE THE VISION**” where ever God leads you. Let’s all try to be obedient to the vision God has given us of sharing what Christ has done for us. Sabrina Clayton has agreed to be our keynote speaker for the 2020 Women’s Ministry Conference and I look forward to seeing many of you in Waxahachie, on April 27-28, 2020. If you have never been to one of our conferences, I urge you to attend this one. We have had approximately 200 women at each of the last two conferences and the blessings have been tremendous.

*Brenda Hornaday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
bhornaday@hughes.net*

**NATIONAL WMA 2020**

**Share the Vision**

“Go ye therefore and make disciples of all the nations...”

“Therefore...I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.”  
Acts 26:19-20

## Highlights from National Galilean officer’s planning meeting

By **KENNETH COLVERT**

*National Galilean Director*

The National Galilean Officers met July 19 to make plans for National Galilean Camp 2020. The meeting was held in a cabin high in the beautiful Ozark Mountain Wilderness near Compton, Arkansas.

National Galilean Camp 2020 will be June 19–22 at StoneRidge Baptist Camp in Smithville, Arkansas. Father’s Day falls on Sunday so this will be a father/son camp. We encourage all father’s or substitute fathers to attend camp with their sons. Brother Tony Crocker will serve as our camp pastor.

The theme for 2020 is “Obsessed”, with Deuteronomy 6:5 serving as the theme scripture. Emphasis will be given to teach each believer to act out his faith. Action words chosen for our sub-themes are: Surrender, Pray, Go, Do, Fight, and Persevere. Our prayer is that every camper will leave camp obsessed with the Lord, living for the Lord, working for the Lord and leading others to the Lord. Emphasis will also be placed on the word “all” in Deuteronomy 6:5. We want to give our all to the Lord.

I hope you will make plans now for the boys and men of your church to attend National Galilean Camp 2020. For further information about camp or the Galilean Ministry, e-mail Kenneth Colvert at [krcolvert@cox.net](mailto:krcolvert@cox.net) or you may text or call at 479-629-3258.



▲ Pictured left to right, Kenneth Colvert, National Galilean Director; Cameron Burroughs, President; Dan Williams, Assistant Director; Will Sellers, Music Director; Lawson Townsend, Historian; Andrew Krissel, Mr. Galilean Senior; Neil Aga, Secretary; Hayden Leonard, 2nd Vice President; Maddox Hendricks, 1st Vice President; and Charlie Martin, Mr. Galilean Jr.



# 2019

## LOCAL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Association	Date	Time	Location
East Fork	Sept. 15	6 p.m.	First Missionary, Terrell
Ellis-Hill	Sept. 19	11:30 a.m.	Farley Street, Waxahachie
Tarrant County	Sept. 21	9:30 a.m.	Oasis, Arlington
Tryon	Sept. 29	5 p.m.	New Hope, New Waverly
Dallas County	Sept. 30	6 p.m.	Calvary First, Mesquite
Mount Olive	Oct. 5	9:30 a.m.	Old Center, Tenaha
Gulf Coast	Oct. 6	5 p.m.	Bethel, Orange
Trinity River	Oct. 6	6 p.m.	Little Flock, Jewett
Harris County	Oct. 7	7 p.m.	Suburban Wood, Humble
Central West Texas	Oct. 12	9:30 a.m.	Central, Bronte
Harmony	Oct. 12	12 p.m.	Union, Springtown
Original Bethlehem	Oct. 12	9 a.m.	Zion Hill, Jasper
Landmark Montague	Oct. 13	12:30 p.m.	Union Hill, Bowie
Liberty	Oct. 13	3 p.m.	Little Mound, Big Sandy
Van Zandt	Oct. 13	4 p.m.	Old Bethel, Canton
Cherokee	Oct. 14	6 p.m.	Cornerstone, Jacksonville
Navarro County	N/A		
Wood County	Oct. 15	7 p.m.	Mt. Pisgah, Mineola
Angelina	Oct. 17	7 p.m.	Solid Rock, Zavalla
Plains	Oct. 19	9:30 a.m.	LakeRidge, Lubbock
Central Texas	Oct. 19	9 a.m.	Calvary, Fairfield
Houston-Anderson	Oct. 20	5 p.m.	First, Slocum
Navasota River	Oct. 20	4 p.m.	Sand Prairie, Normangee
Landmark Nacogdoches	Oct. 24	7 p.m.	Harmony, Nacogdoches
Polk County	Oct. 27	3 p.m.	Soda, Livingston
Smith County	Oct. 28	6 p.m.	Red Springs, Tyler

## Hotel/Motel Information

for Baptist Missionary Association of Texas Meeting  
Keltys First Baptist Church, Lufkin  
November 4-5, 2019

### COMFORT SUITES

4402 South 1st Street, Lufkin  
936-632-4949  
Double: \$119  
King: \$109

### HAMPTON INN & SUITES

4400 South 1st Street, Lufkin  
936-699-2500  
Double: \$110  
King: \$115

### COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT

2130 South 1st Street, Lufkin  
936-632-0777  
\$109

### BEST WESTERN PLUS CROWN COLONY INN & SUITES

3211 South 1st Street, Lufkin  
936-634-3481  
Standard: \$94  
Suite: \$104

### HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

4404 South 1st Street, Lufkin  
800-216-1227  
King: \$114

Reservations should be made directly with the above facilities. The cutoff date for special rates is three weeks before the association. Be sure to mention you are with the BMA of Texas to receive the reduced rate. These hotels are approximately five miles from Keltys First Baptist Church where the association meets.

## BMA Texas Missions cont.

**NEPTALY MOLINA—  
IGLESIA BAUTISTA MISSION, NACOGDOCHES  
NRMOLINA23@GMAIL.COM**

We are happy when people respond to the gospel but we are sometimes saddened when the brothers do not persevere in moving forward. It is important to know that if God is not in the matter, it is lost. I feel blessed because I was able to visit the home of Adelaide, a woman who was abandoned by her husband and left her with three daughters. She is going through that test and suffers from depression. We pray for her. Another blessing was the Biblical Summer School with a participation of 15 children, six young men and 12 adults, with a total of 33 people we performed at the Westside, Nacogdoches.



▲ Neptaly Molina

**CRISTIAN MARTINEZ—  
GRACE HARVEST BAPTIST MISSION, LUBBOCK  
CRISTIAN.LMBC@GMAIL.COM**

We thank God that a group has been forming from the scattered Bible studies we had throughout the week. It's a joy to see God building His church as believers are gathering together and they are being built up as their lives are becoming more and more centered on the gospel, growing in their passion for God's glory, and are being equipped to multiply.



▲ Cristian Martinez

We thank God for your faithful support.

#### Prayer Needs:

Wife's pregnancy. Recruiting disciple makers. New disciples to persevere and bear much fruit. Opportunities to preach the gospel. Many conversions.

**CLIFF ROBERTSON—  
CARPENTER'S HOUSE MISSION—  
LAKE JACKSON/CLUTE  
DRCLIFFROBERTSONJR@GMAIL.COM**

Sometimes when things aren't going the way you would like them to go, you simply have to put your head down and pray... and then while you are there, go ahead and get to work.

#### Prayer Needs:

Pray that we will find a worship leader.



▲ Cliff Robertson

**RONNIE MILLS—  
KINGDOM CHAPEL MISSION,  
SAGINAW/NORTH FORT WORTH  
RONNIE@KCHAPEL.ORG**

BMA Family, we are so thrilled to know that coming in a few weeks we will be launched publicly as a church. We ask that you would continue to pray for us as near August 25.

You will also be happy to know



▲ Ronnie Mills

that as a church plant that has not even launched yet, we have baptized 11 and are still have another five to baptize. That will be 16 people in less than a year as a new church.

We are so excited about what God is doing among us, and in us and through us.

Thank you for all of your prayers for us, and our ministry!

#### Prayer Needs:

Pray that our people would not become cozy. We want them to not only come and sit, but to be engaged in our mission.

**SPENCER SIMPSON—  
REDEEMER'S LOVE MISSION, HOUSTON  
SPNCRSMPSN@GMAIL.COM**

Thank you for your prayers and support! We are excited to see the Lord bless us with more new members this past month, as well as to see Him work in our efforts to reach the diverse people groups in our area of southwest Houston.



▲ Spencer Simpson

#### Prayer Needs:

Pray for our new members as they are learning how to commit to the church and one another. Pray that those in our discipleship classes would be given boldness as they are sharing the gospel with people in the local community, as well as for fruit in our efforts of going door to door to reach the surrounding community.

**CESAR CANTU—  
INTERN PREPARING FOR RICHMOND/KATY  
MATTHEW@DISCOVERTHEBRIDGE.COM**

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

The Lord shared this with me this week. As I studied it, the word hope means to conjoin with the LORD. As we line up with his plans, the plan succeeds. He also equips us to complete his work. Since my release from prison nothing has gone as planned. God has taken some crazy routes for me and I would have never imagined to be here right now. Even though I seek him and his plans for me, my best ideas never pan out.

#### Prayer Needs:

Pray for wisdom as we determine a specific place of ministry.



▲ Cesar Cantu

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](mailto:hmitchell@bmatexas.org). For more information, visit [www.bmatexasmissions.org](http://www.bmatexasmissions.org).



# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

## Why Paul Prayed

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: September 1, 2019

TEXT: Colossians 1:1-8

### THE HOOK

Probably the single most important act you can do, as a member of the Body of Christ—and especially the pastor, is to pray for your church. Not just “Lord, bless our church,” but take several minutes—maybe an hour, and in your mind, scan the crowd in your worship center. You know most everyone habitually sits in the same spot every service. Call them by name; if you are aware of their struggles and heartaches, take that to the throne of God. Go up and down each pew, calling names, interceding for all the saints. You will be amazed at how God will honor those prayers. And multiples of people interceding on behalf of the fellowship is bound to result in God the Father doing a marvelous work in the church.

### THE BOOK

Paul’s humility (verse 1). Paul could have opened the letter with, “This is from the great Apostle Paul, earning a

doctorate from the University of Gamaliel, a past prominent member of the Sanhedrin, and today the foremost planter of New Testament churches in the world.” No, he simply said, “an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God” and he was quick to acknowledge his traveling companion, Timothy. In other letters, he referred to himself as the “prisoner of Christ” or a “slave to Christ.” He referred to himself as “chiefest of sinners,” and in Ephesians 3:8 as “less than the least of all saints.” Paul’s focus was obviously off of self, and centered on Christ and others.

Paul’s love for the people (verse 2). He extolled them; he expressed thanks to God for them (verse 3) he acknowledged their faith and love for the saints (verse 4) and the fact they had hope and assurance of heaven (verse 5) and for the fruit which they bore and the knowledge they had of God’s grace (verse 6).

Paul’s affectionate regard for a fellow servant (verse 7-8). Epaphras, who was only mentioned twice in scripture (Colossians 1:7 and Philemon 23) was a keen observer of the ministry of Paul. Paul must have rejoiced at the ministry

and faithfulness of whom he referred to as his “dear fellow servant.” Pastor, if you have poured your life into at least three or four young men, reproduced your ministry in them, and empowered them to serve, you have quadrupled your ministry on earth. Please do not be guilty of what I have been guilty of—that is, having the green eyed monster of jealousy, and resentment toward a co-laborer whom I felt was upstaging me. That, my friends, is bondage. That is the epitome of the “me” complex. Paul did not feel that way about his co-laborers. He was gratified that Epaphras was a faithful servant, and was glad to report of the loving fellowship and evidence of the moving of the Spirit in the church (verse 8).

### THE LOOK

Is your church in need of revival? Has she lapsed into a lukewarm state as in Laodicea? Ask God how you can be used as an instrument to breath new life into the church. Pray for the people, express thanks for the fellowship, take someone under your wing and pour your life into them (this is called discipleship) thus multiplying your ministry.

## How and what Paul prayed

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: September 8, 2019

TEXT: Colossians 1:9-14

### THE HOOK

Some so-called churches today do not encourage the parishioners to read and study scripture for themselves. But notice Paul’s yearning in his heart that the people would continually be strengthened in the Word every day. This letter to the Colossians is reminiscent of his passionate letter to the Ephesians. (Ephesians 3:16-21). John MacArthur once said there is no other literary work ever written which bore longer sentences than that of Paul. His words were so chock full of truth, he had difficulty finding a place to put a period.

### THE BOOK

#### HOW PAUL PRAYED

**1. He prayed continually (verse 9).** He told the people of Colossae that he never ceased to pray for them. He practiced what he told the Thessalonians to do, and that is to “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). It is safe to say Paul arose each morning with a prayer on his heart, and that prayer did not end until he went to sleep at night. Not that he walked about with his head bowed and his eyes closed. But his heart was attuned to God’s presence to the point an intense prayer was always on his heart.

**2. He prayed with a spirit of thanksgiving.** He thanked the Father for making them all heirs of the inheritance (verse 12) for delivering them from the power of darkness (see Ephesians 6:11-18) and making us a part of His Kingdom (verse 13)

#### WHAT PAUL PRAYED.

**1. For the church to have knowledge and wisdom (verse 9).** To have the knowledge of the will of God, and the wisdom and spiritual understanding to make the application in order to live a life that is pleasing to the Lord. To be assured of His redemption through the blood of Christ, to realize God is the creator of all things; and that Christ is the preeminent Head of the Church.

**2. For the church to produce fruit (verse 10).** We get a thorough breakdown as to the definition of Christian fruit in Galatians 5:22-23 and 2 Peter 1:5-8. Fruit is not so much outward manifestations of good deeds as the character of the heart—or the “inner man” (joy, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, brother love). If one’s heart possesses these traits, the outward manifestations will follow.

**3. For the church to have inner strength (verse 11).** According to what Paul wrote to the Ephesians, inner strength is the foundational attribute, which enables a believer to understand the indwelling Christ, the comprehension of the love of Christ, and to be rooted and grounded in Him (Jeremiah 17:8).

### THE LOOK

This week’s scripture gives us a wonderful formula about what we are to pray, and for whom we are to pray. The Word is the perfect resource for information about prayer, and the Holy Spirit gives us aid in our prayers.



Want your *Baptist Progress* issues to arrive faster and save money at the same time?

To receive each issue of *Baptist Progress* approximately one week earlier, switch your mail subscription to an email subscription!

In addition to receiving each issue by email, you will get our e-News Update between issues. News alerts are also emailed periodically. The cost of an email subscription is \$18 (\$6 less per year than mail subscriptions).

So...faster delivery, more news, less cost...

**WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?**  
Make the switch, email us today at [editor@baptistprogress.org](mailto:editor@baptistprogress.org)!

## RESERVE YOUR DISPLAY TABLE FOR BMA OF TEXAS MEETING

Should your department or ministry need a display table at the BMA of Texas Meeting at Keltys First, Lufkin, Nov. 4-5, please email Christi Mitchell at [christi@bmatexas.org](mailto:christi@bmatexas.org).



# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

The true Christ who offers believers a true relationship with Him

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

**DATE:** September 15, 2019

**TEXT:** Colossians 1:15-23

## THE HOOK

In this week's lesson, Paul gives us a detailed description and explanation of Christ. No other person has ever had more titles ascribed to him than our Wonderful Savior. He is the risen Christ—He is the Foundation of the New Testament Church—He is the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world. We know Him as the God/Man—the Lord; the Son of God; the Son of Man; the Son of David; Emmanuel; Master, Advocate, Bread of Life; Bridegroom; Chief Cornerstone; Faithful and True; the Alpha and Omega; the Amen; the Great High Priest; Wonderful Counselor—THE I AM.

## THE BOOK

**1. Christ is God in the flesh (verse 15).** Those who refuse to believe this are of the spirit of antichrist (1 John 4:1-3). Paul tells us

that Christ has enabled us to catch a glimpse of what God looks like. Christ was not created of God as some believe. Christ is an eternal Person, present at the foundation of the world—the second Person in the Godhead. Two thousand years ago, God came and “tabernacled” among us in the form of Man, thus offering the perfect sacrifice for the remission of sin. No other blood would do. Only the blood of Jesus (the God/Man) was sufficient to cover the sin of man.

**2. Christ is the Creator (verses 16-17).** It was through His power that all things, visible and invisible, were created, whether earthly thrones and kingdoms. All things were created by Him, and for Him and at His disposal. That is why He could feed the multitude without going to town to purchase food. This is why He could change water to wine in Cana. He owns it all—it was all created for Him. And He can provide for you under the most unlikely circumstances. Try Him!

**3. Christ is the Head of the church (verse 18).** The church is the manifestation of Christ's Body here on earth.

**4. In Christ dwells all deity (verse 19).** Christ was the fullness

of the Godhead bodily (Colossians 2:9). Yet, at the same time, He possessed all the attributes of human passions, with the exception of the fact He did not sin, nor did He yield to temptation (Matthew 4:1-11).

**5. Christ is our Peacemaker (verses 20-23).** By His shed blood on the cross, He has reconciled all things to Himself—“things on earth, things in Heaven.” To reconcile means to restore to a right relationship or standard. God did not need to be reconciled to man, but man needed to be reconciled to God.

## THE LOOK

If man were to be reconciled to God, God had to remove the cause of enmity between Himself and mankind by settling the sin question to God's entire satisfaction. The blood of a sinless, virgin born Savior, conceived from the seed of the Holy Spirit, was, and is the only hope for this reconciliation between God and man. The blood of Jesus is sufficient.

## Paul, the minister and his ministry

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

**DATE:** September 22, 2019

**TEXT:** Colossians 1:21-29

## THE HOOK

What is the job description of your pastor? Many have concepts, which are totally alien from what God's Word says. In Acts 6, we are told he is to study, meditate and pray; 1 Peter 5:2-4 says that he is to feed the flock of God; Ephesians 4:11 says that he is to perfect the saints; 1 Timothy 3 says that he is to manage his own household, refrain from brawling, be blameless, and not given to wine. Paul shares with us the essence of a genuine pastor's heart.

## THE BOOK

**1.** The pastor is to work to ensure his flock remains strong in their faith; that they refuse to become distracted from their walk with Christ; to persevere (verse 23).

**2.** Paul was willing, even rejoicing at the thought of suffering for the flock—to participate in the fellowship of suffering with Christ (verse 24). He considered that such a privilege. (Philippians 3:10-14)

**3.** Paul was overjoyed to share with the church the mystery of the ages—that God has opened the gospel which was originally for the Jews, up to the gentiles. (verse 26-27; Ephesians 2:13-16).

**4.** Paul was passionate in charging the Body to tell others about Christ (verse 28).

## THE LOOK

In Paul's words in verses 21-29, we get a glimpse of a man with a pastor's heart and a burning desire to feed the church of God and was willing to suffer as a result. Church, if you have a pastor with a genuine heart for you, thank the Lord.

## The spiritual wealth and walk of the Christian

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

**DATE:** September 29, 2019

**TEXT:** Colossians 2:1-7

## THE HOOK

Would you rather be wealthy materially, or would you rather be wealthy spiritually? Material wealth today translates into stocks, bonds, real estate, fine automobiles, 6,000 square foot mansions, elaborate furnishings and unlimited buying power.

Sound good? Well, the problem with it is, when you die, you can't take it with you. One day it will all be consumed with fire—it will be moth-eaten—and riddled with rust.

What is spiritual wealth? It is to walk in wisdom as a result of maturing in the faith by the power of God's Word and the Holy Spirit—to have deep fellowship with God's people; to entertain angels unawares. For a preacher, wealth is having the privilege of preaching God's Word to God's people. To a Christian woman, it's the love and companionship of children and grandchildren and the privilege of planting the gospel into their precious little hearts. To a church, it's communing with Christ in fervent worship—giving to support a mission effort, sharing the gospel of Christ, and bonding together in Christian love and fellowship. When you die, you take spiritual riches with you—you will stand before the bema seat of Christ and receive rewards for everything done in this life which glorified Him. You will have a crown—maybe two—to cast at His feet in glory. Those riches will last throughout the ceaseless eons of eternity.

## THE BOOK

**1.** It is interesting that Paul mentioned the wealthy Laodicean church. It is the church that received the harshest rebuke by Christ. She was increased with goods and had need of nothing—truly marks of a spiritually destitute church. But Smyrna, on the other hand, was poverty stricken, but Christ said, “But thou art rich” (verse 1).

**2.** Paul prayed for the Laodiceans, not for more riches, but for hearts knit together in love, full assurance of understanding, and to know the great mystery of God. The mystery? The truth of the death of Christ making reconciliation—not the least of which was the tearing down the middle wall of partition which separated the Jew from the gentile, making the two “one new man in Christ” (verse 2).

**3.** Paul delivered the precious truth to the believers at Colossae that

true riches are treasures of wisdom and knowledge. He warned them to not be enticed by earthly men, probably concerning being ensnared in material riches. This is one of the commands to the man of God in 2 Timothy 2:4: “No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” One who is rich unto God, is not being consumed with the materialism of the world (verses 3-4).

**4.** Included in Paul's inventory of spiritual riches, was the reality that his heart was with his beloved people, although physically he was separated from them. He received great joy and comfort in observing their godly, disciplined, orderly lives. He rejoiced in their steadfastness—and in their faith in Christ. To the man of God, no earthly riches can compare to those spiritual riches (verse 5). Paul told another church, Ephesus, that they were blessed with “. . . all spiritual blessings in heavenly places” (in the heavenlies) (Ephesians 1:3).

## THE LOOK

Jesus' life on earth was a vivid illustration of spiritual riches. Yet He was poverty stricken. He said birds have nests—foxes have holes, but He had no place to lay his head (Luke 9:58). In spite of that, Jesus had access to all the riches of heaven. The churches of Macedonia, sent an offering to the struggling brethren in Jerusalem—yet “. . . in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality” (2 Corinthians 8). Wall Street cannot compute such riches—giving liberally out of their poverty. Yet, that is the way God's economic system works.

*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.*



# EVENTS

## BMA OF TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING

**DATE:** November 4-5, 2019

**PLACE:** Keltys First Baptist Church, Lufkin, Texas

## BMA OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING

**DATE:** April 27-29, 2020

**PLACE:** Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas

# Upcoming Events

**LABOR DAY HOLIDAY**  
September 2

## 32ND ANNUAL JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE JAG CLUB BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, September 21 at Jacksonville's Cherokee Ranch Golf Club  
For details, see the ad in this issue of the *Baptist Progress*.

**SAW YOU AT THE POLE 2019**  
September 25

## MANLEY DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

Wednesday, September 25 at 11:00 a.m. in Buckner Chapel  
Speaker: Dr. Kenny Digby, executive director-treasurer of the Christian Action Commission (CAC)  
Topic: Upstream Christians in a Downstream World



# PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

## AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**PASTOR**—Holly Grove, Livingston is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Send resume to HGBC Pastor Search Committee, 5354 Holly Grove Road, Livingston, Texas 77351, rich@estex.net or call 832-651-2520. TFN

**PASTOR**—Fifth Street, Levelland is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to lbeadles@msn.com or P.O. Box 1212, Levelland, Texas 79336. TFN

**PASTOR**—Hill Creek, Whitehouse is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Chairman of Pastor Search Committee, 17636 Summer Place, Whitehouse, Texas 75791. TFN

**PASTOR**—Mt. Pisgah, Mineola is seeking a full-time pastor. Bi-vocational is an option. Send resume to the church at 4995 FM 49, Mineola, Texas 75773 or email to mpmbc.mineola@gmail.com. Audio or video sermon if available would be appreciated. TFN

**YOUTH MINISTER**—Mt. Olive, Scurry is seeking a full-time (20-40 hours per week) youth minister. Email pastorgarris@hotmail.com or call Mt. Olive Baptist Church at 972-452-8585. TFN

## AVAILABLE MINISTERS

**GRADY MOORE**, former state missionary and a pastor, is available for pulpit supply, interim pastor or possibly pastor. He has helped a number of churches in recent years as interim and as supply preacher. No church is too small to help. Grady can be contacted as 817-403-4769.

# PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

**RON DUNN** is the new pastor of First, Beckville.

**DOCK LAZARENE** has accepted the position of interim pastor at Westside, Nacogdoches.

# CHURCHES in REVIEW

## July 21, 2019

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	64	91	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	18	33	
Jackson, Joaquin	70	111	
New Harmony, Tyler	268	307	1 by baptism
Olde Tyme, White Oak		37	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	33	51	
Rosewood, Gilmer	104	212	1 by baptism
Sand Prairie, Normangee		50	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	21	48	2 by baptism
Simmons Hill, Diana	21	36	

## July 28, 2019

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	53	80	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	15	31	
Jackson, Joaquin	77	121	
New Harmony, Tyler	244	340	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		38	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	36	52	
Rosewood, Gilmer	124	234	2 professions of faith
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	40	60	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	17	51	
Simmons Hill, Diana	31	44	2 by baptism, 1 by letter
Security Calvary, Cleveland	11	38	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	16	20	

## August 4, 2019

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	48	78	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	20	37	
Jackson, Joaquin	83	126	
New Harmony, Tyler	254	324	
New Hope, Mineola	89	217	1 by baptism
Olde Tyme, White Oak		46	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	47	68	
Rosewood, Gilmer		275	2 by baptism, 1 profession of faith
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	37	61	
Sand Prairie, Normangee		55	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	17	38	
Simmons Hill, Diana	32	40	

## August 11, 2019

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Glade Creek, Gilmer	17	36	
Jackson, Joaquin	82	126	
New Harmony, Tyler	272	315	
New Hope, Mineola	77	151	1 by baptism
Olde Tyme, White Oak		27	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	55	71	
Rosewood, Gilmer	107	236	1 by baptism, 1 profession of faith
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	38	53	
Sand Prairie, Normangee		52	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	28	47	
Simmons Hill, Diana	31	37	

# STUDENT MINISTRY WORKERS RETREAT 2019

September 7, 2019 - 9am-4pm

\$30 Registration

\$20 for College Students

Central Baptist College - Conway, AR

StudentMinistryMatters.com



Sponsor



Samuel Bierig  
Retreat Speaker



Echo of Love  
Worship Team



Co-Sponsor

BMAyouthdepartment@gmail.com for questions.

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jacksonville College Jag Club Benefit Golf Tournament

Saturday, September 21, 2019

8:00 a.m. shotgun start

Registration begins at 7:00 a.m.

Cherokee Ranch Golf Club

14499 US Highway 79 E., Jacksonville, TX

Entry Fee: \$100/golfer (includes green fee, cart, lunch)

Mulligans: \$5 (purchase at registration; 4/team limit)

4 Person Scramble / Women's and Men's Divisions

Prizes awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams,

Long Drive, and Closest to the Pin



For registration and additional information, contact  
JC Athletic Director and Tournament Director Ken Hamilton at  
khamilton@jacksonville-college.edu, (903) 589-7130



## 2019 SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE • BRANSON, MISSOURI

**NOVEMBER 18-20, 2019**

### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

**\$125 PER PERSON** UNTIL OCTOBER 1, 2019  
\$135 PER PERSON AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2019

+\$40 OFF-SITE LODGING

### HILTON CONVENTION HOTEL

\$144 PER NIGHT UNTIL OCTOBER 18, 2019  
\*PLUS TAXES AND FEE

### REGISTER

**WWW.BMAAMERICA.ORG/SENIOR**  
OR **844-262-8637**

## FEATURING



GREG MEDENWALD  
CONFERENCE PASTOR



HAYGOODS  
SKIT



DONNY PARRISH  
EMCEE



DAVID & NEIL  
WORSHIP



GOLD CITY  
CONCERT



DENNIS SWANBERG  
COMEDIAN