

Baptist Progress

Baptist Progress, P.O. Box 2085, Waxahachie, Texas 75168
Postmaster: send change of address to:
5010125

Official Publication of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas | August 5, 2015 | Vol. 102 | No. 15

Change for Children 2015 Celebration Day at Texas Baptist Home for Children

By **EDDIE MARSH**

Texas Baptist Home for Children President

The campus of Texas Baptist Home for Children (TBHC) was covered with children on June 27, 2015. There are now 156 children in care, a vast majority was on campus for the Change for Children activities. The Townley Chapel was filled with church groups and children and house parents who live on campus. Due to a lack of space, most of our staff was required to stand during the program.

A family, including two boys who were adopted this year, performed a skit. Another gentleman, who along with his wife has adopted two children through TBHC, shared an inspirational testimony of the journey that he and his wife have made in becoming parents.

To conclude the program, two young ladies led the group in singing "How Great is Our God." One, who is the granddaughter of two TBHC foster parents, sang in English. The other young lady, who is part of the Spanish-speaking congregation at Farley Street, Waxahachie, sang in Spanish. It was a special blessing to hear their voices blended in praise to our Lord.

At this point, 62 churches and individuals have given \$37,592.99. However, the contents of the cans that was received on Celebration Day and since has not yet been counted.

TBHC expresses appreciation to everyone who helps with this campaign each year. The money received goes toward activities for the children throughout the year. As the number of children increases, the need also increases.



Inside



Jacksonville College
Page 3



Baptist Missionary Loan Association
Page 7



Texas WMA Retreat
Page 12



www.bmatexas.org

Baptist Progress

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

**BMA of Texas Missions/
Loan Association**

Jerry Burnaman, Director
PO Box 73, Waxahachie 75168
972-923-0757
www.changedintexas.com

Jacksonville College

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

Texas Baptist Home

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

Baptist Progress

USPS: 043120 • ISSN: 005-5751

Published every first and 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: \$1.50 per month
E-Mail Church Plan: \$1.00 per month
Mail Subscription: \$21.00 per year
E-mail Subscription: \$15.00 per year
Mail & E-mail: \$25.00 per year
(Advertising Rates Available on Request)

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

Church News

Major changes and blessings for The Refuge, Terrell

TERRELL—The Refuge Church in Terrell, a church plant supported by BMA of America Missions and BMA of Texas Missions, is experiencing major changes. Co-Pastor Todd Cox has left Texas to plant Stonepoint Church in Cummings, Georgia. In addition, The Refuge has hired Michel Clements as their new connections pastor. He will be leading music, preaching some and be in charge of web and graphics.

Michael's father-in-law found a church building in Terrell for the same cost the congregation now pays to rent the movie theater where they currently hold their services. The new building has a sanctuary, fellowship hall, kitchen, three classrooms and an office. Their last service at the movie theater will be Aug 2. The following week, the group will meet at the new building to get it ready as well as have a prayer service. The first official service in the new building will be Aug. 16.

The church building needs a few repairs. Below is a list of needs. If your church or you would like to cover one or more of the expenses, send funds to BMA of Texas Missions, PO Box 2085, Waxahachie, Texas 75168. Be sure to mark your check: "The Refuge Church, Terrell".

LIST OF NEEDS:

- Fix Drywall Cracks \$300
- Paint Interior of Building \$500
- Tear Down wall and replace for sound room \$200
- Fix some electrical problems \$200
- Put up Landscape Timbers for Parking Lot \$300
- Purchase a Projector, Screen, and HDMI Cable \$2000
- Put Wheelchair Ramp access to classrooms \$200
- Tile Floor In Bathrooms \$300
- Replace some Light Fixtures \$500
- Replace Front Door \$400
- Purchase Vinyl Clings for Windows \$300
- Paint Exterior Trim \$500
- Stain/Paint Fellowship Hall Floor \$1500
- Children's Classroom \$150
- Nursery \$150

TOTAL \$7500



Davis Street ordains two men as deacons

SULPHUR SPRINGS—Davis Street, Sulphur Springs ordained Anthony Ballard and Brandon Price on June 28, 2015. Pastor Andy Comer said, "Our church has added many young families over the last few years, so it was great to see some young men being ordained as deacons. We are excited about how God will use these men in serving our church and community."



▲ Pastor Andy Comer (l) presents Anthony Ballard (r) with Bible



▲ Pastor Andy Comer (l) presents Brandon Price (r) with Bible

\$103 FOR 103 YEARS OF MINISTRY BAPTIST PROGRESS ANNIVERSARY OFFERING THANK YOU TO THE CHURCHES, GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO GAVE LISTED BELOW.

Anthony Drive, Ennis
Bardwell, Bardwell
Beacon Hill, Waco
Beacon, Bryan
Calvary, Centerville
Calvary, Ennis
Calvary, Trinidad
Camille Acres, Longview
Cedar Creek, Teague
Center Of Life, Houston
Central, Aspermont
Corinth, Jacksonville
D.J. & G.L. Arnold
David Hendricks
Davis Street, Sulphur Springs
Delores A. Adams

Don & Janice Turner
Ebenezer Friendship, Pittsburg
Ebenezer, Quitman
Eighth Avenue, Teague
(Progress Class)
Elwood, Wills Point
Enon First, Iola
Enterprise, Jacksonville
Farley Street, Waxahachie
(SonShine Class)
Fellowship, Edinburg
Fifth St, Levelland
First, Crandall
First of Cross Roads, Athens
Forest Hill, Quitman
Friendship, Mesquite

Greenpond, Como
Harvest, Lufkin
Jerry & Cassie Fulton
LakeRidge, Lubbock
Lakeside, Trinidad
Liberty, Henderson
Lighthouse, Rowlett
Little Mound, Big Sandy
Macedonia, Etoile
Macune, San Augustine
Martins Prairie, Anderson
Meadow Park, Mount Vernon
Michael And Lisa Phillips
New Hope, New Waverly
Oak Grove, Canton
Pecan, Robert Lee

Pine Brook, Tyler
Red Springs, Tyler
Ricky And Cindy Toal
Rosewood, Gilmer
Round Prairie, Fairfield
Sheppard Drive, Euless
Sheridan Terrace, Palestine
Stone Ridge, Kilgore
Suburban Wood, Humble
Sunset, Lamesa
Tundra, Canton
Union Hill, Bowie

TOTAL \$11,283



Family Matters

The most important piece of furniture in the home

By DR. TRAVIS PLUMLEE

I know many of you would say the bed is the most important piece of furniture in your home. And I would be the first to agree that crawling into your own bed for a nap or a good night's rest is a great thing. But I am looking at the piece of furniture that would have the greatest impact on the family for good. To that end, there is no comparison to the dining table. Even in one of the most iconic pictures that we see of a portrayal of Jesus, He is at the table eating with friends during the Last Supper. The dining table is the most important piece of furniture in your home for building family bonding and cohesiveness.

Of course that assumes that the family actually uses the dining table as well as boundaries and house rules for the table traditions. The reason the table is so important, is not the food consumed. It is the conversation that is carried out. Communication is the key to a close family. The more we communicate, the better and stronger we become. No matter what the problem in the home; as long as we keep a dialogue of open, honest and loving communication between family members, all problems can be solved with God's help. Hopefully, Christian families sit down at the table to eat and start the entire process off with the most important form of communication—and that is prayer. The family

that prays together—stays together.


Since biblical times, the breaking of bread together as a family was critical for social bonding. It offers opportunities for intergenerational exchange of ideas and values. It is checking in with your family. It is finding out what is going on in their day. It is a great time to teach family doctrine. During the course of conversation with children, there are many opportunities to speak of what is right and wrong and how we should handle situations. Talking at the dinner table is where a family can learn how to respond to life in general on a daily basis. It can be a time of sharing, learning and dreaming together.

It does not have to be all conversation of significant meaning either. Just sitting around talking about anything builds time together as a family. Some of my greatest memories are sitting around with my extended family at the dining room table during the holidays. There was so much laughter. Storytelling for two hours after eating was quite possible. This is where little children and grandchildren learn so much of who they are as a people. They hear stories of how it was in the old days. They hear parents, grandparents and others share how they survived or made it through some situation. And all the family learns the value of

laughter. It is good medicine. Families should make meal times enjoyable with lots of stories that often times begin with, "Do you remember the time when?"

But we need a few simple rules to insure that meals times are pleasant experiences for everyone. All tense situations or difficult topics are off limits. Grades, who you are dating or not going to date, the horror of work etc... should be discussed at family meetings, or at another time. If an argument ensues, the adults must make sure to say we can talk about it after supper. Siblings are not allowed to make fun of others or put others down. People should be encouraged during meal times. Everyone should have an opportunity to share their day, but do not have to be forced to share. It should be a happy time. Sensitive family issues are put aside for another time. Arguments are never allowed at the table.

The cell phone is the single greatest destroyer of family communication. All families must set a hard "house rule" of no cell phones at the dinner table. You surely can go an hour talking with your family gathered around the table without your phone. If you can't, then you need to get help for your phone addiction. Adults always find excuses for themselves. It is work. There might be an emergency. People found out about emergencies and dealt with them for thousands of years before cell phones. There is no email or text from work that is more important than family time together. Of course, none of this matters if the family doesn't actually eat together. You must find time to eat together at the table multiple times per week. The more the better. Yes, we are all busy and having to run here and there. Yes, young people always want to be engaged with electronics like television or music. We must come apart or we will fall apart. We must build in time to talk and eat and be together with no outside influences. And yes it does need to be at the table. It forces you to look into each other's eyes. Sitting on the couch or floor can mean no eye contact. Biblical families always broke bread together with those they loved. So did Jesus. We must get back to this important aspect of family life. It's a major factor in a loving family.



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 \$15 (\$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!

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



Church Health

My biggest struggle is me

By LARRY BARKER

Life is full of challenges!!! There are many obstacles and many difficult people to contend with but I have found the person I have the biggest problem with is me! Quite frankly we are all selfish by nature and the culture we have grown up in seems to promote our selfish tendencies. Commercials through the years have said things like, “You deserve a break today!” and there have been others such as: “Just Do It”, “Why wait?”, “Obey Your Thirst”, and “No Boundaries!” The appeal is to go ahead, be selfish, gratify yourself and take care of number one, you!

There was even a country song not too long ago entitled, *I Want to Talk About Me* which said “I wanna talk about me, Wanna talk about I, Wanna talk about number one!” Please know it was quite catchy and I’m not attacking it because I can certainly relate. You can even go online and find 100 positive affirmations you can say to yourself to boost your self-image. Things like, “I love and approve of myself!” and “I am too big a gift to the world to waste my time on self-pity and sadness.” Unfortunately, what this creates is the thought that self is in control!

What does the Bible say on this? Jesus in Matt 16:24 said, “If anyone wants to come with Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.” Quite a contrast from what we hear the world telling us isn’t it! While the world says you should do what self tells you Jesus says you should deny self! The idea is conveyed that nothing is more important than me and what I want to do but Philippians 2:3 says, “Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves.” Others should be more important than me!

Here are some of the self-centered tendencies that we must face and address if we want to follow Christ:

Self-Promotion - We must be very careful about desiring the applause and approval of others. The greatest question to keep asking ourselves is this, “Is Jesus satisfied with me and my motives?” When we allow our selfish aspirations to dominate us then criticism will crush us and applause will corrupt us. Paul says this in Galatians 6:14, “But as for me, I will never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. The world has been crucified to me through the cross, and I to the world.”

Self-Indulgence - We are told we deserve it and if we want it go for it! The reality is that many of the things we desire and want are not good for us nor are they right. When you set yourself up as the final authority you are headed down a dangerous road. Proverbs 14:12 says, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.” Culture would have us to believe that if we want it, it must be



ok, and if we feel it is right then who are you to question me on it. There is absolute truth and it is the word of God.

Self-Image - The focus on appearance is in front of us every single day. On Twitter one pastor shared the picture of a book, *Faking It, How To Seem A Better Person Without Actually Improving Yourself*. He did say the he does **NOT** recommend it. You can fix almost everything on the outside with cosmetic surgery, wear the finest clothing available and yet God says in I Sam 16:7, “Man does not see what the Lord sees, for man sees what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart.” What does God see when he looks at your heart?

Self-Pity - This at first may not appear to be self-serving but it is. It places all of the focus on me and my struggles. There certainly will be disappointments and tragedies that will break our hearts. We can follow that path or we can look to God in faith and trust that He has a purpose in everything. In Genesis 50:20 Joseph said this about his brothers selling him into slavery and telling his father that he was dead, “You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result—the survival of many people.”

Self-Preservation - The temptation here is to think that I have to take care of “me” first. Yet, the heroes we look up to are individuals who risked their own lives to protect other us. There is that voice in our head saying, “If you don’t take care of yourself nobody else will!” We need to ask ourselves what we are afraid of losing, what we are trying to hide, and what

are we trying to prove? Matthew 16:25 says, “For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me will find it.”

The need is not to focus on myself more but actually less. It is not about self-promotion, self-indulgence, self-image, self-pity, or self-preservation. Paul in Romans 12:3 puts it this way, “For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think.” Here is what we need more of according to the word of God:

Self-Denial - It is first what God says, not what I think! It is first what is best, not what I want! It is first what is right, not what I desire! It is first how can I help others, not how can I take care of me! It is first His will for my life, not my goals, my plans, and my dreams!

You see my greatest struggle is not you, difficult people, people who disagree with me, or anything other excuse I can conjure up! Its me!

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



Auxiliaries

Fiesta Sunbeams

By SHARON COLE

The Texas Sunbeam Houseparty was held July 17-18, 2015 at Jacksonville College with a Fiesta Sunbeams celebrating in Texas and Estamos Celebrando Los Rayitos De Sol in Mexico. The Theme verse was "Enter into his gates with praise: be thankful unto him and bless his name" (Psalm 100:4).

After La Cena (supper consisting of Taco, Spanish Rice and Beans) in the cafeteria, the general session began in the sub with President Sam Clair, welcoming everyone and leading in prayer. First Vice President, Samantha Dumas introduced a representative of the college, Bro. Cumbee, the Jaguar Bookstore Manager, who filled in for Dr. Smith, who was unable to attend.

The 2014 officers were introduced. The roll call of districts was called by Ty Saxton who reported we had 52 present. One new church, Cornerstone, Jacksonville, joined the Texas Sunbeams. The program consisted of five skits put on over the two days by Sam Clair, Sami Dumas, and Mellissa Henry in the order of Dora and Diego with Sami giving a bible story and Sam looking through his camera to see what clues were scattered around the room for the children to find, such as a cross, a bible picture, praying hands, a dove and barbells. As the objects were found each child got a small token to place in their bag. After each skit Caleb Kizer led the group in a song that went along with the skit. The Project Report was given by Ty Hoffpauir. The Project was Bro. Tommy Rose for Rayitos De Sol (Sunbeams) at El Alba Baptist Church in Pachuca, Mexico. On Saturday morning we were able to Skype with Mrs. Sara Rose in Pachuca, Mexico and let her know that the project offering was \$2,245 which exceeded the goal of \$2000. The project for next year will again be for Rayitos De Sol for any of the other churches which wish to have Sunbeams. Again, the goal will be \$2,000.

There was a Fiesta Breakout Session in which games were played led by Mt. Olive District, crafts, led by Camille Acres, Longview and snacks furnished by Fellowship, Pittsburg. Fiesta Missions was presented by Mrs. Kelly Johnson, wife of Bro. Erick Johnson from El Alba Baptist Church, Pachuca, Mexico. She, with the help of her three children, Audrey, Mattie and Abram, gave a very informative program on the work being done there. Before the Buenos Noches, a bedtime story was presented by Mrs. Vera Koonce.

Saturday morning, the Sunbeams enjoyed a very good Pancake Breakfast and then had another General Session. In the business session the 2015-16 officers were elected as follows: President-Samatha Dumas, Adult-Mellissa Henry, 1st Vice-Ty Hoffpauir, Adult-Shirley Hoffpauir, Secretary-Bro. Gene Mathis, Asst. Shawn Norris, Treasurer-Shera Clair, Reporter-Historian Leila Traylor, Adult-D'Andra Traylor, Song Leader-Caleb Kizer, Adult-Becky Binns, Project Promoter-Rebecca Orr, Adult-Nancy Orr, Adult Webmaster-Alicia Johnson, Advisory Council: Vera Koonce, Sarah Whitfield. Mrs. Diana Morris, State WMA President, installed the new officers.

Winners for the Coloring Contest, Design a Pinata Contest, Design a Maraca Contest and Decorate a Sombrero Contest were awarded their prizes. Lunch was served by the Cafeteria

Workers. They have done a wonderful job this year and we do thank them for their work and patience. We had spaghetti, corn, salad, and garlic biscuits, and a big chocolate chunk cookie, after which the children could make their own ice cream sundaes.

Following lunch, the children got to break two pinatas and the kids filled up their "pepper-shaped bags" and were given their "goodie bags" to carry home with them. The next Houseparty will be at Jacksonville Baptist College, July 15-16, 2016. The registration fee will still be \$15. The theme for next year will be, "He's Got the Whole World In His Hands." The Theme verse will be John 10:28 "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

We will be having a missions fair next year and each church gets to pick which mission field they want to represent. So far, Bolivia, India, Philippines, Ukraine and France have been taken. If your group is coming next year, you can pick a field you would like to represent. For more information contact Vera Koonce at 2426 Stonecrest, Houston, TX 77018, 281-642-5356 or bjkeak55@yahoo.com.

WOOD COUNTY DISTRICT NEWS

The Wood County District WMA met for their regular meeting at Central, Mineola on July 11, 2015. President Jackie Ricks called the meeting to order and Marie Carey of Central gave the group a warm welcome. Annette Stedrey led us in the WMA song, motto and scripture. Bro. Randy Johnson led in prayer and blessed the delicious brunch served by the host church. There were eight officers present with six churches and a total of 29 people. Our speaker was Tammy Senn. We voted to return our District WMA meetings to Friday, except in January. We also approved our yearly budget and selected the BMA Seminary in Jacksonville as our district project. Our 2015-16 theme is "God's Love." Jackie Ricks installed the officers for 2015-16. They are: President-Julie Kearby-Pilgrim Rest #2; 1st Vice President-Jackie Ricks-Macedonia; 2nd Vice President-Georgie Johnson- Mt. Pisgah; Secretary-Berenda Mewborn-Central; Treasurer-Mary Phillips-Hubbard Chapel; Song Leader-Annette Stedrey-Central; Asst. Song Leader-Nancy Cain; Pianist-Loretta Stephens-Rose Hill; Asst. Pianist-Becky Ellington-Hubbard Chapel; Historian/Reporter-Sue Reed-Pilgrim Rest #2; GMA Promoter-Carol Taylor-Mt. Pisgah; Project Promoter-Janice Logan-Myrtle Springs; We are looking forward to a great year. After prayer requests were made, Bro. Merle Parker led in a closing prayer.

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



Touchdown Sunbeams

By SHERRY LAMINACK

National Sunbeams Promoter

September 21-27, 2015 is Sunbeam Enlistment and Promotion Week. The theme is TOUCHDOWN, SUNBEAMS. Our theme verse is Philippians 3:14, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." What better TOUCHDOWN can we score than help boys and girls learn about the Lord and His salvation.



Plan special activities for this time. If you already have Sunbeams, make this week a special time for your group and make a special effort to enlist children in your church and community who are not members of your group. If you do not have Sunbeams, now would be a good time to organize a group.

Sunbeams are children birth through third grade. Sunbeams lessons are designed to help the children develop a firm foundation in the Christian principles and doctrines upon which the Baptist Missionary Association of America is founded. The goal of the program is to train the children to live in his/her community and church—and to challenge the children to know more of God, His salvation and how to live for Him. If you would like more information or help in organizing a new group, please contact me at jaslaminack@cox.net or at 870-543-9640.

Listed below are suggestions for activities for this week of promotion. These are just suggestions. Do whatever works best for your group.

1. Have a special awards program for the Sunbeams who completed Star Awards requirements
2. If your group is just getting started, have a special program and present each student with their pin or sash
3. Use football and football game items for decorations
4. Invite the parents to your meeting and explain the Sunbeam program to them
5. Let the Sunbeams sing in a church service
6. Serve cake and ice cream at one meeting and invite children in your church and community who do not attend Sunbeams
7. Take your group to a nursing home to sing.
8. Select a method to raise money for the Sunbeam project, Shepherd Bags.

Sunbeam counselors have been blessed with great treasures, the lives of children. LET'S SCORE MANY TOUCHDOWNS during Sunbeam Enlistment and Promotion Week, September 21-27, 2015. God's Word can change the lives of these boys and girls!



To do, or not to do— That is the question

Often, when we are faced with a question, we consider all the pros and cons related to the decision. When Gil Stricklin was trying to decide to start Marketplace Ministries, he had many reasons not to start but only one to start—“This is God’s will for our life at this time.” On January 1, 1974, he resigned his job, and with \$25 and a Datsun vehicle as his office, he started Marketplace Ministries. Today, more than forty years later, the organization has over 2,800 chaplains who serve over 600 companies worldwide and care for more than 155,000 employees plus their 432,000 family members. Outside of the military, it is the oldest and largest workplace chaplain ministry in the world.

Another person who sought God’s will for her life was Angie, a working mother who sensed God wanted her go back to college. She had many good reasons not to go but one overriding reason to go—God’s will. She enrolled in Jacksonville College, even though she knew how difficult the added work would be. Her day consisted of going to work at 11 p.m. each evening and getting off work at 7 a.m. She drove to Jacksonville College for classes from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m., then returned home to care for family’s needs and to get a few hours of sleep before repeating the cycle the next day. A self-disciplined and highly motivated student, Angie followed God’s will and earned an associate degree from Jacksonville College.

You may be able to think of various reasons not to attend Jacksonville College—lack of money or time, age concerns, poor study skills, etc. However, there is one good reason to attend—God’s will.

PRAAYER

Pray for Dr. Smith as he represents Jacksonville College as he speaks/preaches on the following dates:

- August 2-5: Revival at Jackson Baptist Church, Canton
- August 11: SBTC Executive Board
- August 12: In-service
- August 13: Revival at Pilgrim Rest, Golden
- August 16-19: Bible Conference at Hilltop Baptist Church, Frankston
- August 28: Sunday School Workers Meeting, FBC, Jacksonville
- September 6: JC Choir sings at Houston area churches, and sings the national anthem at Houston Astros game at Minute Made Park.
- September 13-16: Revival at FBC, New Summerfield
- September 19: Conflict Training for deacons in Baytown Association
- September 13: Golden Jubilee at FBC, Jacksonville

THANKS

We thank all the churches and individuals who have given money to the College for Jaguar Day across Texas, and for storm damage recovery. We also thank the volunteer groups that contributed money, time, and labor this summer:

- 1) The Master’s Builders repaired the storm damaged Ragsdale House (JC student housing).
- 2) Randy Decker, president of the Bearden-Bonner-Gaylor Chapter of the JC Alumni and Ex-Students Association, led a group of alumni and JC friends to paint Collins Residence Hall.
- 3) The North Cleburne Baptist Church’s youth group prepped and, along with the Van Zandt District GMA, painted the new weight lifting room in the gym of our Joe Wright campus.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL SEMESTER 2015

August 17 to November 24

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

Online application

for admission is available for new students, and current students may register for classes online.



▲ The Jacksonville College Theater Department held its seventh summer theater camp June 22-26. Children in Grades 2-12 enjoyed five days of adventure, excitement, and performance. The camp ended with a special performance on Saturday, June 27.



▲ The North Cleburne Baptist Church’s youth group and the Van Zandt District GMA group painted the new JC weight lifting room on the Joe Wright Campus this summer.

A SUNBEAM THANK YOU

(From Texas Sunbeams who attended the Sunbeam House Party at Jacksonville College)

"Dear Dr. Smith,

The Texas Sunbeams thank you and the college for allowing us to have our state meeting at your facility. The children always look forward to staying on campus, knowing one day they may get an opportunity to go to JBC. God Bless You!"



▲ Sunbeams enjoyed learning songs in Spanish and English at the Texas Sunbeam House Party at Jacksonville College July 17-18. The theme this year was "Fiesta Sunbeams."

BMLA: A good place to invest for Kingdom growth

By **JERRY BURNAMAN**

Baptist Missionary Loan Association Manager



One of my responsibilities is managing the Baptist Missionary Loan Association of Texas (BMLA). The purpose of the BMLA is to make loans to new church plants and established churches for purchasing property, remodeling and repairing buildings, and constructing new buildings.

The BMLA management includes a business manager and 13 trustees, elected by the BMA of Texas in their annual meeting, usually in November. The trustees include professional men and women and pastors. They are very knowledgeable about business affairs and have a heart to offer financial assistance for our churches.

In the past six years our assets have grown from \$4.5 million to over \$10 million. We appreciate the, churches, local associations and some auxiliary groups who invest in the BMLA. This significant growth is individuals a result of your vision for the growth of God's Kingdom through churches in various communities and cities across the great state of Texas.

The BMLA receives funds through contributions, interest free loans, or interest bearing accounts at competitive rates. You may invest in a share account with a minimum of just \$5 and receive 2 percent interest on the investment. For our CD's there is a \$1,000 minimum and they pay 2.5 percent interest. We ask for funds in CD's to remain for one year and we automatically reinvest them unless the investor requests the funds. If an emergency occurs before the end of the year and you need the funds, we do not charge a penalty.

Most of our funds are backed by loans to churches. We've been in business since 1952 and have never had a default. This speaks well of the past management of this institution.

We make loans according to good business procedures, requesting title and mortgage liens on all properties to secure the loans. Due to our growth in assets, we have significant money to loan. If your church needs financial assistance, give us a call and it would be our joy to serve you. You can call us at 972-923-0758 or send me an email, jerryburnaman@yahoo.com.



AMONG 25 BEST 2-YEAR COLLEGES IN TEXAS



Ratings are calculated using the latest information from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and College Navigator databases. Both sources of information are maintained by the U.S. Department's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

Schools are evaluated based on at least two of the following performance indicators: acceptance, retention, graduation, and enrollment rates.

Offering terminal associate degrees and transfer programs to four-year schools, Jacksonville was recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Education as the second most affordable private community college in the nation.

- Campus housing is offered here, a feature that is unusual in two-year schools.
- The college is known for its choral groups, who perform widely in the area.
- A strict honor code is enforced on campus.

JC RANKING DETAILS ON BESTCOLLEGES.COM

- **DISTINCTLY CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENT**
- **STRONG ACADEMIC PROGRAM**
- **ONLINE COURSES AND ONLINE DEGREES**
- **LOW STUDENT-TO-INSTRUCTOR RATIO**
- **NEW COMMUTER SCHOLARSHIP**
- **OPPORTUNITIES IN MINISTRY, SERVICE, MUSIC, THEATER, ATHLETICS**

THE JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE ADVANTAGE

BMA of America News

A gift for your pastor



By **DONNY PARRISH**

DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry Director

Pastor Appreciation Month is fast approaching! October is a traditional time for church families to show love for their pastor and staff members. Their tireless work in shepherding and caring for the needs of the communities that they serve can often go unnoticed. Church members, have you considered how you will honor your pastor and staff families this October?

DiscipleGuide Church Resources offers Pastors Oasis as the perfect gift and retreat for BMA pastor teams. Pastors Oasis, scheduled for Oct. 5-7, is a three-day, two-night event featuring the best in worship, Christian concerts and Bible-based teaching that is sure to challenge their ministries and encourage their hearts. The focus of Pastors Oasis 2015 is "A Pastor's Prayer." One of the most important roles each pastor fills is that of an intercessor and prayer warrior for the people that God has given him to serve. Pastors Oasis 2015 will focus on the importance of being a praying pastor and leading a praying church.

Todd West and Dr. Bill Elliff will be the featured speakers for Pastors Oasis this year.

Bill Elliff serves as direction leader and senior teaching pastor of Summit Church, Little Rock, Arkansas. Bill is a nationally-known conference speaker and pastors a church that ministers to thousands of people weekly. His passion for prayer and revival has offered him the opportunity to minister to thousands of pastors each year.

Todd West serves as lead pastor of Oasis, Maumelle, Arkansas. In addition to his role at Oasis, Todd serves as director of church solutions for DiscipleGuide Church Resources. Todd is well known in BMA circles as a tremendous evangelist and a friend to pastors. Both Todd and Bill will bless the hearts of your pastor and staff members.

Guest artists for Pastors Oasis will be recording artists Selah and Gordon Mote. Selah is a Christian vocal trio consisting of Todd Smith, Allan Hall and Amy Perry. They have won seven Dove Awards and sold more than four million albums and single units combined. The group has been featured on The 700 Club, The Hour of Power, and TBN. Selah will be the featured artist for the Pastors Oasis Appreciation Banquet that has become an annual part of the event.

Gordon Mote has served as the keyboard player and featured performer on the Gaither Homecoming stage since 2006, and he has now decided to concentrate full time on his solo career. He came to the Gaither Homecoming Tour in the midst of a successful career as one of Nashville's most sought-after studio session players. Bill Gaither said of Mote, "I can honestly say I have never worked with an artist with more integrity and more outstanding genius than Gordon Mote. While he will always be part of our family of artists, we will sure miss working with him on the road week-to-week."

The conference is held in Branson, Missouri, one of America's top destinations. All sessions will be held at the Hilton Branson Convention Center with connected lodging at the beautiful Hilton Hotel. Room rate is \$131 per night. Make your reservations at the Hilton by calling their national reservations service at 1-800-445-8667 or direct at 866-442-0959 by Sept. 3.

Register your pastor and staff today for Pastors Oasis 2015. Visit the DiscipleGuide website at www.discipleguide.org/pastorsoasis or download the form and mail with your check to DiscipleGuide. The cost for Oasis is only \$80 per person and includes all sessions, concerts and the appreciation banquet.

Fall 2015 SOAR:lit - Growth in Worship

As much teaching that has been done concerning worship over the last several years, who would think that we need another study on the topic? However, we still struggle with integrating worship into the fabric of our lives. The spiritual discipline of worship is one that we will never fully master for two simple reasons. First, we are sinful creatures battling the pull to worship lesser things than God. Second, all of God is completely infinite, which means that for all of eternity we will be discovering fuller aspects of his person and plan. The continual growth in our knowledge of who God is and what he has done on our behalf will intensify our worship.

But we don't have to wait until we enter the gates of heaven to gain fuller aspects of his person and plan. We can get started with that right now! This quarter of SOAR:lit continues the focus on worship and will encourage us to respond in worship to some of God's attributes such as his unfailing love, his ability to deliver, his immutability, his sovereignty, and his presence in the midst of tragedy. These are just a few areas of study in the Fall 2015 edition of SOAR:lit.

Remember, SOAR:lit is designed around the SOAP method of Bible study. Your students should SOAP the prescribed scripture for that week before coming to the Bible study. This will allow them to have more interaction during the study time and will also allow the teacher a greater opportunity in the discipling of students on how to study the Bible.

For more information on SOAR:lit and other DiscipleGuide products, visit discipleguide.org today.

One key to helping your church avoid the disease of institutionalization

By **SCOTT ATTEBERY**

DiscipleGuide Executive Director

When missionaries are commissioned to plant churches, they are expected to reach the communities to which they have been sent. For instance, a missionary sent to a suburb of Omaha, Nebraska, is expected to reach the people in that particular area through community engagement. Many times this takes shape as a service project such as handing out water bottles at a county fair to meet people or volunteering to feed the volunteer fire department in order to build relationships.

So when does it stop? When does a new church reach the point that it no longer needs to emphasize community involvement?

Of course, the answer is never.

Why, then, do many churches neglect community outreach? Perhaps it happens when a congregation loses focus on its mission and becomes institutionalized. Institutionalization occurs when the mission changes from an outward focus to an inward focus. Every church struggles with the temptation to institutionalize. Let's face it: reaching out means sacrificing time and resources that would otherwise be self-serving. Every decision within the church, therefore, must be made with intentional focus on the mission. Will the new budget reflect an emphasis on projects that enhance the church's comfort or projects that reach the community with the gospel? Will the next VBS be focused on ministering to "church kids" or will efforts be made to invite unchurched children? Is the next sermon series going to make us comfortable with our "holy huddle" or challenge us to share the gospel with our neighbors?

As long as there are unbelievers in the vicinity, the church must make efforts to engage the community. The Great Commission demands no less.

So how will your church get involved? Let me challenge you to find at least one way to reach outside the walls of your church for the sake of making a kingdom investment. What will be your community mission?

Dr. Scott Attebery is the executive director of DiscipleGuide Church Resources. Contact him by email at scott@discipleguide.org, on Facebook: [Scott Attebery](#) or Twitter @[scottattebery](#). Visit www.DiscipleGuide.org.



BMA of America News

World Prayer Meeting



By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

Lifeword National Walk for the World Coordinator

In honor of Lifeword's fiftieth anniversary, a World Prayer Meeting for Lifeword will be held at the BMA Global Ministry Center at 9 a.m. on Sept. 4, the day of the first broadcast in 1965. We are inviting the entire BMA global family to have morning coffee with us via internet and share in a special time of prayer for this unique media ministry that began as radio broadcasting and is now a world-wide instrument for the gospel through any available media.

If you would like to hear an excerpt from one of the first radio broadcasts, please go to lifeword.org/video gallery to see Lifeword's fiftieth anniversary video. Also on the website, you can purchase "Lifeword at 50" T-shirts and register your church for the 2015 Walk and/or Lifeword Sunday (Oct. 25).

We hope you and your church will find your own unique way of honoring our 50th birthday on Lifeword Sunday, Oct. 25, 2015.

Please contact us when you have determined your Walk/Walk event date so we can be praying for your church. Also, Lifeword staff members would love to come speak to your church or group or attend your event. Just contact holly@lifeword.org

BMA Bible College of the Philippines adds community radio training program to curriculum

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

Lifeword Media Ministries

A new community radio training program is now part of the curriculum of BMA Bible College of the Philippines. Beginning this year, future pastors and lay leaders from all over Asia will be trained to use this effective tool as a part of their formal ministry educations.

Pete Etabag, a Lifeword broadcaster since 1975, taught the first multimedia class in Talisay City, Philippines on July 15, training students with the technology that they can use to enhance their ministries after graduation from Bible College.

Etabag said, "For now, we have installed four LPFM stations, three in Negros Island and one in Leyte. As this ministry expands, I admit that I will not be able to do all the installations, not only because of age but for the reality that it would be too much for me to handle. Spreading this technology to others will not only help me with the burden but also to speed up the field of coverage. I am happy that Lifeword saw the need for this project and has given financial support for the equipment to be used in this training. BMA Bible College will partner with Lifeword in providing the studio and other facilities for this training."

The studio will also be used for internet broadcasts that will be beamed towards Vietnam, China, Thailand and other Asian countries. There are two Chinese students, one Vietnamese and one Thai student who will be broadcasting in their own languages to reach their own people and will eventually be equipped to continue the work when they return to their countries.

DiscipleKids – Fall 2015

The fall edition of DiscipleKids children's literature will focus on the life of Christ and Christ-like friendship.

In the first unit, "Like No Other: The Life of Christ", kids will discover Jesus, the name above all names, and hear God's purpose for sending his Son to the world. They will trace Jesus' last days on earth through his triumphal entry, death on the cross, resurrection, and ascension to heaven.

In the second unit, "Being a Friend", children will examine individuals in the Old and New Testaments who extended love and friendship to those around them, especially in difficult circumstances.

DiscipleKids curriculum is available for children age two through sixth grade. The DiscipleKids material includes downloadable activity sheets and teacher guides. Visual packs, DVDs and CDs are also available. For more information or to order, visit discipleguide.org or call 800-333-1442.

DiscipleGuide adds director of marketing

Jonathan Wilson will become the new Director of Marketing for DiscipleGuide effective September 1, 2015. His duties will include helping BMA churches understand the vast resources available through DiscipleGuide.

According to Executive Director Scott Attebery, "DiscipleGuide has a heart to help churches. However, many BMA churches do not know all of the new services and resources we offer. Jonathan has a track record of communicating effectively with BMA churches. I am confident he will be a great asset to congregations throughout our association."

Jonathan is originally from Jacksonville, Texas, and his wife Johnna is originally from Texarkana, Texas. Jonathan graduated from Jacksonville High School in 1996 and then attended Jacksonville College. Upon graduating from Jacksonville College, he attended The University of Texas at Tyler and graduated there with a Bachelor of General Studies with Marketing. After graduating he worked in various places in Texas and Arkansas before joining Central Baptist College in 2006 as an Admissions Officer. After one year as an Admissions Officer, Central Baptist College promoted Jonathan to the Director of Admissions, a position he has held since.

Jonathan and Johnna have been married eleven years and have two children, Rhyen (7) and Rhys (2). The Wilsons are members of Antioch Baptist Church in Conway where Jonathan teaches high school boys and Johnna teaches in the children's ministry.



▲ Jonathan Wilson



EVENTS

AUGUST 9, 2015

60th Anniversary
@ Anthony Drive, Ennis

AUGUST 11

Missions Rally
@ Soda, Livingston (7 p.m.)
Facilitator: Jerry Burnaman,
State Missions director
Speakers: Vincent Hernandez,
leader of Centro de Vida Mission,
Livingston
and Bro. Gary Southard, church planter,
Valley Ranch, New Caney
For additional information call
John Henderson at 936-327-9228
or Pastor Wayne Bickley at 936-433-9526.

AUGUST 13, 2015

Liberty Association Lifeword Rally
@ Cross Roads, Pittsburg

AUGUST 15, 2015

East Texas Mission District
Groundbreaking Ceremony
for new Centro de Vida Mission,
1013 S. Robertson Avenue, Tyler
Everyone invited
10 a.m.

AUGUST 25, 2015

East Texas Mission District
Annual Business Meeting
@ Centro De Vida Mission
1013 S. Robertson Avenue, Tyler
7 p.m.

AUGUST 29, 2015

Texas Ladies Retreat
Hosted by Texas WMA
@ Farley Street, Waxahachie

OCTOBER 11, 2015

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

NOVEMBER 10-11, 2015

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

APRIL 25-27, 2016

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

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

CHILDREN'S MINISTER—Farley Street, Waxahachie is seeking a children's minister. Bachelor in Education or Children's Ministry a plus. Send resume to resume@farleystreet.com.

MUSIC—First, Crandall is seeking a bi-vocational music leader. Salary negotiable. Mix of contemporary and traditional. Call Bro. Mike Waits for more details: 214-697-7998 or mbwaitssr@att.net. Visit church website at firstbaptistcrandall.org.

PASTOR—Forrest Hill, Quitman is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Clara Ziegler, Box 545, Winnsboro, Texas 75494 or for more information, call David Kernes at 903-850-3420.

PASTOR—Lake Highlands, Sulphur Springs is seeking a full time pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 441, Sulphur Springs, Texas 75483-0441.

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

PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

DICKY MAUK is the new pastor of Oak Hill, Gilmer.

OBITUARY

Dr. Charles Mark Kellar went to sleep July 26, 2015 with sure and certain hope of the resurrection. He was the son of Dr. Gerald and Mary Lou Kellar. His memorial was Monday, August 3, at the Klein Funeral Home in Tomball. His brother-in-law, Dr. Tony Cleaver officiated at the service. Kellar was currently associate professor of criminal justice at University of Houston, Downtown. He had previously served four Harris County Sheriff administrations as one of the four majors in the department. He was the executive administrator of the Harris County Jail, a system larger than some state prisons. Mark served as a Marine officer during the Vietnam era. He is survived by his wife, Sondra; son James and daughter Christi; a step-daughter Staci, and a step-son Brenton, as well as five grand-children. His sister and brother-in-law are Tony and Jerrie Sue Cleaver. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Joseph. The family has requested memorial gifts be made to Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary, P.O. Box 670, Jacksonville, TX 75766 or bmat.edu. The Kellars and the Cleavers thank all of you for prayers and concerns during the past two months.



CHURCHES IN REVIEW

JULY 19, 2015

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	52	93	1 By Profession
Cedar Creek, Teague		75	
First, Omen	42	76	
First, Palmer	41	72	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	17	44	
Jackson, Joaquin	60	123	
Little Flock, Lufkin	5	10	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	34	46	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	14	18	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	52	58	
Pine Brook, Tyler	24	66	
Pine Forest, Huntington	38	48	
Rosewood, Gilmer	131	195	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	14	20	
Temple, Mexia	39	47	

JULY 26, 2015

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis		86	
Cedar Creek, Teague	12	20	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	484	620	3 By Letter, 1 By Profession
First, Blooming Grove	205		
First, Omen	38	68	
First, Palmer	38	50	
Jackson, Joaquin	66	155	1 By Baptism
Little Flock, Lufkin	8	10	
Long Creek, Sunnyvale	72	97	2 By letter
Merriman Hills, Sherman	17	19	
New Harmony, Tyler	293	387	3 By Baptism
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	43	55	
Pine Brook, Tyler	33	67	
Pine Forest, Huntington	20	40	
Rosewood, Gilmer	111	194	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	20	31	2 By letter
Temple, Mexia	36	45	
Woodland, Splendora	43	65	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	19	24	

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

HALL FURNITURE LTD.

Fine Church Furniture
since 1939

P.O. Box 157
(1321 Industrial Dr.)
Henderson, TX 75653
903-657-4501



Sunday School Lessons

Resting on laurels

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: August 9, 2015

TEXT: Rev. 3:1-6

THOUGHT PRIMER

“Resting on laurels,” an interesting idiom used frequently in our culture, possibly had its origin in ancient Greece, where laurel wreaths were bestowed on winning athletes in the Pythian games. Upon the decline of the Greek and Roman empires, laurel wreaths also vanished from sight, and didn’t reappear until the Middle Ages - being referred to in Geoffrey Chaucer’s “The Knight’s Tale.” The phrase was,

“With laurel crowned as conqueror,
there he lived in joy and honor.”

Some political experts surmised that incumbent president George H.W. Bush lost the 1992 election mainly because he felt little need to vigorously campaign due to his high poll numbers coming off the heels of the Gulf War.

The phrase, “resting on one’s laurels” is said to mean “To be satisfied with one’s past success and to consider further effort unnecessary.”

Everyone, at some time, has taken the opportunity to “rest on their laurels.” Churches do too, as we observe in the church at Sardis.

STUDY

1. The introduction: verse 1 The Apostle John, banished to Patmos, once again writes as the Spirit of God moves on him, addressing the angel (spiritual leader or pastor) declaring that He (God the Father) “hath the seven spirits of God” or “He who possesses all the fulness of the Spirit,” emphasizing His Godhead. His Spirit has the power to convict of sin.

2. The city: Sardis was the ancient capital of Lydia, kingdom of Croesus, who was extremely wealthy.

3. The church: The Sardis church was operating, based on a former spiritual condition of being alive. One preacher worded it this way: “The congregation in Sardis was the very reverse of the church in Smyrna. Smyrna was put to death, yet lived, Sardis appeared to be alive, and yet was dead.” At one

time the church had a reputation of being alive, but Jesus says she is still existing on that former life.

4. The command: Verse 2 and 3 refers to “the things which remain.” Although the church was “dead” there were still some embers that had a faint glow, but were in danger of going out. The plea was to (a) be watchful of the practices and spirit which brought them to this spiritual death. (b) Repent—make an about face and return to the Lord, the original doctrines and practices once held.

5. The encouragement: verse 4—There was still a remnant left in the church which had not defiled themselves. Their influence was still present, therefore, Godly counsel was still available. Overcomers will not have their names blotted out of the book of life. Jesus said He would confess their names before the Father.

Note: Matthew 10:33.

APPLICATION

As was mentioned last week, a young church, just beginning, often has a spirit of excitement, conquest, and passion to follow Christ. But complacency can easily creep in. Offerings are good, bills are paid, programs are running efficiently, and everything seems fine. When a church is wealthy, members feel no need to exercise faith. Human common sense seems to take preeminence. A church that does not realize her need for the control of the spirit is a church destined to be like Sardis—dead.

CHALLENGE

While it is good to remember our heritage, may we not be so bound to the past that we fail to seek to create an environment—a way of thinking, in which we refuse to rely on past methods and past victories and be satisfied with the status quo.

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



God's open door

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: August 16, 2015

TEXT: Revelation 3:7-13.

THOUGHT PRIMER

I recall, as children, we sang a little chorus in Sunday school;

“One door, and only one, and yet their sides are two,

I’m on the inside—which side are you?”

We are reminded of another door which was sealed shut—Genesis 7:16 “. . .and the Lord shut him in.” Only eight people along with a male and female of every species were sealed in the Ark. The rest of the world population died in the flood.

Jesus refers to Himself as the Door—John 10:9—“I am the door. by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture.”

The door of grace is open to all who will believe today—but one day, the door will be shut for eternity.

The church we are studying this week, Philadelphia, was the church with an opened door from God—it was one, which, when opened by God, could not be closed by any man—and if closed by God, no man could open. Philadelphia enjoyed the favor of God. The word “Philadelphia” literally means “brother lover.” Philadelphia, Pennsylvania is often called the “city of brotherly love.”

STUDY

1. The originator of the letter: - verse 7 The Apostle John took the dictation, and Christ spoke the words to him. It is interesting that Christ never mentions Himself by name when writing to the churches, but rather by a description of His character.

“He who is holy, who is true. . .”

2. The recipient: again, it’s the “angel,” the “messenger” of the church. The spiritual leader.

3. The possession of the originator: “The key of David.” (ref. Isaiah 22:20) The key refers to authority—In Isaiah 22, Shebna, the administrator of the palace, held

them but his motives were impure. It was taken from him and transferred to another—Eliakim. In Revelation 3, the key could refer to the key to eternal life, the key to God’s blessings on His children or the key to evangelistic opportunities. He alone holds and controls the keys to the Kingdom.

4. The power of the originator: He said, “I have put before you an open door which no man can shut.” We see in this, His sovereignty. He closes the door on those impostors in the church who are “of the synagogue of Satan,” and causes them to see His intimate relationship with His children. He shields His children from “the hour of testing.”

5. The promise of the originator He will “come quickly.” He will take His children home to be with Him during that “hour of testing.” He mentions the new Jerusalem—a 1500 mile translucent gold cubical, coming down from Heaven and being planted upon a purged earth, (Revelation 21:2) in which the redeemed shall live for eternity.

APPLICATION

Only two churches in Asia Minor found favor with the Father -- Smyrna and Philadelphia. Smyrna was the poverty-stricken, persecuted church, which, in the eyes of God, was rich. Philadelphia was the “faithful church.” Because she “kept the word of His patience—because of her perseverance, she was granted freedom from the “hour of testing,”—granted the key to the kingdom.

CHALLENGE

Remember, because of who you are in Christ, He has granted to you access to the throne of God. No longer do we need an earthly high priest to enter the Holy of Holies annually to offer the blood of a bullock or ram, for the remission of our sin. We are believer-priests, and we have access to His throne, and are under the blood of Christ, and have been made “joint heirs with Jesus Christ.”

YOU KNOW THE BIBLE STORIES. BUT, DO YOU KNOW THE STORY OF THE BIBLE?



Coming Fall 2015.
Your church will never
look at Scripture the
same way again!

DiscipleGuide



The Best Medicine is Preventive...

Reserve National's Dental and Vision

Policy:

- ✓ Coverage for yourself, your spouse, just for your children or the whole Family
- ✓ Coverage starts immediately. No waiting periods for check ups
- ✓ No restrictive networks. Choose the doctor or dentist that you want
- ✓ Up to \$1,500 per covered person per year
- ✓ Cash benefits paid directly to you, your eye doctor or your dentist
- ✓ Guaranteed renewable at your option – regardless of future dental or vision problems

You get:

- ✓ Dental care from routine cleanings to comprehensive dental procedures
- ✓ Benefits for eye exams, contact lenses, frames and lenses
- ✓ Both Dental and Vision Coverage for one Premium
- ✓ A healthy mouth and eyes for a healthier you!



For a Free No Obligation Quote
Contact Field Agent:
David Pittman
325-725-0360

Reserve National Insurance Company, a Kemper Company. Rated "A-Excellent" for financial stability by A.M. Best Company. Providing policies for individuals, families and small business owners for over 55 years. An Oklahoma-based Company.

TEXAS WMA RETREAT

The Perfect Woman

The 2015 Ladies' Retreat
will meet with Farley Street Baptist Church
(located at 1116 Brown St Waxahachie, TX 75165)
on August 29th.
It will begin with registration and breakfast at
8:00 am and end at 3:00 p.m.



Upon arriving, enter a work zone, allowing God to repair the damage that this world constantly inflicts on His people. Allow God's Spirit to renew through praise and worship, skits, and breakout sessions addressing topics that Jesus included in Matthew 5-7. There will be a special emphasis on our state project, helping the Arabic congregation in the metroplex.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Some of the available Waxahachie hotels, the current available rate, and their contact information are listed below. Please make your own reservations for this event, remembering that rates increase the longer we wait. (Mention WMA)

Best Western Plus 1701 N Highway 77	972-938-1600 (2 queen /\$85)	La Quinta Inn & Suites 311 Stadium Dr	972-937-5525 (2 queen /\$92)
Holiday Inn Express 984 Us Hwy 287 Bypass West	972-938-3300 (2 queen /\$90)	Comfort Suites 131 Rig Blvd	972-937-5525 (2 queen /\$94)

REGISTRATION FORM

Name of Church _____

Address and Town _____

Contact person & phone _____

Number Attending _____ Amount enclosed \$25.00 per person _____
Please send \$30.00 per person if mailed after August 14

Make check payable to: Brenda Hoenghaus bhoenghaus@sbcglobal.net
206 Sagebrush Lane 214-914-0804
Waxahachie, Texas 75165

Number of children and ages needing a nursery _____