

Baptist Progress

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Pastors Oasis to Feature Jonathan Falwell, Sandi Patty The Challenge of Ministry Transition

By **DONNY PARRISH**

DiscipleGuide Conference Director

DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry would like to invite all pastors, church staff members and their spouses to experience Pastors Oasis Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2014. The goal is to honor them with an intimate and valuable event during Pastor Appreciation Month, which is celebrated nationwide. Pastors Oasis is a three-day, two-night conference featuring the best in worship, Christian concerts and Bible-based teaching that is sure to challenge their ministries and encourage their hearts. The purpose of the conference is to uplift and empower pastors with fresh hearts and fresh looks at their ministries. It is definitely a time of fellowship and encouragement that they wouldn't want to miss. The conference is held in Branson, MO, 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. Mark your calendars now and plan to be a part of Pastors Oasis 2014.

Ministry is dynamic! Change is always occurring in a congregation. The challenge for any pastor or ministry leader is to channel change toward the vision and mission of the ministry in a positive way. Without God's help and wise counsel, many times change will occur and leave carnage in its wake.

Pastors Oasis will feature speakers who have

navigated the waters of change successfully. Hear from pastors who rode the waves of ministry change both organizationally and personally. Talk with pastors who faced some of the same challenges that you face as they strive to change the direction of your ministry.

Featured Personalities

Jonathan Falwell is the senior pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia. He served under the leadership of his father and founding pastor, Dr. Jerry Falwell, from 1995 until his father's death in 2007. He was called to be the senior pastor at that time by a unanimous vote of the church congregation.

Pastors Oasis is excited to feature the musical artistry of Sandi Patty during this year's annual Pastor Appreciation Banquet. A multiple Grammy and Dove Award winning artist, Sandi Patty is one of the most recognized gospel artists in the world and the most awarded female vocalist in contemporary

Christian music history.

Jason Aultman and Henry Horton

Hear firsthand how these pastors Navigated the challenge of ministry transition at Antioch, Conway, Ark.

Scott Attebery, Director of DiscipleGuide Church Resources and former pastor of Wyatt, El Dorado, Ark.

Also featured will be the comedy and drama of Acts of Renewal with Carol & Jim Shores and comedian, Michael Jr. We are excited to have back the talented Travis Sellers leading worship from Antioch in Conway, Arkansas.

Make reservations at the Hilton by calling their national reservations service at 1-800-445-8667 or directly at 866-442-0959 by Sept. 5 and let them know you are with Pastors Oasis. Group rate is \$131 plus tax per night. Early registration is \$75 per person by Sept. 5, \$85 after September 5 and \$100 for offsite attendees. Register online at www.discipleguide.org/pastorsoasis or use the downloadable registration form to mail your registration.

I personally look forward to meeting you at Pastors Oasis. Churches step up and make sure your pastor is honored this year by sending them to Pastors Oasis. Call the office with any questions or if we can assist in any way. 501-205-8753



▲ Jonathan Falwell

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Mission Life

Tired of dull, lifeless church? Depressed by low number of baptisms?

By **JERRY BURNAMAN**

Learn to implement and initiate three key elements in your church and you could see what other churches have seen.

- Spiritual Growth in Believers
- Baptisms
- Claiming a cause of outreach to the community
- Increase in Ministry Volunteers
- Birth of New Congregations
- A Renewed Love for God, His Church and People

Register for the following workshops by emailing Teel Witt at teel@bmatexas.org or by calling 972-923-0757.

Space is limited, so register today for the following workshops:

Aug. 2: "Revival in Texas"/"Is There a Lawsuit in Your Future?"

Suburban Wood Baptist Church
Humble, Texas
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

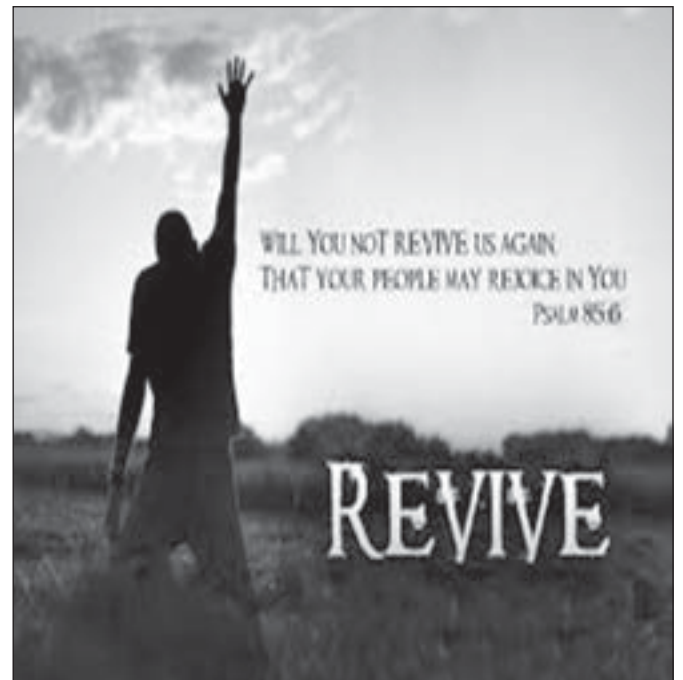
Aug. 10: "Generations"

Myrtle Springs Baptist Church
Quitman, Texas
3 to 6 p.m.

Aug 12: "Revival in Texas"/"Is There a Lawsuit in Your Future?"

Texas Baptist Home for Children
Waxahachie, Texas
9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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



FORGIVEN


59th Anniversary

Anthony Drive Baptist Church
Ennis, Texas
August 10, 2014
10 a.m.

Featuring The Forgiven Quartet
Message by Irvan Anthony
Lunch following in the fellowship hall

Jerry Fulton, Teaching Pastor

EVERY SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE



To order bulletins from *Baptist Progress*, contact us at 972-923-0756 or visit www.bmatexas.org. Click "Baptist Progress" at the top of the Home page and then click "Bulletin Service" and complete the form. You may also email editor@baptistprogress.org for more information.

Evangelism & Outreach

Strategic Evangelism: 3 Effective Outreach Opportunities

By ED STETZER
Pastors.com

Evangelism is the responsibility of every believer. There is no such thing as the “gift of evangelism,” rather, all Christians have the obligation to share the gospel. It is, and should be, on the heart of every believer to look for opportunities to share. That’s why we call people to lives of incarnational mission, showing and sharing the love of Jesus—personally—to a broken and lost world.

It does not mean, however, that you should not create special times within the body of your church for evangelism with some strategy. Churches can and should partner with Christians to create evangelistic opportunities.

This might include preaching through a special series intended for evangelism outreach.

Evangelistically Intended Sermon Series

Established churches can use special times to reinforce evangelism and outreach. At Grace Church, we preach about two-thirds of the time at our church through books of the Bible. We are strategic about the other third. For example, every year between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, we do a family series to draw attention to an overwhelming need in our community—the need for strong families. It’s a time when people bring their friends and is often a time when their friends hear the gospel for the first time. Since the key to a strong family is to be centered around Jesus, it’s a natural time for evangelism.

In addition, every spring and every fall, we launch a four-to-six week evangelistic series of sermons. We intentionally lower the cookies down to the bottom shelf for a series of Scripture-based topical messages. The messages are focused on the everyday needs of people and how the Bible addresses them—topics range from stress, to faith, to relationships, etc.

This is a designated time when people are encouraged to bring their friends and family to church. We encourage them to reach out to (typically) seven people—we give them cards to write their names on, pray for them, and reach out to them over the weeks leading up to the series.

We encourage our church members to bring people to church all year, but this is a special time. Why? We believe that people need times to help reengage in evangelistic intent.

Evangelism naturally wanes. Churches need to help people reengage.

Special Days and Holidays

Churches can use Easter, Christmas, Mother’s Day, Grandparent’s Day, and Super Bowl Sunday, among others as designated times when you have an evangelistic message and service. You must let people know this is the intent and then let them know how they can use these special times and civic holidays to invite unbelievers to attend.

LifeWay Research has repeatedly found the unchurched are open to church invites during holidays. They are thinking more



Photo Credit: Rogilde – Roberto La Forgia

about spiritual matters around those seasons and many would welcome an invitation. Take advantage of the openness to make a special emphasis during those times.

Connecting Small Group for Evangelism Emphases

While much of this is related to the church as a whole, small groups can be especially successful in their outreach attempts and evangelistic emphases. As mentioned before, every fall and spring we create a teaching series about some topic that’s going to relate well to both believers and unbelievers.

We design a strategy in our groups for members to begin to pray three months prior to the series to identify five people they would like to reach. We design intentional opportunities for members to share the gospel in the context of the small group and at church. The important thing is that the church gatherings and the small groups work together to make a special push to reach out to unbelievers.

We invest significant energy in this strategy to get widespread involvement. Every person who attends our church gets a phone call from either a group leader or a staff person to remind him or her that we are launching a new series at church and to encourage them to bring friends.

Our leaders ask them if they have started praying for seven

unchurched people. If they have, we ask them what they think the Lord is doing in those relationships.

The week prior to the start of the series, they get another phone call, where we pray with them about their friends. The results from this effort are always encouraging because the whole church is mobilized.

By All Possible Means

We see the results of this regularly—every fall or spring we see new people beginning to attend and eventually trust Christ. We’ve found the church is energized by our unified times of evangelism and outreach. We see the results during the series and outreach times, but also for the months that follow.

The Apostle Paul said, “*I have become all things to all people, so that I may by every possible means save some. Now I do all this because of the gospel, so I may become a partner in its benefits*” (1 Cor. 9:22-23).

Help your congregation engage in evangelism by partnering with them in special days and times. Lead the flock to take advantage of times for evangelism in order that the gospel might take root in your church and community.

In helping them to evangelize in special times, you are preparing them to do so all the time.



www.bmatexas.org

Baptist Progress

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From the Editor

Time marches on, memories linger, legacies endure

This editor is most appreciative to the churches, groups and individuals who contributed to our *Baptist Progress \$102 for 102 Years of Ministry Campaign*. As offerings continue to roll in, at last count, we have received a total of \$8,123.

One contribution was accompanied with a special memory shared by the one who gave it.

From 1997 to 2001, I was honored to serve as pastor of University, Nacogdoches. Among the members of the church was a man named Ben Holleman. Bro. Ben was one of my most faithful supporters and dearest friends during my time of service in Nacogdoches.

The other day, Bro. Ben, 90 years old, phoned me from Houston, where he now resides with his wife, Dean. He said, "Bro. Jerry, I'm calling to let you know that I want to get in on the *\$102 for 102 Years of Ministry Campaign*."

Bro. Ben continued with a memory of his childhood. He shared that during the Great Depression his family, like most families at the time, had limited resources. Even so, Bro. Ben said his mother would scrounge up enough eggs to sell in order to regularly receive the *Baptist Progress*.

His mother, Alice Vaughn Holleman, loved reading about the work the Lord was doing through His churches. The Hollemans were members of Smyrna Baptist Church in Oak Flats, near Mount Enterprise, Texas.

Mrs. Holleman's nephew was the late Bro. Gilford Vaughn, who holds the record of the oldest serving BMA pastor. Bro. Vaughn, who passed away earlier this year, was 92 years old when he retired as pastor of Antioch, Fairfield.

Ben Holleman will certainly share in a prophet's reward in Glory for welcoming me as his pastor, serving with me in the harvest field of souls and continuing to support me as I aim to faithfully serve our Lord.

In the next 102 years, should the Lord tarry in His returning, may He raise up more faithful servants like Alice Vaughn Holleman, Gilford Vaughn and Ben Holleman to carry on His work.

Ben Holleman, thank you my friend and co-laborer in the Lord's work. May our God richly bless you, and others like you.



▲ Jerry Fulton

More contributions received in \$102 for 102 Years Campaign

In addition to the contributors and contributions listed in our last issue, we have received the following:

Anonymous	\$102
Antioch, Fairfield	\$102
Bethel of White Rock, Dallas	\$102
Calvary First, Mesquite	\$102
Calvary, Fairfield	\$102
East Mayfield, Hemphill	\$102
Ebenezer, Huntsville	\$152
First, Palmer	\$102
Holleman, W.B. & Dean	\$102
Mountain Home, Jacksboro	\$102
Pecan, Robert Lee	\$102
Security Calvary, Cleveland	\$102
South Park, Fort Worth	\$102



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!

EVENTS

JULY 28-AUGUST 1, 2014

Revival
@ Piney Creek, Kennard
Michael Moore, evangelist
Tom Dixon, pastor
7 p.m.

JULY 29-AUGUST 2, 2014

Revival
@ Calvary, Ennis
Tuesday, July 29 through
Thursday, July 31
Tommy Oglesby, evangelist
Friday, Aug. 1 through
Saturday, Aug. 2
Grady Cashion, evangelist
Ken Cashion, pastor
7 p.m.

AUGUST 3, 2014

Homecoming
@ Calvary, Ennis
James Patterson, speaker
Worship @ 10 a.m.
Lunch, following worship

AUGUST 14, 2014

Lifeword Media Ministries Rally
@ Woodland, Gilmer

AUGUST 17, 2014

116 Year Anniversary
@ Tundra, Canton
Dr. Mike Smith, guest speaker
Music by Brand New Touch
Lunch following service
10 a.m.

AUGUST 26, 2014

East Texas Missions District Meeting
@ Hispanic Mission in Tyler
Covered dish meal, 6 p.m.
Meeting, 7 p.m.

AUGUST 27, 2014

100 Year Anniversary
@ First, Maydelle
11 a.m.

OCTOBER 13-14, 2014

Annual Liberty Baptist Association
@ Little Mound, Big Sandy

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2014

Annual Meeting of the BMA of Texas
@ Keltys First, Lufkin

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

Pastor—Brumley, Pittsburg is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to Brumley Baptist Church, c/o Alan Senn, 5925 Fox Road, Gilmer, Texas 75644 or to atsenn1@aol.com. For more information, call 903-790-3385. (9/3/14)

Pastor—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346 or to jimmysealy@aol.com (9/17/14)

Interim Pastor—New Salem, Centerville, Texas (Centerview Community) at 8097 FM 811, is seeking an interim pastor. Contact Bro. AC Hoyt at 903-536-2616 for information. (TFN)

Music or Music & Youth—First, New Caney is seeking a bivocational music or music & youth minister. Send resume to Pastor Jonathan Fitzgerald, P.O. Box 1027, New Caney, Texas 77357 or to fbcnewcaney@att.net, or call 281-399-9930. (TFN)

OBITUARY

Billie Schafer

Funeral services for Billie Schafer, 81, of Port Arthur, were July 26, 2014 at Beaty Funeral Home in Mineola. She went home to be with her Lord on July 22, 2014. She married Pastor James Schafer April 10, 1952 and they had a blessed life together for 62 years 3 months and 12 days. She was a wonderful pastor's wife and Christian leader. She served alongside her husband in each of the churches they pastored. She was always very active in the ladies organization in their local churches and served as president of each District Women's Missionary Auxiliary in which they were members. She was always the supportive wife, mother and grandmother. Mrs. Schafer was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband, Pastor James Schafer; her daughter, Debbie Cantu of Port Arthur; and her son, Jim Schafer Jr. and wife, Carole, of Killeen; as well as several other relatives.



CHURCHES IN REVIEW

JULY 13, 2014

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	68	104	4 by letter
Elwood, Wills Point	14	43	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	434	466	
First, Blooming Grove	200		2 By Baptism
First, New Summerfield	35	43	
First, Palmer	34	45	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	26	42	
Harvest, Lufkin	20	30	
Little Flock, Lufkin		20	
Long Creek, Sunnyvale	70	92	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	19	25	
New Haven, Dallas	27	45	
New Hope, Mineola	68	118	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	39	51	
Pine Brook, Tyler	30	103	1 by letter
Rosewood, Gilmer	107	177	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	82	100	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	16	33	
Simmons Hill, Diana	23	60	1 by baptism
Temple, Mexia	36	47	1 by baptism
Woodland, Splendora	38	64	

JULY 20, 2014

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	90	145	2 by baptism
Cedar Creek, Teague	15	31	
Elwood, Wills Point	11	35	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	453	500	
First, Blooming Grove	200		2 by baptism
First, Palmer	32	45	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	17	43	
Harvest, Lufkin	25	30	
Jackson, Joaquin	65	114	
Little Flock, Lufkin		19	
Long Creek, Sunnyvale	75	81	7 by baptism
Merriman Hills, Sherman	16	16	
New Hope, Mineola	68	137	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	43	50	
Pine Brook, Tyler	27	90	1 by letter, 1 by baptism
Rosewood, Gilmer	115	181	1 by letter
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	72	77	
Temple, Mexia	45	57	
Woodland, Splendora	33	47	

JULY 27, 2014

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	74	135	
Bethel, Groesbeck			
Cedar Creek, Teague	13	19	
Elwood, Wills Point	13	27	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	437	512	
First, Blooming Grove	220		2 by baptism
First, Palmer	35	53	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	15	33	
Jackson, Joaquin	85	123	
Long Creek, Sunnyvale	78	101	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	49	54	
Pine Brook, Tyler	34	89	2 by baptism
Rosewood, Gilmer	108	179	
Temple, Mexia	36	58	

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

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JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

Jacksonville College recognized for being second

By DR. MIKE SMITH

On June 30, the U.S. Department of Education updated college costs lists on its College Affordability and Transparency Center. The newly published information ranks Jacksonville College as the most affordable private nonprofit 2-year college in Texas, and the second most affordable in the nation. Based on the published information, Jacksonville College is the least expensive private nonprofit Christian 2-year college in the nation. The national average net price is \$18,254. Jacksonville College ranked significantly below average with \$4,304.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) uses data collected through IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) to generate the affordability lists. Data is collected from all institutions that participate in or are applicants for participation in any federal student financial aid program. Net price data for the most recent lists were collected in Winter 2012-13.

“At Jacksonville College, we make every effort to make higher education affordable to our students,” said Dr. Mike Smith, President of Jacksonville College. “I am very pleased—though not surprised—that we ranked so highly nationally in the latest listing by the Department of Education.”

Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), Jacksonville College has provided students a quality higher education since 1899. JC offers personal attention, a nurturing atmosphere, and a biblical worldview to provide an excellent transition into the college environment and a strong foundation for study in a larger university.

Jacksonville College is owned and operated by the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas and affiliated with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. The mission of the College is to provide a quality education from a biblical worldview that challenges minds, transforms lives, and equips students for servant leadership and lifelong learning.

For more information about Jacksonville College, visit www.jacksonville-college.edu.

To view the U.S. Department of Education website on College Affordability and Transparency, visit <http://collegecost.ed.gov/catc/>.

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



▲ Robbie Caldwell (on left), pastor of New Harmony Baptist Church, and a group of volunteers from his church install sheetrock in the new JC residence hall.



▲ JC alumnus Tommy Cockerell of D & D Insulation and Foam in Fairfield sprays insulation from floor to ceiling in the new residence hall.

COLLEGE

least expensive in the U.S.

UPCOMING EVENTS

New Student Registration Days for Fall 2014

August 8-9

New applicants must first contact Admissions at (903) 589-7110 or admissions@jacksonville-college.edu.

For more information and to sign up to attend, visit www.jacksonville-college.edu/nsr.htm.

Fall Semester 2014

(See details in the JC ad in this issue of the Baptist Progress)

CELEBRATING 116 YEARS OF BELIEVING IN CHRIST

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Tundra Baptist Church invites you!

On August 17, 2014, Tundra will commemorate the 116th homecoming festivities. Join us for this monumental time of fellowship and reminiscing over memories made in this special place of worship.

Date: Sunday, August 17, 2014

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Tundra Baptist Church
2313 FM 1651
Canton, TX 75103

Speaker: Dr. Mike Smith, President of Jacksonville College

Special Music: Brand New Touch

A pot-luck meal will be served following the morning service. Stay and enjoy a good old-fashioned fellowship with loved ones.



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FALL 2014 REGISTRATION AUGUST 18-19

REGISTRATION SCHEDULE:

Monday, August 18: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 19: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PLACEMENT TEST:

Monday, August 18 at 8:00 a.m.

CLASSES BEGIN AUGUST 20

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR FALL 2014 COURSE SCHEDULES

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admissions@jacksonville-college.edu

BMA of America News

Free online seminary course this fall



JACKSONVILLE--BMA Seminary is offering a free online course this fall semester. The class will be Old Testament Survey and will be taught by BMA Seminary Director of Distance Education, Dr. Tony Cleaver. The class will begin Aug. 25 and will run for eight weeks. Space is limited. To enroll, contact BMA Seminary at 800-259-5673 or online at bmats.edu.



The recent move to Conway, Arkansas by BMA Missions and DiscipleGuide Church Resources, has necessitated a change in address for these departments. Please note the following addresses when sending offerings or correspondence to BMA National Departments.

BMA Missions

PO Box 878
Conway, AR 72033-0878

DiscipleGuide

PO Box 1749
Conway, AR 72033-1749

Lifeword

PO Box 6
Conway, AR 72033-0006

The street address for the above departments for UPS or FedEx shipping of packages including all used literature to be disbursed on the mission field is:

611 Locust Street
Conway, AR 72034

BMA Theological Seminary

PO Box 670
Jacksonville, TX 75766-0670

BMA Seminary in Conway

CONWAY, Arkansas—The Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary has been fully revitalizing its Arkansas campus, complete with a new administrator, faculty and staff. Seminary classes will be held on the Central Baptist College (CBC) campus in Conway beginning this fall.

A fall convocation and reception will be held at CBC in the Toland Chapel beginning at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 22. After a time of worship, the new administrator, R. Brian Rickett, will present the vision for the revitalized campus and will introduce new faculty and staff. Dr. Philip Attebery, BMA Seminary dean, will also be in attendance. A reception will follow in the Community Room from 8:50-9:50 p.m. Friends, supporters, alumni and denominational leaders are invited to attend; new students are required to attend.

“BMA Seminary is devoted to serving Christ in the expansion of His Kingdom by providing biblically faithful theological training to its denominational leaders, as well as to aspiring ministry leaders from the larger Christian community,” said Dr. Charley Holmes, BMA Seminary president.

Concurrent with the acquisition of new faculty and staff, 24 scholarships will be offered for new students for Fall 2014. The scholarships will cover nine hours (\$1,260 maximum value), and are available for the Texas and Arkansas campuses or via distance learning.

All students, regardless of denominational or church affiliation, pay the same low price of \$160 per unit/credit hour (\$480 per course), which may be the lowest cost of a fully accredited seminary in the United States. For more information, visit bmats.edu.

BMA Seminary Arkansas Campus Staff Members

The following faculty and staff have been announced by BMA Seminary for the Arkansas campus:

R. Brian Rickett (MDiv; ThM; ThD



studies; DMin in progress), professor of Biblical Studies and campus administrator for Conway. He has been serving in the seminary’s Biblical Studies department since 2009, but officially transitioned into the role of BMA Seminary Arkansas administrator this summer and has been restructuring the school.

Dr. Andy Snider (MDiv; ThM; ThD, Systematic Theology), professor of Theological-Historical Studies. A new full-time professor of theology, Dr. Snider recently joined the faculty and will be teaching courses in Arkansas, via video to Texas and online.

Dr. Scott Attebery (MDiv; DMin), adjunct professor of Church Ministries. Dr. Attebery is the executive director of DiscipleGuide Church Resources.

Dr. Steve Crawley (MBA; MAR; PhD), adjunct professor of Church Ministries. Dr. Crawley is executive director of Lifeword Media Ministries.

Dr. Gary O’Neal (MDiv; PhD), adjunct professor of Biblical Studies. Dr. O’Neal has been a regular writer of *Compass Teacher (Advancer)* publications each year and is pastor of Oak Park, Little Rock, Ark.

Zach Nance (MDiv; ThM), Recruitment and Administrative Support.

Janet L. Rickett (BSE; MA, Biblical Counseling), Arkansas Seminary Wives Director/Arkansas Director of Women’s Studies (Arkansas Director of Women).

Christian Living

Without a broken heart, there's no forgiveness

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

Baptist Progress Correspondent

I've experienced it both ways—I have been asked for forgiveness—and far more often, I've had to ask for forgiveness.

And one thing I've learned about forgiveness is—it's to no avail if there isn't a broken heart.

Whenever I've struggled with the notion of forgiving someone for trespassing against me, I've had to stop and realize the vast and unconditional forgiveness I've received from God the Father.

In being "asked" for forgiveness, it has been my experience that, no matter what the offense was, it is very easy to confer forgiveness on an offender who comes with a broken spirit. I also find that I have great victory and release in my own life when I come to someone I've offended, with a broken spirit.

The Psalmist said in Psalm 51:17 that "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."

Often, when we want to salve our consciences in order to get a good night's sleep without relinquishing our pride, we often resort to little word games and tricks.

Some common attempts at reconciliation without expressing brokenness are, "I was wrong, but so were you,"—"Why can't we just let bygones be bygones?"—or how about this one—"When I blow up the way I

do, you just have to understand—that's just the way I am." People often sweep the conflict under the rug without acknowledging wrong. As a result, there is no brokenness on the part of the one asking forgiveness, nor is there graciousness by the one being asked.

It's amazing what forgiveness does to a person. The sinful woman in Luke 7 who obviously had a broken heart over sin, anointed the feet of Jesus with expensive perfume, and kissed His feet. She was the recipient of Christ's vast forgiveness.

The Pharisees who were present could only condemn her for "wasting" expensive perfume. But Jesus told them, "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."

The Pharisees, who were sticklers for keeping the law, never felt any need of forgiveness from Jesus—or anyone. Consequently, they had no love in their hearts. But the sinful woman, who was forgiven for much, had much love.

If you can't seek forgiveness from your brother whom you offended—or, if you refuse to forgive your brother who comes to you with a broken and contrite spirit, then you have a heart full of vindictiveness and hate. Sadly, you are out of fellowship with God.

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly

Father will forgive you as well." Matthew 6:14

Forgiveness is essential in the life of a believer. To have a forgiving spirit is to have a right relationship with the Father; to have a forgiving spirit, is to be able to lie down at night with a clear conscience; to have a forgiving spirit will enhance the fellowship of believers.

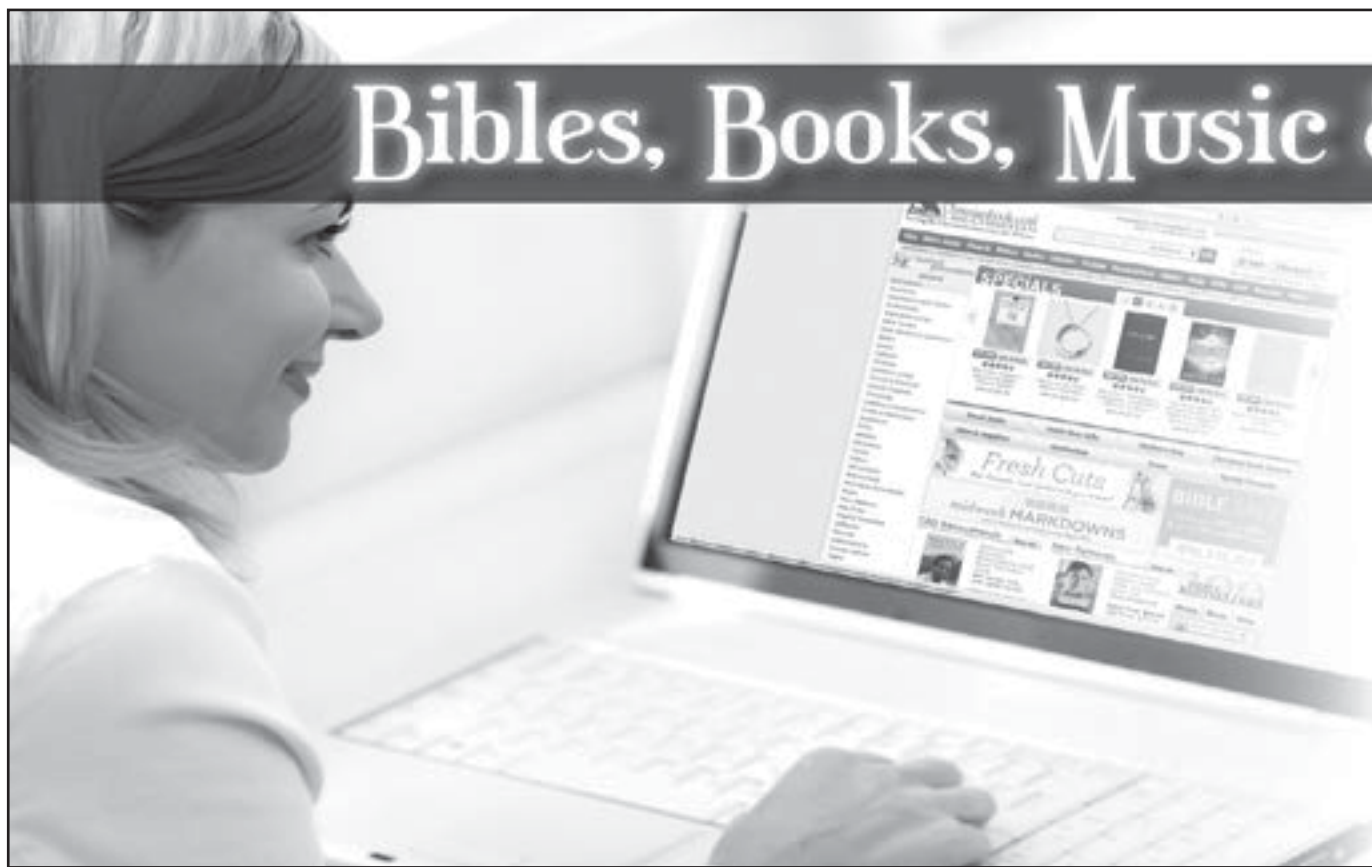
You may say, "Oh, but Paul you have no idea what that person - or those people did to me." True—but to bear vengeance and hatred in your hearts because of it is to live with your own private torment—but when you give those wrongdoers over to Christ, with a spirit of release and forgiveness, trusting Him to do a work in their lives, the victory will be yours,

A broken and contrite heart is essential if forgiveness is to be experienced.

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



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Auxiliaries

Son West Roundup

By SHARON COLE

There were 35 little wranglers (Sunbeams), 15 trail bosses (sponsors) and 18 visitors, making a total of 68 attending the Texas Sunbeam Houseparty July 18-19, 2014 at Jacksonville College. Eight churches from Cherokee, Liberty, Harris and Mt. Olive District were represented.

Mrs. Shirley Hoffpauir did an excellent job decorating, and Jessica Hoffpauir presented several puppet skits using a covered wagon as the stage. Jacob Graham, Sunbeam president, splendidly led the Sunbeam program. Jacksonville College President, Mike Smith, was on hand to welcome everyone, offering assistance as needed.

A very special thank you goes to the ladies who prepared and served the food in the cafeteria. They are always helpful and friendly and are good cooks.

A special treat was a conversation with missionary, Sara Rose, from Mexico. Mrs. Mellissa Henry, assistant Sunbeam promoter, connected us with Skype so that we could communicate with her. She expressed her appreciation for the Texas State Sunbeams choosing them for the yearly project. A total of \$2,096.03 was raised for this project. While talking with Sara, she requested that we keep them in our prayers. Also if anyone has any craft supplies that can be used with Sunbeams, please collect them and send them by mail or by personal delivery.

The new project for 2014-2015 will be Mexico Sunbeams (El Alba Baptist Church in Pachuca, Mexico). It will be called "Rejitos El Sol," which means "Little Rays of the Sun." We will be helping them begin Sunbeam work in Mexico. The goal is \$2,000.

As the officers were introduced, bandanas were given to them that said, "Giddy-up With God," then everyone else received a bandana. Friday night the Sunbeams were divided into three groups for activities on a rotation basis. While one group went to crafts, another group went to games and refreshments, and the third group visited the bookstore. More

skits and singing was enjoyed by Cornerstone, Jacksonville singing, "Joy." Glenfawn, Cushing sang "Giving My Heart to Jesus," and Coffeerville Sunbeams sang "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." Jacob Graham from Fellowship, Pittsburg sang "Jesus Loves the Little Children," and Camille Acres, Longview Sunbeams sang "Read Your Bible Every Day" and "Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho."

Several volunteers dressed in costumes for the bedtime story about the Good Samaritan read by Mrs. Shirley Hoffpauir. The following officers were elected for 2014-2015: President-Sam Clair; Adult President-Vera Koonce; 1st Vice President-Samantha Dumas; Adult 1st Vice President-Mellissa Henry; 2nd Vice President-Landon Graham; Adult 2nd Vice President-Linda Graham; Song Leader-Caleb Kizer; Adult Song Leader-Rebecca Binns; Project Promoter-Ty Hoffpauir; Adult Project Promoter-Shirley Hoffpauir; Reporter/Historian-Matthew Thorne; Asst. Reporter/Historian-Ty Saxton; Adult Reporter/Historian and Asst.-LaVerle Spurgeon. Secretary-Sharon Cole; Asst. Secretary-Shawn Norris; Treasurer-Shera Clair; Asst. Treasurer-Vera Koonce; Advisory Council: Vera Koonce; Shirley Hoffpauir, LaDonna Aiken, and Shawn Norris. Web Master: Alicia Johnson.

Texas WMA President Diana Morris, installed the new officers presenting a devotional about changes, but Jesus Christ never changes referring to Hebrews 3:18. The officers were given a necklace with a heart and 2 keys to remind them to unlock God's love in their heart and share Jesus with others. Then everyone enjoyed ice cream sundaes. Awards were given to winners of the various contests.

The theme for the year 2014-2015 is "Fiesta Sunbeams" and the dates for next year's Houseparty are July 17-18, 2015.

Remember the Ladies Retreat

October 4, 2014

Rosewood Baptist Church, Gilmer, Texas

Registration fee: \$20 per person if mailed by Sept.12. After Sept.12-\$25.

Please state how many will attend and ages of children if you will need a nursery.

Mail registration and fee to: Liberty District WMA, Charlotte Johnson, 1044 S. Mimosa, Gilmer, TX 75644
Phone:903-725-6366; 903-790-1385

Email:chj1054etex.net

Motel Information: Executive Inn & Suites

920 US Hwy 271, Gilmer, TX 75644

903-843-6099...1 King Bed-\$60; 2 King Beds-\$73 plus tax. Each person or church is responsible to make your own reservations.

\$8,822.63 raised toward \$15,000 goal for the Texas WMA Project

Please help to provide a new truck for the Master's Builders to use in carrying their tools and supplies when they are working for the Lord.

Announcement from corresponding secretary

Several years ago Texas WMA embarked on a project to publish Missions books. The first ones we published were "Pablo" and "Rosas." Do you remember them? They were written by Martha Johnson. Later, after Martha went to be with our Lord, Buddy Johnson wrote "Martha." Since then we have published many others. Most of them were written by Bettye White Wilson. The last one, "The Heflins in Costa Rica," was published in 2006.

After we paid for the cost of each of these books, the

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.



Sun West Roundup continued on p. 12

Let's harvest sunbeams

By SHERRY LAMINACK

National Sunbeam Promoter

Sept.15-19, 2014 is Sunbeam Enlistment and Promotion Week. The theme is LET'S HARVEST SUNBEAMS. 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. The lessons taught in Sunbeams 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 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.

Have a special awards program for the Sunbeams who completed Star Awards requirements

If your group is just getting started, have a special program and present each student with their pin or sash.

Use fall harvest items for decorations.

Invite the parents to your meeting and explain the Sunbeam program to them.

Let the Sunbeams sing in a church service.

Serve cake and ice cream at one meeting and invite children in your church and community who do not attend Sunbeams.

Take your group to a nursing home to sing.

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 HARVEST SUNBEAMS during Sunbeam Enlistment and Promotion Week, Sept. 15-19, 2014. God's Word can change the lives of these boys and girls!

Sunday School Lessons

Serving the living Savior

By GARY HOUSE

DATE: August 10, 2014

TEXT: Acts 25:1-26:32

LESSON IN BRIEF: Christians serve a resurrected Jesus. Acts 26 is the greatest defense of the Christian message in the New Testament. Before Festus and Agrippa, Paul retells the story of his conversion and proclaims the power of the Resurrection. These are his words in verse 8: "Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?" That is the question of the ages. Is it incredible to think that God would raise the dead?

PAUL'S APPEAL (Acts 25:9-11). Paul has been left in bonds in Caesarea for two years, while Felix is governor. Festus who has replaced Felix, and wanting to appease the Jews asked Paul to go to Jerusalem and be judged. Paul replied that he had done nothing wrong to the Jews, a truth of which even Festus was aware. Paul responds (verse 11) "If I have done anything worthy of death, I am not afraid to die." Why was Paul unafraid of death? Because He believed in the risen Savior. Because God had demonstrated His power over death in raising his Son, Jesus, it would be no big deal to die. As a Roman citizen, Paul appealed unto Caesar, the Roman emperor. (See John 11:25-26.)

PAUL'S AFFIRMATION (Acts 25:19). When the name of Jesus was brought up in Paul's hearing before Festus, Paul repeatedly affirmed that Jesus was alive. This truth defined his ministry. His theme song would be, "I serve a risen (living) Savior." Paul professed that Jesus was alive in more than 90 scriptures. He

further noted that Jesus rose from the dead in another 25 scriptures (See especially 1 Corinthians 15, known as "The Resurrection Chapter.) Paul would be the last person in the world you would ever want to argue with about the resurrection of the dead, specifically the dead in Christ. Paul's testimony rests on the fact of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Paul's defense makes two main points:

First, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a fact. He gives four proofs of the resurrection:

1) The resurrection is possible because of God (Acts 26:8). Paul's logic here is solid: If you believe in the God who created all things and who spoke life into existence, you must also admit that God has the inherent power to raise the dead.

2) The resurrection is proved by eyewitness testimony. Paul recounts his own dramatic encounter with the risen Lord Jesus on the Damascus Road (Acts 26:12-15). If Paul had been the only one to make such a claim, perhaps we would have to concede the point, or at least not build our case on it. But in 1 Corinthians 15:5-8, Paul states that the risen Lord appeared to Peter and the other apostles, as well as to over 500 followers at one time, most of whom were still alive when Paul wrote.

3) The resurrection is proved by the changed lives of the witnesses. Paul had been devoted to destroying Christians. He says that he was "furiously

enraged" at them (Acts 26:11). And yet here he is, a prisoner for the cause of Christ, having endured numerous hardships because of his faith in Christ, and yet there is not a trace of bitterness or hatred in him toward his enemies. How did this man who had been driven by hate change into a man driven by the love of Christ? The only explanation is that he had seen the risen Savior. The same is true of the transformation in all of the apostles.

4) The resurrection is supported by the fulfillment of prophecy. Paul declares that he is saying nothing except that which Moses and the Prophets had said would take place, "that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He should be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles" (Acts 26:22-23). Probably Paul went into more detail here, quoting from Isaiah 53, Psalm 16, and Psalm 22.

Second, Paul explained the difference the Resurrection makes.

Repentance is the proper response to the resurrection. Paul shows this both by his own example and by his direct preaching. Paul especially focuses on the commission that the risen Lord Jesus gave to him, to go to the Gentiles so that they might repent and turn to God (Acts 26:18, 20). When Paul believed in Jesus Christ, he did a 180-degree turnaround. From then on he preached that all men must repent (Acts 26:20). Repentance is a turning of the whole person away from

sin and toward God. If you truly believe that Jesus Christ is the risen Savior, you cannot remain the same. You will turn from your sins to God.

Repentance involves a change of understanding from darkness to light. God sent Paul "to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light" (26:18). The risen Lord tells Paul that He will open their eyes (26:18), although obviously, only God's power through Paul's preaching of the gospel can do that

Repentance involves a change of behavior from sin to deeds appropriate to repentance.

In verse 20, Paul tells of his obedience to this heavenly vision. He kept declaring both to Jews and Gentiles, "that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance."

Repentance means that you believe in the risen Savior with such conviction that it turns around the way you live. Instead of living in darkness, you now live in the light of God's holy presence and His Word. Instead of living under Satan's domain, you now live under the Lordship of Jesus. Instead of living for yourself and sinful pleasure, you now live to please Jesus Christ.

Do you believe that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead? Good for you! You do well so to believe, because it is true! But if that belief has not led to a life of repentance from sin, it won't do you any good on the Day of Judgment. Your response to the fact of Jesus' resurrection should be repentance.

Encourage in discouraging times

By GARY HOUSE

DATE: August 17

SCRIPTURE: Acts 27:1-38

LESSON IN BRIEF: God's servants should reassure and strengthen others. Be an encourager.

A passenger on an ocean liner was enduring a rough Atlantic crossing. As he leaned over the rail, his face a shade of green, a steward came along and tried to encourage him: "Don't be discouraged, sir! No one's ever died of seasickness yet!" The nauseous passenger looked up at the steward with horror and said, "Don't say that! It's only the hope of dying that's kept me alive this long!"

That's probably how Paul's fellow-passengers felt after two weeks of enduring the storm at sea. Not only were they sick; after not being able to see the sun or stars for many days, they had lost all hope of being saved (Acts 27:20). In the same way, when people go through severe storms in life, often they lose all hope.

Into this bleak picture, the encouraging words of the apostle Paul brought a ray of light. In verse 22, he urges everyone to keep up their courage, promising that there would be no loss of life among them. Again in verse 25 he says, "Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God, that it will turn out exactly as I have been told." Yet again in verse 33 we read that "Paul was encouraging them to take some food." The result was (Acts 27:36) "all of them were encouraged."

If you are going to call for good cheer in the midst of a crisis situation, you had better have some good reasons. Paul certainly had his. "For there stood by me this night the angel of God, -whose I am, and whom I serve, saying, fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail -with thee " (Acts 27:23,24). If Paul had

not been discouraged and afraid, he would not have needed this encouraging word. God gave Paul all the assurance he needed to encourage this tired, distressed and starving group of men not to give up hope. It appears that all aboard were revived and hope was reborn into the hearts of the crew and the prisoners.

Discouragement is one of Satan's greatest tools, causing many in Christian service to give up and drop out of the ministry. But once Paul experienced God's encouragement, he then passed it on to others. Those who have received God's encouragement in life's storms should encourage others to look to God.

We all need personally to experience God's encouragement in the storms of life.

Howard Hendricks often says, "You cannot impart what you do not possess." So how do we receive God's encouragement when we're going through a difficult time?

We receive God's encouragement in the storms of life:

1) By being with His people. Paul did not have to face this difficult voyage alone. He was accompanied by at least two friends, Aristarchus, and Luke. (See Hebrews 10:25)

2) When we remember His continual presence with us (Acts 27:23). An angel of the Lord appeared to Paul to remind him of this truth. I have felt His presence with me in times of great need, and it has flooded me with encouragement

3) When we remember that we are His possession; Paul tells these rough men on board that he belongs to God (Acts 27:23). If you have trusted in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, you belong to Him.

4) When we remember that we are His servants. Paul calls God the one "whom I serve" (Acts 27:23.)

5) We receive God's encouragement when we remember His promises.

Paul relates the angel's words, "you must stand before Caesar." These words are simply a reminder of what the Lord already had told Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 23:11). The word "must" points to divine necessity. When God says, "you must," you know that it will happen. He is always faithful to His promises.

6) We receive God's encouragement when we remember that God answers prayer.

The angel told Paul, "Behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you" (Acts 27:24). The words, "God has granted," imply that Paul had prayed, not only for himself, but also for all on board, that they all would be saved from death through the shipwreck

7) We receive God's encouragement by believing Him. Paul tells the others on board to keep up their courage and then adds, "for I believe God, that it will turn out exactly as I have been told" (Acts 27:25). God's promises don't do us any good unless we believe Him, that He will do just as He has said, in spite of our current overwhelming circumstances.

Having received God's encouragement, we need to encourage others to look to God. Paul shared it with everyone on board, and repeatedly encouraged them to take courage on the basis of God's promise of deliverance. Every man on board the ship was completely saved because God had promised His servant Paul total deliverance. The promises of God are still to be trusted. If you find yourself in troubled waters, don't lose hope. Be of good cheer. Believers must carry the message of hope.

No matter what the day may hold, no matter how bleak the outcome may seem, no matter how severe the pain may be, no matter how hopeless the situation

appears to be "Be of good cheer." If you belong to Him in the eternal covenant of mercy, if you are called by His effectual grace, you have every reason to "be of good cheer."

Be not dismayed what-e'er betide. God will take care of you;

Beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you.

No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you;

Are you a witness to the truth of this song? "BE OF GOOD CHEER." He will rescue you from the storms of life if you will trust and obey. Be of good cheer! Jesus has overcome hell, death, and the grave. He died, and was buried, but He rose again. That mountain can be moved. "BE OF GOOD CHEER."

If God used this storm to reveal more of Christ to Paul or to bring any of the men on board to Jesus Christ, the life-threatening ordeal would have been well worth it. If God encourages you in the storm, reveals more of Himself to you, uses you to bring someone to Christ, or to encourage one of His people, it will be worth it all.

Gary House is the writer of the Sunday school lessons for Baptist Progress. He serves as pastor of Tundra Baptist Church in Canton. Contact him at Tundraparson@aol.com.



Sun West Roundup continued on p. 10

funds raised from the sale of the books went to the mission work of the missionary the book was written about. We still have three books that have not all sold: "The Elliots in Brazil," "The Arringtons in Bolivia," and "The Heflins in Costa Rica." We almost have the last book paid for, so most of the future sales will go to the works of the missionaries. You can help by buying these books.

The good news is, we have a bargain for you. If you buy the Heflin book, then we will give you the Elliot's and the Arrington's free. Please use the order form below and I will mail the books to you.

Please send me ___ copies of "The Heflins in Costa Rica." \$10.00 for each copy (includes postage)

I understand that I will receive "The Elliots" and "The Arringtons" free.

I already have one or more of the books listed, so just send me: _____

Enclosed is \$ _____. Please ship my books to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Mail your check payable to TX WMA and mail along with this order form to: TX WMA-Jo Strong, 149 Suzanne Terrace, Burleson, TX 76028

District WMA News

CHEROKEE DISTRICT WMA met with First, Jacksonville on July 8, 2014. Following a wonderful meal of salads and desserts, the meeting was called to order by President Cindy Allen. Special speaker, Janette Aultman, spoke about how it took 40 years for the Israelites to reach the Promised Land because their faith in God was not strong. As the new officers were installed they were challenged to put a small stone in a visible place as a reminder to be obedient to the Lord every day. Officers are: President-Rose Bowen; 1st Vice-Betty Hensley; 2nd Vice-Glenda Haynes; 3rd Vice-Jo Ann Bass; Secretary/Treasurer-Jane Pepin; Asst. Sec./Treas-Sylvia Davis; Song Leader-Kitty Downey; Asst. Song Leader-Cindy Allen; Pianist-Eloise Thomas; Asst. Pianist-Lynda Kelly; Historian-Carleen Thompson. Cornerstone Baptist Church was welcomed into the Cherokee District WMA.

MT. OLIVE DISTRICT WMA met with Glenfawn, Cushing on July 22, 2014. Following a delicious meal of salads and desserts, President Nelda Salas called the meeting to order. After opening exercises and a short business meeting the following officers were elected: President-Nelda Salas; 1st Vice-Renee' Nolen; 2nd Vice & Asst. Song Leader-Shawn Norris; Secretary-Wendy Boatman; Treasurer-Sharon Cole; GMA Promoter-Leona Wimberly; Sunbeam Promoter-LaVerle Spurgeon; Pianist and Song Leader-Host Church. Advisory Council: Bro. Rodger Cole, Bro. Gerald Pepper. The new project will be Bro. Tommy and Sara Rose Missionary Work Fund, Mexico. Mrs. Bibble Pepper and Wendy Boatman presented a song: "Have Thine Own Way, Lord." The program was led by Sunbeam Promoter-LaVerle Spurgeon. She reported on the Texas Sunbeam Houseparty and told how important the Sunbeam program is to our churches and the children. She showed award certificates for those participating in giving money to the project and the contests entered by the children. The next meeting will be with Glenfawn, Cushing, October 28, 2014. The dates for future meetings are January 27, 2015-Antioch, Carthage; April 28, 2015-Glenfawn, Cushing; July 28, 2015, Glenfawn, Cushing.

SOAR:lit to Focus on the Church



This year's edition of SOAR:lit student Bible study material will be covering the important topic of the church. Beginning this fall, students will learn about topics such as the origin of the church, the local nature of the church, the purpose of the church, the ordinances of the church, and the importance of membership within a local church.

A biblical understanding of the church goes hand in hand with a biblical understanding of Christ. After all, the church is *His* body, established under *His* ministry, and purchased by *His* blood.

This fall's lessons are written by Jeff Herring, associate pastor for youth and children at Oak Park, Little Rock, Ark. Jeff's knowledge of the Bible and insights into church ministry will be a blessing to your students and leaders.

If your students are not already using *SOAR:lit*, this would be a great time to sign up. The downloadable literature is available at discipleguide.org for \$11 per student per year. Order now to get started this fall and you will receive the entire series on the church plus you won't have to order student literature again until next fall!

To order, or for more information, go to discipleguide.org.



▲ Jeff Herring

Love offering requested for Kent Cox Family

Pastor Johnathon "Kent" Cox, age 47 of Rowlett, passed away unexpectedly on July 9, 2014. He was born Oct. 3, 1966, in Opelika, Ala., to Ray and Angela Margarite (Binns) Cox. Kent was married Sept. 9, 1989 to Angela Evans. He will be lovingly remembered as pastor extraordinaire of Crossroads Church in Rowlett, faithful to his God and devoted to his family and many friends.

Kent is survived by wife, Angie; daughter, Kayla Cox; sons, Nelson and Caden Cox all of Rowlett; parents, Ray and Angela Cox, and sister, Ashleigh Rhea Cox all of Walls, Miss.

Funeral services were July 12, 2014, at First Baptist Church, Rowlett, with Kelby Mullins, Jeff Jones and Macky Pittman officiating. Interment followed in Rest Haven Memorial Park. Memorials may be

made to Crossroads Church, 7900 Chiesa Road, Rowlett, TX 75089.

Also, the Crossroads asks other churches and individuals to consider giving a love offering to Pastor Cox's family to cover funeral expenses. The funds can be placed online at crossroadsrowlett.org or checks may be mailed to Crossroads Church, c/o Gene Wilkerson, P.O. Box 1018, Rowlett, TX 75030.

