

Baptist Progress

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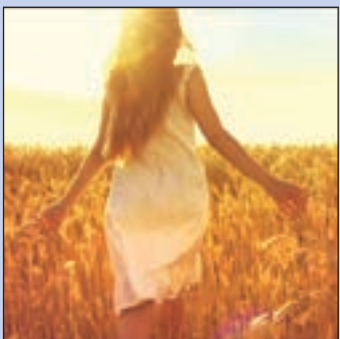
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EVERY CHURCH — EVERY NATION

There are 7.5 billion people that inhabit our world.

Those people make up 12,000 people groups spread out over 196 countries.

For Christians, these are daunting numbers because we know God has called us to make disciples of all nations. God has tasked his followers with sharing his hope of salvation with all people – to the very ends of the earth.

At BMA Missions, we are your partner in this global, Great Commission command. We have hundreds of missionaries in over 72 nations, and our vision is to connect every church to the work of global missions so we may continue sending missionaries to reach the lost. That is why this year's theme is "Every Church – Every Nation." If we are going to expand to EVERY

NATION, we need EVERY CHURCH fully committed.

Seventy-six percent of the world lives under religious oppression, struggling to find hope in the midst of chaos. Yet, from the Syrian Refugee crisis in the Middle East to underground home groups in China and Cuba, the gospel is flourishing because the message of Jesus offers the only true hope for mankind.

Our goal for this World Missions Day is \$500,000. If we are going to reach this lofty goal, we need every church to help us get there. So join us and encourage your church family that we do indeed serve a missionary God that has given us a missionary calling.

If your church will participate in this year's World Missions Day on Feb. 25, 2018, register at bmamissions.org/

worldmissionsday. Churches who register will receive one free BMA Missions polo shirt for their pastor. They will also be able to request additional promotional materials such as bulletin inserts and posters.

Additionally, one pastor and his wife (or a couple of their choice) will receive an all-expenses paid mission trip with Dr. John David Smith just for participating in World Missions Day. To be eligible, your church's World Missions Day offering must be received by May 1, 2018. The drawing to determine the winner will be held at the 2018 BMA National Meeting.

Help us take the message of the gospel to EVERY NATION through your generous donation on World Missions Day. Visit bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday for more information.





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United Thanksgiving Offering

Thanks to the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas who gave to the 2017 United Thanksgiving Offering. The following is a total of offerings received so far. If your church has not yet mailed in your United Thanksgiving Offering, please do so to BMA of Texas, P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, Texas 75168.

CHURCH	AMOUNT	CHURCH	AMOUNT	CHURCH	AMOUNT
Antioch, Fairfield	500.00	First, Bardwell	500.00	Old Home, Joaquin	175.00
Bauman Road, Houston	50.00	First, Gary	40.00	Pecan, Robert Lee	525.00
Beacon Hill, Waco	1,000.00	First, Jacksonville	1,587.11	Phillips, M., Gilmer	500.00
Beech Grove, Jasper	1,500.00	First, New Summerfield	143.00	Pilgrims Rest, Emory	500.00
Bethel of White Rock, Dallas	335.00	First, Palmer	1,000.00	Richland Heights, Grand Saline	90.00
Bishop Chapel, Jasper	347.00	First, Rice	780.00	Rocky Hill, Huntington	674.88
Buena Vista, Tenaha	155.35	Folsom, Center	1,500.00	Rose Hill, Mineola	421.65
Calvary, Centerville	200.00	Forest Hill, Quitman	1,500.00	Rosewood, Gilmer	3,500.00
Calvary, Ennis	250.00	Friendship, Jacksonville	422.20	Round Prairie, Fairfield	1,500.00
Calvary, Fairfield	1,995.14	Friendship, Mesquite	200.00	Sand Flat, Grand Saline	240.00
Camille Acres, Longview	730.52	Glade Creek, Gilmer	1,500.00	Sand Prairie, North Zulch	1,500.00
Caney, Sulphur Springs	250.00	Glenfawn, Laneville-Cushing	142.00	Shady Grove, DeBerry	272.00
Carrell Street, Tomball	281.00	Grays Prairie, Scurry	600.00	Shady Grove, Purdon	425.00
Central, Aspermont	1,682.00	Leggett, Leggett	300.00	Sheppard Drive, Euless	1,355.00
Central, Mineola	100.00	Liberty, Henderson	500.00	Sheridan Terrace, Palestine	190.00
China Grove, Eustace	530.00	Little Flock, Jewett	1,000.00	Shiloh Road, Dallas	120.00
Clover Hill, Quitman	100.00	Little Mound, Big Sandy	300.00	Soda, Livingston	150.00
Concord, Gilmer	100.00	Macedonia, Etoile	250.60	Sunset, Lamesa	300.00
Corinth, Jacksonville	435.00	Magnolia Springs, Magnolia Springs	300.00	Temple, Mexia	70.00
Cornerstone, Jacksonville	1,665.00	Mahl, Nacogdoches	1,228.00	Tundra, Canton	125.00
Dallas Park, Dallas	188.00	Missionary, Paducah	215.00	Union, Springtown	335.00
Ebenezer Friendship, Pittsburg	30.00	Mt. Pisgah, Mineola	5,000.00	Ward Prairie, Fairfield	500.00
Ebenezer, Huntsville	300.00	Mt. Selman, Bullard	302.00	Weeks Chapel, Jasper	1,000.00
Eighth Avenue, Teague	45.00	New Beginnings, Ferris	638.00	Winterfield, Pickton	465.00
Elwood, Wills Point	236.25	New Harmony, Tyler	3,751.50	Zion Hill, Jasper	500.00
Enon First, Iola	500.00	New Hope, Mineola	600.00	Baptist Missionary Association	
Fair Park, Tyler	245.35	New Hope, New Waverly	58.84	of Smith County	1,000.00
Farley Street, Waxahachie	2,002.68	New Salem, Centerville	500.00	Folsom, Tehana	423.12
Fellowship, Edinburg	445.00	New Salem, Henderson	1,000.00	Freestone, Teague	225.00
Fifth Street, Levelland	190.00	North Liberty, Sulphur Springs	90.77		
First Missionary, Terrell	245.00	Northside, Conroe	1,866.00	TOTAL	61,924.96
First of Providence, Livingston	50.00	Northside, Garland	345.00		

Meet Lifeword's Rick Russell

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

Lifeword Media Ministries

The following is the first in a series of articles featuring your Lifeword team members.

It was in a Fort Scott, Kansas, radio station that Rick Russell first caught the “radio bug.” When an uncle returned from the army and began working as a radio announcer, Rick’s visit to the station sealed his fate for life: He was completely fascinated with all aspects of radio, and his life was marked by listening to, learning about and dreaming of radio.

“I was amazed at the power of radio and how far away the signals came from. My dream,” he said, “was to be a radio personality at one of the big stations.” It was many years later that God would reveal more about that dream.

In the years that followed, his family moved to Georgia where Rick met a kindred spirit in sixth grade named Danny who had already built a radio station. They collaborated on the project, and Rick became Danny’s programmer, which gave him the experience for his first radio job at WNGA in Nashville, Georgia. From that point he worked in radio through high school and into his young married life.

Rick and his wife Angela served in volunteer youth ministry together while Rick continued in radio and sold life insurance. During this time, they attended their first BMA church at Meadowside in Pittsburg, Kansas, and became youth leaders there. It was at Meadowside where Rick met the man who would become a life-long mentor: Bro. Paul Mooney.

At the 1983 BMA national meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi, Angela and Rick went as messengers and heard about the BMA’s radio ministry, Harvest Gleaner Hour, for the first time. Rick says, “I remember Bro. Paul telling me that I would enjoy this next report at 3 o’clock, so don’t miss it. There was a slideshow and voiceover with music; Bro. Paul was right.”

When Bro. Mooney accepted a pastorate in Laurel, Mississippi, he asked Rick to join him as music and youth pastor, his first paid ministry position. It was in Laurel that passion and ministry collided when he noticed that secular rock music was negatively affecting the young people in his group. When Rick introduced them to Christian contemporary music, their attitudes changed along with their music styles. Later he bought airtime on a radio station so they could participate in gospel media ministry.

Four years later, Rick began his association with Bro. George Reddin at a Big Creek Association meeting in Laurel when he volunteered to be area coordinator for the Walk of Faith. Two years later in 1989, Bro. George asked him to be Lifeword’s programming director when there were six broadcast languages.

After two months at Lifeword, Rick recalls that God gave him a clear picture of his life in ministry. Rick says, “My dream had always been to be a big radio personality on a big station.” But while trying to find a signal on an old, donated radio, Rick suddenly heard his own voice through its crackles. Rick said of that moment, “I’m not making this up. The first thing I heard was my own voice introducing the Lifeword program on WWL in New Orleans, and God spoke loud and clear: ‘I have already

given you the desire of your heart; it just doesn’t look the same as you thought it would.’”

In the years since God allowed Rick to understand his purpose, he has witnessed many changes. Lifeword has evolved technologically, increased the language count and added new formats, social media being the most recent.

One of the most significant changes, he says, occurred when Dr. John David Smith became the executive director of Missions and led the new mission’s philosophy of a self-sustainable, self-visioning foreign missions model. Rick says this philosophy has moved Lifeword “toward a model similar to what Dany and I did in the sixth grade - using low-power broadcasting equipment to speak to kids our age. Lifeword Community Radio (LCR) is all over the world reaching anyone within the sound of a tiny village radio station, in their heart language and with programs of interest to them. A LCR (Lifeword Community Radio) broadcaster is not someone who has learned to speak Ewe, but someone who was born speaking the Ewe language.”

Although he has worn several hats in his 28 years at Lifeword, Rick is the director of broadcast equipping and training. His job includes training visionary leaders, broadcasters, programmers and station managers all over the world to create quality programming. Lifeword’s new initiative, the Lifeword Cloud, will benefit from his training when that programming is uploaded to the Cloud, added to the Lifeword Network and becomes accessible 24/7 to anyone, anywhere who speaks that language.

“Lifeword team members have always prayed for that kind of accessibility, and now we can see God’s hand pulling everything together. I have never been more excited for our future.”



▲ Rick Russell is pictured on the right.

Lifeword
MEDIA MINISTRIES



He picked me!

Growing up can be hard—especially when you are smaller than other kids your age. That’s how it was for me. Oh how I loved to play but the fun ended when my friends divided up in teams to play games such as “Red Rover Red Rover.” I wasn’t good at that rough, highly competitive game because I wasn’t strong enough to break through the line. Still, I hoped. And shouted (in my head) “Pick me! Pick me!” But it never happened—until there was no one else to choose.

Sometimes it happens that way for adults. Whether real or imagined, some folks feel left out, unwanted or unable to find their way in our complicated world. Here is an excerpt from my friend Brenda Bateman’s excellent blog highlighting this reality and her own personal experience:

“As I walked a chilly pathway this morning, I was thinking about my ‘to do’ list. At the top of the list is taking breakfast to my men on the corner along with packed lunch bags. I thought about how far my relationship with those men has come in the past year . . . how often I drove past them without a thought. I regret that I was so selfish and without compassion. I cheated them but I also cheated myself out of 15 rich friendships!”

Brenda passed these men every morning on her way to work, bothered and concerned for them until one day she felt God saying: If it bothers you so much why don’t you do something? One day she did. And for almost two years, Brenda has provided breakfast and/or lunch two to three days a week for 15 men who wait on the corner hoping for a place to work. At first it was a little scary, but soon one who spoke English joined the group, making it easier to interact. The more Brenda learned about these men and their families, the more she wanted to help. After sharing the need, other folks chipped in. Now all 15 men have a new bicycle!

In addition to Brenda’s “corner ministry” of 15 men, she volunteers through the Hospice program and serves as Chaplain for the Police Department. Her real job is ministering to children and their families at a Chinese church in Arlington, but if you ask her father-in-law, Jack Bateman, you would think he is her number one priority!

These closing words from Brenda’s blog have challenged my thinking and convicted my heart:

“I completed my walk with the conclusion that we are created to make ripples. We are meant to cannonball ourselves into the lives of all we encounter. Some of those people will be lifelong friends; some will only be in our lives for a season; and some may only intersect with our lives for the time it takes for the light to change . . . The touch I share with someone will ripple on from them to someone else! It’s all about a life that touches a life, that touches another life, that touches yet another life. Ripples. Let us make some together. Today. Where we are. It’s why we exist.”

I’ve been picked! And so have you! Chosen before the foundation of the world, we have been adopted by God and saved by His grace to serve others (Eph. 1-2; Gal. 5). May God give us compassionate, courageous hearts to share HOPE and to show LOVE to everyone who crosses our path.

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



BMA of Texas



Rosewood, Gilmer members paint mural for church

By CHARLES JOHNSON

Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer

A large wall mural depicting the Old Testament patriarch Noah gathering animals into the Ark of safety to escape the Great Flood of judgmental waters has recently been completed at Rosewood, Gilmer by member artists Juan and Beth Baldor. The painting is beside the entrance to the intermediate Children's Church in the worship center.

Juan, a native of Cuba, fled to the United States when he was 11 years old to escape the onslaught of Communist dictator Fidel Castro. The Baldor family moved to the Metroplex where they had family. Juan grew up in Dallas where he graduated from high school and continued his education at Mountain View Community College and North Texas State University. He had a long career as an educator with the last 10 years at Dallas Baptist University where he served as head of the Spanish language department.

The Baldors retired and moved from Irving to Gilmer in 2016. Although neither have formal art training, their works are of professional quality. The "Noah's Ark" work is the third project they have finished at Rosewood since joining two years ago. They enjoy using their God-given talents for His glory. Juan also serves as a translator for *Editorial Bautista* which produces Spanish literature for BMAA missionaries.



▲ Artists Juan and Beth Baldor stand beside a large wall mural recently painted in the worship center at Rosewood Baptist Church

Bro. C.D. Walker announces retirement and resignation as senior pastor of Bethel Baptist Church of White Rock in Dallas

On Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018, Bro. C.D. Walker announced his retirement and immediate resignation as Senior Pastor of Bethel Baptist Church of White Rock in Dallas. Bethel celebrated Bro. C.D. and Anita Walker's 25 years of service at Bethel the previous Sunday. Health and family concerns have prompted this decision that have been weighing heavy on their hearts for some time.

Bro. Walker surrendered to preach at the age of 12 and preached his first sermon at 13 years old in Lubbock Texas. A graduate from Jacksonville College, Stephen F. Austin, and BMA Seminary with a Bachelor of Divinity Degree in 1961. He also received a Doctor of Divinity from Anchor Theological Seminary and Bible Institute in 1990. He pastored seven churches until 1974 when he became the director of BMA of Texas Missions for 25 years. During that time, he also was manager of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association for 17 years. Bro. Walker served for seven years at Bethel prior to becoming the director of BMA of Texas Missions and then returned to Bethel for another 18 years. He will be 84 years old this coming March 3 and will have served the Lord in ministry for over 70 years.

He is married to his wife Anita for almost 63 years. They

have two adult children Annette Bowlby and Dr. Cliff Walker II and two grandchildren. They are planning to move to Conroe, Texas this spring to live next door to his daughter.

As for Bethel's future, the church is considering merging with the Hispanic Ministry (Family of God Bethel – Bro. Israel Arredondo, pastor) that is renting space in its facility. Both Bethel and FOG have asked Fellowship, Forney (Bro. Rick Lemons, pastor) to advise and guide the joint congregations into exploring this merger. A leadership team has been formed composed of three members each from the three churches to work together in developing a vision and ministry plan for a joint multi-cultural church.

The leadership team has appointed Bro. Mike Chism as the interim pastor of Bethel. Your prayers for the Walkers and Bethel are encouraged and welcomed.



▲ Bro. C.D. Walker

Liberty Association hosts Jacksonville College Rally

By CHARLES JOHNSON

Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer

Rosewood, Gilmer was the host site for Liberty Association's rally for Jacksonville College Jan. 18. There were 15 churches and a total attendance of 75 present for the service.

After a brief business meeting presided over by associational moderator Wayne McKay, Jacksonville College music director Randy Decker led the Jacksonville College singers in several inspiring and worshipful songs. Dr. Mike Smith, college president, brought an inspiring message from Psalm 77 concerning "How to Face the Blues." He shared the best way to deal with challenges and depressing situations is

to worship the Lord.

An offering of \$5,966 was received for Jacksonville College. The host church treated the messengers and guests to a barbecue dinner prior to the service. The college students were given "goodie" bags from the Rosewood High School youth group.

Liberty Association's next meeting will be March 15 and will be a rally for Texas Baptist Home for Children. The rally will meet at 7 p.m. with Simmons Hill Baptist Church near Diana. Jason Curry, president of Texas Baptist Home for Children, is the scheduled speaker.

69th Annual Meeting of the BMA of America

President's letter

Greetings again to the Churches of the BMA of America,

Our next national meeting time is fast approaching, and I want to encourage you to mark your calendars and begin making arrangements to attend. We will be meeting in Jackson Convention Center in Jackson, Mississippi on April 16-18, 2018. God is doing great things through our departments, agencies and churches. Our local, state, national and foreign ministers are hard at work carrying out the mandates of the great commission. We have seen and continue to see the impact we, as individual churches, can make when we come together.

This year on Monday night we are in for a blessing as Dr. John Adams director of Moral Action will be bringing a very flag-raising patriotic God and Country Rally titled "America 1969-2018!" I know this will be an exciting time and who knows who may show up?

There will be the opportunity to choose between several great breakout sessions. It is the desire of all those involved in the planning of these sessions to provide you with materials that will prove beneficial in your day to day ministry and service.

What I have dubbed "The National BMA choir" will be

singing Wednesday afternoon before my message. This is for every singer in the building. I want to encourage our churches to have their singers to attend. It would be a great opportunity to expose more of your people to the association. Come and help us blow the roof off.

Also, again this year we will be recognizing our ministers who have been in ministry for over 60 years who have not already received a Lifetime Certificate Award. Let me encourage our pastors to see that the enclosed form is filled out. If you are one of those to be honored be sure and check at the registration desk to confirm your name is on the list and if it is not write it down. Your help will be appreciated.

The theme this year is "Stand in the Gap" with special emphasis on intercessory prayer. If you are unable to attend, please set aside a time during one of your regular services to offer up a prayer of intercession for the meeting and those involved. May God bless our time together.

Last, the worship services will be live-streamed for your pleasure.

In His Service,
Paul White
BMAA President

It's Time to Make Your Reservations The Committee on Arrangements

The 2018 session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America will meet April 16-18 at the Jackson Convention Complex, 105 East Pascagoula Street, Jackson, Mississippi. The facilities and hotels are looking forward to our meeting there. Jackson's accommodations offer plenty of space for all of our meetings and lodging. We hope that you will make your reservations early. Most of the hotels can make your reservations either by phone or on-line, **but you must identify that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of America.**

• **Jackson Marriott (Headquarters Hotel), 200 East Amite Street, Jackson, MS:** \$129 per night (Standard Queen or King room). Telephone reservations: 800-228-9290 or 601-969-5100. Online reservation link: Book your group rate for BMAA 2018 Annual Spring Convention. Complimentary parking in hotel parking garage (buses or vans will require metered parking). Reservation cutoff date is March 25, 2018.

• **Hilton Garden Inn, 235 West Capitol Street, Jackson, MS:** \$119 per night (Single or double); \$129 (triple); \$139 (Quad). Telephone reservations: 877-782-9444. All parking is valet, \$14.95 per day. Reservation cutoff date is March 15, 2018.

• **Westin Jackson, 407 S. Congress Street, Jackson, MS:** \$149 per night (Double or King). Telephone reservations: 601-968-8200; Online reservation link: Baptist Missionary

Assn of America (or copy and paste the following link into a web browser) <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1801157013&key=26CA8A96>. All parking is valet, \$10.00 per day. Reservation cutoff date is March 16, 2018.

Our association has had to pay extra in the past years because we did not use our full block of rooms. Please help us avoid a situation like that this year. We appreciate your help.

— Jerome Cooper, Charles Attebery, and Bill Thornton

Tired of Fluctuations of the Stock Market or the Low Rate of Return on Certificates of Deposit?

A charitable gift annuity offered by the BMA Foundation can provide you a fixed income amount for the remainder of your life at a rate higher than most certificates of deposit.

IN ADDITION

- You receive a federal income tax deduction the year of the gift.
- Your annuity income can be partially income tax-free.

Contact BMA Foundation Executive Director Charles Attebery for current annuity rates and additional information.
charles@bmaamerica.org or call 501-472-2183



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

April 16-18, 2018

Jackson Convention Complex • Jackson, Mississippi
Schedule

Monday Morning, April 16

8:00 Display/Exhibit Set-up

Monday Afternoon, April 16

2:30 Registration Set-up (Enrollment and Finance Committee)
3:00 WMA Meeting Room: 209-210

Monday Evening, April 16

7:00 Pre-Associational, God & Country Rally
General Session — 1
President's Address Paul White

Tuesday Morning, April 17

8:00 Brotherhood Meeting Room: 212
9:00 Ladies' Retreat Room: 216-217, 218
Theme: "Outrageously Courageous Dare to Live Beyond Your Fears"
Nursery Room: 211
9:30 Committee Meetings
Seminary Trustees Room: 201
Foundation Trustees Room: 202
Moral Action Trustees Room: 203
Missionary Advisory Room: 204
Lifeword Trustees Room: 205
DiscipleGuide Trustees Room: 206
Nominating Committee Board A

11:00 Breakout Sessions
1: Sharing Christ with Muslims Charles Costa Room: 207
2: Multi-Generational Ministry Adam Thomas Room: 208
3: Opportunities... Hispanic Elvis Garcia Room: 209
4: How to Counsel Sam Bradley Room: 210

Tuesday Afternoon, April 17

2:00 Breakout Sessions
1: Sharing Christ with Muslims Charles Costa Room: 207
2: Multi-Generational Ministry Adam Thomas Room: 208
3: Opportunities... Hispanic Elvis Garcia Room: 209
4: How to Counsel Sam Bradley Room: 210

3:00 **General Session — 2**
BMA Seminary Singers
Petitionary Churches
Reporting:
Master's Builders
Brotherhood
BMA Seminary
Minister's Resource Services
5:30 Seminary Dinner Room: Gallery

Tuesday Evening, April 17

7:00 **General Session — 3**
Special Music CBC Singers
Annual Message Terry Kimbrow

Wednesday Morning, April 18

8:30 **General Session — 4**
Reporting:
Lifeword
DiscipleGuide
Coordinating Council
Nominating Committee
Committee on Arrangements
WMA
10:10 BMA Departments Presentation
Reporting:
Moral Action
BMA Foundation
12:00 Missionary Wives Lunch and Session
Lunch Room: 216-217

Wednesday Afternoon, April 18

2:00 **General Session — 5**
Reporting:
Revolving Loan Fund
Missions Department
Election of Officers Led by Jeremy Wilkinson
BMAA Choir
Lifetime Achievement Awards

Wednesday Evening, April 18

6:30 **General Session — 6**
Missions Commissioning Service

Enrollment Committee Schedule

Monday	2:00-4:00 p.m. 6:00-7:00 p.m. and 30 minutes after session
Tuesday	8:30-9:00 a.m., 2:00-3:00 p.m. 6:30-7:00 p.m. and 30 minutes after session
Wednesday	8:00-8:30 a.m.

General Sessions	Trustmark Ballroom
Registration	Outside Trustmark Ballroom
Exhibits	Exhibit Hall A



Church health

Never been exposed

By **LARRY BARKER**

Jesus said that He came to “seek and to save that which was lost.” He clearly described what it meant to follow Him when He declared, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” A disciple, a follower of Jesus, is defined as a person who knows Jesus and has decided to follow Him. That disciple is being changed and transformed by Christ daily and has committed himself to the mission of Christ. We seem to do well focusing on being biblically sound and relationally connected but somehow fail miserably when it comes to living missionally.

A recent Barna Report has reinforced many concerns about our culture in America moving further and further away from God. Mike Huckabee offers this summary of that report: “The Barna Group just released a new study of Generation Z (current teenagers) that found they are the least-Christian generation in US history. Nearly twice as many claimed to be atheists as Millennials (13 percent to 7 percent), and 35 percent of current teens say they are either atheist, agnostic or unaffiliated with any religion. Just 59 percent say they are Catholic or Christian (a six-point drop from the Millennial generation), and only 4 percent hold what is considered a true Biblical worldview.”

He continues, “The survey places the cause of this change on today’s teenagers having been brought up in a post-Christian, post-modern environment where they’ve never been exposed to Christianity or church.” The phrase that stands out shocking and troubling me the most is, “never been exposed to Christianity or church.” Can that really be right here in our own backyards? Have we lost our passion and burden for the lost where most Christians are not even sharing their faith, ever?

J.D. Payne recently shared that as of October 2017 there are 207 Unengaged Unreached People Groups here. This is even of greater concern than just being an Unreached People Group because this means there is no (none) evangelical planting strategy being executed at this time to build a gospel bridge to these people. Before we pass this off as a metropolitan problem in New York City, Chicago or Los Angeles we need to ask ourselves, “What am I doing to reach the unchurched, unengaged, and those far from God in my city and community?”

Mike Breen expounds upon a huge problem in the American church when he laments that in the United States, “96 percent of church growth is due to transfer growth and not churches striking into the heart of our enemy’s territory. We’ll consider it a win because we have the new service or program that is growing...but that growth is mainly from people coming from other churches. That’s not a win! That’s a staggering loss.” Research supports his claim because only 15 percent of all churches are growing and only 1 percent of that number is increasing because of conversion



growth.

What is your church’s strategy to reach those who are far from God in your city and community? Ed Stetzer challenges us to discern whom the lost are, where do they live, and how will we reach them? Yet it seems that what dominates most church cultures today is attracting those who are already believers and attending church. Without even realizing it we have become enamored with having a better product than the church down the street, which perpetuates a spirit of competition where the church with the best music and programs wins!

The first thing we need to do is repent. We need to ask God to forgive us for our lack of burden and concern for the lost that work and live next door to us. Then we need to recommit to being the salt and light that He has called each one of us to be. Is your light shining? Are you shining as you are supposed to be? Philippians 2:15 says, “We are to shine like stars in the world.” As we are praying we need to put some feet to our prayers through random acts of kindness and to love in word and deed. Can those living in darkness see our good works?

Then develop a strategy as an individual believer and as a church. Give people a way and opportunities to share their faith. Dave Ferguson with Exponential and Community Christian Church in Naperville, Illinois, utilizes a 5-step plan that he has called B.L.E.S.S. Begin in prayer. Listen to them because no one ever feels more valued than when we listen. Eat with them to build relationships and get to know them personally. Serve them

in a way that blesses their lives. How can you best serve them? Share with them what God has done for you and for them.

Place tools in your member’s hands at the end of the services and through your small groups that they can use in being a light. It could be a card with the gospel message in one verse (Romans 6:23) or it could be an invitation to a special event. One thing here, though, is try to change your culture from a “come and see” (which is good) and add to it a “go and tell!” Think of multiple ways and multiple doors of how people can be connected and connect with others. It really is more a lifestyle of “as you go” being light and witnesses than a program.

If we want to see God move in the area of evangelism then we must be ready to do the work of an evangelist in the same way Timothy was challenged. It is heartbreaking that the reality is that there are many churches that never see one person saved or baptized. This does not mean that anything goes just so we can get numbers and brag about the notches on our gospel belts. If we desire a movement of God it will require extraordinary prayer, abundant evangelism, a white-hot faith, and sacrifice with God giving the increase.

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





By HEITH MITCHELL

A WORD FROM YOUR MISSION OFFICE:

Your Texas Missions Movement continues to reach further and further into the lostness here in Texas. We are currently assessing potential planting teams for new parts of the state. We need you as a partner! As we strive to do more, we face lower donations from BMA of Texas Churches. We saw substantially lower offerings last year, enough less that it meant the funding of a church plant for the year. I know there are many urgent and worthwhile needs but I ask you not to forget your Great Commission Partner here in Texas. Together, we are gaining Kingdom ground here in Texas!

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

A WORD FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES:

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

God is continuing bless our work. We are seeing answered prayers early and often. God is so good! As we look back on our brief history, I am a bit awestruck at how much God has done and I look forward with anticipation at what He has in store!



▲ Cliff Robertson

**CHRIS DRIVER—
WEST TEXAS CHURCH MULTIPLICATION NETWORK**

What an exciting time in West Texas! The cotton harvest has come and gone but the soul harvest is going strong! God just keeps overwhelming us as He continues to work beyond anything we could take credit for! A couple moving from east Texas to join us, a couple moving to Colorado with plans for a group already, a traveling VBS team ready to reach into small towns that haven't seen a VBS in years, and a chance to share this vision at a national church planting conference. God is definitely in this! Please join us in praying that we will continue to trust God with this vision as well as with the results. It all belongs to Him!!



▲ Chris Driver

**JAIME GARCIA—
IGLESIA BAUTISTA NUEVA VIDA MISSION, SPLENDORA**

Today, more than ever, we recognize that some values are missing, especially in social direction that makes us wander, spiritually speaking. We must be bold and preach the Word to those who are perishing.

**NEPTALY MOLINA—
IGLESIA BAUTISTA MISSION, NACOGDOCHES**

Tema: Esperar en Silencio
 Texto: Lamentaciones 3:25-26
 Propósito: Alcanzar el éxito en nuestros ministerios.

Introducción: En el momento cuando la derrota parecía inevitable, el líder Josué, se presento solo en Oración delante de Dios, y la respuesta fue una gloriosa victoria sobre cinco reyes.



▲ Neptaly Molina

1. Las horas en que ELIAS, paso en comunión con Dios en la cumbre del Carmelo, donde hicieron descender fuego del cielo, logrando convencer al malvado rey Acab y un pueblo indiferente a Dios.

2. Las horas en que Jonás paso asolas con Dios en el vientre del gran Pez, lo prepararon para ir a predicar a Nínive y tener excelentes resultados, logrando que toda la Nación viniera a los pies de Cristo arrepentidos confesado sus pecados al mejor estilo de Juan el bautista.

3. Las horas en que Daniel paso, asola con Dios en oración, lo convirtieron en Príncipe del reino y fue librado del foso de los Leones.

4. Las horas que pasaron los Discípulos orando juntos en el aposento alto, hicieron descender el poder del Espíritu Santo. Lo capacitaron para poder hacer la obra de Dios a las que fueron llamados.

Aplicación: Nosotros también, al pasar asola en nuestra intimidad con Dios como dice Mateo 6:6, Nuestros resultados serán de bendición también en la Obra del señor.



**BRANDON DURHAM—
REDEEMER'S LOVE MISSION, HOUSTON**

Greetings from Southwest Houston! Our church celebrated our official launch in January. We

implemented our Intentional Membership Process and challenged new members to “think like an owner” because “membership is about being part-owner in Jesus’ eternal, global, spiritual family-enterprise.” We must own our faith in Christ, own our equipping, own our part (ministry), and own the mission (making disciples of all nations). We had a young man from Vietnam come to faith in Christ in November, and now he’s “owing his part” by advising our young people on financial stewardship matters! We really appreciate Heith Mitchell, director of BMA of Texas Missions, for making the long drive to be present and for all of Heith’s tremendous support along the way! Thanks Heith! We also want to thank everyone in the BMAT for supporting us through constant prayer and financial contributions. Your partnership in the gospel is making an eternal difference!



▲ Brandon Durham



**MATTHEW PRATHER—
THE BRIDGE MISSION, MIDLOTHIAN/WAXAHACHIE**

Thank you for your continued support and prayers as we start a new year! We are excited to see what God is going to do through The Bridge in 2018. As we have started the new year we have continued to see new guests each week. Many relationships that we have been building for months are beginning to show signs of fruit. Please, continue to lift these relationships up in prayer. We are praying to see these families come to know Jesus as their personal Savior in 2018. We fully expect God to do some great things in the month of February. In February we will be focusing on relationships, from the series that we will be preaching, to small groups, and other things we will be doing. I can't wait to share with you what God does this month. Again thank you for your prayers and support.



▲ Matthew Prather

BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p.12



JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE HOMECOMING 2018



Alumni Choir, directed by Bro. Gerald Orr



Old Main Bell & JC Cornerstone



Class of 1968



Homecoming King and Queen:
Judson Frazier of Elkhart and
Allyson Hinds of Mansfield



Cheerleaders from 1972



Coming Home Royalty
John Gentry



Quartet from 1978



Buddy Aultman honored
for many years of service



Class of 1958



Saturday gathering of the Bonner-Gaylor-Bearden Chapter



Bennie and Carole Lybrand
were given Lifetime Membership
in the Alumni Association
for their financial support.



BEFORE THE NEXT DISASTER STRIKES WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are assembling a volunteer team who will:

- Maintain a list of volunteers and available resources from BMA of Texas Churches in preparation for a disaster.
- Coordinate the connection of needs with resources in a Texas disaster.
- Assist other states in their efforts as they face disaster.

If the Lord leads you to help contact:

BMA of Texas Missions
PO Box 73 • Waxahachie, TX 75165 • 972-923-0757
Bmatexasmissions.org • hmitchell@bmatexas.org

We need your name, address, phone number, and email.



2018 WORLD MISSIONS DAY FEBRUARY 25, 2018

**ARE YOU READY TO CELEBRATE WORLD MISSIONS DAY? DON'T WORRY YOU
STILL HAVE TIME! BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FEBRUARY 25, 2018
AND JOIN CHURCHES ALL ACROSS THE WORLD IN CELEBRATING OUR
MISSIONARY GOD.**

**OUR THEME THIS YEAR IS EVERY CHURCH – EVERY NATION. OUR VISION IS TO SEE
EVERY CHURCH ENGAGED IN GLOBAL MISSIONS. IF WE ARE GOING TO EXPAND
TO EVERY NATION, IT WILL TAKE EVERY CHURCH FULLY COMMITTED.**

THERE ARE 3 WAYS TO LET US KNOW THAT YOUR CHURCH WILL BE
PARTICIPATING IN WORLD MISSIONS DAY AND GET YOUR FREE BMA
MISSIONS POLO:

1. CONNECT AT WWW.BMAMISSIONS.ORG/WORLDMISSIONSDAY
2. CALL 501-455-4977
3. EMAIL PAIGE@BMAMISSIONS.ORG



An expression of everlasting love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from Jan. 1, 2018—Jan. 31, 2018.

ENDOWMENTS

MYRA STOKES: Billy Stokes
E ANN PACE: Robert & Jean Houston; Karl & Martha Pace

HONORARIUMS

BELLA JOY: Cortney Fuller
JESUS CHRIST: Earlene Crenshaw
PASTORS & MISSIONARIES EVERYWHERE: Roy & Elizabeth Talbot

MEMORIALS

RYLAN KYLE & SYDNEY KATE ADKINS: Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Dustyn & Vanessa Watkins
DAISY LAVERNE ANDERSON: Leora Johnson; Jimmy & Carla Shipp
JERRY AUTREY: Joe & Twyla Card
WALTER BECKER: Dennis & Ilona Myrice
JERL BLALACK: Mary Hunt
TOM BODDIE: Tommy Gipson
PENNY BROWN: Travis & Brenda Floyd
SHERRILL CARROLL: Lois & Fendley Tucker
HELEN CLEVINGER: Corinth Baptist Church, Jacksonville
LEAH DAVIDSON: Brent & Tammy Swanner
DEBBIE DAVIS: Jed & Glenice Whitaker
SHAWYNE DONAHO: Brent & Tammy Swanner
RICHARD EASTER: Audra Easter
PATRICIA RUTH EUBANKS: Temple Baptist Church, Mexia
CARROLL FISHER: Bobby & Sally Anderson
WANDA FRICK: Lois & Fendley Tucker
HB GRAVES: Mr. & Mrs. Milton Christian
BRO. CALVIN HANCOCK: Clyde & Debra Wilson
TOMMY HARRIS: Neta Hicks
BONNIE DELL HEARNE: Temple Baptist Church, Mexia
BILLIE HERRING: LC & Jennetta Whitehead
DR. ONETA HINSON: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
JAMES HUTCHISON: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
E C JONES JR: Mary Felsher
LOMA JONES: Willing Workers Class, 5th Street Baptist Church, Levelland
ERNEST MASSINGILL: LC & Jennetta Whitehead
JUANITA MCMILLAN: Neta Hicks
PETE MILLER: Nila Brown
MARGIE GIBSON MONTGOMERY: Jed & Glenice Whitaker
BARBARA MUCKLEROY: Mary Hunt
MABLE JO ODOM: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
D LEON PATE: Clyde & Debra Wilson
PAUL STUART RUSSELL: Jonathan & Julie Fisher; Penny Elliott; Ken, Pon & Jasmine Shipman;
JOEL SANCHEZ: Joe & Twyla Card
LINDA SANDIFER: Temple Baptist Church, Mexia
LARRY 'BO' STEGALL: Donna Johnson; Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Harmony School PTO; Don & Susan Ross; Jed & Glenice Whitaker; Jimmy & Carla Shipp
CHESLEY STEPHENS: Temple Baptist Church, Mexia



auxiliaries

Texas WMA, Helping BMA of Texas Missions

By SHARON COLE

Our state missions' sites hold outreach events and block parties to invite people to services. The Texas WMA have chosen to support their need for a large box trailer with a loading ramp to use to store and transport needed items for these events. As needed, the trailer will be used by all the mission points around the state. We plan to fill the trailer with supplies and games that can be used at all locations.

The "Fill the Trailer with Supplies" information will be set up similar to a wedding registry list. If you choose to purchase an item, you will check the list and sign your church name so we will not have an over abundance of one item needed. Go to texaswma.com and look under "Project" for a list of items needed or you can send an email to Diana Morris, grammydi1013@msn.com or call 903-288-7575, and she will let you know what is needed.

Another way to donate to this project is sending your offerings so those in charge can purchase the needed items. Since it is almost "tax time," a fun way to raise money would be to "Pay the Tax Man." Pay \$5 for each car or truck you own so we can purchase the trailer. The old saying, "If you feed them, they will come," works for many people.

Plan a "Carry out Dinner" by choosing a menu, cook the meal at the church, pack it in styrofoam carry boxes and charge whatever fee seems appropriate for you, advertise the event and ask people to come pick up the meal in a certain time frame. Many people will donate more than the asking price if they know what the fundraiser is for. Put on your thinking caps and get excited about this project. You will receive a blessing knowing that you have helped your missionaries with activities with which they spread the gospel. Send your offerings to Texas WMA c/o Jo Strong, 149 Suzanne Terrace, Burleson, TX 76028, or contact her at jokenstrong@juno.com or call 9817-480-0888.

TEXAS GMA HOUSEPARTY

We are looking forward to seeing your girls at the 2018 Texas GMA Houseparty March 16-17. Our theme this year will be "Diamonds in the Rough" and the theme verse is Matthew 5:10-12. Bro. Billy Sheets, pastor of Greenpond, Como, will be our houseparty speaker. Bro. Billy has been the camp pastor for Bro. Jason Prewitt at several of our summer camps. There will also be many other entertaining activities for the girls to participate in once they have arrived at the Houseparty. We will not be having food for Friday evening this year.

Also, to help raise funds for our project, the Texas GMA Officers will have homemade crafts to sell. On

Friday night, the girls may wear their new Houseparty t-shirts with jeans. Dress will be casual Saturday morning. If you are in the program Saturday afternoon, we request that you wear a dress, dress pants, nice long shirt with leggings, or palooza pants. Camp dress code applies. Dresses or skirts cannot be shorter than four inches above the knee. Registration fees are \$45 for cabins, per girl. We have t-shirts available for order for \$15 each.

Even if you do not have the GMA program currently at your church, if you have girls between 4th and 12th grade, give them the opportunity to come and have fun, meet new people, and most importantly, worship the Lord with girls their own ages. If you have any questions, please contact: Mrs. Kendra Verhelle, 1818 Okeefe, Jacksonville, TX 75766, verhellek@yahoo.com, 903-284-8583.

DISTRICT NEWS

THE MT. OLIVE DISTRICT WMA met Jan. 23, 2018 with Old Center, Tenaha, for quarterly business and program beginning with a fellowship meal of delicious Mexican food. The theme song: "Back to the Basics" was sung. We have many great plans for raising money for the Project this year: "The Kid Zone" activity building at Daniel Springs. Plans are being made to have our April 23 meeting at the camp. Special music was presented by Jean Armstrong who sang a cappella: "In Christ Alone." Our special speaker for the evening was Bro. James Granberry, Pastor of Old Center. He spoke on "Leaving Your First Love," in keeping with the theme: "Back to the Basics." He used Rev.2:1-5 explaining that the church at Ephesus left their first love by a conscious choice. We have a free will to choose whether or not we follow God.

CHEROKEE DISTRICT WMA met Jan. 29, 2018 at the BMA Seminary in Jacksonville with 35 in attendance. A delicious meal was served by Enterprise WMA ladies with the dessert partners at Mt. Selman. President, Cindy Allen called the meeting to order and introduced Dr. Philip Attaberry who expressed appreciation from the Seminary for the donation the district made making it possible to purchase fire alarms for Seminary housing. Carol Shine introduced a student from the Seminary as the special speaker who shared her testimony on how the Lord saved her and is using her in the Lord's work. Special music was presented by the Seminary trio who sang: "I Shall Know Him." A donation of \$255 from New Summerfield WMA will be given to the BMMI to be used by Bro. John and Shirley Ladd's eyeglass project. The next meeting will be with First Baptist, Jacksonville on April 10, 2018. Everyone is asked to bring reading

glasses. The Attendance Banner was given to First Baptist, Maydelle.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Imogene (Jean) Ratliff McGinness, 84, went to be with the Lord on Jan. 27, 2018. Her funeral was Jan. 30, 2018 at Max Slayton Funeral and Cremations with Rev. Buddy Sadler and Rev. James Daughtery officiating. Jean was born in Strawberry, Arkansas on April 16, 1933. She was married to Billy (Bill) King McGinness on Sept. 14, 1953. Bill passed away on Nov. 22, 2010 after 57 years of marriage. Bill was the love of her life. They traveled extensively during their life together making many lifelong friends along the way. Jean worked in various professions during her life. She worked as a butcher, a bank teller, a hair stylist, and was in property management in Greenville until her retirement. Jean loved her Lord and Savior. She was a faithful member of First Missionary, Terrell. She loved working with children so it was natural that she taught Sunbeams for many years. She became the State Sunbeam Promoter for the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas and held that position for several years. She was an active member of Women's Missionary Auxiliary and enjoyed studying the Word of God with her fellow sisters in Christ. Jean was loved by her brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, and her extended family. She enjoyed family coming to visit, just like her father, Carnie, always did. Jean was preceded in death by her husband, Bill; parents, Carnie and Myrtle Ratliff, Sr.; brother, Roland Ratliff; sisters, Vera Ratliff and Ruth Gardner Lee, brothers-in-law, John Gardner, Roy Lee, L.B. Coke, and Bogard McGinness; and sisters-in-law, Virginia Ratliff, Mary McGinness, and Jackie Holiday. She is survived by her sister, Freedia Coke of Greenville, and brothers, John (Sue) Ratliff of Conway, Arkansas, and Wes (Clara) Ratliff of Abilene; extended family, Donna Peters, Karen Werner, Trish Scimers, and Bud Harper, all of Kansas; many nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly; and by numerous other relatives and friends.

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.



An open letter to BMA readers

By **DR. CHARLEY HOLMES**

BMA Seminary President

The Seminary staff and administration are praying that all our churches and their families will experience Christ's peace during 2018. I'd like to take just a few minutes to update you on some matters of prayer for your BMA Seminary.

Financially, things are steady and we have a small operating surplus for the fiscal year to date. Our end of the year giving seems to have been a little stronger than the past few years which helped us go from a moderate deficit to a surplus. One substantial source of income for the last seven years will be unable to help us for the immediate future. With that in mind, we are making final adjustments now for next year's budget year which begins June 1. One of our trustees has informed me that the Lord has led their church to vote to increase their current support to the Seminary by an excess of 100 percent. Another long-time board member gives regular generous designated offerings through his church in addition to helping with special projects. This kind of news is greatly appreciated by me and other administrators.

I haven't studied the support of each individual BMA church, but I know that many of them do support the Seminary in some way. As you enter the new year, consider leading your church to support the Seminary to at least the level that it supports other denominational efforts. I would be glad to arrange a visit to your church in the next year and report on the Seminary. It is amazing what God can do through faithful stewards who see a need and meet it.

Dr. Attebery is currently very busy with enrollment for the spring semester. There are not yet any enrollment projections available as it is too early in the process.

Matters of prayer - Please include these items in your family prayers and share them with your church:

Doctrinal and spiritual stability for our administrators, staff, teachers and students.

Financial stability for our supporting churches and individuals.

I taught a one-week preaching class starting January 8. Special thanks to Bro. Brent Summerhill, Bro. Clif Johnson, and Bro. Keith Brown for assisting with this class. Dr. Ronnie Johnson also taught a Christian counseling course that week.

Our Bible-institute type ministry around the world, especially in Tanzania, Jordan and Tunisia. Our alumni around the world have several others we pray for, but these are the newest and most fragile. I will be leaving January 14 for a week-long class in Tanzania. The leader of that association, Bro. Renatus Kanunu, will be returning with me to attend courses on campus during the spring semester.

On Thursday, Feb. 15, we will be rededicating the refurbished Dorman Memorial Chapel. Everyone is invited to attend. The service will begin at 10 a.m. Watch for more details in your state paper.

The Pascal Lectures this year will be presented by Bro. Justin Peters on April 3 and 5, 2018. Bro. Peters is a premier speaker on the topic of the errors of the modern prosperity/healing movement. If anyone associated with these tendencies visits your church, this would be a great event for them to attend. This would also be an occasion to bring a group from your church to strengthen them in their beliefs.

The annual meeting of the BMAA will be in Jackson, MS April 16-18, 2018. The committee on arrangements has

not yet given us the schedule, but we do know the Seminary Singers (Philip Attebery, David Hellwig, and Keri Southern) will be leading singing for the afternoon session on Tuesday, April 17. They will also sing for the Seminary Dinner, which should be Tuesday evening in the Jackson Convention Complex.

The Seminary will be hosting a golf tournament benefiting Seminary scholarships on Saturday, May 5, 2018. Trustees Tom Mitchell and Elaine Beal are taking the lead in this effort. Raise a team from your church or come over and help with the logistics of the day.

Graduation Saturday will be May 19, 2018. Seminary Sunday will be Sunday, May 20, 2018, and we are asking that each church has a time of special prayer for the school and the new graduates as well as a special offering for scholarships.

Thank you for praying and leading your church to pray for our spring semester. If I may be of assistance to you, please contact me at the Seminary - 800-259-5673 or president@bmats.edu.



▲ Dr. Charley Holmes and Renatus Kanunu in class in Tabora, Tanzania.



▲ Refurbished Dorman Memorial Chapel - Platform chairs donated by Dr. John Adams and the congregation of First Baptist Church, Mantachie, MS.

National WMA Meeting & Ladies Retreat Jackson, Mississippi

Monday afternoon—April 16
& Tuesday April 17

Officer's meeting at 1:30 p.m.—2:30 on Monday afternoon at the convention center in Room 209-210.

WMA Business meeting: Monday 3:00p.m.—5:00p.m.

Opening—Ruby Poteet, President

Welcome—Beth Caldwell, Mississippi President

Song—Judy Wallace (offering for general fund)

Song & Project Offering—Judy Wallace

Business Meeting—Ruby Poteet

Reports

- Petitionary Letters
- Treasurer's Report
- Officer's Recommendations
- Project Nominations & Selections
- Election of officers
- Officer's Reports—GMA & Sunbeam
- Committee Reports—Registration, Finance, Resolutions
- Installation of officers
- Theme for 2018-2019—Brenda Hornaday
- Promotion of Project
- Closing Remarks

Outrageously Courageous Dare to Live Beyond Your Fears
Ladies' Retreat
Rooms 216-218
Tuesday morning

8:45—Registration

9:00—Welcome—Ruby

Devotional—Miss GMA—

Prayer—Jr Miss GMA—

Door Prizes

Praise & Worship—Judy Wallace

Special Music—Sabrina Clayton

Introduction of Program—Charlotte Johnson

Kim Crabill

Meal—(at convention center)

12:00-1:00 You must register and send \$17.50 for meal to Jodi Rhea by February 28, 2018. Jodi Rhea, 40156 E. CR. 1631; Wynnewood, OK, 73098

1:15—Breakout Sessions—

45 minutes each /rotate to another session

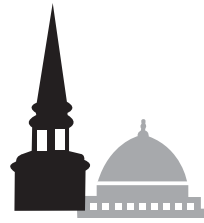
1. Shirley Hoffpauir—Teaching in Sunbeams
2. Judy Wallace—"From Final to First"
3. Kim Crabill—Roundtable discussion
4. Diana Morris—Missions

Dismiss at 3:00 p.m.

Nursery Room 211

JUDEO-CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

Euthanasia—The Right To Die—Exodus 23:7



By **DR. JOHN M. ADAMS**

BMAA Moral Action Executive Director

Euthanasia is morally and Biblically wrong. As believers we should seek to safe guard the God-given right to life, to which every person is entitled. If you're very old, mentally ill, severely handicapped, according to humanistic philosophy your life is in danger.

These individuals that have God-given life and spiritual desires should be treated with compassion and encouragement. Proverbs 6:16-19... "The Lord hates...hands that shed innocent blood and a heart that devises wicked plans." We are urged to "keep far from a false matter...in not slaying the innocent or righteous." Those individuals who wish to destroy other individuals by injections are classified as "wicked".

HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF EUTHANASIA

When Hitler of Germany issued his direct order for euthanasia in 1939, all German state institutions were required to report on patients who had been ill for at least five years or who were unable to work. The decision regarding which patients should be killed as made entirely on the basis of a brief questionnaire. The Nazi authorities who pronounced their death sentences were professors of psychiatry at major universities in Germany. They never saw the individuals themselves.

The first to be killed in the 1940s and at other holocaust times during the Middle Age wars were the aged, the infirmed, the senile, the mentally retarded, and defective children. The German

Nazi power even went so far to exterminate children with badly modeled ears, epileptic children, and bed-wetters.

According to American News Service Publication, "The mass extermination of Germany's undesirables started with the acceptance of the attitude basic to euthanasia philosophy, that there is such a thing as life not worthy to be lived." That is exactly what is being accepted today in the abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia movement.

PRESENT DAY CONCEPT OF EUTHANASIA

Euthanasia is not a mere fear for the future. It has survived and is now present in American Medical practice. Even today doctors in the United States are debating whether it is better to starve "undesirables" to death or to administer fatal injections. "Voices in our government are looking for ways to reduce health care costs," Mercy Killing by Denyse Handlen.

Well meaning people are attracted to what might seem to be the beneficial aspects of some sort of euthanasia. Americans must not be misled or tranquilized by assurances that the practice is limited to the terminally ill. Abortion was once proposed as a last resort in desperate cases, but today it is commonplace. "To say that this subject can be carefully controlled is either naïve or deceitful", The Right To Live, The Right To Die – C. Everett Koop.

Former Governor Richard Lamb of Colorado shocked the nation when he told a group of health lawyers that "sick people

have a duty to die and get out of the way and let the well society build a reasonable life." There is even now a Church of Euthanasia!

THE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE

I Corinthians 3:16-17 reminds us that our bodies are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in us. That makes life very precious to God and to us. As the movement continues to gather momentum, euthanasia is moving into the spotlight as the great moral issue of the 21st century. Turning to the Bible for answers is the only possible guideline. This so-called Society is one of 26 organizations of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies.

The Word encourages life for all ages: Psalms 8:2 for babies; Psalms 127:3-5 for children; Matthew 5:21 for adults.

For more information:

www.euthanasiaprocon.org

www.euthanasia.com

Dr. John M. Adams is the executive director of BMAA Moral Action. Contact him at Moral Action - BMA of America . P.O. Box 305 . Mantachie, Mississippi 38855 or visit www.macbma.net for more information.



BMA Texas Missions cont.

CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ—NEW MISSION, LUBBOCK

We continue to thank God for your support that allows us to devote ourselves to the preaching of the gospel here in Lubbock. Let me share with you what I constantly find on the news of this city, "Stevens started the discussion by talking about the increase in shootings as of late, including five homicides so far this year, and three others that did not result in homicides. 'It's something we are really really looking at. We typically don't see that many in such a short amount of time, certainly not in the first month of the year,' said Stevens."



▲ Christian Martinez

When people in Lubbock open the newspaper or turn on the TV this is the kind of news they hear most often. They need to hear good news and I am convinced that the gospel of Jesus is the best news they



could ever hear. The Lord allowed us to give 367 free Bibles in the community this last month. Some stopped to hear the gospel presented and by God's grace we are beginning a new Bible study as a result of that. Please pray for God to bring conversions as people hear the best news of Christ crucified and resurrected.

JOHN HARRIS—FOUNDATION COMMUNITY MISSION, BENBROOK

It has been a real blessing to come and share with many of you about our mission efforts here in Benbrook. If we have not been at your church yet, we would love to come! Keep praying for us as we share Jesus with the community, and keep asking God to prepare hearts to join us, and others to surrender to Him! We love you all!



▲ John Harris

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE FIELD

-We are currently assessing several new church planting teams. Please pray for wisdom and for God to do big things.

-Pray that God provides the funds and the laborers for

more evangelistic disciple making churches.

-Several of your missions need specific ministers to help their efforts. Let's pray that the Lord of the harvest provide laborers.

PRAISE REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

-Redeemer's Love Mission in Houston and Antioch Mission in Georgetown launched weekly public worship this month.

-11 salvations and 1 baptism were reported this month!

-God continues to answer your prayers on behalf of your mission effort!

BMA of Texas Missions
PO box 73
Waxahachie, TX 75168
(632 Farley Street)
972-923-0757
hmitchell@bmatexas.org

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



EVENTS

2018 MEETING OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

DATE: April 16-18, 2018

PLACE: Jackson Convention Complex, Jackson, Mississippi

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL: The Hilton Garden Inn and Marriott Sleep Inn & Suites

118TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

DATE: November 5-6, 2018

PLACE: Calvary Baptist Church, Fairfield, Texas

Obituaries

DEBORAH LOIS NORRELL PRATHER



Funeral services for Deborah Lois Norrell Prather, 64, of Lavon, were Jan. 28, 2018, in the Chapel, under the direction of Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home, Alba, with Bro. Roy Prather and Bro. Matthew Prather officiating. Burial was in Pilgrim Rest Cemetery, Emory. Mrs. Prather went to be with her Lord Jan. 24, 2018, in Frisco. She was born Oct. 24, 1953, in Dallas, to the late Robert Irvin and Reta Fae Beaver Norrell. She married Glen Keith Prather on October 30, 1971, in Dallas. Deborah was a secretary for an insurance company and worked in County Clerks Offices in Scurry County and Cottle County. She lived in Quitman and recently moved to Lavon for the last six months. She was a member of Friendship Baptist Church, Mesquite. Survivors include her husband of 46 years, Bro. Keith Prather of Lavon; daughters, Wendy and husband Troy McClellan of Lavon and Jamie and husband Chris Willis of Whitehouse; brothers, James and wife Cherry Norrell of New Boston, Mark Norrell of Fort Worth, and Stacey Norrell of Fort Worth; sister, Cindy and husband Craig Zoller of Lewisville; and grandchildren, Andrew, Hannah, Macy, and Ava. She was preceded in death by her parents; granddaughter, Sophia Marie; and infant grandchild.

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE MINISTER

SCOTT SCHULLE is available to serve as a bivocational pastor within 50 miles of Rusk. He is a member of First, Maydelle. Contact him at 903-795-3886 (home) or 903-948-0058 (cell). ^{2/18}

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

PASTOR—Little Flock, Jewett is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to the church at PO Box 897, Jewett, Texas 75846 or call Floris Linton at 903-626-6613. ^{TFN}

PASTOR—Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Pilgrim Rest #2 Baptist Church PO Box 99 Golden, TX 75444 or pr2bcsec@gmail.com. ^{2/18}

PASTOR—Mount Pisgah, Mineola is seeking a pastor. Bivocational is an option. Send resume to dmvaughn@peoplescom.net or mail to Mount Pisgah Baptist Church, 4995 FM 49, Mineola, Texas 75773. ^{TFN}

YOUTH PASTOR—Davis Street, Sulphur Springs is seeking a full-time youth pastor. Send resume to dennis@davisstreetbaptist.org. ^{TFN}

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



You are cordially invited to
Celebrate 25 Years
Richard W. Smith
Pastor of Farley Street Baptist Church

March 4, 2018
Morning Worship Service, 10:30 AM | Reception, 2—4 PM

Farley Street Baptist Church
1116 Brown Street
Waxahachie, TX 75165

Churches in Review

JANUARY 22, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Omen	17	40	
First, Palmer	53	85	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	25	44	
Little Flock, Lufkin	35	40	
New Harmony, Tyler	288	321	
New Hope, Mineola	48	114	2 by letter
Olde Tyme, White Oak		40	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	22	24	
Pine Brook, Tyler	23	49	
Rosewood, Gilmer	122	183	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	49	90	2 by baptism
Security Calvary, Cleveland	21	35	
Simmons Hill, Diana	9	27	

JANUARY 28, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Omen		63	
First, Palmer	50	78	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	26	50	
Jackson, Joaquin	75	128	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		38	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	35	51	
Rosewood, Gilmer	120	241	3 by baptism, 1 by letter
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	45	59	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	25	45	
Simmons Hill, Diana	18	30	

FEBRUARY 4, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	53	102	
First, Omen		75	2 by baptism
First, Palmer	58	87	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	26	49	
Jackson, Joaquin	73	148	
New Harmony, Tyler	267	375	
New Hope, Mineola	51	135	1 by letter
Olde Tyme, White Oak		45	
Pine Brook, Tyler	24	71	2 by baptism, 1 by letter
Rosewood, Gilmer	112	202	2 by baptism
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	35	58	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	25	38	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	13	17	

FEBRUARY 11, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	53		
First, Palmer	42	67	1 by baptism
Glade Creek, Gilmer	26	44	
Jackson, Joaquin	70	121	1 profession of faith
Merriman Hills, Sherman	7	8	
New Harmony, Tyler	260	298	
New Hope, Mineola	43	107	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		38	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	31	32	
Pine Brook, Tyler	18	55	
Rosewood, Gilmer	119	182	1 by baptism, 1 profession of faith
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	43	88	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	28	38	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	17	22	1 by baptism

Sunday School Lessons

The majestic greatness of Christ

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: March 4, 2018

TEXT: Hebrews 1:1-4, 8-14

It is inconclusive as to who the actual author of Hebrews was, but most scholars believe the style seemed to be influenced after the writings of Paul. Whomever the writer was, he had a great concept concerning the greatness of Christ,

Hebrews was written in the time period between 64 A.D. and 69 A.D. Absent from the book is any mention of the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70. Also, the book seemed to indicate that worship under the old law was still in force. (Hebrews 10:1-2)

This blessed book identifies Jesus as our High Priest in the life of every believer. The first part of the book

highlights the all sufficiency and superiority of Jesus Christ over any Old Testament types. His death on the cross and resurrection, renders the old sacrificial system of worship and the keeping of the Mosaic Law inoperative. Today, we live in the age of grace.

1. A NEW COMMUNICATION: Hebrews 1-4: Under the dispensation of the law, God spoke to His people in various and sundry ways: He spoke to Moses through a burning bush; He spoke to Balam through a donkey; He spoke through angelic representatives from Heaven, and often, He revealed Himself through visions of the pre-incarnate Christ. (i.e. Hebrew children in Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace, to name a few. Under the old system, the high priest had to go into the Holy

of Holies and make intercession — but Hebrews verifies that now each believer-priest and go directly to God in prayer in the name of our High Priest, Jesus.

2. A NEW NAME: Jesus, being far superior to angels, or Old Testament types, Jesus Christ has, according to verse 4, a more excellent name. He is Jesus — God incarnate — through Whom, God, Himself, came and pitched His tent among man on earth.

3. A NEW CONNECTION: In the book of Esther, no one could approach the king in his inner court unless he extended the golden scepter. That scepter was a picture of the pre incarnate Christ - He is our Golden Scepter now. Now we can approach the Father through Him.

The praise habit

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: March 11, 2018

TEXT: Hebrews 2:9-18

There is enough information packed into Hebrews 2 that would enable any Baptist preacher to deliver a whole series on "Why We Are to Praise Him."

It is but one of the many paradoxes in scripture that all things are placed in subjection under the feet of Christ (verse 9) and yet at the same time, Jesus was made "a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death for every man." (verse 9)

We praise Him for both — for His majesty and his great standing in glory — and yet we praise Him for His sacrificial

death on the cross. (verse 14)

We praise Him because all things are FOR Him, and all things are OF Him. (verse 10)

We praise Him because He is the "Captain of our salvation." and He is such through His great suffering on the cross. Joshua was confronted headlong by this Captain. Joshua 5:13-15

We praise Him for His sanctification. (set apart) (verse 11) The Christian life is a life long series of exercises in sanctification — that process in which God "whittles" away all the parts of us, which do not resemble Christ.

We praise Him because God has given us the great privilege

of being the "gifts" presented to Him of God the Father. (verse 13; John 17)

We praise Him for delivering us from eternal torment in hell. (verse 14)

We praise Him for delivering us from the fear of death and bondage (verse 15)

We praise Him for His incarnation - Immanuel "tabernacled among us" through the seed of Abraham. (verse 16) Isaiah 7:14

We praise Him for being our merciful High Priest. (verse 17)

We praise Him for making a way of escape from temptation. (verse 18)

The son over God's House

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: March 18, 2018

TEXT: Hebrews 3:1-12

The following similarities between Christ and Moses illustrates the superiority of Christ. Moses was just one of many Old Testament types which pointed to the coming Messiah, and when He came, He was proven —and is still proven to be better than Moses, or any other Old Testament foreshadowing.

Moses was born under the adverse conditions of the reign of terror of the Pharaoh of Egypt. Pharaoh ordered all Hebrew male babies to be killed. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, it was under the reign of terror of Herod who also ordered all male babies to be killed.

Moses went up Sinai to receive the law. Jesus went up Mount Calvary to be the Author of Grace.

Moses was the first mediator. Jesus is the final mediator.

Moses carried the Ark of the Covenant and the portable tabernacle, which contained the presence of God. Jesus is the presence of God, Who resides in us, — the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

Moses was angered when he came down from Sinai and found the Israelites worshipping the idol. Moses burned the golden calf with fire and ground it to powder. (Exodus 32:20) Jesus overturned the moneychangers in the temple because the people desecrated His Father's House. (Matthew 21:12-17)

Moses led his people to the Promised Land, but not into it. Jesus is preparing a place for His people in glory and shall dwell with His people there forever. (John 14:1-6)

Moses was God's chosen vessel to lead the Israelites out of the land of Egypt. Jesus was chosen to "heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. Luke 4:18

Moses struck a rock from which came water to quench the thirst of the Israelites. Jesus is the Rock that was smitten on Calvary, to give living water to all who would believe.

Moses was good — but Christ is better.



Breaking the two-year cycle

By DR. ALLEN TILLEY

According to Church Answers, the average tenure for most pastors is two to three years. It seems that pastors and churches love the honeymoon, but they don't like the marriage. Surveys show that pastors enjoy their greatest and most joyous years of ministry after staying at least five years at a church. If you're thinking about throwing in the towel, here are five benefits that come from breaking the two-year cycle.

You develop meaningful relationships. Many of the members have been around for decades. They have their friends, family, and other relationships. It takes time to break into those groups. While some will open their hearts immediately, most people will adopt a wait-and-see attitude.

Your church trusts you. Trust takes time, especially in established churches. You may not think you are a major change agent, but your presence changes things significantly. You lead differently. You preach differently. Your family is different. The church has to adjust to all the changes you bring before they embrace you as pastor. When they see that you plan on sticking around for

the long haul, they will follow you, making them more receptive to change.

You and your church grow stronger through conflicts. During the honeymoon years, the church thinks you're fantastic. Then you do something that goes counter to their expectations and conflict ensues. As you work together through the conflict, they see the real you. They witness your transparency and heart. While they may never agree with your decision, they respect your willingness to walk with them in difficult times. Most churches never accept their pastor, because they don't believe he will make it past the first major conflict.

You help heal wounded church members. Short-term pastors often pop-in and then pop-off, leaving behind devastated followers. It takes years before those hurts heal. Longer tenured pastors value people, and they demonstrate they genuinely care for people. As a result, the hurting move past their hurts and say with conviction, "That is my pastor."

You improve your church's image. Although most people in the community never attend church, they do

form opinions about churches. Churches with frequent turnover develop bad reputations. By staying longer, outsiders will see you and the church as a part of the community. Some longer tenured pastors even become a pastor to the community.

In most churches, trust and relationship building takes time – five to seven years. Are you willing to stick around so you can enjoy the fruit of a long-term pastorate? Next month, I will celebrate 18 years at my church. While we've had our struggles, my church and I are the better for it.

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



Sunday School Lessons

Rest for the soul

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: MARCH 18, 2018

TEXT: HEBREWS 4:1-11

To rest in the Lord is more than just a promise of blessing—it is a command; a command which, if not heeded, brings about grave consequences.

This text in Hebrews 4 recalls the rebellion of the Israelites, as was mentioned in Hebrews 3:15; "While it is said, To day if ye will hear this voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation."

That provocation is recorded in Numbers 14:26-45. God finally said "enough" to the murmuring Israelites. They never entered into that rest, although God had proven Himself to them at the Red Sea, at Marah, by sustaining them

with manna and quail, and by guiding them with a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of clouds by day. God never ceased to bless them — and they never ceased to murmur against Him - and Moses.

The writer of Hebrews used that provocation as a basis to implore the saints in this New Testament day, to enter into his rest. He referenced Psalm 95:10-11 "Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest."

One stands in danger of the wrath of God when he or she refuses to enter into His rest. A life of rest in the Lord, (1)

trusts completely, in His sufficiency, and (2) refuses to lean upon the arm of the flesh.

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





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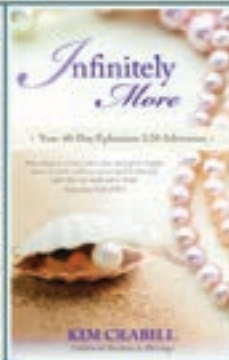
BURDENS to Blessings

FREE! Open to all ladies!

Speaker: Kim Crabill

Jackson Convention Center
Jackson, Mississippi

9am **April 17**

Kim Crabill is the founder and president of Roses and Rainbows Ministries, Inc., and Community COFFEES (Conversations of Friends of Faith to Encourage and Equip). Her message and passion come from her personal experience of longing to be used by God yet feeling unusable because of past abuse leading to anorexia, diet pill addiction, and depression. Her mother's deathbed challenge set Kim on a new path, a journey she wrote about in her book *Burdens to Blessings*. Kim has traveled nationally for more than 25 years, speaking at retreats, conferences and to Bible study groups, and has been interviewed on national TV and radio. Kim draws upon personal experiences, Biblical principles, and her training in counseling to inspire and challenge women to never give up daring to be all God created them to be. You can follow Kim on [Facebook.com/rosesandrainbowsministries](https://www.facebook.com/rosesandrainbowsministries) and at rosesandrainbows.org

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BMA Annual Church Survey Deadline is March 31st!

By providing the most up-to-date information, your church helps BMA America connect, build relationships and understand the impact BMA churches are making through their local communities with the gospel.

Please choose one of the following options to provide BMA America with the most accurate information for your church.

What Can My Church Do?

1. Visit bmaamerica.org to view and edit your church information. Once on the website, select the "BMA Churches" tab listed at the top, then click on "BMA Church Log In."
2. Fill out the pre-populated survey you received in the mail and mail to:
BMA America, PO Box 1188
Conway, AR 72033
3. Request an email or paper copy of the survey by contacting Lauren Noland in the Information Services department at 501-358-4007 or lauren@bmaamerica.org