

# Baptist Progress

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INSIDE



PAGE 4  
BMA TEXAS MISSIONS



PAGE 11  
MASTER'S BUILDERS



PAGE 16  
JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

## James A. Henry

### Ten thousand sermons and still going strong

By PAUL GAUNTT

*Baptist Progress Correspondent*

SULPHUR SPRINGS—How many preachers who have ministered throughout the 2,000 year church age can say they have preached 10,000 times?

Jimmy Henry, pastor of Caney, Pickton, near Sulphur Springs, has just become included in this elite group of preachers because on Jan. 26, 2020, he delivered his 10,000th sermon—a feat which has taken him 67 years.

“My son Mark, who is the superintendent for the Cypress-Fairbanks school district, calculated the amount of time it would take to preach 10,000 sermons if preaching every day,” Jimmy said. “He said if one sermon was preached daily, it would take 27 years, 5 months and 17 days.”

The special celebration at Caney Church was earmarked by a cake, provided by his church, bearing the words, “Happy 10,000th Sermon!” Henry was also presented with a plaque, which denoted his first sermon preached at First, Talco, Aug. 17, 1952, where his father, Bro. E.W. Henry was pastor. The sermon was “Samson and the Lion” taken from Judges 14:5-9. And his 10,000th—“The Cross Upon Which Jesus Died,” 1 Corinthians 1:17-24 at Caney, where he has ministered for 21 years. A potluck dinner was served after the services.

His children, “Mark, Sherry Henry Hatcher and Debbie Henry Shelton were on hand to celebrate the occasion. Jimmy’s and Bennie’s oldest son, Michael, went to be with the Lord several years ago.

The 10,000 sermons do not include Sunday school and training lessons taught or other classroom lessons.

Many former church members from his pastorates were present for the celebration as well.

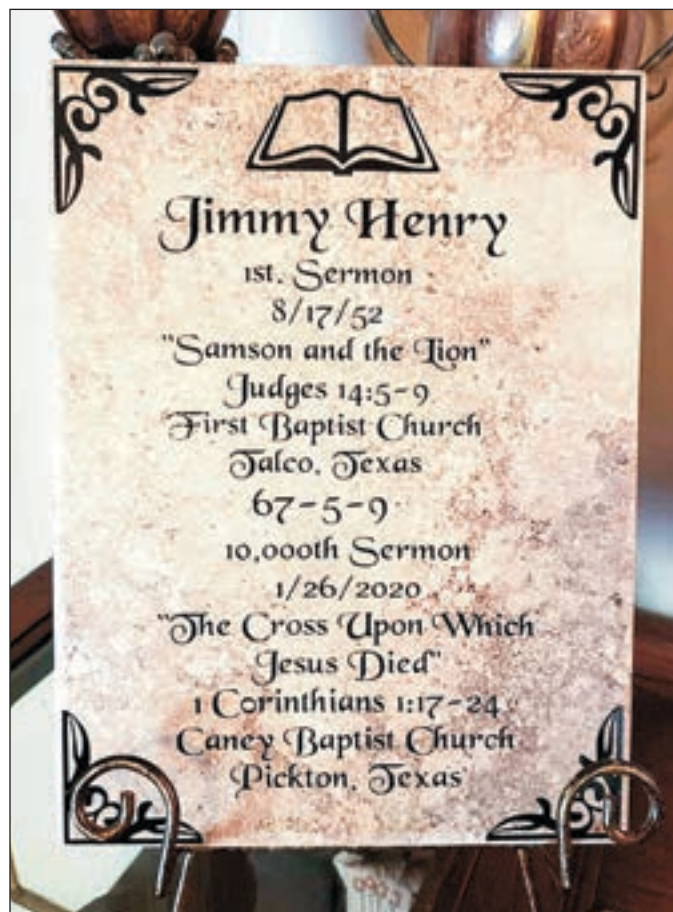
“You were my inspiration of knowing our Lord and Savior,” said Tracie McLemore of Princeton, Louisiana. “My heart is very happy now to see that you are still spreading the story of our God.”

Bill and Sherry Fullenwider, who sat under Henry’s preaching at First, Magnolia, Arkansas, were also in attendance.

“He was preaching at Latham Springs Baptist



▲ The Jimmy Henry Family



▲ A young Jimmy Henry



▲ Bro. Jimmy Henry preaching on January 26, 2020

JAMES A. HENRY continued on p.14





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# United Thanksgiving Offering total gifts received

Thank you to every church, family and individual who gave to the United Thanksgiving Offering!  
We appreciate your partnership in ministry! Following is a total of offerings received.

CHURCH NAME	AMOUNT GIVEN
Leggett, Leggett	300.00
First, Bardwell	500.00
Clover Hill, Quitman	100.00
Farley Street, Waxahachie	1,284.74
Beech Grove, Jasper	250.00
Martins Prairie, Anderson	1,500.00
Sand Prairie, Normangee	1,500.00
Camille Acres, Longview	400.00
Rocky Hill, Huntington	351.00
Central, Mineola	100.00
Oak Hill, Gilmer	250.00
Rosewood, Gilmer	3,000.00
Shady Grove, DeBerry	300.00
Greenpond, Como	1,000.00
Magnolia Springs, Livingston	300.00
Harmony O'Dell, Huntington	1,500.00
Mt. Lebanon, Grand Saline	200.00
First Missionary, Terrell	540.00
Sheridan Terrace, Palestine	115.00
First, Glenn Heights	200.00
Gray's Prairie, Scurry	1,195.00
Liberty, Henderson	500.00
Macune, San Augustine	2,025.00
Weeks Chapel, Jasper	1,005.00
Beacon Hill, Waco	1,050.00
Ryan & Lindsie Burchett	50.00
Central, Aspermont	1,500.00
Friendship, Jacksonville	381.50
Glade Creek, Gilmer	1,500.00
Holly Grove, Livingston	132.00
New Bethlehem, Cut and Shoot	202.00
Ward Prairie, Fairfield	500.00
Calvary, Ennis	150.00
Pilgrims Rest, Emory	500.00
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	437.00
Eighth Avenue, Teague	290.00
Wes Wright	50.00
New Hope, New Waverly	300.00
Antioch, Palestine	915.00
Calvary, Centerville	250.00
New Beginnings Bible, Ferris	792.50
Sardis, Henderson	168.00
Antioch, Gilmer	305.00

CHURCH NAME	AMOUNT GIVEN
Ebenezer, Huntsville	145.00
New Hope, Mineola	600.00
Keltys First, Lufkin	150.00
Pecan, Robert Lee	847.00
Bethel, Port Arthur	335.00
Center Hill, Oakhurst	2,000.00
Little Mound, Big Sandy	855.00
Macedonia, Etoile	100.00
Mahl, Nacogdoches	820.00
New Harmony, Tyler	1,965.00
Richland Heights, Grand Saline	25.00
Soda, Livingston	200.00
Spring Hill, Nacogdoches	688.00
Winterfield, Pickton	405.00
First Missionary, Cockrell Hill	125.00
Bethel, Livingston	229.00
Buena Vista, Tenaha	50.00
Mt. Calvary, Carthage	914.00
Rose Hill, Mineola	249.00
Walnut Street, Winnsboro	512.75
First of Providence, Livingston	1,526.00
Bauman Road, Houston	200.00
Red Springs, Tyler	1,495.00
Mt. Pisgah, Mineola	5,049.00
Bishop Chapel, Jasper	370.00
Friendship, Mesquite	55.00
First, New Summerfield	165.00
Glenfawn, Cushing	300.00
Mt. Selman, Bullard	956.72
Myrtle Springs, Quitman	305.00
Northside, Conroe	1,670.00
Old Home, Joaquin	134.00
Round Prairie, Fairfield	1,500.00
Temple, Mexia	50.00
Antioch, Fairfield	500.00
Cornerstone, Jacksonville	1,500.00
China Grove, Eustace	300.00
Sheppard Drive, Euless	870.00
Sunset, Lamesa	200.00
Little Flock, Jewett	700.00
Union, Springtown	830.00
Smith County Association	1,000.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED</b>	<b>\$58,779.21</b>

# What is genuine worship?

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

*Pastor of First, Palmer*

C.S. Lewis made this profound statement about a church service—He said, “The perfect church service would be one we were almost unaware of. Our attention would have been on God.”

I believe such a statement perfectly pinpoints the problem with the church “worship wars” today. We have become completely engrossed in worship instruments, worship styles and worship philosophies, while totally ignoring the real thing that matters in worship—and that is to worship God the Father from the heart.

I was told of a concert, hosted by a large Dallas church years ago. The famous Christian group, “First Call” performed their beautiful, a cappella hit, “O Sifuni Mungu,” a worship song in the Swahili language. A church group became offended and walked out of the building because they thought it was a charismatic group singing in “unknown tongues” even though some English lyrics were interwoven into the song. Just a wild guess—I would assume the group that left had hearts totally void of a spirit of true worship.

Now, I do have my preferences when it comes to worship style. I still favor the hymnal, pipe organ and piano—and a great choir that sings four-part harmony and a guy up front who waves his arm. But that’s me. Others can worship when accompanied by tambourines, electric guitars and drums.

Instruments, style and philosophy are not synonymous with heart-felt worship!

Just ask Paul and Silas, who found themselves, possibly hours from execution, sitting in a dingy, cold jail cell—at midnight, singing praises to God.

Just ask Moses, standing by a dried up, ugly old bush on fire in the desert who had an incredible confrontation with God.

Just ask the Ethiopian eunuch, who, after hearing a heart-stirring message from Deacon Phillip, received Christ, and, after the Spirit caught Phillip away, the Eunuch “went on his way rejoicing.”

Just ask David who was overcome with worship after the Lord blessed the house of Obededom because of the Ark of God. When the company that was carrying the Ark had gone six steps, and as David made the sacrifice of oxen and fallings, he “danced before the Lord with all his might. . .” (2 Samuel 6:14).

Just ask Abraham whose expression of worship included

sacrificing his only son Isaac on the altar.

How does one worship? In Old Testament times, an integral part of worship was to bring burnt offerings and sacrifices, as an expression of worship. Today, we bring the sacrifice of ourselves before the Lord, and offer that, along with everything in our possession to Him (Romans 12:1).

To worship is to acknowledge from the heart that the Lord is worthy to receive glory (Revelation 4:11). The people of Israel rose up and worshipped at the sight of the pillar of cloud in Exodus 33:9-10. To genuinely worship is to acknowledge that the life inside you is not yours, but rather Christ Who lives in you (Galatians 2:20).

Worship is a lifestyle—not some contrived motions we go through during a Sunday service. What did Jesus do in Gethsemane, the night before He was to give His life on Calvary? He spent it in worship and calling out to the Father. It was a worship so intense, droplets of blood mixed with sweat beaded up on His head. Even as His physical life was fading away, he was still worshipping—and doing business for the Father. He was superintending the future well-being and care of His mother: He took time to save the lost sinner hanging on a cross next to Him—while at the same time making Himself the ransom for the sins of the whole world.

I’m sorry, but in all of these instances of worship, it doesn’t seem that there was any concern about guitars, or tambourines, or pipe organs, or hymnals or giant screens. When worship is absolutely genuine, all those things fade into oblivion.

AS C.S. LEWIS ONCE SAID, “I WANT TO KNOW THE SPIRIT OF WORSHIP THAT MADE DAVID DANCE.”

I’ll add to that—I want to know the spirit of worship that made the eunuch leap for joy; I want to know the spirit of Solomon who lifted his hands toward heaven and said, “O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you. . .” I want to have the spirit of the woman with the Alabaster Box who brought her most prized possession and poured it out as an expression of love and worship to Christ. I want to have the spirit the widow had when she brought her meager amount to the altar of God - it was all she had—but Jesus said her heart revealed that she gave the most.

## BMA Information Services wants to hear from you BMA Annual Church Survey deadline is March 31, 2020

Hello, my name is John Meriweather, Director of Operations for BMA America. A key service we provide our BMA family is information on our churches and all the ministries of the BMA. Keeping our information records accurate helps us connect, communicate and understand the impact BMA churches are making through their local communities with the gospel.



I am personally asking for your help to ensure we have the most current and accurate information on your church.

We are asking for your church to validate their church information for our Annual Church Directory which will be published this summer. To make this process as easy as possible we have provided multiple ways to validate your information.

Options to update your information

- Login to update your church information at [bmaamerica.org/church-survey](http://bmaamerica.org/church-survey)
- Fill out the form online at [bmaamerica.org/onlinechurchform](http://bmaamerica.org/onlinechurchform)
- Request a pre-populated survey by contacting Tasha Waites at 501-358-3860 or [tasha@bmaamerica.org](mailto:tasha@bmaamerica.org)
- Update the pre-populated survey you received in the mail and mail back to us at BMA America, PO BOX 1188, Conway, AR 72033.



### God is faithful— no matter how dark it gets

Looking out the back door, our frightened four-year-old said: “Hear that noise Daddy? It’s the dark!” In an effort to calm John’s fears, Coy explained that the “dark” was harmless and that the noise came from some little bugs called crickets. John wasn’t buying into that story so Daddy went outside and retrieved a cricket for this important show and tell moment. While he didn’t totally understand, John trusted his daddy and everything was okay.

All of us have experienced “dark” times that have nothing to do with the setting of the sun and the evening shadows that follow. Unlike John’s fear, I’m talking about an invasion of the heart where the “dark” swoops in, gobbles up our joy and replaces it with paralyzing fear.

That’s what happened to Joseph. Life was good for this 17-year-old and his future looked bright. It was no secret that he was his father’s favorite which may have caused the deep divide between him and his brothers. Then came those strange dreams which clearly placed him at the top of the clan ruling over the entire family. If he had just kept quiet his brothers might have remained at the envy and jealousy stage. But sharing his dreams moved the needle up to unbridled anger and rage which culminated in a plot to kill young Joseph.

This story is recorded in Genesis 37-50 but here’s a brief summary. On impulse Joseph’s brothers threw him into an empty pit; on second thought they pulled him out of the pit and sold him to an Ishmaelite caravan so his blood would not be on their hands. Twenty-two years later they were forced to face the stark reality that their very lives depended on Joseph’s forgiveness and mercy.

A lot of unfair stuff happened to him. He suffered undeserved pain and abuse from his brothers only to fall prey to the wicked wife of Potiphar in Egypt. From an empty well to a prison cell, his heart must have been broken and his spirit crushed as the “dark” chased him from one deep pit to the next. In spite of his circumstances, Joseph never succumbed to desperate, hopeless fear and never allowed bitterness to take root. Even when it was his turn for payback, his response was: No worries! It wasn’t you who sent me to Egypt. It was God!

Genesis 45:5 (my summary).

It’s true. We all have our own personal “pits” and sometimes the “dark” chases us to the very brink, threatening to knock us down. Next time that happens, remember Joseph and the truths that kept him strong:

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ends and*

*God’s plan for us will always be realized . . . no matter how dark it gets!*

Genesis 39:21 and Genesis 50:20 (my summary).

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







## A word from your Missions Office

By HEITH MITCHELL

God is doing something big among us! Fifty eight souls were saved last month! Thirty six were saved this month! Discipling circles are all over the state! Churches are forming!- Churches are multiplying! Missionaries and mission churches are persevering through trials! God's Kingdom is advancing! In His grace, He is using an unworthy people (BMA of Texas) to carry out His missions! It is good to be BMA Baptist in 2020. Our God is faithful. He answers prayers. He is faithful to His mission and faithful to those who are faithful to his mission.

The church is the instrument by which God carries out His mission on this earth. Your church is a key partner that allows these new churches to engage that mission. Your prayers are critical. Your funds provide salaries and resources needed to "know nothing but Jesus Christ and take nothing from the gentiles" on assignment from God. BMA churches are mothering these mission churches. BMA churches are walking beside these churches providing help, resources, and encouragement. BMA churches are welcoming these new churches into the family. All of this is critical.

Together we are laboring and praying with the hope of seeing:

### PROJECT 2029 100 New Churches/10 years

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

Not for our glory, not for the BMA, but for the King and His Kingdom. We hope to see this goal become a reality without really focusing on church planting. We want to stay focused on our great commission. If we focus on sharing our faith, baptizing, and discipling towards obedient Christ followers then these new churches among these unreached pockets of Texans will result.

We would love to share with your church about what God is up to and show you how you can be involved. We have tools we can provide you to help you become a partner in church planting. Reach out to us.

## A WORD FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES

**Jaime Garcia—**  
Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida Mission, Gilmer/Mesquite  
jaime.garcia2911@gmail.com

I am excited about this new year in which I have arranged to have several changes or resolutions, but I know that I count on the help of my God, first and foremost. Thank you and have an excellent start to the year, with our gaze always set on the Author and Consumer of our faith, Christ the Lord.

### Prayer Needs:

Pray that God will help me rest in his many promises, so that I may have comfort in the loss of my brother whom I continue to remember.

**Jesse Hales—**  
Resident Intern in Round Rock  
halesjesse@gmail.com  
Dual Support BMAA/BMAT

God is working here in Round Rock and we thank you for your continued prayers and support. We have started our first small group and everyone seems to be really excited about it and talking about how much they feel they are growing already. More and more opportunities keep coming our way for us to serve our community in a visibly active way. Pray with us that we can take full advantage of those and show God's love for this community in a real way. Thank you!

### Prayer Needs:

Pray that I can find a new creative inroad to our apartment complex. The management has not been open to most anything I've tried to do on a bigger scale yet. We also have a big event coming up on the 18th and it will be the first time that we have other people besides my family volunteering as part of the church.

**Jaime Henriquez—**  
Fuente De Vida Eterna Mission, Houston

Continue to fight the good battle of the faith, until the return of our Savior.

### Prayer Needs:

Pray that the Lord open doors for spreading the gospel among the Hispanic community and for the plans to start a new mission in the next two years.



▲ Jamie Garcia



▲ Jesse Hales



▲ Jaime Henriquez

**Wesley Burke—**  
Redemption Baptist Mission,  
Nacogdoches  
wesleydavidburke@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued prayer and support please pray for us as we intentionally share the gospel with many of our contacts.



▲ Wesley Burke

**Neptaly Molina—**  
Iglesia Bautista Mission, Nacogdoches  
nrmolina23@gmail.com

We have a new year ahead for us to strive in the grace of Christ Jesus, to reach those lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ. This year, I want to do more than I did yesterday. We are growing in my communion with God, growing as a child of God, growing as a church in the fulfillment of the task by excellency, the great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20.



▲ Neptaly Molina

### Prayer Needs:

1. Prayers for the spiritual life of the pastoral family of Molina Perdomo
2. Growth of the Reborn New Baptist Church of Nacogdoches
3. A little sister who made a decision for Jesus Christ. She is one of whom is to be baptized in March 2020.
4. Baptism of 15 new believers for the glory of God
5. Anniversary as a church in the month of March

**Matthew Prather—**  
The Bridge Mission, Midlothian/Waxahachie  
Matthew@discoverthebridge.com  
Dual Support BMAA/BMAT

The Year 2020 has been off to a fast start. It is hard to believe that January is already over. In the month of January, we have continued to see new families attend and get plugged into The Bridge. We have seen several new families join one of our small groups this month. Our mission at The Bridge is to lead people from where they are to where God wants them to be. We are continuing to see this take place and are excited about what God is doing. Here are a few ways that you can pray for us this year. Pray that we see people saved each month this year. Pray that we start new small groups this year. Pray for the leaders that we need to continue to see the kingdom advanced. As always, continue to pray for me and my family



▲ Matthew Prather

BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p. 14



# INSIGHTS *for* PASTORS

## Dealing with difficult subjects

By DR. ALLEN TILLEY

Barna Research (barna.com) reports that fifty percent of pastors feel pressured when speaking out on controversial issues, fearing their people will take offense. While I doubt that is a problem among BMA pastors, I do feel we must be careful in how we present the truth of Scripture. The goal of effective preaching is to elicit a positive response, not turn people off. Here are six steps that guide me when I preach on unpopular subjects.

**Bathe the issue in prayer.** I believe one of the reasons Jesus spent so much time in prayer is that His preaching/teaching ran contrary to mainline religion. Having the heart and favor of the Father is always essential for preachers, but when dealing with difficult subjects, it is crucial that we know His power and wisdom are resting on us. When we pray, we must not only pray for ourselves but for those who will hear God's Word – that it will find a lodging place in the hearts of the hearers (Matthew 17:20-21).

**Conduct a thorough investigation of Scripture.** The real power of effective preaching doesn't come from the words of the preacher but the Word of God. By studying all the available scripture on a subject, you can deliver the whole counsel of God, along with preparing yourself for any questions. Even for the hardest heart, it's difficult to oppose an abundance of passages that refute bad doctrine.

**Gather nonbiblical support.** While the Bible should always be the primary focus, try including secular data as a way of illustrating the dangers of opposing viewpoints for those in your congregation who may not have high regard for Scripture or who rely on emotions. For example, when preaching on the biblical prohibition of sex outside of marriage, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports that *millions* of new cases of sexually transmitted diseases are reported each year (<https://www.cdc.gov/std/general/default.htm>).

**Speak the truth in love.** Strong preaching touches the heart as well as the mind. I've found that if people know that I genuinely love them and want God's best for their lives, they give an honest hearing to God's Word. When our state legislators wrestled with the definition of marriage, I preached a three-part sermon on why I believe in the biblical definition of marriage: one man and one woman for life.

The second part of the series was against homosexuality. Word quickly spread through our small town, and I received a phone call from the leader of the gay community that they would be in attendance. In response, I shared two things with them: that they don't disrupt our services or they would be asked to leave, and that whatever I said would be in love. After the service, they said they kept their word because I kept my word. One of the men even asked for help in breaking free from that lifestyle.

**Provide hope and help.** Every message should demand a response. In other words, more than telling them that they need to change or giving information, we must show them how change is possible. For example, Barna Research reports that pornography is the number one sexual sin among Christians. At the end of the service, I directed those who struggle with this addiction to visit the website [www.xxxchurch.com](http://www.xxxchurch.com) – a Christian organization who helps people with this problem. I also provided a list of licensed counselors that I had personally vetted.

**Don't beat a dead horse.** Once I cover a subject thoroughly, I move on to another topic. Nothing will frustrate and irritate your congregation more than constantly revisiting a subject. Our job as pastors is to give them all of God's Word, not just one portion of it. Help your people flourish by feeding them a healthy diet—God's complete Word.

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



## Meet Chaplain (CPT) Chris Freeman

Chris Freeman is from Laurel, Mississippi. He is married to Megan, and they have three boys—Isaac (13), Luke (10), and Seth (6). Chaplain Freeman has previously been enlisted in both the Mississippi Army National Guard and the United States Air Force and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to Afghanistan in 2003. After an eight-year military career, he was honorably discharged in 2005.

He was licensed and ordained into the Gospel Ministry by Pine Ridge, Laurel, Mississippi and has served in several BMA churches over the last 15 years. Throughout the years, Chaplain Freeman has struggled with his own Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder from his time in service but has managed to keep the faith. He prayed he would one day return to active duty as a chaplain to help other soldiers navigate the pitfalls of military life.

Chaplain Freeman earned an Associates in Bible from Southeastern Baptist College, a Bachelor in Religion and Business, and a Master of Divinity from Liberty University. After

gaining the education and experience necessary to become a military chaplain, Chaplain Freeman was unable to do so due to the severity of his PTSD symptoms. That is when a friend told him about the Mississippi State Guard. The Mississippi State Guard is the State Defense Force of Mississippi, and it falls under the Mississippi Military Department, along with the Mississippi Army National Guard and the Air National Guard.

The State Guard is trained to respond to natural and man-made emergencies around the state and to augment the National Guard as needed. The State Guard is made up of volunteers from around the State—doctors, lawyers, chaplains, police officers, firemen, and others—coming together to serve their state and communities. The State Guard is non-deployable outside the borders of the United States. Chaplain Freeman sees the State Guard as a great opportunity to continue serving the Lord and serving his home state and community while ministering to the spiritual needs of the volunteer soldiers serving alongside him.





# It's time to make your reservations

## By BMAA COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS

The 2020 session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America will meet April 27-29 at Farley Street, Waxahachie. The church and hotels are looking forward to our meeting there. Please make your reservations early. Call the local hotels directly to make your reservations. Local telephone numbers are included below. **You must identify that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of America.** Also, when making your reservations, be sure to let them know you want rooms in the block for the BMAA that begins on April 26. Your stay does not have to include the night of the 26<sup>th</sup>, but that will make sure you get the BMA block rate.

The Fairfield Inn and Suites will serve as our headquarters hotel for the annual meeting in Waxahachie.

**Fairfield Inn & Suites, 2020 Civic Center Lane:** (Single/Double, \$135 per night, Rate Code: BMCQ; King, \$135.00, Rate Code: BMCK; King Suite, \$155, Rate Code: BMCX). Telephone reservations: 972-937-8886. Reservation cutoff date is March 15, 2020.

In addition to the headquarters hotel, additional facilities are available in the area. Following is a list of properties that have blocked rooms for the BMA meeting.

• **Best Western Plus, 1701 North Highway 77:** (Single/Double, \$119.99; Queen/King, 129.99). Complimentary hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: 972-938-1600. Reservation cutoff date is April 12, 2020.

• **Comfort Suites, 131 RVG Plaza:** (2 queen suite, \$109.00; King suite, \$109.00; for more than 2 people in the room, not including children, there will be an additional \$15.00/person charge). Hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: 469-517-1600. Use Group Code: BMAA. Reservation cutoff date is April 12, 2020.

• **Hampton Inn, 2010 Civic Center Lane:** (Double Queen: \$139.00; King standard, \$129.00). Hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: 972-923-0666, EXT 0. Reservation cutoff date is April 1, 2020.

• **Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 984 North US 287 Bypass:** (Single King, \$139.99; 2 Queen, \$139.99; King Suite, \$169.99). Use Group Code: BMAA 2020. Telephone reservations: 972-938-3300. Reservation cutoff date is March 1, 2020.

• **La Quinta Inns & Suites, 311 Stadium Drive:** (Standard room, \$104.00). Hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: 972-937-5525. Reservation cutoff date is April 12, 2020.

All room rates quoted above are subject to all local taxes.

## 71<sup>st</sup> Annual BMA of America National Meeting

April 27-29, 2020

Farley Street Baptist Church • 1116 Brown Street, Waxahachie, Texas

### Preliminary Program

#### Monday Afternoon, April 27

10:30 a.m.	DiscipleGuide Trustee Meeting – TBD
1:30 p.m.	National WMA Officers Meeting – Heritage Baptist Church (1000 Butcher Rd, Waxahachie, Texas)
2:00 p.m.	Seminary Trustee Meeting – TBD
3:00 p.m.	WMA Business Meeting – Heritage Baptist Church

#### Monday Evening, April 27 – Farley Street Worship Center

7:00 p.m.	Welcome – President – Worship Service
7:05 p.m.	Jason Earle
7:35 p.m.	The Erwins
8:15 p.m.	President's Message – Jeff Swart

\*Missions Experience opens following service until 10 p.m. in the Farley Street Family Life Center

#### Tuesday Morning, April 28

8:30 a.m.	BMA Orientation for New Pastors and Churches – TBD
8:30 a.m.	Registration for Women's Ministry Conference – Heritage Baptist Church
9:00 a.m.	Women's Ministry Conference – Heritage Baptist Church
9:00 a.m.	Missions Experience Opens
9:00 a.m.	National Brotherhood Meeting – TBD
9:30 a.m.	Committee Meetings – TBD
	BMA Foundation, Missions Advisory Committee, Moral Action, Nominating Committee
9:30 a.m.	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>
8 & 10:45 a.m.	BMA Seminary, Lifeword, BMA Missions and MRS will host breakouts
	Faithlife Corporation – Electronic tools for Bible study including Logo software
	Duane Orr, NASA – Defending Creationism
	Jon Dodson, Lifeword – Creating a Church Website
	Bruce Bruinsma, Envoy Financial – Retirement Reformation
	Larry Barker/Heidi Sorrells, BMA Missions – Developing A New Ministry Vision
	Dr. Philip Attebery, BMA Seminary – Teach for Results

\*Missions Experience will be closed during lunch

#### Tuesday Afternoon, April 28

1:30 p.m.	Missions Experience Opens
2:00 p.m.	Guest Artists – The Martins
3:30 p.m.	BMA Town Hall Meeting with Directors & DiscipleGuide Trustees – Farley Street Worship Center
5:00 p.m.	Missions Experience Closing
5:30 p.m.	Seminary Dinner – TBD

#### Tuesday Evening, April 28 – Farley Street Worship Center

7:00 p.m.	Worship Service
	Annual Message – Luis Ortega
	Election of Officers

\*Missions Experience opens following service until 10 p.m. in the Farley Street Family Life Center

#### Wednesday Morning, April 29

8:00 a.m.	BMA Associational Business – Farley Street Worship Center
	BMA Foundation, Moral Action, DiscipleGuide, Ministers Resource Services,
	BMA Theological Seminary, Missions Department, Lifeword
	Miscellaneous Business

#### Wednesday Afternoon, April 29

Noon	Missionary Wives Lunch – TBD
2:00 p.m.	Church Leaders Table Talk – TBD
3:30 p.m.	Tribute to Darlene Carey – Farley Street Worship Center

#### Wednesday Evening, April 29

7:00 p.m.	Missions Commissioning Service – Farley Street Worship Center
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# Liberty Association hosts rally for Jacksonville College

By **CHARLES JOHNSON**

*Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer*

The Liberty Baptist Missionary Association held a rally for Jacksonville College at Glade Creek, Gilmer Jan. 23. There were 13 churches represented with a total attendance of 60.

Following a welcome by host Pastor Wayne Norvell, and a brief business session presided by Moderator Michael Pool, the Jacksonville College choir, under the direction of Mr. Randy Decker, presented a concert of inspiring sacred music.

Dr. Mike Smith, president of Jacksonville College, gave a report on the status of the college and gave praise for an additional \$365,000 being given for the special end-of-the-year campaign in November and December. Dr. Smith brought a challenging message from Jeremiah 13 concerning the need for us to get right with God so we may be blessed of the Lord.

A generous offering was received for the college from the churches. The host church served a delicious barbecue meal with homemade desserts prior to the service.

The next meeting of the Liberty Association will be

a rally for Texas Baptist Home for Children at Latch, Gilmer at 7 p.m. March 12. TBHC President Jason Curry will be the speaker.



## BMA Recommendations Booklet changes coming by mid-March

BMA of America Clerk James Ray Raines has been warning us for years that we cannot continue our current rate of support and spending out of the Minute and Meeting Fund or it will be depleted. Bro. Raines' warning has gone unheeded, and now we have come to the place where we do not have the funds to print the annual *Reports and Recommendations Booklet*. Therefore, by mid-March, we will make the following avenues available for you to receive this very important information:

- The annual *Reports and Recommendations* booklet can be accessed online at [www.bmaamerica.org](http://www.bmaamerica.org).
- The annual *Reports and Recommendations* booklet can be accessed by downloading the free Lifeword app.
- The recommendations of each department will be printed in our state newspapers, if the deadline can be met.
- A limited number of printed copies will be available during the national meeting.

We anticipate saving approximately \$10,000 by not printing the *Reports and Recommendations* booklet.

BMA TEXAS PRESENTS

## THE INTENTIONAL INTERIM MINISTRY EQUIPPING WORKSHOP

SPONSORED BY THE BMLA

MARCH 17, 2020 | 9 AM - 3 PM  
BMA TEXAS OFFICE - WAXAHACHIE, TX

**INTENTIONAL INTERIM  
PASTORING REQUIRES A  
SPECIFIC SKILLSET. DO YOU  
FEEL CALLED TO DEVELOP IT?**

**IF SO, COME LEARN MORE ABOUT  
BEING INTENTIONAL AS YOU  
WALK THE PATH AS AN INTERIM  
PASTOR**

We are searching for men who feel especially led to guide, lead, and work with struggling congregations through their pastoral transitions. If this applies to you or you are retired and/or bivocational, then this workshop is designed for you.

For more information, visit [www.bmatexas.org](http://www.bmatexas.org).  
For any questions or concerns, contact Jerry Burnaman at  
(972) 923 0757 / [jerryburnaman@yahoo.com](mailto:jerryburnaman@yahoo.com).



# National Women's Missionary Auxiliary Meeting details

The national Women's Missionary Auxiliary will meet at Heritage, Waxahachie (1000 Butcher Road, 10 minutes from Farley Street, Waxahachie) April 27. The officer's meeting will begin at 1 p.m. The WMA business meeting will begin at 3 p.m.

## WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: SHARE THE VISION

The Women's Conference, with the theme *Share the Vision*, will meet at Heritage, Waxahachie April 28. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The conference will begin at 9 a.m. Praise and worship will be led by Judy Wallace of Bald Knob, Arkansas. Special music will be provided by Valerie Fish of Emerson, Arkansas. The keynote speaker for the conference will be Sabrina Clayton of Fulton, Mississippi. The conference luncheon will be at 12 p.m.

Pre-register to reserve your catered meal. Everyone will pay \$15 at the door. Breakout sessions will begin at 1 p.m. and will include *Share the Vision through Gospel Music*, led by Judy Biggers of Springfield, Arkansas; *Share the Vision through Women's Ministry*, led by Pat Quesenbury of Arlington; *Share the Vision through the Written Word*, led by Diane Spriggs of Little Rock, Arkansas and *Share the Vision through Community Outreach*, led by Kim Mobly and Penny Jacobs of Moore, Oklahoma.

All ladies are invited and encouraged to attend. Pastor's wives and widows will be honored at the conference.

To pre-register please send the following information to Jodi Rhea, president, 40156 E. CR, Wynnewood, Oklahoma 73098 or [jodigrhea@live.com](mailto:jodigrhea@live.com), or call 501-472-9490.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending Luncheon \_\_\_\_\_

Name of pastor's wife or widow \_\_\_\_\_

You may mail, email, text or call Jodi Rhea. We hope to see you there!

**LAKE HIGHLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
*Ladies Renewal Conference*  
 1500 College Street • Sulphur Springs, TX 75482 • 903-885-9188  
[donnyberry65@verizon.net](mailto:donnyberry65@verizon.net)

*featured speaker*  
**Cindy Allen**  
**BECOMING ONE: "Walk in His Light"**

**Saturday, April 4, 2020 at 9 a.m.–1:45 p.m.**  
**Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.**

Teaching sessions and catered lunch.  
 This will be a time of spiritual renewal with fun and fellowship with our sisters in Christ.  
 No nursery will be provided.  
 Bring a friend!  
 We hope to see you there.

### REGISTRATION COUPON

Send to Lake Highlands Baptist Church, PO Box 441, Sulphur Springs, TX 75483, along with check for \$15 before March 27. After that date, cost will be \$20.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME CHURCH: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_



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# Master's Builders enjoy annual retreat

By ROSE BITTNER

Master's Builders Reporter

The Master's Builders met for their 2020 annual retreat at Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment in Gary January 14-17. They once again stayed in the Daniel Dorm which is the ideal meeting place for retreats and conferences. Camp Director Jason Prewitt, says that the Daniel Dorm is open to large groups to enjoy and encourages those who need a retreat or meeting center to contact him. The dorm offers large sleeping quarters, a full kitchen and a large multipurpose room for use. The Master's Builders really enjoyed this retreat and had 33 Builders who could attend this year. What a blessing!

All the Builders certainly missed the big void created in the group with the passing of Jesse "J.W." Payne in October. He will be missed by all and left big shoes to fill on the saw! A good time was enjoyed by all with several wonderful meals prepared in the large dorm kitchen, snacking and grazing on many homemade goodies and playing games. This is the second year the Builders joined together to put together a very large puzzle which was very rewarding.

It is always a special treat when Brother John Mangum can join us for retreat and business meeting. This year, Brother Mangum informed the Builders that he will be stepping down as office coordinator for the group with the responsibilities going to Eddie Sikes, current field coordinator. The Builders also have elected two addition Field Coordinators, Mike Green and David Axe. These two will help direct and oversee future projects alongside Eddie Sikes.

The Master's Builders have a busy spring coming up. Each year the Builders also work at Daniel Springs Camp doing

remodeling and construction work prior to the camp season kick off. This year, they are scheduled to work at the camp for two weeks beginning March 2. The Builders will also work once again at Stone Ridge Baptist Camp in Smithville, Arkansas in April, and then start building a new sanctuary at New Liberty, Emmett, Arkansas in May. If you are near any one of those jobs, come out to see them. They would love to meet you and share a meal with you if it is convenient. If you have questions about the Master's

Builders Ministry, or if your church has any building needs, please contact our office coordinator, Eddie Sikes, at 903-725-6549 or 479-462-1675. You can also keep up with them on Facebook at "The Master's Builders." You will see the church arbor logo on the page and they encourage you to "LIKE" the page and follow their building projects there. The Builders hope to be able to connect with many of you at the state meetings in the fall or the Nation Meeting this spring. Blessings!



**BMA** Baptist Missionary Association of Texas

**BMA OF TEXAS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

**USING YOUR EDGE**

**APRIL 27 2020**

**TBHC** FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION **SPONSORING**

**FIRST RED OAK** life...on purpose **HOSTING**





## Lubbock to host May retreat: “The Miracles of Jesus”

By **GLENDAM CHAMBERLAIN**

Texas WMA is very excited to announce the Texas WMA Spring Retreat, scheduled for May 2, 2020, at Lakeridge, Lubbock.

Pastor Raif Turner and the women’s ministry of Lakeridge have graciously offered to host this special day of worship, praise, fellowship and Bible study.

The ladies of Texas WMA are especially anticipating the opportunity to gather with our sisters in Christ, welcoming new ladies from across the state to join together to honor and glorify the Lord. We are praying that our hearts will be lifted in unity and love because of the faith that we share, and that we will be inspired and challenged to serve Him together as never before.

The scriptural theme of the day will be “The Miracles of Jesus.” Breakout sessions and special presentations will focus upon the truths and inspiration we are given for our daily spiritual walk through the biblical accounts of the miracles of Jesus.

Lunch will be served and childcare will be provided. A registration form for the meeting, hotel information, and further program details will be forth-coming on the auxiliary page of *Baptist Progress*, the Texas WMA webpage: [texaswma.com](http://texaswma.com), and in a mailout to BMA churches and missions throughout Texas.

There will be no registration fee for the meeting and lunch will be complimentary. A nursery will also be available.

For further information, please contact Texas WMA First Vice-President Maeva Thompson at 11231 FM 852, Gilmer, Texas 75644; 903-841-1853; e-mail: [maevathompson84@gmail.com](mailto:maevathompson84@gmail.com).

Please join the Texas WMA in prayer for the Lord’s guidance as preparations continue for this special event.

### TEXAS GMA HOUSEPARTY ALMOST HERE!

The Texas GMA officers invite all girls, grades 4-12, to join them at the Texas GMA Houseparty March 13-14, 2020. The girls will discover that if they stand on the firm foundation of faith, “We Won’t Be Shaken,” which is the theme, based on Luke 6:48-49.

Houseparty will again take place at the Conference Center at Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment in Gary, Texas. You’ll find all the registration information online at [www.texasgma.org](http://www.texasgma.org), plus Houseparty details, forms, project information and more.

Registration fee is \$25 per person and you must register by Feb. 15. Even if you don’t have a GMA program at your church you are invited. Give your girls the opportunity to come have fun, meet new people, and most importantly, worship the Lord with girls their own age. Hope to see you there!” For more information contact Mrs. Kendra Verhelle at 903-284-8583.

### STATE OFFICERS PLAN NEW YEAR

The Texas WMA Officers met Feb. 1, 2020, at Latch, Gilmer. After enjoying a tasty lunch, provided by the Latch ladies, Johnnie Ross, president, called the meeting to order and mentioned that the National WMA will meet in Waxahachie in April. The body of officers spent a few minutes planning a welcome gift for all attendees. Johnnie also presented the financial report, provided by Jo Strong, corresponding secretary.

Maeva Thompson, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president, spoke about the spring retreat in Lubbock, “The Miracles of Jesus,” and secured speakers for the breakout sessions.

Kristi Key, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president, presented details for our fall retreat. It will be Sept. 11–12, 2020, at Northside, Conroe, with the theme, “Sweet Hour of Prayer.” There will be several choices for break-out sessions, all dealing with prayer in different seasons or situations in our lives. It stands to be a great retreat.

Kendra Verhelle and Hayley Rasco, our GMA and YLA promoters, gave updates on our work with these young ladies.

Shirley Hoffpauir, assistant Sunbeam promoter, gave a report on the state Sunbeams and their plans, including the state Sunbeam Houseparty at Jacksonville College, July 17–18.

Other officers attending the meeting were D’Andra Smith, Charlotte Johnson, Jackie Ricks, Cindy Allen, Alicia Johnson, Glenda Chamberlain, and nominating committee members, Ann Pugh, Claudie Thompson, and Jeannie Walker.

### DISTRICT NEWS

CHEROKEE—Cherokee District WMA met at Enterprise, Jacksonville Jan. 14, 2020. The host church served a delicious soup meal, with wonderful desserts provided by Mt. Selman Baptist Church WMA.

President Cindy Allen called the meeting to order and the WMA Motto was recited. The theme verse for the new year is Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Glenda Haynes led opening prayer. Tamra Bolton, from Enterprise, gave a warm welcome to all. A congregational hymn was led by Bro. Larry Harrelson, accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Eloise Thomas. Alicia Johnson gave an offertory prayer.

Cindy Allen mentioned the passing of Gail Terrell and gave a special prayer in honor of her faithful and active service in both the Afton Grove and Cherokee WMA. Karen Harrelson presented a special in song, “It Is Well With My Soul”.

Stephen Davenport, pastor of Enterprise, Jacksonville introduced the guest speaker, Dwayne Orr, and led in prayer. Mr. Orr presented a program on “Dinosaurs and the Bible,” which was very enlightening and enjoyed by those in attendance.

Cindy Allen announced the previously elected Historian, Stephanie Kizer, had resigned and Carleen Thompson volunteered to fill the position until the fall election.

“Seminary Soup Lunch” will be served at noon to the BMA Seminary Feb. 20, 2020. Items to be provided for the luncheon should be brought to the Gregson Center by 11:30 a.m. Serving approximately 80.

Carleen Thompson gave words of appreciation from Mt. Selman. Alicia Johnson, prayer chairman, read prayer requests and prayer was led by Rosemary Hallum. The attendance banner was awarded to Afton Grove, Jacksonville WMA.

The next district meeting will be April 14, 2020 at First, Jacksonville, with Sardis, Henderson as their dessert partner. The outreach project for the meeting will be Texas Baptist Home for Children Foster Care and Adoption.

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





# TEXAS BAPTIST HOME FOR CHILDREN

## I'm Just Sayin'

By **JASON CURRY**

A statement that I hear from people often regarding my children is, "Are they blood brothers?" My answer most of the time is "Yes, all my sons are brothers." With the following statement, "Well, are your adopted sons biological brothers?" I guess people assume I'm giving them a hard time instead of making a deeper point. I know this is curiosity and people trying to know some details about our life. Sharing about our life with others is not offensive to me.

Yet, I want my first answer to impact people because my children are siblings through and through. They love one another, get frustrated with each other, and want what the other has all the time. Are they brothers and sisters? Yes! As we share life together, one way I would encourage you to nurture someone who has adopted is by asking normal family questions. "How are your children? What is the biggest challenge you are facing right now? How can I be praying for you?"

Remember it is not offensive to ask questions. Please do. The more you know the more you can be an ambassador for foster and adoptive families and TBHC. Know that we are family. My children are siblings, and, like any family, we have our problems and struggles.

Our bond has less to do with the blood flowing through our bodies and more to do with the bloodshed for us on Calvary. John 1:12-13 reminds us "But as many as received Him, to

them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." It is this adoption into God's family that has made all other adoptions possible.

As believers in Jesus, we are all blood brothers and sisters adopted by God. This bond should make us family; playing together, expecting to be frustrated with one another sometimes, and when we are hurt by another, we forgive each other. This is the family of God.

So, commit to turning to our blood relatives in church and ask "How are you? What are your biggest challenges in life right now? How can I be praying for you?" Be an encouragement to someone who needs you. Thank you all. Whenever you invest time, prayer or support for TBHC you're helping bring kids Home! I'm just sayin'.

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



## An expression of everlasting love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home for Children, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from Jan. 1-31, 2020.

### ENDOWMENTS

**MYRA STOKES:** Bill Stokes

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

### HONORARIUMS

**CHARLES BOSTON:** Joan Hartsfield

**JESUS:** Earlene Crenshaw

### MEMORIALS

**WALTER BECKER:** Dennis & Ilona Myrice

**DOWYANE BOYD:** Red Springs Missionary Baptist Church

**TERRY ENGLAND:** Terry Barnhill

**JIMMY GRAHAM:** Duane & Charlotte Turner

**BETTY HOLMES:** Joey Holmes

**DORIS IRONS:** James & Debbie Murphy; Caleb & Jami Davidson

**CONNIE JOHNSON:** Tommy & Virginia Gipson; Antioch Baptist Church, Gilmer; Jed & Glenice Whitaker;

**RACHEL KEY:** O.W. & Beth Williams

**DELBERT KYLE:** Temple Baptist Church, Mexia

**SHARON LASHER:** Rosewood Baptist Church

**HAZEL LOOSIER:** Calvary Baptist Church, Ennis

**WILLIAM NEUWIRTH:** James & Debbie Murphy

**BRO. LARRY BLAKE POARCH:** Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church; J.C. & Anita Lassiter; Calvary Baptist Church, Ennis; John & Dora Barnett; Leon & Linda Lee

**CAROLYN POLASEK:** Mr. & Mrs. Glen Borland

**NELDA JANE POLLARD:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**WILLIAM SPENCER:** Terry Barnhill

memorials-honorariums

## OBITUARIES

### NELDA JANE POLLARD

Nelda Jane Pollard, age 85 of Jacksonville, went home to be with our Lord and Savior Jan. 23, 2020. She was born to J.C. and Nell (Heflin) Wilson on Aug. 18, 1934. She is preceded in death by her parents, J.C. and Nell Wilson; husband, Bro. Johnnie Mack Pollard; brother, Farrel Wilson and grandson, Jonathan Lacy Brooks.



Survivors include her son, Farrel Pollard (Teresa) of Jacksonville; daughter, Debbie Brooks (Terry) of Katy; brother, Edward Wilson of Winnsboro; sisters, Kathy Burford (Ernest) of Winnsboro, Becky Skipworth (Phil) of Winnsboro; grandchildren, Rebekah Udeogu (Ikechi), Daniel Brooks (Jaime), Sarah Ayres (Kyle), Jonathan Pollard (Julie), Jared Pollard (Ginny) and Elizabeth Brooks and great grandchildren, Micah, Parker, Brady, Barrett, Lexie, Emaline, Grayson, Anna Lynne, Mack and Luea.

Jane and Johnnie were married for nearly 59 years. She was a pastor's wife for 45 years and loved nothing more than caring for her family, members of the church and the people of the community. She loved

cooking and cleaning, sang like an angel and loved everyone she met. She truly showed the love of Jesus to the world around her. She will be greatly missed on this earth, but there was much rejoicing in Heaven as she entered the gates.

A funeral service was at Lowe Funeral Home Chapel Jan. 27.

### DR. GENE MEDLEY

A celebration of life service for Dr. Gene Medley, 82, of Lubbock was Dec. 18, 2019 at Lakeridge, Lubbock with Pastor Raif Turner officiating.

Dr. Medley went to be with the Lord Dec. 13, 2019, while doing what he always did...serving others. He was born Dec. 14, 1936, in Lubbock, to Jack and Mary Medley. He graduated from Lubbock High School in 1955 and joined the military, serving in the United States Army from 1955-1957. He married Martha Ruth Lambert, of Nacogdoches, Jan. 26, 1963. He earned an Associates Degree from Jacksonville College, Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Education from Texas Tech University, and earned a Doctorate



in Education from Texas Tech University in 1974. He began his career in education in 1965 as the choir director at Lubbock High School. In 1975, he served as a professor and recruiter for Texas Tech. Gene retired in 1998 as the Director of Admissions and Records.

Dr. Medley was deeply involved in the Baptist Missionary Association. He served as the choir director at Central, Lubbock; College Avenue, Levelland and Colonial, Lubbock. He served on the boards of Jacksonville College, BMA Theological Seminary and LakeRidge Baptist Church. For the past 22 years, where Gene and Martha have faithfully served in variety of ministries at LakeRidge, Lubbock. He loved teaching Bible study and faithfully taught for over 50 years.

Loved ones include wife, Martha Medley; daughter, Gena Smith and husband, Michael, of Humble; son, James Medley and wife, Melinda, of Lubbock; son Robert Medley of Lubbock; grandchildren, Jordan Medley, Cole Medley, Danae Medley, Medley Smith, and Jackson Smith.

The family requests memorials be sent to Lifeword Media Ministries, Jacksonville College and/or the BMA Theological Seminary.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

## The Church Instructed

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: March 1, 2020

TEXT: Acts 1:1-11

### THE HOOK

Luke is the writer of Acts, and the “former treatise” in Acts 1:1 is in reference to the Gospel of Luke. Theopolis (lover of God) is likely a specific person to whom Luke is writing, but yet others believe he could be addressing all who love God. In our lesson text today, Luke is reviewing the material he wrote concerning the events just after the crucifixion.

### THE BOOK

**1. He appeared in the glorified body (verse 3).** For 40 days after He was resurrected from the grave, Jesus presented

Himself to different people. Even though His resurrection was the most earthshaking, glorious event to ever happen on earth, those followers of Christ were sorrowful, because this, their hopes for the coming Kingdom seemed to be dashed. Little did they realize Christ’s death on the cross was not defeat, but victory.

**2. He revealed the coming of the Holy Spirit’s empowerment ( verses 4-5).** They obviously remembered the prophecy in Joel, concerning the descent of the Holy Spirit.

**3. He promised to set up His Kingdom (verse 6).** But that would not happen until years later after Christ make His descent upon the earth at the end of the Tribulation, to set up His rule on earth (Revelation 20:1-3). But Jesus let that remain a mystery to them (verse 7).

**4. He explained the sphere of their mission after empowerment by the Holy Spirit (verse 8).** They were to spread the gospel message locally (Jerusalem) regionally (Judea and Samaria) and throughout the world.

**5. He was caught up to return to His Father (verse 9).** Two angels who were standing by, revealed to them that this was the same manner in which Christ would return one day.

### THE LOOK

Verse 8 reveals that the Spirit’s empowerment was essential to reach out to the world with the gospel. That power and authority has been bestowed upon the New Testament Church—no other para-church organization or individual outside the auspices of the church has the authority, nor the power.

## The Church in Jerusalem Empowered

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: March 15, 2020

TEXT: Acts 2:1-13

### THE HOOK

Most every child of God has been privileged to be in a church gathering when God the Father moved in a way that was inexplicable. When He moves among us, there is no logical, human explanation. There is no energy of the flesh that can claim responsibility. This is what happened in Jerusalem as we see in our scripture today.

**1. The Spirit’s descent was sudden (verse 2).** When

the Holy Spirit decides to descend, He does it without warning. But preparation had already been made; Jesus apprised the people of the coming events and they were told to tarry in Jerusalem and wait.

**2. The evidence was unmistakable.** Cloven tongues of fire appeared to be upon each individual; there were supernatural happenings, including 19 different dialects that were represented, heard the gospel in his or her own native language, It was not unknown tongues as the charismatic movement claims today. It was bonafide languages.

**3. Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled (verse 16;**

**Joel 2:28).**

**4. The cynics were bestirred.** Anytime God does something which cannot be explained, cynics and skeptics always conjure up human logic. “These men are full of new wine” (verse 13).

### THE LOOK

While these particular sign gifts seem to have ceased of themselves in the advent of the completed canon (1 Corinthians 13:10) we need not lapse into an opinion that God is not capable of moving among us as He did in those days. God is sovereign and He is powerful.

## Life-changing Repentance

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: March 15, 2020

TEXT: Acts 2:37-47

### THE HOOK

God the Father can use the most unlikely means—use the most unlikely people to accomplish His work. The Apostle Peter was one such unlikely person. Just 50 days earlier, he denied to accusers that he was associated with Christ—something Christ told him he would do. Yet, here is that same Apostle Peter, standing in the midst of this throng of people, preaching with great power and authority.

**1. The message penetrated hearts (verses 37-40).** One Bible version says, “cut to the quick,” “pierced” like a thorn jabbed into a foot, or a needle lancing a boil. Such is the drawing power of the Holy Spirit on a convicted life.

**2. The message brought about results (verse 41).** When the power of God is manifest, people come to Christ. The Word accomplishes its purpose (Isaiah 55:11).

**3. The people became established in the Word (verse 42).** They were faithful to the word, they dwelt together in one accord; they shared with their brothers and sisters in Christ; worshipped together, shared in the Lord’s Supper and

praised God.

**4. The Lord increased their number (verse 47).** Churches have gone to seed on “church growth principles” but scripture teaches that it is God the Father Who brings the increase (Matthew 16:18).

### THE LOOK

God’s Kingdom is enlarged as God’s Word is preached; the people abide in the doctrines of that Word; and make themselves available for ministry within the framework of the New Testament Church.



# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

## Hope for the Helpless

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: March 22, 2020

TEXT: Acts 3:1-10

### THE HOOK

When I was pastor in Nacogdoches, it seemed that everyone traveling from Detroit to Houston ran out of gas right in front of my church. And they were all penniless. If we were able, we would give them fuel, purchase some essentials for their trip, realizing all the while, that while some were sincerely in need, others were professional “panhandlers.” It once irritated me to consider the unmitigated gall of panhandlers to come and try to acquire that which was mine. But God has convicted me of that, letting me know, in no uncertain terms, that He would repay me. Proverbs 19:17 The issue was not to try to protect my money and

belongings, but to be obedient to God. Our spirit for giving should always be with the motive of providing something money cannot buy—like directing people to Christ and eternal life.

### THE BOOK

1. The cripple man, begging alms probably knew he was in the right place since he was near the architecturally ornate and beautiful temple. People needing help tend to gravitate to the house of God (verse 2).

2. The men representing God, Peter and John, were obviously not men of means, themselves (verses 3-5). Often men of God have inadequate means to help the downtrodden. I thank God for permitting me to be pastor of a caring church that makes some provisions to

help those who are in need.

3. Peter and John were short on temporal things, but they offered the lame man something which money could not buy—and since he was praising God in verse 8, we are to assume that he received more than just the ability to walk, but to have a new found relationship with Christ.

4. When God does a miraculous work in the life of such a man, others take notice (verse 9). When we reach out to someone in the name of Jesus, we never know what the results might be.

### THE LOOK

When we reach out to one, we can be confident God will use it to touch others.

## Opportune Moments to Share the Gospel

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: March 29, 2020

TEXT: Acts 3:11-26

### THE HOOK

Isn't it frustrating when people of the community become enamored with the church's food drive—or fall festival—or the Friday night after game fellowship for high schoolers, and do not get the message that it is the love of a Holy God that we seek to present?

That sometimes happens when we cease upon those “opportune moments to share the gospel.”

### THE BOOK

1. The people mistook the miracle of the raising of the lame man as being a result of human power (verse 12).

2. The people failed to realize through the miracle, who Jesus was. Peter intended for them to finally realize Who the One was they crucified (verse 13).

3. The people failed to understand that they chose a common criminal, Barabbas to live instead of the King of kings and Lord of lords (verses 14-16).

4. Peter, who directed the message to the men of Israel, expressed disappointment that the Jews present, had missed Old Testament prophecy of the crucifixion (verses 17-18).

5. Peter implored the crowd to repent, promising that they would be forgiven (verse 19).

6. Peter promised the return of Christ, in reference to His second advent, returning to earth with His people, to set up

His Kingdom to rule for 1,000 years (verses 20-21).

7. Peter used the Old Testament to explain to the unbelieving Jews that the same message about the prophet being raised up was told by Samuel and the rest of the prophets, even back to God's covenant with Abraham. So, the message was not new, and should have been remembered by the Judaziers in the book of Acts. 23-26.

### THE LOOK

Even when a people are guilty of such heinous sins as the Jews were, the truth is, God is merciful, long-suffering, and

His grace was still extended. That same grace is available to all who will come to the cross.

*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](mailto:pop.gauntt@gmail.com).*



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## James A. Henry cont.

Encampment in 1962 when I was saved,” Sherry said. “He later became our pastor when I was a senior in high school. He married Bill and me 50 years ago.”

Henry recalled the service at the national encampment, which was held at Latham Springs near Hillsboro, when he surrendered to preach in August, 1951.

“I was sitting next to my best friend, Grady Nutt, and Harold Brunson was preaching that night,” Henry recalled. “There were over 100 professions of faith and eight young men surrendered to preach that night.”

He asked his friend, Grady Nutt, to go out under the trees and pray with him just before the service because he felt strongly that God was calling him to preach.

“I stood up in front of the crowd after the invitation, and just said, ‘I’m Jimmy Henry—I’m a senior in high school, and I’m surrendering to preach,’” he said.

When he was 18 years old, Henry accepted his first pastorate—Pleasant Grove, Pickton, which he said is just a mile down the road from where he is pastor today.

His second pastorate was Jackson, Canton, during which time he and Bennie, a native of Springhill, Louisiana, were united in marriage in 1954. The couple commuted to Canton while attending Jacksonville College.

While at Caney, Streetman, which was his third pastorate, Jimmy commuted to Baylor University where he received his bachelor degree.

“I attended Baylor with my friends Edwin Crank, Harold (Smiley) Burns, Randall Reddin, and Bobby Thornton,” he said, noting that there was one class in which they all attended together.

He later attended the BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, and received his masters degree from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

Other pastorates included Calvary, Fairfield, (1957-61) Immanuel, Camden, Arkansas, (1961-64) First, Jacksonville, (1964-66) First, Magnolia, Arkansas (1966-79). From 1979, his ministry included Central, Lubbock, Oak Park, Lubbock and Bryan Street, Lamesa. From there, he became the director of the Ministers Benefit Department for the BMA of America, located in Texarkana. Afterward, he accepted Hillcrest, Texarkana, and for the past 21 years, he has served Caney, Pickton.

Among his ministry opportunities, Henry has served as president of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. He taught in Columbia Bible School in Magnolia, as well as some classes at the BMA Seminary in Jacksonville. Three times had been approached about being president of the seminary, but declined, saying he did not feel called to that work. He has authored more than a dozen books.

When asked to list some of his heroes of the faith, he cited L.H. Raney, W.J. Dorman, Gerald Keller, Harold Brunson, Jack Bloxom, C.R. Meadows, Tommy Hall, Tommy Guthrie and James Schaffer.

“Bro. Raney was my Dad’s pastor at Farley Street, Waxahachie,” Henry said. “Dad was a deacon in the church, and fought the call to preach—that is, until the Lord burned his bakery down.”

In response to the question about a high point in his ministry through the years, he replied, “I would have to say that this service last Sunday would be hard to surpass.”

## BMA of America Missions value statements



▲ Eric and Denilson in Guatemala

### By HOLLY MERIWEATHER

Discipleship is alive and well in the Central American countries of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. According to the pastors there, this generational repetition of men pouring into each other’s lives has been the single most impactful thing in their ministries.

When I ask our national missionaries about their salvation, calling and ministry stories, they always mention the older men who have poured into their lives and they younger men whose lives they are pouring into. For most of them, they have trouble controlling their emotions when talking about these relationships.

Sunday, February 23 is World Missions Day, and if you have been watching the videos sent by email or posted on the BMA Missions Facebook page, you have seen Executive Director John David Smith explaining the five value statements of BMA Missions. The second one says this:

**Discipleship-based Multiplication**—The entire context of the New Testament is one of multiplication. All healthy believers and churches will multiply. The multiplication of disciples is the most important factor in the formula for multiplication.

Although Central America is where I have most recently witnessed intentional discipleship in action, it is also “alive and well” in places like China, the Philippines and Cambodia.

Our ChangeMaker missionaries are living proof of “Discipleship-based Multiplication.”

In El Salvador Bro. Rigoberto Jimenez Cruz is currently discipling Valmori Zelaya, a disc jockey who also produces Lifeword programs.

In Guatemala, Pastor Oscar Monterosso is discipling two young men, Erick and Denilson.

In Cambodia, John Page has been discipling Sam-At for several years as they travel around the Ratanikiri province visiting villages.

In Nicaragua, Reynaldo has been discipling Emilio, although neither man is able to read or write.

In India Prashant Prakash and other men at the Bible institute are discipling fifteen young men who are burdened to go and fulfill the Great Commission and be disciple makers.

In all eighty countries of the world where there is BMA Missions presence discipleship-based multiplication has and is sustaining seventy years of reaching the world for Christ.

We invite you to celebrate with BMA Missions on Feb. 23, World Missions Day 2020. For more information go to <https://bmaissions.org/worldmissionsday/>.

## BMA Texas Missions cont.

as we lead The Bridge Church. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. We are excited about what lies ahead in 2020.

**Gamaliel Luna—  
New Mission in El Paso  
gamaluga@hotmail.com**

Brothers and sisters pray for each other to remain faithful to the call God gave us.

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray that God will give us my wife and my passion and faith so as not to faint.

**Isaias Rojas Osechas—  
Church Plant in Spring  
isaias.roja5299@gmail.com**

I am very honored to be part of the team of new planters of the BMA. My joy is to serve the Lord first. Thank God for your faithfulness through you, and you have a BMI servant, 1 Corinthians 3:5-8.

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray for more souls for Christ, that we can discipline them, baptize them and integrate them into the mission “Victory in Christ, and constitute it as a church in 2020. We began this month with 31 days of prayer and fasting.

**Mike Watt—  
Cross-Work Mission, Tahoka  
mike.watt@crossworkchurch.org**

Our little start up church is beginning to make an impact in our community. The outreach efforts we are a part of in the schools, jails and public gatherings are beginning to make a difference. Please pray that we stay the course and keep doing the things that make Kingdom impact, and pray we do them with excellence.

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray we are consistent in living out the challenges we are laying down to our people. We want to be disciples who make disciples.

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





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# EVENTS

## BMA OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING

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

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

## BMA OF TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING

**DATE:** November 5-6, 2020

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

# BMA of Texas Annual Meeting date change

In order not to conflict with Election Day, the BMA Senior Adult Conference and the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptists of Texas, where two of our department directors' attendance is required, the BMA of Texas Administrative Committee has voted to change the dates of the Annual BMA of Texas Meeting to Thursday and Friday, Nov. 5-6, 2020.

# PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

## AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**PASTOR**—Central, Texarkana is seeking a pastor. Send resume to CentralBaptistTxkSearch@gmail.com or 2117 E. 35th, Texarkana, Arkansas 71854.

**PASTOR**—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a pastor. Send resume to jimmysealy@aol.com or to FMBC Box 91, Morton, Texas 79346. 5/20

**YOUTH MINISTRY**—South Park, Fort Worth is seeking a bi-vocational youth director and a youth ministry intern. Visit [spbc.life/joinourteam](http://spbc.life/joinourteam) for more information. TFM

**MUSIC MINISTER**—Hill Creek, Whitehouse is seeking a music minister. Send resume to 17636 Summer Place, Whitehouse, Texas 75791. 4/20

**PASTOR**—Center Hill, Oakhurst, located off of Highway 190 in Oakhurst, is seeking an experienced bi-vocational pastor. Send resume to [chdcpastorsearch@gmail.com](mailto:chdcpastorsearch@gmail.com) or call 936-662-7831. 3/20

**PASTOR**—Mount Olive, Scurry is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 99, Scurry, Texas 75158. TFM

**PASTOR**—Central Baptist Church, Lancaster is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. If interested, please email resume and contact info to [mloafman@cisd.org](mailto:mloafman@cisd.org). TFM

**PASTOR**—First, Jacksonville is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 210 Philip Street, Jacksonville, Texas 75766 or email to [reception@firstjax.org](mailto:reception@firstjax.org). TFM

**PASTOR**—Central, Mineola is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 602 N. Line, Mineola, Texas 75773 or email to [cckburke43@gmail.com](mailto:cckburke43@gmail.com). TFM

**PASTOR**—Beacon Hill, Waco is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to [jmpossey73@gmail.com](mailto:jmpossey73@gmail.com) or mail to P.O. Box 9080, Waco, Texas 76714-9080. 3/20

## AVAILABLE MINISTERS

**JED WHITAKER** is available for pulpit supply in northeast Texas. He is a member of Antioch, Gilmer. Contact him at 903-431-2456.

# CHURCHES in REVIEW

## January 19, 2020

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	45	60	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	17	43	
Jackson, Joaquin	67	105	
New Harmony, Tyler	290	353	1 by letter
New Hope, Mineola	91	175	1 by baptism, 1 by letter
Olde Tyme, White Oak		46	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	51	68	
Round Prairie, Fairfield	130	210	
Rosewood, Gilmer			
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	42	67	
Sand Prairie, Normangee		42	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	29	45	
Simmons Hill, Diana	35	44	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	16	22	

## January 26, 2020

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	47	63	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	16	37	
Jackson, Joaquin	70	110	
New Harmony, Tyler	275	325	1 by letter
New Hope, Mineola	65	143	1 by baptism
Olde Tyme, White Oak		63	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	48	71	
Rosewood, Gilmer	132	237	1 profession of faith
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	45	74	
Sand Prairie, Normangee		65	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	23	45	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	18	21	

## February 2, 2020

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	45	54	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	18	32	
Jackson, Joaquin	91	115	2 by statement
New Harmony, Tyler	289	277	1 by baptism
Olde Tyme, White Oak		46	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	47	64	
Rosewood, Gilmer	138	235	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	38	61	
Sand Prairie, Normangee		84	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	26	39	
Simmons Hill, Diana	34	47	

## February 9, 2020

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	52	63	3 by letter
Glade Creek, Gilmer	16	32	
Jackson, Joaquin	76	96	
New Harmony, Tyler	258	331	2 by letter
New Hope, Mineola	89	140	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		40	
Rosewood, Gilmer	121	207	1 by baptism
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	42	66	
Sand Prairie, Normangee		46	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	31	45	
Simmons Hill, Diana	40	52	2 by baptism
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	16	20	

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according to the power that  
worketh in us”  
(Ephesians 3:20)*

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**10**

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**3**

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