

Baptist Progress

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

Official Publication of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas | February 18, 2015 | Vol. 102 | No. 04

Speers honored by First Baptist Church and the City of Carthage

CARTHAGE—First Baptist Church and the City of Carthage honored Bro. and Mrs. James Speer at the close of the worship service at FBC, Jan. 25. Speer served as the director of Daniel Springs Baptist Camp, in nearby Gary, for 35 years.

The Speers moved to Gary with their daughters, Kim and Tammy, to impact youth for Christ Jan. 1, 1980. They retired Dec. 31, 2014. The couple is moving a few miles down the road to Carthage, where they have been members of First, Carthage, since 1980.

During the service, Mayor Lynn Vincent, of Carthage, gave the Speers a key to the city and proclaimed Jan. 25, 2015 as James and Barbara Speer Day. The proclamation mentioned the thousands of youth impacted during their ministry and also the housing of hurricane evacuees during three hurricanes.

Dr. Allen Tilley, senior pastor of First, Carthage, presented Mrs. Speer with a beautiful bouquet of red roses, a beautiful carved wooden plaque and a food basket to honor the day. Many cards, notes and gifts were given to the Speers to show appreciation for their 35 years of ministry in the local church.

The Speers were joined by Tammy Ramm, Kim and Paul Turner and Victor Turner, one of their four grandchildren.



Carthage Mayor Lynn Vincent (right) presents key to the city and proclamation to the Speers

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BMA of America News

DiscipleGuide CHURCH RESOURCES

DiscipleGuide has now begun taking spring literature orders. Ordering early ensures that your literature will arrive in plenty of time for the upcoming quarter.

DiscipleGuide offers a full line of literature including *Compass* for adults,

SOAR:lit for youth, and *DiscipleKids* for children. Other books, studies and auxiliary materials are available as well. To order or to learn more about DiscipleGuide products, go to discipleguide.org or call 1-800-333-1442.



Moral Action Booth in Springfield, Missouri

By DR. JOHN ADAMS

All pastors, messengers and church laity are encouraged to visit the Moral Action Booth at the BMA of America Meeting, April 20-22, 2015, Springfield, Missouri. There will be plenty of materials available for you. Included will be pens, note pads, videos and promotional literatures. Please stop by and visit. Remember, we represent you in this ministry.

God and Country Rallies

I have had the honor to participate in 14 God and Country Rallies across the BMA. Feel free to contact me if your churches are interested in scheduling an area wide or associational event. These are one-night patriotic events. Plans are being made at this time in 2015 for rallies in Florida, Alabama and Mississippi.

Moral Action Freedom Offerings

Please make plans to give financial gifts to this department for the *July 4th Freedom Celebration*. Since July 4th will be on a Saturday this year, we are suggesting that you consider giving your offerings on June 28 or July 5. We need your gift, whether large or small.

Moral Action on the Web

Visit our site at www.macbma.net (<http://www.macbma.net>). You will find much information related to this ministry. Some of the topics included are our purpose, current trustees, and morality action alerts. You may visit the Moral Action archives for past and present articles of interest. There are links to

the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives and the Supreme Court. You will find access to Focus on the Family, American Family Association and the Family Research Council. Contacts are also listed for myself and this ministry whether by email, telephone or written communication. We would be honored to hear from each of you.

National Day of Prayer (NDOP)

The National Day of Prayer is fast approaching. The date is May 7, 2015. It is time for your church to select a leader/director who will lead in the prayer efforts. We desperately need intercessory prayer for our nation and its leaders. Suggested places of prayers are church auditoriums, flag poles, local courthouses or town/city halls. It is vital that our BMA family actively participate in this yearly national event. If you need more info: go to www.NDOP.org or use a search engine for National Day of Prayer. You may also telephone: 1-719-559-9560 for information.

Recommended Readings by Dr. Adams:

Personal Faith, Public Policy by Harry Jackson, Tony Perkins Front Line Publishers

Saving Freedom by former Senator Jim DeMint Fidelis Books

Indivisible by Jay Richards and J Robison Faith Words

41 – A Portrait of My Father George W. Bush Crown Publishers \$28

Unveiling Islam by Ergun Caner Kregel Publishers

Stop raising mules

By SCOTT ATTEBERY

I'm not a country boy. There, I admitted it. However, I do live in Arkansas, which means I get a few "country boy points" by default. For instance, I know that horses reproduce horses. I also know that donkeys reproduce donkeys. And, for bonus points, I know that a horse and a donkey together produce mules.

Mules are very patient, intelligent and sure-footed. However, mules have a problem: they are sterile creatures. That means that every time you want to add a mule to your pack of mules, you have to mate a horse and donkey. That takes extra work on your part. However, if you own horses, they naturally reproduce on their own. To put it another way, you add mules to your pack by *manual addition*. Every new mule requires you to start from scratch.

However, you can add horses to your team by *automatic multiplication*. New horses can grow a family without necessarily needing a human matchmaker.

Today, the choice between a horse and mule may not seem like a big deal. They both can pull heavy loads and contribute to farm life.

But when it comes to long range planning, the differences between horses and mules are drastic. In 10 years, you could own dozens of horses by investing in a relative few. On the other hand, to have the same amount of mules would cost a much greater investment.

The choice is between addition and multiplication.

The same is true when it comes to the Great Commission of the church. Simply put, Christ did not call for the simple addition of believers. Rather, He calls us to exponential multiplication of disciples. That's the only way we will ever see disciples made of all nations.

Unfortunately, many churches still choose to work by addition. For many it is easier and takes less time and patience. For others it is the only method they have ever known. Admittedly, addition may look like a more fruitful approach today. And evangelism without discipleship may be a quick,

easy way to fill seats right now. But what happens when these people (without a strong foundation of discipleship) leave the church? And what happens when the ones who stay for the long run never evangelize or disciple others because they've never been trained? The addition-based approach, like breeding mules, causes a church to continuously go back to "square one" and never is able to build a strong community of discipleship.

I know what you may be thinking. We all know people who have made disciples within a church of "addition-minded" ministry. I totally agree. Just like Jesus said in Matthew 3:9, God can raise up sons of Abraham from stones; however, it isn't a frequent occurrence.

To be honest (Google it if you don't believe me) in a few rare cases, mules have actually reproduced. But it has only happened 60 times in the past 475 years, not exactly the odds upon which you want to build a multiplication strategy.

That's why intentional discipleship is key to the fulfillment of the Great Commission. It may not always draw the biggest crowds at the beginning, but by investing in a few now, you are much more likely to reach masses in the future.

Questions to help determine whether your ministry is addition-based or multiplication-based include the following:

- Are you raising sterile Christians? (i.e. Do your members make disciples who make disciples?)
- Who are considered the ministers at your church? The staff only, or maturing "lay people" growing in discipleship?
- Is real life-investment taking place in people's lives after conversion?
- Are you seeing transformational change throughout the lifespan of believers?
- Are you "geehawing" with that? (It's a country thing; look it up!)

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





Family Matters

How do you deal with crazy?

By **DR. TRAVIS PLUMLEE**

What drives most of us crazy are certain family members. With friends, you can eventually move on to other friendships, and that person becomes a distant, bad memory. With co-workers, you can find boundaries and some degree of separation. But with family, they stay, visit and don't ever go away! And if the family member has mental health issues or emotional problems, it can destroy a family. In time, you start thinking that you will be the next one to climb aboard the crazy train headed to nowhere. You are about to lose your mind over someone that has already lost theirs.

In this article, I am not really speaking of people that have a mental health diagnosis. When someone has schizophrenia, bipolar depression or is mentally challenged, it is a very sad situation that needs to be bathed in prayer. A caregiver can just about lose his or her mind having to deal with this person. The same answers below will probably help you.

However, I am really addressing families that have to deal with a family member who likes to stir up trouble. They aren't happy unless they are setting off emotional fireworks in the living room. The first time it happens you are shocked. You wonder what in the world brought all that on.

The next time it happens, some people feel a sense of guilt. "Did I do anything to cause this? Maybe I should not have said this nor done that." After a continual pattern of bizarre, manipulative behavior, it finally dawns on you that this person is just flat crazy!

It doesn't matter what you say or do. They are going to sew disharmony no matter what. They are bent on hurting others. They thrive off of manipulating others for their own selfish gains. They can use guilt, shame or explosive anger to get their way. People who are fairly sane, (all of us are just a little crazy you know) take a step back and just say, "Wow."

Eventually, the shock of their behavior wears off and we move into heartache. This person, as they have become older, has developed this behavior. Sometimes, this person comes into your home via marriage. Either way, your family love, harmony and peace is constantly in jeopardy when they are around. If this person is really suffering from poor mental health, your family life can become a sad, depressing, splintered group.

Sometimes it is just a dysfunctional adaptive behavior. This person has learned that they can get their way by throwing a fit, exploding in anger, sulking and pouting or screaming and shouting. It takes on many forms, but the end result is the same. They are stealing the joy out of our family.

Other times, it is a person with a borderline personality disorder or a narcissistic personality disorder with intermittent narcissistic rages and histrionics. These are just examples. There are hundreds of possibilities.

The end result is the same. There is sadness because holidays become disasters. Family members quit seeing each other or speaking to one another. And Satan is happy. I'm not saying this family member is a demon (although you may wonder

sometimes), but I am saying Satan can use people to accomplish his purposes set out in John 10:10 where he has come to steal the peace, kill the joy and destroy the Christian home.

Take heart. Greater is He that is in us, than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4). Many of my regular readers already know what I am going to tell you. But we need reminding of these things when going through something like this. We can't change others. We can't control others. We can only control ourselves and our responses to them.

These people who serve as ballistic missiles in the family probably won't go get help. They usually think everyone else needs help, so don't fight the losing battle of suggesting counseling. If they go, hallelujah!

Find ways to cope.

- **We can expect people in our homes to go by our house rules.** We can expect people to act in a reasoned way in our home free of hurting others with the tongue.
- **We may have to have time outs.** We may have to at times, remove the audience. When they fly into a rage, find other places to go and get busy. Go to a bedroom and read your Bible and pray for God to give you peace.
- **We may need to limit visits.** But you don't ever cut out people. We throw out the trash, but we don't throw out the family.
- **We can try speaking the truth in love.** Communication is really the key. When people are calmed down, we have to work out a way for us to respond together in the future. I know it is hard and difficult. But the only alternative is for the hurt to remain and all of us just struggle. Never stop seeing people. This is unbiblical. You are using this as a form of retaliatory punishment for previous hurts.
- **Don't ever use kids as pawns of punishment against another parent or grandparents.** Leave the children out of it. We must practice forgiveness and unconditional love. Love does have a way of changing even the most hostile person. However, I can love you and forgive you but the whole family doesn't have to bow down to your demands. We have to find workable ways to peaceably coexist as a family.

This article is just a brief description of a starting plan. Many other variables need to be included. Crying out to God and seeking what He would have you do is always the first and continual thing to do. Never give up. God loves you.

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



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 January 1, 2015 – January 31, 2015.

ENDOWMENTS

MYRA STOKES: Mr. Bill Stokes

HONORARIUMS

ALL STAFF AT TBH: Mrs. B. H. Conn

W. DOYLE KING: Katrina King

BOBBY MARTIN: Earlene Crenshaw

JACOB MATTHEW HACK'S FIRST BIRTHDAY: Matthew Hack

DOROTHY ANN OLCHESKY: J. T. Long; Patsy Webb

POLLY TOWNLEY: Glenda Rutledge

POLICEMAN THAT PROTECT US: Mr. James D. Murphy

MEMORIALS

ALI AGHAEI: Mrs. Ann Jackson

AMELIA AKIN: Don Honeycutt Jr.; Clyde Wilson

WESLEY BATES: Leon Lee

RUTH BEARDEN: Mr. & Mrs. Larry Campbell; James Sockwell

JOHN "BUCK" BEETS: Mrs. Margie Beets

JOANN BIRDSONG: Glee Hutson

TINY BLAKE: Glee Hutson

MARION GENTRY BOBBITT: Mrs. Barbara Stanley

NELMA CHRISTENE BOBBITT: Mrs. Barbara Stanley

CALLIE MAE BROWN: Mr. & Mrs. David F. McAdams

MICHAEL BROWN: Mr. & Mrs. L. A. Batterton

LINDA CABELLOS: Red Springs Missionary Baptist Church

SCOTT CAGLE: Jimmy Shipp; Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

KENNETH COATES: Fair Park Baptist Church

JACK ROYCE CROWNOVER: Mr. & Mrs. Randy Odom

HUGLEENE ERDLEY: Mr. & Mrs. David Stanley

JOHNNY FOSTER: Doris Lasiter

H T GILMER BIRTHDAY: Mrs. Marjorie Gilmer

LOUISE GOULD: First Baptist Church, Jacksonville

JEAN HALLIBURTON: Temple Baptist Church

HAROLD HARDMAN: Mr. & Mrs. L. A. Batterton

JESSE HARTLEY: Dickey Hartley

J C HENDERSON: Bro. & Mrs. Eddie Marsh

NANCY HODGES: Clyde Wilson

HAROLD HORN: Mr. & Mrs. Steve Cates

LOFTON & TENNIE KING: Katrina King

GARY MAPLES: Mr. & Mrs. L. A. Batterton

ADRIAN MARTINEZ: Concha Rouse

JEAN MAYBERRY: Stanley Allen

MAVIS MIDDLETON: Travis Floyd

KENNETH MONTGOMERY: Bro. & Mrs. Eddie Marsh

MRS. MOON: Larry Brock

MARY KAY MOORE: Kenneth McKnight

JEAN MORDY: Bro. & Mrs. Duane Turner

MARY MUSE: James Sockwell

JIM NASH: Leon Lee

LOIS NEWTON: First Baptist Church, Jacksonville

RENE REED: Travis Floyd

BRENDA RICKS: E. K. Standifer

BILL ROBINSON: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

DORIS STINSON: Margaret Smith

DORIS STRIPLING: Westside Baptist Church

DOROTHY SWIFT ON HER 83RD BIRTHDAY: RBRC LLC

MODENA TERRY: Marie Terry

LEWIS THOMAS: Travis Floyd

DR. JOHN F. TOWNLEY: William D. Goodman; Elaine Roberson; Patricia Benner; Glenda Rutledge; Bro. & Mrs. Eddie Marsh; RLS-SHS Oil & Gas Investment; H. V. Minter

SUE VANDERWORTH: Travis Floyd

VIRGINIA WALKER: James Sockwell

ODESSA WELLS: Mr. & Mrs. Larry Campbell

CHERIE WHITTAKER: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

LORAIN WILBURN: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

PEARL WILSON: Center Hill Baptist Church

MARGARET YORDY: Rosewood Baptist Church



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Baptist Progress

USPS: 043120 • ISSN: 005-5751

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

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

www.baptistprogress.org

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATE:

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

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



From the Editor

A change in perspective

Most have heard and sung the song, “This World is Not My Home.” Well, if we believe the words of the song, then why do we treat this world as if it were our home? On a personal level, people work to get instead of give. Some seek to bring attention to self instead of the Savior. There are those who reserve times of relaxation for themselves instead of setting aside times of reverence to worship the Lord.

On the church level, too many measure success by attendance and offerings. A church is truly successful when it carries out the Great Commission—to make disciples. Only when there is life-change taking place within a congregation can a church claim success, and only then by the grace of God.

On the associational level, some believe the goal should be to guarantee the continued existence of the association at all costs. There are those who have fallen into the trap of guarding turf instead of gaining ground for the cause of Christ. For example, the mantra of some is God forbid that we should discontinue or change the format of an associational meeting, the structure of an auxiliary or embark on a partnership with any other group of Baptists.

Are we concerned that someone might outshine us, outdo us or take control of something we see as ours? Well, here’s a newsflash: Nothing you have and nothing that has been entrusted to your care, whether it be money, a church, a ministry, an association or a department within an association belongs to us. All that is good belongs to the Lord.

In Glory, Jesus will be the center and light of everything. But, why wait until you are at home with Him to allow Him the central place in your personal life, the church of which you are a member or the association of churches to which you belong.

I have heard it said, “Wisdom, is knowing what time it is.” So, what time is it? Paul recorded in Romans 13:11, “...it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.”

There is no time to bog ourselves down in trivial matters. There are souls to rescue and souls to save. Therefore, let us stop working to get and start working to give. Let us stop worrying about attendance and offerings and start making disciples of Christ. Let us stop guarding our turf and start gaining ground for the cause of Christ. And let us stop trying to control and start concentrating on bringing our God honor and glory.

This world is not our home, and life is not about us. If you believe otherwise, you need a change in perspective.



▲ Jerry Fulton



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WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Make the switch, email us today at editor@baptistprogress.org!

EVENTS

FEBRUARY 23-25, 2015

2015 Empower Conference
@ First, Euless
For information,
visit sbtexas.com/ec15

MARCH 12, 2015

Senior Adult JOY Fest!
with Mark Lowry and Stan Whitmire
@ Northside, Conroe
10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Call 936-756-4630
to purchase tickets for \$25

MARCH 12, 2015

Liberty Association
Texas Baptist Home Rally
@ Coffeerville, Ore City

APRIL 20-22, 2015

BMA of America Annual Session
@ University Plaza Hotel
and Convention Center
Springfield, Missouri
Headquarters Hotel:
University Plaza Hotel

MAY 14, 2015

Liberty Association BMMI Rally
@ Concord, Gilmer

AUGUST 13, 2015

Liberty Association Lifeword Rally
@ Cross Roads, Pittsburg

OCTOBER 11, 2015

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

APRIL 25-27, 2016

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

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PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE MINISTERS

ELDON BUSENITZ is available for pulpit supply or to serve as interim pastor. He has 46 years of experience as a pastor, with a passion for clear, practical Bible teaching. He is a member of Heritage, Waxahachie. Contact him at 214-399-9520.

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

PIANIST—First of Providence, Livingston, needs a pianist for the worship services. Call Mark Moore, song leader, at 936-327-1529. TFN

PASTOR—Grace Temple, San Angelo is seeking a full-time senior pastor. He will also oversee associate pastors and child development center. Send resume to Pat Jackson 7809 CR 339, Christoval, Texas 76935, email pwjack@aol.com or call 325-651-7875. TFN

PASTOR—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346 or to jimmysealy@aol.com. TFN

YOUTH—South Park, Fort Worth is seeking a director of youth ministry. For information about the position and to submit a resume visit fortworthbaptistchurch.org/YouthDirectorSearch/. TFN



Want to Make a Gift That Keeps Giving?

The BMA Foundation provides that opportunity. Your gift is never spent, it is invested and only the earnings are used to support any or all departments of the BMA of America as you specify. Your gift keeps giving until the Lord returns. You may make a cash contribution or contribute through your estate plan. Checks should be made payable to BMA Foundation and mailed to P.O. Box 1188, Conway, Arkansas 72033. For more information, call the BMA Foundation office at 501-329-6891.

OBITUARY

Gary House

Funeral services for Bro. Gary House, who passed away Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015, were at Tundra, Canton at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015. Burial followed at Rest Lawn Cemetery in Sulphur Springs at 3 p.m. Visitation was at Eubank Funeral Home in Canton from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13. Bro. House had recently resigned as pastor of Tundra, Canton.



Gene Edwards

Funeral services for Dr. Gene Edwards, former manager of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association, who passed away Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015, were at North Park Baptist Church in North Richland Hills at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 14. Visitation with the family was at Shannon Rufe Snow Funeral Home in North Richland Hills Friday, Feb. 13, 2015 from 6 to 8 p.m. At the time of his death, Dr. Edwards served as pastor of North Park, North Richland Hills.



CHURCHES IN REVIEW

FEBRUARY 1, 2015

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	72	101	1 By Baptism
Cedar Creek, Teague	13	22	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	483	539	
First, Blooming Grove	219		
First, Omen	34	69	1 By Profession of Faith
First, Palmer	36	73	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	25	47	
Harvest, Lufkin	10	18	
Jackson, Joaquin	66	151	
Little Flock, Lufkin	8	15	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	31	39	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	15	15	
New Harmony, Tyler	308	356	4 By Letter
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	45	55	
Pine Acres, Gilmer	30	57	
Rosewood, Gilmer	140	171	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	14	29	
Temple, Mexia	44	50	

FEBRUARY 8, 2015

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis		86	
Cedar Creek, Teague	17	21	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	503	542	1 By Letter, 2 By Profession
First, Blooming Grove	225		
First, Omen	42	80	2 By Baptism
First, Palmer	43	63	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	22	48	
Harvest, Lufkin	15	20	
Jackson, Joaquin	64	126	
Little Flock, Lufkin	10	15	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	39	50	2 By Letter
Merriman Hills, Sherman	13	15	
New Harmony, Tyler	304	391	
New Hope, Mineola	56	114	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	49	61	
Pine Acres, Gilmer	41	79	
Pine Brook, Tyler	34	71	
Rosewood, Gilmer	116	173	2 By Profession
Temple, Mexia	41	58	
Woodland, Splendora	35	50	

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

Run for Their Lives 5K

By EDDIE MARSH

The adoption department of Texas Baptist Home for Children sponsored the fourth annual *Run for Their Lives 5K*. Jan. 24, 2015. About 150 people signed up to run/walk in the event. Participants ranged in age from babies in strollers to runners and walkers in their 60's and 70's. The winner of the senior men division is 75 years of age and finished the three plus mile course in just over 33 minutes.

Members of the staff of the Home arrived at 7 a.m. to get everything in place for the run. The theme this year was *Mustache Dash* and many of the participants, both male and female, wore a mustache.

A special word of appreciation goes to those who helped sponsor the event. Many, who could not participate in the run/walk, helped by sponsoring participants. Adoption Director Dana Holt and Post-Adoption worker, Jennifer Wulf, did a great job of planning and directing the event.

Funds raised by this event go toward the Post-Adoption Ministry of the Home. This ministry is somewhat unique in the fact the Home does not consider the finalization of the adoption to be the end of the process but rather just one step in the process. After the adoption is finalized, TBH is dedicated to ensuring that the following transitions are smooth for the new adoptive family.

To help with this, the following is list of post-adoptive services that are offered to the parents who finalized their adoption through TBH.

- Information and referral for needed services including consulting, counseling and medical
- Adoptive relevant training for the whole family
- Assessment for different stages of life
- Respite Care
- Search and assistance for all members of the triad
- Ability to participate in our Adoptive Parent Alumni Association, Life Happens
- 24 Hour Crisis Intervention.

The 5k in Waxahachie takes place every January. The last couple of year one of our adoptive families and their church has sponsored a 5K in East Texas. It is scheduled to take place in September.

We are aware that many of you are walker or runners; we request that you participate in one of our events.



**Northside Baptist Church
Conroe, Texas**
Presents:
Senior Adult JOY Fest!
with
MARK LOWRY
and Stan Whitmire

Thursday, March 12, 2015
10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Tickets \$25.00

Special Guests:
Kingdom Dogs
Chordbusters (all ladies barbershop)

Call (936) 756-4630 to purchase tickets!





JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE HOMECOMING 2015

Gerald Orr, Chair of the Music Department, directs the JC Choir and alumni in the "Halleluja Chorus."



The Bonner-Gaylor-Bearden Chapter enjoyed lunch and fellowship at Craft Baptist Church on Saturday.



JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE HOMECOMING COURT 2015



The 2015 Coming Home Royalty recipient was Jane Carroll, widow of late JC president Curtis Carroll.



The Rosses enjoy shopping in the bookstore.



Homecoming 2015 King and Queen: DongSeong Han from South Korea, and Libia Carmona from the Dominican Republic



JC class of 1975 quartet performing at Friday night reception at First Baptist Church



Friday night bonfire on the Joe Wright campus, now owned by Jacksonville College



Jaguar basketball!!



The Class of 1975 met for lunch on campus Friday, followed by a guided tour of the College.



The JC Choir entertained Homecoming guests during the Saturday morning program.

Church Health

Mentoring Rhythms

By LARRY BARKER

The importance of finding margin in your schedule to develop intentional mentoring relationships must be a high priority! If we value having mentoring relationships, where we pour into others, then there must be evidence. Is mentoring occurring? Can you name the person(s) that you are mentoring? Do you have a mentoring/accountability group that you are meeting with regularly? Or, and more importantly, who is mentoring you? Everyone should have a Paul in their life (a mentor) and everyone should find a Timothy (mentoree).

My good friend Scott Kirk, with Dynamic Church Planting International (DCPI), has been mentored and is mentoring others. He has planted a church and now works in coaching and mentoring church planters. He has developed some “Battle Rhythms” to ensure that you follow through on being the mentor to others that God wants all of us to be! We certainly know it is a “battle” to remain faithful and committed to intentionally and regularly mentoring others. The “rhythm” is to setting a pace that develops patterns into the normal flow of our everyday life.

First, Daily Mentoring! This is praying daily for those you mentor and asking God to do a great work in their lives, their families, and their ministries. This is about **EMPOWERMENT!**

Second, Weekly Mentoring! Everyone needs encouragement and some days more than others. A personal touch through a phone call, a text, an email, a personal note, or a visit means a lot. This is about **ENCOURAGEMENT!**

Third, Monthly Mentoring! Technology is wonderful and we are more connected today than ever before but there is nothing like being there in person sometimes. What will your monthly meeting look like? How often will you be able to get together in person? Maybe you could alternate meeting one month electronically and then the next month face to face. This is about **EQUIPPING!**

Fourth, Quarterly Mentoring! Even if the person or group you are mentoring is some distance from you it is important to schedule a day or two to get together for a retreat to take their training and equipping to the next level. This time can be used as a time to celebrate their victories and to discuss their challenges. You can use the W.I.N. coaching technique to walk them through by asking them what is going well, where do you need to improve, and what are you going to do next? This is about **ENGAGEMENT!**

Lastly, Yearly Mentoring! This time can be spent



focusing on the future and gathering together to set personal and ministry goals for the New Year. This is about **Strategic Planning!**

Here are some values you will have to protect in order to implement these “Battle” Rhythms:

- You must refuse to give in to the world’s thinking, in our culture, of individualism and the Lone Ranger mentality.
- You must refuse to make the journey alone by being committed to living in fellowship with other believers and following Christ together!
- You must always be looking for, working through and developing leaders who can significantly influence others for Christ.
- You must be committed to the biblical principle that two are better than one and that there is wisdom in the multitude of counsel.
- You must remain teachable and open to keeping Godly confidants, those that have proven you can trust them, by keeping them close to you so that they can speak into your life and hold you accountable.
- You must refuse to allow tasks, goals, work ethic, success or any personal achievement to be more

important than the people you serve and desire to encourage.

- You must develop a plan of implementation to ensure that this is not just a theory or a concept but a regular practice in the rhythm of your life!

Now it is time to get started! You must identify who will be in your mentoring group and begin investing in them. Think through what your “battle” rhythms will look like daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, and yearly. Look for those who have a desire to be on the same path you are on and then begin making the journey together!

Healthy churches are always focusing on mentoring others as they disciple one another and grow in the Lord together!

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



Mission Life

Thoughts About Responsibility

By JERRY BURNAMAN

Due to the chaos, laziness and procrastination in our society, responsibility is badly in need of redefinition. And if any group of people should be responsible, it's Christians in their walk with God.

"Look at the word responsibility—response-ability—the ability to choose your response," wrote Stephen Covey in his best-selling *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. "Highly proactive people recognize responsibility. They do not blame circumstances, conditions or conditioning for their behavior. Their behavior is a product of their own conscious choice based on values rather than a product of their conditions, based on feelings."

Recognize Your Responsibility

Our actions cause consequences. Sir Isaac Newton observed there is an immutable universal law: "To every action there is always opposed an equal reaction." Good begets good and evil leads to more evil. This is one of the universal eternal, fundamental truths: the law of cause and effect.

Probably your mind is whirling like a windmill and you are saying to yourself: "There are Bible verses that teach us the same thing." Absolutely! Paul wrote to the Galatians: "*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life*" (6:7-8).

The universal rule of cause and effect existed long before Sir Isaac Newton came on the scene and it challenges every believer to be responsible for personal actions as well as serving the Lord.

However, scarcely one person in a thousand puts his or her time to anywhere near its potential good use. We stumble along in life watching the game from the sidelines. Those who make a difference in life are those who are true to themselves and others. In the end, it is we ourselves that have the greatest potential to steal our own time, talents and accomplishment. Recognizing responsibility puts us on track to greater accomplishments and service.

One of my great burdens is our lack of responsibility reaching the millions of unchurched Texans. There are approximately 26 million Texas residents and only about 18 percent attend church services on Sunday. That's down from 21 percent when I began the Mission Director's responsibilities sixteen years ago. With every church praying, leading, discipling and working, we can make a difference in the lives of many people in Texas.

Quit Making Excuses

Here are some prevalent excuses I've heard through the years that prohibits personal growth and stymies evangelism and church growth:

- We don't have what it takes.
- We are too small.
- We don't have the resources.
- We're too old.
- We're too young.
- We've never done it this way.
- We don't have enough potential in our area.
- We don't have many leaders.
- We don't want to do that.

Paul wrote, "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*" (Philippians 4:13).

When we apply this truth, we can cross out all the negative excuses and replace them with positive actions.

Take Action!

Although many things in life are beyond anyone's control, we have a great deal of control over more circumstances and conditions than most of us are willing to acknowledge. Here are a dozen of the most important ones compiled by motivational speaker, Denis Waitley:

1. You can control what you do with most of your free time during the day and evening.

2. You can control how much energy you exert and effort you give to each task you undertake.

3. You can control your thoughts and imagination, channel what you think about.

4. You can control your attitude.

5. You can control your tongue; you can choose to remain silent or choose to speak. If you choose to speak; you can choose your words and your tone of voice.

6. You can control who you choose as role models, and who you'll seek out for mentoring counsel and inspirational. You can control who you spend your leisure time with—and to a great degree, with whom you communicate.

7. You can control your commitments, the things you absolutely promise yourself and others that you'll do.

8. You can control the causes to which you give your time and ideas. This is what is called the purpose behind the purpose.

9. You can control your memberships.

10. Fate is partly the hand you're dealt. You can't control that, but the correct things to achieve desired results.

11. You can control your concerns and worries—and whether you'll choose to take action about them.

12. You can control your response to difficult times and people.

Add to these actions the biblical facts that the Holy Spirit works in every believer to accomplish God's will (Ephesians 6:6) and motivates us tell everyone the good news of salvation. Write down some action steps that you will take this week—then be responsible and do them!

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



Cherry Hired as VP of Finance at Central Baptist College



CONWAY, Arkansas—Mr. Paul Cherry has been hired and will begin duties as the vice president for finance at Central Baptist College on Feb. 18, 2015. The vice president for finance provides strategic leadership and oversight of the college's finance and accounting functions, business services and auxiliary enterprises, human resources, and physical plant operations.

Cherry previously worked at First National Bank in Hot Springs, Arkansas for 22 years serving as CEO, CFO and Legal Counsel. Cherry has also been employed by Lovett and Foster, Certified Public Accountants for three years and the Arkansas Attorney General's Office and Division of Legislative Audit for 15 years.

Cherry received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, a Juris Doctorate

from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law. Cherry is presently enrolled in the Master of Business Administration program at Southern Arkansas University.

CBC President Terry Kimbrow said, "There is no doubt in my mind that Paul is the right person for this job." Since the VP position is among the top administrative positions, our twenty-member Board of Trustees is charged with giving the final approval. Mr. Cherry received a unanimous vote. "This is one of those decisions that I prayed about a lot. The board's full approval was yet another confirmation of answered prayer."

Cherry is a Certified Public Accountant and an Attorney at Law. He is involved in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Arkansas Bar Association, the Gideon's

International, the Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society, and The National Society of Leadership and Success.

Kimbrow added, "While the search yielded some very qualified candidates, Paul has the blend of education, expertise, and character that make him a perfect fit for Central Baptist College."

Cherry and his wife, Shirley, have two daughters, Elizabeth and Katherine, and have been foster parents to more than nine children.



▲ Paul Cherry

Auxiliaries

Beside still waters

By SHARON COLE

The National WMA will convene April 21, 2015 at the University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, Missouri with registration beginning at 8 a.m. and the meeting beginning at 9 a.m. The theme is taken from Psalm 23:2, "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside still waters." The special speaker for the program is Mrs. Pat Quesenbury.

Remember to keep raising funds for the project: Hope for Health and Healing: BMMI-Laos. To have your funds reported in the program book, you need to get your project money in to Mrs. Pat Duncan by Feb. 28, 2015. Contact information: Mrs. Pat Duncan, P.O. Box 30, Hardy, Arkansas 72542. Money will be collected up until the meeting in April, but, because of printing deadlines, funds received after Feb. 28 will not appear in the program book. A memorial page will be included in the program book to honor the ladies in your church that have passed on in the last five years. Please send their name, date of death and church name to: Shirlene Smith at arthursmith@bayspringstel.net. A luncheon is being planned in the University Plaza Hotel to honor all Missionary wives, Pastor's Wives and Widows. We wish to show honor to these ladies who have served faithfully along-side their husbands in the ministry.

The Texas WMA is helping with the expenses of this luncheon. In the annual meeting last November an offering of \$150 was received to be designated in honor or in memory of someone special. The following Pastor's Wives honored are: Michelle Ayers, Ida Waddell, Audrey Dry, Lavonne Renfro, Ann Pugh, and Ginger Jones. In memory was Peggy Valentine. The National WMA officers desire your prayers as they prepare for this meeting.

District News

CHEROKEE DISTRICT WMA met Jan. 13, 2015 with Cornerstone, Jacksonville, with 37 present. We enjoyed good fellowship and a wonderful meal of soups and desserts. At 7 p.m., President Rose Bowen called the meeting to order and presided over the opening exercises. She then shared her testimony with everyone. Due to illness, Song Leader, Kitty Downey, submitted her resignation. A great 'thank you' was sent to Kitty Downey and Glenda Haynes for making the WMA yearbook. Each church agreed to help with a Paper Shower for Jacksonville College cafeteria in their need for supplies of cutlery, paper towels, cups, and plates. Bro. Gerald Orr presented a program of beautiful music which was a blessing to all. The attendance banner was presented to Enterprise Baptist Church. The next meeting will be April 14, 2015 at Mt. Selman, Bullard.

MT. OLIVE DISTRICT WMA met Jan. 27, 2015 with Old Center, Tenaha at 6:30 p.m. with 13 present for a fellowship meal, quarterly business and program. President Nelda Salas, brought the meeting to order presiding over the opening. Second vice president Shawn Norris introduced the program, "Out With the Old, In With the New." Jean Armstrong of Old Center beautifully sang acapella, "I Can't Even Walk Without You Holding My Hand." Shawn related that we need to de-clutter our house of



things that crowd out the important things and also de-clutter our personal lives with God's leadership to develop new things that will honor Him. Bro. Wayne Wimberly led in prayer to dedicate this program and everyone's effort to continue serving the Lord through WMA. In closing Shawn read Phil.3:14. Next meeting will be April 28, 2015 at Antioch Baptist Church, Carthage.

VAN ZANDT DISTRICT GMA Houseparty was held Jan. 16-17, 2015 at Old Bethel, Canton. Rebekah Holmes from Tundra, Canton, was recognized as Van Zandt District Miss GMA, and Kaitlynn Crudginton from Oak Grove, Canton, was recognized as Van Zandt Jr. Miss GMA. Fifteen girls were recognized for passing steps in 2014. Breakout sessions were led by individual girls according to grade levels. Texas GMA President McKenna Wilson and Teel Witt were our special guests. A fun time of fellowship was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Mission Books

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

raised from the sale of the books went to the mission work of the missionary the book was written about. We still have 2 books that have not all sold: "The Arringtons in Bolivia" and "The Heflins in Costa Rica." We almost have the last book paid for, so most of the future sales will go to the works of the missionaries. You can help by buying these books. The good news is we have a bargain for you. If you buy the Heflin book, then we will give you the Arrington book free. The books normally sell for \$5, but since it takes postage to mail them, we are selling them for \$7.50. Please order some soon. State how many copies of "The Heflins in Costa Rica" you want for \$7.50 per copy and understand that you receive "The Arringtons in Bolivia" free. Enclose your name, address and check and mail to: Texas WMA, Jo Strong, 149 NW Suzanne Terrace, Burleson, Texas 76028.

TEXAS WMA PROJECT 2014-2015: 90 percent ASHRAF & JENNY SARA... 10 percent YOUTH FUND--GOAL:\$15,000

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.



Sunday School Lessons

The truth of God

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: February 22, 2015

TEXT: John 17:1-8, 14, 17

In our text, Jesus is thanking the Father for those of us whom the Father gave to him, and how the truth of God, which was delivered by the Son, was manifest, and verified. John 17:8 says, *“For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.”*

The truth of God was corroborated by the Son. Truth has no problem being tested. It loves to be revealed by the light.

When someone walks in truth, and lives a lifestyle of truth, he or she never has to look over their shoulder and wonder who will catch them in a lie. My Father gave me many brief “sound bites” as he was raising me, which I took to heart and never forgot. One of them was, “Son, if you always tell the truth, you never have to remember what you said.”

When studying about truth, it is important that we know the consequences in a life which veers from the truth. What are people’s motives for lying? (1) To cover up our past indiscretions; (2) To bolster our image; (3) to cast aspersions on others because we are threatened by them; (4) to manipulate other people, or the system to our advantage; (5) Some people just get a perverted thrill out of spreading lies.

Be assured God the Father has no need to cover up anything in His past; He has no need to bolster His image, because He is the great “I AM.” No image is higher, and no one else can aspire to it. He has no need to destroy or manipulate the system or others, because He created “the system” and humanity, and is infinitely superior to all other creatures, hence not only does He deem untruth

as evil, He never has a need to resort to it. In fact, He cannot resort to it, because He cannot lie. Titus 1:2b.

Our lesson today is “The Truth of God.” God the Father doesn’t just know the truth; He doesn’t just speak the truth; He doesn’t just advocate that His children live in truth; but the fact is, He is the truth. He can no more tell a lie than the sun can project cold. He is the truth – and that truth is no less embodied by Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Among His many attributes in our lives, the Holy Spirit, according to John 16:13, will “. . . guide you into all truth.”

When Thomas asked Jesus how the disciples could “know the way.” Jesus’ retort was, *“I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.”* John 14:6 He doesn’t just know the truth, He is the truth. He is also the way and the life. He assures Thomas of being able to be followed.

In stark contrast to truth, the scripture tells us Satan is the father of all lies. He is the inventor of the lie, and has modeled it in many forms. In the garden he delivered his first lie against God — *“Ye shall not surely die.”* he said trying to entice Eve to partake of the forbidden fruit, which God had already said consuming it would lead to spiritual death. Satan also delivered the first “half truth” when he told Eve that, upon partaking of the tree, *“ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”* He led her to believe she would possess all the deity of God, but left off the truth of “spiritual death.”

Satan is also the inventor of all profane babblings which are spawned from a lifestyle of lies. Paul exhorted the Ephesians to refrain from “filthiness, foolish talking, and jesting.” Jestings is a smooth way to degrade an individual to his or her face with a double entendre, which could sound complimentary, but is really

slandrous. Paul says such language is *“not fitting.”* But there is a language which is *“good to the use of edifying. . . and will minister grace to the hearer.”* Ephesians 4:29. That’s the truth of a Holy, righteous God.

The truth of God ministers, builds up, soothes, and reassures. It can be trusted 100 percent. In His personal ministry on earth, Jesus’ every word was truth and it ministered grace. Even in His rebuke, He exuded love, mercy and grace. Is it any wonder people sat on the edge of their seats, for hours, on a hillside in a blistering desert heat, hanging on His every word?

Jesus Christ, Who embodies truth, ministered to people with it. He likewise calls His children to do likewise.

Editor’s Note: Bro. Gary House served as the writer of our Sunday school lessons for the past few years, as he did at another time several years before. Just before we went to press with this issue, word came to us that Bro. House had passed away. Please be in prayer for his sweet wife, Lola, and their entire family. Bro. House was a faithful servant of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I appreciate his contribution to Baptist Progress as a writer and trustee. Even more, I appreciate his personal friendship to me. He will be missed. Thanks to Bro. Paul Gauntt for preparing the current lesson, as Bro. House was not able due to being hospitalized.

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



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**BROTHERS, MY HEART'S DESIRE
AND PRAYER TO GOD FOR THEM
IS THAT THEY MAY BE SAVED.**

ROMANS 10:1



Naghmeh Abedini



Julio Arriola



Joseph Bollin



Michael Catt



Leo Day



Jimmy Draper



Mark Estep



D.A. Horton



Mike Landry



Jack Graham



Chad Grayson



Greg Laurie



Fred Lowery



John Meador



Vance Pitman



Seloh



Kyle Sherman



Tullian Tchividjian



K. Marshall Williams, Sr.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS
FEBRUARY 23**

Session 1 1:00 - 2:30

Session 2 2:45 - 4:15



Russ Barksdale



Dave Earley



D.A. Horton



Aubrey Malphurs



Jim Shaddix



Joel Southerland

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