

Baptist Progress

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How Will You Outlive Your Life?

Think for a moment about your future. How do you want to be remembered by your children, grandchildren, and beyond? Long after you've gone home, what legacy do you hope you'll have left?

Most people hope they will leave a legacy of love and kindness. A believer will most likely hope they left a godly legacy that led people to the Lord.

This World Missions Day, we at BMA Missions hope you will consider honoring the *Legacy of Hope* that so many missionaries have left, leading countless souls to the kingdom. We also hope you will remember those in your own church family who have left a lasting legacy in your community for Christ. Together, let's honor those who have faithfully followed the Lord throughout their lifetime.

As we honor those who have left a godly legacy, let's follow their example by investing in the mission of God *today*. Let's pledge to *outlive our lives* by giving toward ministries across the globe that may currently seem small, but will grow to produce disciples and churches for generations to come.

On Feb. 24, 2019, as your church celebrates World Missions Day, we encourage you to take up an offering for world missions in honor of a legacy member (or members) within your congregation. When you register for this event, include the name of your legacy member(s) in the space provided, and we will send you a certificate to present to them on World Missions Day.

Additionally, when you register for World Missions Day, we will send you complimentary bulletin inserts and posters to promote the event, and your pastor will receive a free BMA Missions fleece vest. Register your church online at bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday, by emailing Paige West at paige@bmamissions.org, or over the phone by calling the Missions office at 501-455-4977.

Choose to "*outlive your life*" this Feb. 24 by giving funds to invest in missionaries who work daily to share the hope of Christ around the world.

A Legacy of Hope

MISSIONS
baptist missionary association of america

2019 World Missions Day
February 24, 2019



WWW.BMATEXAS.ORG



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United Thanksgiving Offering

Thank you to the following who gave to the 2018 United Thanksgiving Offering. Your contributions are divided on a percentage basis between *Baptist Progress*, the Baptist Missionary Loan Association, BMA of Texas Missions, Jacksonville College and the Texas Baptist Home for Children.

Antioch, Fairfield	750.00	Little Hope, Quitman	100.00
Antioch, Gilmer	593.00	Little Mound, Big Sandy	500.00
Antioch, Palestine	300.00	Macedonia, Etoile	100.00
Beacon Hill, Waco	1,000.00	Macune, San Augustine	1,560.00
Beech Grove, Jasper	750.00	Magnolia Springs, Magnolia Springs	300.00
Bethel of White Rock, Dallas	600.00	Mahl, Nacogdoches	817.00
Bethel, Livingston	178.50	Martins Prairie, Anderson	1,000.00
BMA of Smith County	1,000.00	Mayfield, George	100.00
Burchett, Ryan and Lindsie	145.00	Milligan, Theresa	100.00
Calvary, Centerville	100.00	Mt. Lebanon, Grand Saline	200.00
Calvary, Ennis	250.00	Mt. Pisgah, Mineola	6,290.00
Calvary, Fairfield	1,336.85	Mt. Selman, Bullard	271.00
Camille Acres, Longview	500.00	Myrtle Springs, Quitman	310.00
Caney, Sulphur Springs	1,480.00	New Beginnings, Ferris	539.00
Cave, Patty	100.00	New Harmony, Tyler	100.00
Center Hill, Oakhurst	1,000.00	New Hope, Mineola	388.00
Central, Aspermont	1,500.00	New Hope, New Waverly	200.00
Central, Mineola	100.00	New Salem, Centerville	1,000.00
Clover Hill, Quitman	100.00	Nichols, Willie and Nora	25.00
Ebenezer Friendship, Pittsburg	227.00	North Liberty, Sulphur Springs	21.25
Ebenezer, Huntsville	367.00	Oak Grove, Canton	225.00
Eighth Avenue, Teague	190.00	Old Home, Joaquin	114.00
Enon First, Iola	300.00	Pecan, Robert Lee	911.00
Fair Park, Tyler	200.00	Phillips, M.	1,000.00
Farley Street, Waxahachie	1,390.21	Pilgrims Rest, Emory	500.00
Fellowship, Edinburg	786.00	Prairie Valley, Whitney	60.00
Fifth Street, Levelland	70.00	Red Springs, Tyler	392.00
First Missionary, Cockrell Hill	115.00	Richland Heights, Grand Saline	141.00
First Missionary, Terrell	465.00	Rocky Hill, Huntington	283.00
First of Providence, Livingston	509.00	Rose Hill, Mineola	312.00
First, Jacksonville	1,070.00	Rosewood, Gilmer	3,500.00
First, Palmer	1,500.00	Sand Flat, Grand Saline	210.00
Forest Hill, Amarillo	2,000.00	Sardis, Henderson	187.00
Forest Hill, Quitman	1,500.00	Shady Grove, DeBerry	170.00
Freestone, Teague	268.00	Sheridan Terrace, Palestine	95.00
Friendship, Jacksonville	313.10	Soda, Livingston	100.00
Glade Creek, Gilmer	1,500.00	Stokes, Nancy or BR or Kim	25.00
Grays Prairie, Scurry	725.00	Wallis, Angie	50.00
Greenpond, Como	1,000.00	Walnut Street, Winnsboro	818.00
Jackson, Joaquin	521.00	Ward Prairie, Fairfield	550.00
Jones, Karla or Herbert	100.00	Weeks Chapel, Jasper	1,000.00
Leggett, Leggett	300.00	Winterfield, Pickton	335.00
Liberty, Henderson	600.00	Zion Hill, Jasper	500.00
Little Flock, Jewett	1,500.00	TOTAL	\$54,698.91

How to make your pastor happy

By PAUL GAUNTT

Pastor of First, Palmer

Today, I am a happy pastor of a great church.

One of the reasons I am happy is because the church gives her pastor liberty—wobble room if you will—to operate and to move in and out amongst them, and the community with joy and freedom rather than coercion—to choose his own study schedule.

When Dr. W.A. Criswell began his long tenure at the church in downtown Dallas in 1944, he told them, “If you’ll give me the mornings, I will give you the afternoons and evenings.” As long as he was pastor, he arose early in the morning, and without dressing, shaving or having breakfast, he walked into his study which adjoined his bedroom, and there he communed with God, studied and prayed until noon.

As a result of some outstanding leadership in the past, my church has inscribed into a church manual, guidelines concerning the pastor’s duties and privileges. And those duties and privileges have to do with feeding the flock from the Word, casting vision, and meeting needs as well seeking to inspire and empower the flock to likewise get involved in ministry. I don’t have to come to church conference and ask them to vote on whether or not my expenses are paid to the state and national association—it is already inscribed in the manual. I don’t have to do plumbing work, drive nails, paint or mow. Not that I wouldn’t do it, but they not only do not expect it, they would rather I didn’t—largely because they recognize the biblical mandate of the pastorate, but also because they recognize that their pastor’s ministry gifts do not lie in construction work.

But I have had the experience of being in a church with a small group that tended to keep reins on the pastor and his schedule. No matter how hard one may preach from 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1 or 1 Peter 5, about the pastor’s job description, some in the church feel the pastorate should be governed by a time clock, like any industrial or sales and service occupation. At that church, it seemed we were “hitting a wall” concerning progress and growth - no matter how hard I tried. But when God gave my wife and me, those long-awaited babies, there were two phenomenons that occurred. For some unknown reason, immediately after the babies were born, attendance soared, even when the pastor stayed home until late morning or afternoons to help tend to the babies. It was as if God said, “Now that I have the pastor out of the way, I can show this church that it’s My strength which causes her to flourish.”

But it was a catch 22. The church was growing—but due to the pastor not being in pocket as much, a committee sought to have the secretary to keep a log of when he arrived each day and when he left—which, thankfully, she refused to do. Such shenanigans will prevail in a church where people have no clue as to the scriptural mandate of the office of pastor.

Western culture dictates that every job, whether service or industry oriented, should involve punching a time clock. But God dictates to the pastor that one day he alone will give an account to Him for the spiritual

growth of the church.

I have told churches on occasion (which I confess was not born out of a kind spirit) that I would be happy to punch a time clock. But when I clock out at 5 p.m., do not disturb me until I punch in the next morning at 9.

The church’s understanding of the pastor’s need for flexibility and understanding, will cause it to be a joy to be at the hospital at 6 a.m. for a surgery—or a meeting which lasts into late night. A pastor does not feel imposed upon, when he gets a call in the wee hours that a member’s loved one just passed away. That’s because love drives genuine ministry. When ministry is coerced, it is reduced to drudgery and a hollow act. If this is what drives a pastor’s “ministry” it may be time for that pastor to find something else.

Scripture says the pastor-teacher is to feed and lead the flock of God. He is not to be given to wine, not a brawler, and he is definitely not to neglect the spiritual needs of his own household. He is not to lord his authority over God’s heritage, as a dictator. He is not to manipulate people into faithfulness. To do so is to train a people to serve him rather than God. When that happens, scripture is violated.

One of the saddest meetings I ever attended was 36 years ago when I, along with a church member, traveled to California to attend John McArthur’s Shepherd’s Conference at Grace Community Church of Sun Valley. During one of the sessions, after McArthur’s presentation, the floor was opened up to the 300-plus ministers in attendance to share their hearts about ministry. One pastor stood and, while almost choking on his tears, said, “I have enjoyed this meeting more than I can say. But when I return home, I will resign my church, turn in my ordination paper, and donate my library to a seminary. I’m doing this because my son has committed a heinous crime, and will spend years in the penitentiary. Therefore, I feel I am no longer qualified to be a pastor.”

The men gathered around him—likewise broken hearted, and prayed for him and encouraged him.

Church member, never be critical of your pastor when you see him in the front yard passing a football with his boys—or when he faithfully attends the junior high football game to support his cheerleader daughter. If he chooses to take his wife out on a date rather than to attend the potluck supper at the church, accept it with joy. The alternative may be to have a pastor and wife whose marriage is floundering—when that happens, you will likely be calling another pastor soon. It’s sad to say, but many ministers’ marriages fall apart because of the pressures of the work; many children of pastors grow up and become embittered toward church because of the heavy load that was placed on their shoulders to be holy.

Your pastor has no greater fulfillment in this life than to preach to, minister to, and love his flock. Please see to it that he does it with great joy and not coercion.



Starvation. Polluted water. Death. The War Between the States was thought by many to be a short-term struggle; instead it became four of the bloodiest years in our nation’s history. Unprepared for the devastating consequences, hastily devised prison camps were woefully inadequate with insufficient food, supplies and medical care. Most notorious for suffering and death were Camp Douglas near Chicago and the prison camp near Andersonville, Georgia. The latter is the setting where this true story happened.

A little stream known as Sweetwater Branch flowed through the center of the camp and was used for bathing, drinking, washing clothes and cooking. Wells dug by prisoners proved insufficient when the Sweetwater Branch became polluted. Thousands died. Without rain, no one could survive. All hope was gone. Until an Army sergeant, also referred to as preacher, called the men together. In the open stockade of Andersonville Prison Camp he asked every man who believed in prayer to join him in begging God for rain. Without a cloud in the sky, they pledged to pray until it rained. Within three days the clouds gathered and a thunderstorm struck. Not only did it rain but a lightning bolt struck the ground just outside the camp and opened up a large spring of fresh water, but it all flowed away from the camp. To everyone’s surprise, the once cruel camp commandant, Captain Henri Wirz, brought Confederate soldiers with shovels and redirected the spring water into the camp. No one doubted that this fresh artesian water was God’s answer to their prayers and they named it Providence Spring.

Joseph Keyworth, born in England in 1832, came to the United States and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1862. Joseph was a prisoner at Andersonville and shared this story with his family. Joe Buck was his grandson and was my husband’s cousin. In 1954, Coy traveled with Joe and his family to Andersonville Prison Camp and the fresh spring water was still flowing. Was Providence Spring a miracle? Can a lightning strike open a spring? It doesn’t seem possible but all who witnessed it agree. A plaque has been erected onsite which reads: *A thunderbolt fell with omnipotent ring and opened the fountain of Providence Spring.*

This story, written by my husband, reminded me of another dramatic display of power when God answered Elijah’s prayer on Mt. Carmel. King Ahab was the worst of the worse, and he didn’t help himself by marrying Jezebel! God’s judgment fell hard and heavy, withholding rain for more than three years! When He was ready, God sent Elijah back in for a stunning victory! What a visual aid! It was an amazing presentation of God’s commanding authority as fire fell, consuming the burnt sacrifice—the wood—the stones—the dust, even licking up the water in the trench. Defying the natural laws of science, God showed up in a big way to answer one man’s prayer. (from 1 Kings 16-19).

He is the same powerful God today! As the song says, He’s our Way Maker, our Miracle Worker and Promise Keeper. May this new year find us on our knees: praying, trusting, expecting Him to show up for us in a mighty way! Wishing you a blessed 2019!

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.



Liberty Association hosts seminary rally

By **CHARLES JOHNSON**

Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer

Liberty Baptist Association held a rally for BMA Theological Seminary Dec. 13 at Woodland Baptist Church near Gilmer. A total of 13 churches were represented at the meeting.

Messengers and guests were welcomed by Woodland Pastor David Mayhan. Liberty moderator Bro. Wayne McKay presided over the business session in which 2018 minute yearbooks were distributed and approved.

Bro. Ricky Williams, veteran BMA missionary to Mexico and current coordinator of the Hispanic studies at the seminary, presented the evening's program. He gave a power-point presentation of the seminary's reach into the nations of Argentina, Chile, Peru, Costa Rica, Mexico and several points in the United States to teach and train Hispanic pastors and workers.

Bro. Williams set up a simulated demonstration of how professors teach weekly classes, three nights per week, to Hispanic students in North, Central and South America. Through the use of cell phones and the worldwide web, several Hispanic pastors were able to give live reports to the people in attendance as Bro. Williams interpreted from Spanish to English.

Following the meeting, the host church provided refreshments in their fellowship hall. The next Liberty Association meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 17, at Antioch Baptist Church near Gilmer. This will be a rally for BMA of Texas Missions and will feature Missions Director Heith Mitchell as guest speaker.

It's time to make your reservations BMAA committee on arrangements

The 2019 session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America will meet May 6-8 at the Northwest Arkansas Convention Center in Rogers, Arkansas. The facilities and hotels are looking forward to our meeting there. Rogers' accommodations offer plenty of space for all of our meetings and lodging. We hope that you will make your reservations early. Most of the hotels can make your reservations either by phone or online, **but you must specify that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of America.**

The Embassy Suites Hotel, 3303 Pinnacle Hills Parkway, Rogers, AR, will serve as our headquarters hotel for the annual meeting in Rogers. The Embassy Suites adjoins the convention center to provide the easiest access to all of the association meetings and activities. Here is the contact information for the hotel.

Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas (Headquarters Hotel), 3303 Pinnacle Hills Parkway, Rogers, AR: (Single/Double, \$149 per night; Triple, \$159.00; Quad, \$169) (Standard Double or King room). Telephone reservations: 479-254-8400. Complimentary self-parking for all guests (Valet parking is available). Full breakfast included. Reservation cutoff date is April 14, 2019.

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

• **Candlewood Suites, 4601 West Rozell, Rogers, AR:** (Studio suite, 2 full-size beds: \$99.00). Telephone

reservations: 479-636-2783. Reservation cutoff date is April 19, 2019.

• **Country Inns & Suites, 4304 West Walnut, Rogers, AR:** (Standard two queen or one king suite: \$129.00). Telephone reservations: 479-633-0055. Use Group Code: 0505BMAOFA. Reservation cutoff date is April 5, 2019.

• **Hyatt Place, 4610 West Walnut, Rogers, AR:** (\$116.00). Telephone reservations: 479-633-8555. Reservation cutoff date is April 1, 2019.

• **Fairfield Inn & Suites, 4611 Rozell Road, Rogers, AR:** (Single: \$99.00; Double/Double: \$99.00; Executive King: \$109.00). Telephone reservations: 479-936-5900. Use Group Code: SMERF. Reservation cutoff date is April 20, 2019.

• **Hampton Inn, 4501 West Walnut, Rogers, AR:** (Double Queen: \$144.00). Telephone reservations: 479-986-0500. Reservation cutoff date is April 6, 2019.

• **Aloft Rogers-Bentonville, 1103 S 52nd Street, Rogers, AR:** (King: \$119.00). Telephone reservations: 479-268-6799. Reservation cutoff date is April 5, 2019.

The association has incurred penalty payments in some years because we did not use our full block of rooms. Please help us avoid a situation like that this year. We appreciate your help.

— *Jerome Cooper, Bill Thornton, and Daniel Williams*

Obituaries

Former manager of BMAWeb and longtime pastor called home

RANDAL MARVIN SESSIONS

Graveside services for Randy Sessions 62, of Bryan were held Friday, Dec. 28, 2018 at Red Hill Cemetery with Bro. Eddie Marsh and Bro. Mike Cross officiating under the direction of Autry's Carroll-Lehr Funeral Home, Athens.

Randy was born March 23, 1956 in Athens to the late Marvin Oscar and Ella Jo Hopson Sessions. He was raised in Brownsboro where he attended Opelika Missionary Baptist Church and graduated from Brownsboro High School. His faith led him into the ministry where he spent over 40 years pastoring.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers; Ronnie and Billy Richard, sisters; Iva Nell Eyster, Joyce Adams and Peggy Coldiron.

Survivors include his wife of 44 years, Karen Sessions, of Bryan; daughters, Rachel Cross and husband Mike of Bullard, Rebekah Andrews and



husband Russell of Center; son, Joe Nicholas Sessions and wife Brittany of Amarillo; grandchildren, James Michael, Caleb, and Raelyn Cross, Kaydee, Haylee, and Jacob Sessions, Seth, John, Sara, Madylyn, and Gabriel Davis; sisters, JoAnne Caldwell of Brownsboro, Beverly Knickerbocker of Ben Wheeler, Gail Smitty of Rusk, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Former Ellis-Hill pastor called home

KEVIN LEE LEWIS

Kevin Lee Lewis, 57, went home to meet his Lord and Savior early on Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2018. Kevin was born in Ennis on July 14, 1961 to Roy Lee and Linda (Jones) Lewis. He grew up in Bristol and graduated from Ennis High School in 1979. He went on to Navarro College to receive his Associates Degree in Business. After much prayer and seeking the Lord's guidance he married the love of his life Sandra Bell on April 20, 1985. They made their home in Bristol.

His mission in life was to always be a servant



of God and he ministered wherever he was in the community and at church. He worked for AmeriCase as a Operations Manager. He was a member of Baylor Baptist Church of Ennis where he was a Sunday school teacher and was always willing to help in any capacity in the church. He was honored to participate in numerous mission trips. He enjoyed Texas Ranger's Baseball and Ennis Football. His first priority was serving the Lord and his family was the light of his life.

He will be remembered by all those he touched in his life here but his memory will be held closest by his loving family including his wife of thirty-three years, Sandra Lewis; son, Joshua Lewis; daughter, Sueanna Adamcik and husband, Alex; mother, Linda Lewis; brother, Kyle Lewis and wife, Bobbie; nephews: Rudy Edwards, Gary Bell, Justin Smith, Jake Lewis; nieces: Mandi Angell, Emma Hutchins, Presley Gullatt; numerous great nieces and nephews who adored him along with a host of extended family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his father, Roy Lee Lewis.

A Celebration of his life was Saturday, Dec. 29, 2018 at Baylor Baptist Church of Ennis with Bro. Grady Cashion and Bro. Chet Hensley officiating.



CHURCH HEALTH

Start Building

By LARRY BARKER

The New Year is here and as we enter this new opportunity, we need to think of focusing on what needs our attention. If we desire healthy growing churches then we must start doing the things that will help us to be healthy and will enable us to also stay healthy. Our physical and spiritual health depends on diet, exercise, getting the proper rest, and some other important activities. Last week we stressed the need to stop doing the things that are only digging the hole deeper. This week we will focus on the things we need to be doing!

What habits do you need to commit to in the New Year? If you are going to build up and help others then you need to make sure you are practicing self-care also. What plans do you have to care for your own soul spiritually, emotionally, socially, physically, and mentally? Dr. Steve Crawley says, “To revisit a thought shared previously, if we use our *Life Plan* to establish a habit of doing the little things each day that lead to success, it may not seem like much to start, but, over the course of time the impact will sky rocket.”

First, we need to be praying! This is where we need to begin, on our knees before our God begging Him for His power and direction. Are you praying for your church leaders, church family and for your community daily? When Nehemiah saw the need in Jerusalem, we see this godly leader stop, fast and pray. How much time are you actually spending crying out to God on behalf of the spiritual condition of your church? One source has reported that 90 percent of evangelicals pray approximately one minute a day!

Second, practice courageous leadership! When God does show you the things you need to be doing, obey! The congregation needs to face the truth of their spiritual condition and godly leaders need to provide that truth no matter how painful it might be. People need to hear the truth whether they embrace it or not. The real challenge of leadership is convincing people that the pain of where they need to go is not as painful as staying where they are. Think children of Israel! They were convinced they would be better off returning to Egypt.

Third, structure the ministry in your church to get more people involved. We have even gotten to where we need a committee to determine who will be on the committees. Some churches that are already struggling think that getting more structure will fix everything and it just does not work that way. Focus on moving people out of meetings and into ministry. In *The Unstuck Church*, Tony Morgan says, “I’d much rather have people invest their time, gifts and energy in making disciples than in making decisions in a church committee meeting.”



Fourth, you must sell-out in developing and implementing a discipleship pathway. Jesus said, “Go and make disciples.” Read great books on discipleship such as *The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert Coleman and *Real-Life Discipleship* by Jim Putman. Most churches do well at the big circle (worship), the middle circle (Bible studies), but struggle at one-on-one discipleship that promotes spiritual mentoring and accountability. Take a break from working in the ministry only and take the time to step back and work on your discipleship plan.

Fifth, consider changing your church governance system if it is unhealthy or dysfunctional. Is your structure modeling what spiritual leadership should look like? The primary purpose of church leadership is not to keep the pastor and staff in line. Their primary role should be to encourage and enable their pastor to lead the way God intended. Find a structure that recognizes that God often allows the leader to see the direction and challenges first. All too often a pastor is desired and asked to use their pastoral gifts more than their leadership gifts.

Sixth, work hard at remaining outwardly focused. Yes, to some I am sounding like a broken record but to be like Christ we must seek out the lost. Almost everything we do is for people who are already connected to the church. It is not possible to be healthy if we never do much to reach people outside the faith and outside the church. Our evangelism approach may look different today than it did in 1970, but the mission and heart of God remains unchanged. You cannot necessarily expect to return

to the method of the 70’s but we can return to the value!

Seventh, work on building the systems you need to sustain growth. As important as systems are you must make sure you keep it simple! Complexity actually hurts more than it helps. For example, we think we have a discipleship pathway when in reality what we have is a multitude of programs that teach Bible lessons. Of course, teaching the Bible is a good thing but you must look closely at your spiritual growth system to make sure it is actually producing multiplying disciples. Can you trace multiplication to the fourth generation? (2 Timothy 2:2)

BMA Missions defines our vision statement as a discipleship-based multiplication of disciples, leaders and churches. Courageous conversations are necessary for your church to figure out how to engage your community and make a difference for the cause of Christ. Quoting Tony Morgan again, he says that, “We easily become fixated on being the “best” church in our community, rather than being the best church for our community!” Methods should never become more important than the mission. Are you seeing a multiplication of disciples who are discipling others?

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



Manners and More Manners



By **DR. JOHN M. ADAMS**

The little things really do count. They actually count for much more than we think. We call them the “Golden Rules of Life.” They are consistently talked of in the Word of God. So, it is impossible to overstate the need and the importance of mannerisms that please God and that help life go better.

Someone states that they are riding at full speed a life of harshness, awful manners, bad temperament and an attitude of selfishness. So, if you’re riding that horse at full speed and you’re being chased by a lion and there’s a giraffe in the way in front of you, how do you escape? Get off the carousel! You and I can improve our daily manners and make our life better. Get off the carousel!

ABOUT THE BIBLE AND MANNERS

Solid guidelines about good etiquette and social/family life start our heart to singing. When someone follows proper etiquette and expected rules, we say that person has good manners. I Corinthians 10:31 says “*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*”

Our Heavenly Father desires for Christian behavior to glorify Him. These good manners help point individuals that watch us, to a better life and to possibly a saving relationship to Jesus Christ. When we carry the love of Jesus with us, our good manners affects the way others see our Savior and Lord.

2 Timothy 2:22-26 says, “*Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.*”

Ephesians 6:1-3 says, “*Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;*

that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”

ABOUT THE FAMILY AND MANNERS

In the world of mannerisms, we should not disrespect family by failing to use good manners. Many family members have done some pretty amazing things for us. Grandparents, parents, children, aunts/uncles, nieces/nephews, and the larger family deserve the words “thank you”, please and many compliments. These thoughts are for every age group, young and old.

Around the family house, avoid being lazy and listless. Make eye contact as you talk and share, put the cell phone down especially at the table, learn to shake hands and hugs are always in vogue.

Manners and etiquette certainly help around your home. Clean faces, decent and clean clothes, clean hair, soft speech, and kind voices. Our appearance and our words need to say who we are as followers of Christ. These type things reflect on your family and what your parents and teachers have taught you.

From the writings of Mary Dell Harrington on motherhood, she declared “that good family etiquette suggests gratitude rather than entitlement.” She reminded us that “manners are something that people will remember about us.”

ABOUT THE SMALL THINGS AND MANNERS

Research tell us that being kind to others makes us happier. Just so, our Bible has declared this before any research. Manners are written all over Ephesians 4:32, “*And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.*” Then Paul declares in Ephesians 5:1 “Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children.”

Manners in the small things of everyday life says “*I love and care for you. Your fellowship is more important than my feelings.*” Use good manners that will please our Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

WHAT ARE THE BEST MANNERS TO TEACH CHILDREN?

Here are what I consider to be the 10 most important

manners.

While many of these seem like common sense, children don’t know what’s expected of them until you explain it. Make your expectations clear, and then model it yourself so they can see good manners in action.

1. Say please.
2. Say thank you.
3. Apologize.
4. Smile and have a good attitude.
5. Make small talk.
6. Ask questions of others. (Showing interest)
7. Say excuse me.
8. Compliment others.
9. Share.
10. Treat others the way you want to be treated.

HOW DO CHRISTIANS REINFORCE GOOD MANNERS IN YOUR FAMILY (COPIED)

- Read a book about manners.
- Give your kids “the talk” before going to school, a friend’s house, or relatives’ house.
- Create your own list of family manners. Focus on the ones that are important for your own family.
- Make a manners competition within your house. Have a sticker chart for every family member and give each other points for using good manners. At the end of the week, let the winner pick dessert for the night or to choose a fun family activity.

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



2019 Moral Action USA Goals

By **DR. JOHN ADAMS**

Moral Action Executive Director

The joy to work alongside our BMA family is evident everywhere Mrs. Adams and I attend in behalf of Moral Action.

Our “God and Country” rallies have been and are a great stimulant to the Moral Action efforts. It allows us to enjoy our God, our country, our families, and our churches. BMA ministries have some of the finest people to serve and a great God to represent. So, I salute BMA missions, radio, publications, schools/colleges, etc.

THESE ARE OUR MORAL ACTION MINISTRY GOALS:

1. To be in the center of God’s will with this agency.
2. To present Jesus Christ as the Savior of all who will call upon Him.
3. To encourage the BMA family to daily intercede for the President of the U.S.A. and his cabinet that they may live for God.
4. To contact new U.S. Senators and new U.S. Congressmen in D.C. in 2019.

5. To have Godly boldness in speaking up for moral values that are so needed today, and that it may encourage Godly and biblical legislation.

6. To continue the “God and Country” rallies upon invitation.

7. And to be an encourager for our BMA churches, pastors, associational workers and staff workers to stand in this sinful and diverse world.

We humbly ask for your prayers and financial support for Moral Action in 2019.



INSIGHTS *for* PASTORS

Steps to a better sermon

By **DR. ALLEN TILLEY**

Professional athletes are judged by what they do on game day, but their success on the field is the result of countless hours of study and preparation before the big game. In the same way, effective preaching involves more than just showing up on Sunday. We must carefully and diligently spend adequate time in mining the nuggets of truth found in God's Word. Here are seven tips for building a better sermon.

Pray. Every spiritual activity should begin with prayer. Bathe your sermon preparation with petitions, asking God to speak to your heart and illuminate His Word in your mind. Don't be in such a rush that you miss this crucial step, but don't stop there. Throughout your sermon preparation, maintain an attitude of prayer.

Start earlier. Just as it takes time for a seed to grow and blossom, powerful sermons aren't created overnight. By starting as soon as possible, you give the Holy Spirit time to bring the Word alive, teaching you insights that you will never discover if you hurry. I enjoy preaching through the books of the Bible. This way I always know from where my next sermon is coming. If time allows, ask the church if you can have an annual sermon sabbatical for at least a week (not a vacation), so you can prepare your preaching schedule.

Drink deep. Once you know your passage, read from a variety of commentaries to gather as much information about

the text as possible. By using commentaries, I've often found new insights that I never knew were there. Most pastors are not fluent with the Greek and Hebrew, so I suggest that you invest in a Bible software like Logos or WordSearch. By clicking on a specific word, it will give you the word in the original language and its meaning, providing a greater understanding of the verse. Of course, don't neglect your study of the passage.

Include illustrations. Illustrations are like windows; they provide your listeners with the opportunity to see your text and how it applies to their lives. Illustrations can come from life experiences, current events, stories, and even other passages from the Bible. Just be sure the illustration is relevant and that it relates the Bible truth.

Make it practical. More than impressing people, you want them to take the Bible home and use it in their everyday lives. While every church member should know what the Bible teaches, it won't do them any good until they apply it. Be intentional in helping your people understand what they should do as a result of the sermon.

Rewrite, rewrite, rewrite. Why is this important? Very few things are done well the first time, even for seasoned pastors. Rewriting allows you to spot redundancies, overused words, and confusing statements. Spend time going over

your sermon to be sure that it says what you meant. Nothing is more embarrassing than not communicating clearly and correctly.

Practice. The adage "practice makes perfect" applies to preachers as well. By practicing your sermon, you will be familiar with it so that you don't have to rely solely on your notes, making you more available to the leadership of the Holy Spirit as you preach. Practicing will also help you time your sermon, so you don't go too long.

As for me, being a fulltime pastor, I spend on average of about twelve hours in sermon preparation. My goal is to be the world's foremost expert on the passage when I preach. Preaching is an honor that carries a heavy responsibility. God will hold us accountable for what and how we delivered His 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.



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If your church currently purchases bulletins directly from Warner Press, please allow us to add your church to our customer list. *Baptist Progress* will receive a commission if you are added to our customer list. The price for your church will be the same. Just give us a call to make the change, 972-923-0756 or email editor@baptistprogress.org.



A word from your mission office

By **HEITH MITCHELL**

Your Texas Missions Movement continues to grow and expand. This month we have a new Mission starting in El Paso with Bro. Gamalier Luna. This is he and his wife, Sandra, overlooking the city they are burdened for and called to reach.



This will be a bilingual work in a bilingual city. With this mission, your Texas Missions is reaching into every region of the state. You are supporting 25 mission points in Texas.

Remember to pray for our goal:

PROJECT 2029

100 New Churches/10 years

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

A WORD FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES

CLIFF ROBERTSON—

CARPENTER'S HOUSE MISSION—LAKE JACKSON/CLUTE
DRCLIFFROBERTSONJR@GMAIL.COM

God is moving and placing a movement on our hearts. We will be making plans to expand the church and expand the kingdom through planting other churches. **PRAY FOR THIS!**



▲ **Cliff Robertson**

PRAYER NEEDS:

Pray that God will raise up the leaders we need to fulfill the vision that He has set before us.

RONNIE MILLS—

KINGDOM CHAPEL MISSION, SAGINAW/NORTH FORT WORTH
RONNIE@KCHAPEL.ORG

We're moving right along! So excited to share with you that we've been gathering now for 13 weeks and have seen the Lord do many amazing things! We had another salvation this month, and we're looking forward to baptizing at the end of January for the first time. Please continue to pray that the Lord will go before us preparing the way and establishing our steps as a church.



▲ **Ronnie Mills**

PRAYER NEEDS:

Please pray that we put into place the right leaders and continue moving in a forward direction.

MATTHEW PRATHER—

THE BRIDGE MISSION, MIDLOTHIAN/WAXAHACHIE
MATTHEW@DISCOVERTHEBRIDGE.COM

December has come and gone! It is hard to believe that we are now entering 2019. December was a fun and busy month at The

Bridge. Our church really stepped up and served in a big way in the month of December. We were able to help families in need, delivered shoe boxes through Samaritan's Purse and served at a local school we have adopted. It is exciting to see how everyone stepped up and served so well during this time of the year. During the month of December, we have continued to see new families and have seen our average attendance continue to grow. For our Christmas Eve service we had close to 70 people attend. God is continuing to use The Bridge to reach people in Ellis County. Please continue to pray for us as we start a new year.

We are excited to see what God has in store in 2019. Also please continue to pray that we would find a building to rent in the next couple of months. Thank you for your continued prayer and support.



PRAYER NEEDS:

Pray that we find an associate that helps fill one or more of the three areas that we need help with; Worship, Kids, Youth. Pray that we find a building to rent.

CRISTIAN MARTINEZ—

GRACE HARVEST BAPTIST MISSION, LUBBOCK
CRISTIAN.LMBC@GMAIL.COM

My family and I thank God for your faithful collaboration to plant a church in Lubbock whose mission is making disciples who are passionate for God's glory and are equipped to live out the gospel's mission in everything they do.

During this year God has given us the opportunity to provide around 102 people the opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus and respond in repentance and faith. Out of those people, we are connected with around 35 people in an ongoing relationship. We pray that God will help us to stay connected with them so that we can continue to proclaim and display the gospel to them. Pray with us that God will convert their hearts according to His rich mercy. Today, six of them are being discipled on a weekly basis with the hope that they will align their lives to God's mission and reproduce more disciples.

I ask your prayers on behalf of my family and the mission here in Lubbock. Please contact me to provide you more information about the mission of Lubbock such as our core values, strategy, and how you could be involved and ways to partner with us. We could also plan a visit to your church in 2019 to share these things with you.

PRAYER NEEDS:

Pray for unity in my family and among the disciples. Pray for



▲ **Matthew Prather**

fruit as we proclaim the gospel and make disciples. Pray that Satan will not take the seed of the Word from their hearts but they will obey it, grow and produce fruit.

JAIME GARCIA—

IGLESIA BAUTISTA NUEVA VIDA MISSION, GILMER/MESQUITE
JAIME.GARCIA2911@GMAIL.COM

We are favored by unity in the BMA and the example of great servants of God who for love of souls are directly involved for the growth of the heavenly Kingdom. God is motivating us to achieve goals that by our strength we would not succeed. The advice and experience are of great support to reach the greatest number of people in need of reconciliation with God through the Son and his living promise.



▲ **Jaime Garcia**

PRAYER NEEDS:

Thank you, it is of the utmost importance and of great need because it is always good to have brothers in prayer for the missionary work and the servants of God



who are with that love to the lost souls. Also help me to pray for the brothers of the church to become more involved. Pray for my family so that we will work together and with the power of God without discouragement, looking and appreciating the greatness of God's wonderful grace.

NEPTALY MOLINA—

IGLESIA BAUTISTA MISSION, NACOGDOCHES
NRMOLINA23@GMAIL.COM

Three new believers were baptized who, after being discipled, met the conditions for them. Lisbeth Saucedo (Mother) Kimberlin (15 year old daughter, 12 year old Nicholl.)



▲ **Neptaly Molina**

PRAYER NEEDS:

- 1) Spiritual life of the pastoral family of Molina Perdomo
- 2) For the New Renacer Baptist Church of Nacogdoches
- 3) For the goals for 2019
- 4) For the documents of the pastoral family
- 5) For the evangelization of Texas, EE-UU, Venezuela and the World.

CHRIS DRIVER—

WEST TEXAS MULTIPLICATION
MOVEMENT LEADER
CJDRIVER316@GMAIL.COM

Happy new year from West Texas!



▲ **Chris Driver**

Behold the Lamb



By **RALPH IZARD, M.D.**

Baptist Medical Missions International Director

“The next day, John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, ‘Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world’” John 1:29 KJV.

Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) was blessed to be allowed to work with the refugees in Athens, Greece. The refugees were from different Arabic countries and were in Greece for many different reasons. We were given the opportunity to minister to the men, women, boys and girls, both medically and spiritually. Many patients still had shrapnel in their bodies from the various wars in the region.

We were privileged to visit Mars Hill and stand in the area where the Apostle Paul preached to the intellectual elite of Athens. We also visited the Parthenon in the Acropolis of Athens, along with the ruins of many temples to pagan gods in the area.

We praise the Lord that we were able to minister to 600 people with medicine, glasses, shoes and the good news of Jesus Christ. BMMI is excited to be able to return to Athens, Greece to minister again next year.

The team then travel by air from Athens to Tel Aviv, Israel. I still get “goose pimples” when I remember singing “Jerusalem” as we went up to that holy city. Just as we turned the curve, there was Jerusalem! Another exciting moment was when we could view the Eastern Gate from Mount of Olives. We visited many sites around Jerusalem and Bethlehem, such as the Western Wall, Via Dolorous, Gethsemane, the place of Jesus’s birth, and the list goes on and on.

I really was convicted of the great price Jesus paid for our salvation at the Garden Tomb. A very memorable time was during our morning devotion when Pastor Gary Gipson recited the poem and song called “Behold the Lamb.” It provided an excellent remembrance of Jerusalem. We also traveled to Masada and the Dead Sea before arriving at our hotel in Nazareth for our remaining time in Israel.

We visited both Caesarea Maritime, located on the Mediterranean where the Apostle Paul was imprisoned before traveling to Rome, and Caesarea Philippi. Caesarea Philippi is one of my favorite places in Israel. It was an ancient Roman city located at the southwestern base of Mount Hermon. It is adjacent to a large spring feeding the Jordan River. There were

many pagan temples to the pagan god Pan, which were from the Hellenistic period. Today, there are only remnants of the temples because an earthquake destroyed them and moved the spring from its source during worship of Pan to another location.

But more importantly, this is the spot where Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do men say I am?” and then went on to ask his disciples (and each of us), “Who do you say I am?” It was an incredible place to meditate on Matthew 16:16: “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God!” We were privileged to visit many other sites in Israel and have many memories that we will have for the rest of our lives.

Next, we crossed the Israel/Jordan border at the King Hussein (Allenby) terminal to visit BMA Missionary Sam Jordan. We traveled to Mount Nebo, where we were able to view the West Bank city of Jericho, but weren’t able to see Jerusalem because of the haze. It was very humbling to stand where Moses stood and viewed the Promise Land.

Then we checked into our hotel in Ammon, Jordan to change clothes for the worship service at Zarqa Baptist Church in Zarqa, Jordan. The message was given by Pastor Gary Lambright and interpreted into Arabic by Sam Jordan. Next, we toured the new Ministry Center for the refugees and the soap factory, which they began in order to help with the expenses of the ministry.

The next day, we explored Petra, with its long history of civilization, and the carved-out structures in the sandstone cliffs surrounding the old city. Finally, we departed for home at 1:15 a.m. with more memories than we are able to write down.

My greatest prayer is that when each team member returns home and reflects upon the trip, they each have a deeper understanding of “Behold the Lamb.”

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

To serve with us, visit bmmissions.org/bmmi or email us at angela@bmmissions.org to find out where we are going. We would love to have you serve with us. We need more medical personnel willing to serve, but you do not have to be a medical person to go. We have several jobs that anyone can do.

To donate to BMMI, you can send your donations through our website at: bmmissions.org/bmmi, or mail them to us at: BMMI P.O. Box 878 Conway, Arkansas 72034.

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 Dec. 1-31, 2018.

ENDOWMENTS

DUSTIN COE: Ron & Lourita Coe
MYRA STOKES: Bill Stokes
H. KEITH NELSON: Alice Nelson
REV. J.D. FERGUSON: Alice Nelson

HONORARIUMS

PALMER & HOLLIN ANDERSON: James & Susan Anderson
MELINDA ARMITAGE: Freda Haak
MR. & MRS. DANIEL BAKER: Jerry Null
EDDIE BOOTH: John & Belinda Thiele
CHUCK BOSTON: Joan Hartsfield
CHRIS BURGIN: Leon & Johnnie Ross
BILLY, JOHNNY & TIMMY: Jimmy Woodson
CHUCK CARSON: Mr. & Mrs. L.O. Hallonquist
CHRIST: Linnie & Lou Sandel
THE COLVIN 6-PACK: Michael Price
CUSTOMERS OF ROSS HOUSE PRINT & MAIL: Kristy Pennock
LOUISE DUFFEY: Ron & Lourita Coe
MARY DUNAVANT: Pedro & Rachel Maldonado
THE ESHELMANS: Jean Eshelman
RETA HALLONQUIST: Mr. & Mrs. L.O. Hallonquist
ROWDY HOGUE: Leon & Johnnie Ross
BLANCHE HOLMES: Joey & Betty Holmes
BLAKE HORNBECK: Donna & Riley Waldrop
SAYLOR REESE HORNBECK: Donna & Riley Waldrop
THE HUCHALAS: Jean Eshelman
CHARLES & CHARLOTTE JOHNSON: Larry & Rolanda Barton; Elizabeth Stokes
JUSTUS JOHNSON: Leon & Johnnie Ross
MRS. SAMMIE LANE: Welch Watt
DEBBIE LANSDALE: Leon & Johnnie Ross
ALAN LENNON: Leon & Johnnie Ross
KELLY LINTON: Florris Linton
DAVID LOFTIS: Leon & Johnnie Ross
JUNE & JACK LOYD: Ron & Lourita Coe
KENZIE MCNUTT: Robert Erwin
MARGIE MCVAY: P.B. & M.K. Patterson
ROY MERRILL: Leon & Johnnie Ross
COLLIN MOBLEY: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
MONTIE & CHRISTY MOBLEY: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
RAY & HELEN MOBLEY: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
GENEVA MURPHY’S 90TH BIRTHDAY: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
MY CHILDREN, GRANDS, AND GREAT GRANDS: Delores Adams
OUR LORD JESUS: Earlene Crenshaw
WAYNE & JO ANN PETREA: Sam & Brenda Reeves
GENA PHILLEY: Leon & Johnnie Ross
GEORGE PHILLEY: Leon & Johnnie Ross
KYLE & KATY REINHART: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
JOHNNIE ROSS: Leon Ross
LEON ROSS: Johnnie Ross
SERVICE MEN & THEIR FAMILIES: Roy & Elizabeth Talbot
DOOD SPECK: Donna & Riley Waldrop
NIKKI STEGALL: Leon & Johnnie Ross
AUSTIN STRONG: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
LOGAN STRONG: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
PHILLIP & DONNA STRONG: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
BRYCE THOMPSON: Leon & Johnnie Ross
BRYNLEE THOMPSON: Leon & Johnnie Ross
DUANE & CHARLOTTE TURNER: Ricky Thompson
JACYLN WALDROP: Donna & Riley Waldrop
RILEY & DONNA WALDROP: Donna & Riley Waldrop
LEE & WHITNEY WALLACE: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
HEITH WILKERSON: Leon & Johnnie Ross
SAMANTHA WILKERSON: Leon & Johnnie Ross
CEMANTHEA WILSON: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
CHRIS & ERICA WILSON: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
DREW WILSON: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
HOWARD & JUDY WILSON: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
JC & CRYSTAL WILSON: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
JOHNNY & PATRICIA WILSON: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
NINA L WILSON: Howard & Judy Wilson; Jerry & Debbie Wilson
RODNEY & AMANDA WILSON: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
WILLIAM & VICTORIA WILSON: Jerry & Debbie Wilson

MEMORIALS continued on p.11

memorials-honorariums

Auxiliaries

Year in retrospect

By **GLENDAM CHAMBERLAIN**

And just like that the old is behind us, and a brand-new set of 365 days is before us. WOW, what an opportunity! We can begin again with things that we have let slip, set new goals that we have never before attempted, renew, rejuvenate, step outside of our comfort zones . . . The list goes on and on. One fairly new tradition I do each year is choose a word for the year. Since I teach, it usually ends up being a word for the semester and in the fall, I will choose a different one, but just something to focus on, something to help re-shift my priorities. I hope as you are entering 2019 you are examining some areas. Just don't be too hard on yourself. We all fall short but we all have victories too. Remember both of these as you step into the New Year!

One cool thing that has happened for the New Year is on our Texas WMA website, <https://www.texaswma.com>. There is a lot of great information available. The newest addition is a copy of the WMA Handbook, <https://www.texaswma.com/the-wma-manual--guidebook.html>. Thank you, Alicia Johnson, for making this available to us. The book is out of print, but now we can have instant access to it.

We were so excited at our state meeting in November to welcome First Baptist Palmer WMA into our group. I have been contacted by a couple of different groups who are also interested in beginning a WMA. The song says "Our God's not dead, He's surely alive!" The same could be said for our WMA. As your groups meets remember to pray for other groups, times are changing and WMA must change too but God still has a purpose for us!

Our new officers are hitting the ground running. Christi McDermott has chosen a great theme for this year, "More of Jesus, Less of Me" based on John 3:30 "He must become greater; I must

become less." I am so excited to see this theme in action in my life and our WMA this year.

Please let any of the state officers know if we can help you in some way. We are here to serve God by serving you. I pray God blesses you this year and blesses your efforts for His Kingdom. Let's become less and watch Him become more and more!!

Cindy Allen, Texas WMA President, cindylynn90@gmail.com.

PROJECT FOR THE NEW YEAR

Texas WMA selected as a new project—pool renovations for The Texas Baptist Home for Children. Their pool is in need of major repair work. For more information, contact Diana Morris, Project Promoter at grammydi1013@msn.com or call 903-288-7575. Send your offerings for the WMA Project to: Jo Strong, Corresponding Secretary, 149 NW Suzanne Terrace, Burleson, TX 76028.

The given funds will be divided: 90 percent to the Texas Baptist Home for Children, 5 percent to the youth fund and 5 percent to the general fund. Thank you in advance for supporting this worthwhile project.

TEXAS GMA HOUSEPARTY

The Texas GMA officers invite all girls 4th through 12th grades to the Texas GMA Houseparty on March 15-16. You'll take a fun trip through the JUNGLE at Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment in Gary, Texas. Even if your church doesn't currently have a GMA program, your girls (4-12 grades) are invited to come, have fun, meet new people and worship the Lord with girls their own age.

Theme for the event is "King of the Jungle" taken from Psalm 47:7-8. The Houseparty will be held in the brand new Daniel

Springs' conference center. Registration fee is \$45, Feb. 15 deadline.

Water for Christ is the current project. Water for Christ is an organization that digs wells in developing countries and teaches the locals to use and maintain the wells while also sharing Christ with them. 90 percent of the given funds will go towards Water for Christ with 10 percent for the general fund.

For more information go to the GMA website, www.texasgma.org.

NATIONAL WMA

Make plans to attend the National WMA meeting May 6-7 in Rogers, Arkansas. Theme is "Catch the Vision, Reaching Out in Service" based on Acts 11:5.

A business meeting will be held May 6 from 3-5 p.m. at the John Q. Hammons Convention Center. A retreat is scheduled for May 7 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Temple Baptist Church, located just 5 minutes from the convention center. The retreat features keynote speaker Judy Wallace, with special music by Sabrina Clayton. Lunch will be a catered event, you can pay at the door. Great break-out sessions will be held in the afternoon. For more details go to the website, www.nationalwma.org.

Glenda Chamberlain is the Texas Women's Missionary Auxiliary (WMA) editor. Contact her at gcham33@yahoo.com. For more information about the Texas WMA, visit www.texaswma.com.



BMA Texas Missions cont.

God moved and worked in such amazing ways in 2018, I almost don't want to say goodbye to it. But I know my God continually outdoes Himself time after time after time, so I can't wait to see what He has in store for 2019! The truth is, He's already at work. I received a call from a young man in Lamesa who heard from a friend of mine about what God is up to through the network and would like to be a part of it! God keeps making amazing connections like that! But as shading as those things are, there is still so much ground work still to do. We are so excited one of our planters, Mike Watt, has joined our family of BMAT planters along with his associate Trevor Cowan. We are so excited about what God is doing in Tahoka through Cross-Work Church! The Journey Fellowship Church and Jerry Bingham in Loop are continuing to grow and make disciples. Their faithfulness is so inspiring! Our group in Whitharral has inspired a rebirth and new life in the Baptist church there. It's been amazing to see the impact of fresh fire for God in our little community! In the coming weeks, Mike and I will be working on some specific action steps for our new contacts and leaders. As I said, It is an exciting and busy time for us. So, please pray for clarity for our leaders, new contacts, and specifically for a well defined process for moving the new

contacts God continues bring toward the goal of reaching every town in west Texas so that every man woman and child may hear and respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE FIELD

- Pray for intern Kingsley Nduka, for God to reunite his family. They are currently stuck in the UK. Also pray for his family in the loss of his father
- Pray for Wesley Burke and his family as they move to Washington DC this month for their internship alongside Capital Hill Church.
- Pray for the Bethel Baptist Church Replant in Dallas as they identify and equip leaders and reach their neighborhood.
- Pray for God to provide people to fill specific ministry needs in several mission points.
- Pray for each missionary and their family. Our adversary doesn't like what these families are up to.
- Pray for your missionary's and their spouses Gloria Garcia, Manuela Molina, Chris Driver and Jaime Driver as they face health issues.
- Pray for several men and women waiting on immigration

documents.

- Pray that God provides the funds and the laborers for more evangelistic disciple-making churches.
- Pray for souls saved, disciples made, leaders equipped and sent out to start again.

PRAISE REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

- God is using your missionaries to reach into the lives of truly struggling people. We are hearing stories of real conversion!
- Souls are being saved! Disciples are being made! Leaders are being equipped! Missions are starting churches!
- God continues to answer your prayers on behalf of your mission effort! Keep praying and encouraging.

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





TEXAS BAPTIST HOME FOR CHILDREN

Bringing kids home

By **JASON CURRY**

So many of us talk about kids, but how many of us take time to talk to them? I find myself having to set aside time to listen to my kids now more than ever. When I do, it is incredible what God chooses to reveal to me about myself, my child and His work around me. This may be true for you too. My family challenges me daily to be a better follower of Jesus. If we allowed life's moments to be an opportunity to influence our kids we may notice that God is using the same moments to influence us.

It seems fewer and fewer Christians are handing down their faith to their children. There are many things that have influenced that but I feel a simple challenge to all parents would simply be to take time and talk. Talk around the table, in the car, over a soda or ice cream. But talk. Talk intentionally, find out what makes your child who they are, hear their opinions and ask them why they think that. After hearing them, share your opinions and why you believe what you believe. When you talk about politics, take time to explain why biblically you stand for what you stand for? Can you defend your biblical work ethic? Talk to your child about why integrity matters to God and if culture matches.

Our kids at Texas Baptist Home for Children don't get to have these conversations often with adults. But when they do sometimes you see them soak it in like sponges, because someone is taking time to listen, and share not just what

their thinking but why they think that. We could learn a lot if we took time out to talk. Our next generation depends on conversations that are meaningful and transformative. But if you're a parent, grandparent, or caring adult, you can't create those conversations. You have to wait for them. Children from trauma will talk about nothing for a long time and then one day a conversation that could change the cores of their life happens. You find yourself exhilarated and anticipating the next great conversation. But it took time to get there and more time is still needed. Take time to have the "unimportant" conversations. Earn the right to get to the deeper, sweeter conversations.

God is looking to have those conversations with us. When was the last time you and God had a heart to heart? Did you take time to tell Him your dreams, wants, and what you are grateful for? He is listening, if we would only talk to Him. Happy New Year and thanks for helping bring kids home!

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.



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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

The preparing one

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: February 3, 2019

TEXT: Mark 14:12-31

THE HOOK

Preparedness is a remarkable attribute for anyone to possess. I never knew anyone personally who embodied preparedness and perfectionism more than my father-in-law, Thurman Sparks. When Carolyn and I moved to Gulfport, Miss. in 1971, he and Mom accompanied us. He was meticulous in tending to every detail of setting up our trailer. He even drove the route Carolyn would drive to teach school. He was alarmed by the high weeds at a railroad crossing she would cross. The weeds obscured an oncoming train. It was all we could do to keep him from getting his weed eater and trimming the weeds at that crossing to keep his daughter safe.

THE BOOK

Jesus Christ, during His ministry on earth, was absolutely perfect in his plans and preparedness, as we observe in today's lesson.

He protected the formation of the church by exposing evil

(14:17-20). Judas Iscariot has gone down in history as the worst of the worst as a betrayer. As his father the devil, Judas was, as noted in several biblical paraphrases, subtle, cunning or crafty. While the others had obvious flaws like James and John with their tempers (Luke 9:54), Peter, who often sounded off without giving any forethought, and Thomas who was skeptical. But Judas could have easily been mistaken for a model Christian—he was obviously trusted enough, he was given the responsibility of taking care of the funds. But he betrayed the Savior by becoming aligned with the priests—for money. Although Judas was a betrayer, he was used in God's plan of redemption, yet, coming to a tragic end (Mark 14:21).

He illustrated the intimate connection between Himself and the church. This was the purpose of the Last Supper, which has been observed from that intimate setting in that upper room until today, over 2,000 years later. The Lord's Supper is a fellowship meal—between Christ and His church. The church is a living organism because of that precious blood as symbolized in the cup—and His broken body as symbolized in the unleavened bread, symbolizing His purity. The Lord's Supper is not transubstantiation (meaning the elements literally

become His body and blood). It is not consubstantiation, (meaning His blood and body are contained in the elements). But it is symbolic—a picture illustrating the close, intimate relationship the church has with the Savior.

He foretold His denial (14:27-31). The disciples could not remain awake for an hour to pray in Gethsemane. And when the going got rough the next day, the disciples were nowhere to be seen. Peter demonstrated the fact he did not understand what was about to happen to Jesus on the cross, and vowed to protect Him—or else die with him.

THE LOOK

Extreme care, planning and preparation was necessary to launch this wonderful movement known as the Church into the world. Christ was perfect in His planning and preparation. He laid the ground work for the church; He established the Church (Matthew 16:18); He commissioned the church (Matthew 28:19-20) He died for the church (Ephesians 5:25) He gifted the church (Ephesians 4:8-13) He empowered the church (John 14:18) He is preparing a place in glory for the church (John 14:2) and He is returning to receive the church (1 Corinthians 15:52).

The willing one

By PAUL GAUNTT

TEXT: Mark 14:32-42

DATE: February 10, 2019

THE HOOK

Today's lesson concerning the agony of our Savior the night before He was to become the sin-offering of the ages, behooves us to try to fathom the turmoil in His soul. Class members might want to briefly share an excruciatingly lonely, desperate situation in their lives which seemed that Heaven was silent, no matter how hard we prayed. Such an exercise may help us to gain more of a concept of Jesus' agony in Gethsemane, but by no means could any experience we might have even come close to this dark hour in the Savior's life.

THE BOOK

He went to a solitary place (14:32). Gethsemane was an enclosed grove of olive trees, and the type of place where Jesus loved to be alone with His Father. He tells us in Matthew 6, that when we pray, enter into our closets—into a solitary place, and shut the door. Be alone with God. Jesus relished these times with God.

He took his inner circle with him (14:33). Jesus seemed to have an uncommon closeness with Peter James and John, whom He tapped to accompany him.

Interestingly, these were the three who shared in the transfiguration experience (Luke 9:28-33).

He was in agony (14:36). He was "sorrowful unto death." This was the ultimate struggle between the God-Man and humanity—by far the most intense distress known to man. Jesus was not asking to be excused from the cross. Yet, knowing, better than anyone, how nothing is impossible with God, Jesus posed the question, "could there be another way?" God was silent. There was no other way for the payment for sin. Jesus' experience of not hearing an answer from God is great encouragement and comfort to the rest of us whenever we earnestly pray, and it seems the heavens are silent. Jesus' prayers never disregarded the will of His Heavenly Father. Neither should ours.

He was grieved with His sleeping disciples. It had to be disheartening to see disciples demonstrate such lethargy concerning the most pivotal undertaking in world history—offering Himself as the payment for the sin of man. And to add insult to injury, Peter declared his unwavering allegiance to Christ just a few hours earlier. After approaching them three times, He finally just told them to sleep on. The hour had passed. The hour had come for Him to be delivered into the hands, which would send Him to the Cross.

THE LOOK

Jesus asked God to take away the cup from him (verse 36). What was that bitter cup? Was it the dread of the physical pain? Was it the momentary separation from God as He was being the sacrificial Lamb of God on the cross? Was it the burden of bearing every sin that had been and would ever be committed—He who knew no sin, yet became sin for us?

We learn in this passage, to (1) even when all hope seems gone—even when there is no encouragement from others, never let fervency in prayer to God cease. (2) Even when the Heavens seem silent, never let fervency in prayer to God cease. (3) Recall the intimacy with the Father, each of have because of our relationship with Christ (verse 36 - Abba Father).

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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

The cursed one

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: February 17, 2019

TEXT: Mark 15:1-39

THE HOOK

When I was a young pastor, and felt that I had been wrongly accused, and dejected, I went to one of my dear friends in the ministry, Lynn Stephens. I poured my heart out to him about the injustice I felt I had experienced, and how I wanted to go back and defend myself. Bro. Lynn said something which has forever impressed my heart and way of thinking. He said, “Paul, a man who must defend himself, has no defense.” In our lesson today, we see the truth illustrated very vividly, “. . . Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay’” (Romans 12:19).

Falsely Accused: The priests had accused him of blasphemy—but now Jesus was facing charges before

the civil court of Herod and Pilot, of treason. In spite of all the charges hurled against him, Jesus did not answer them and refused to defend Himself.

No favor with the crowd: It was customary during the feast which was being held, for the Roman magistrate to release one prisoner.

Barabbas, a rebel and a murderer, was chosen by the crowd over Christ, to be released.

It was all playing into God’s eternal purpose. Neither the Roman government nor the leaders of organized religion find any flaws—and guilt. When the decision was offered to the crowd, they wanted Jesus to be crucified.

The payment for sin. Many wondrous things were done during those hours Christ was on the cross.

a. He refused wine and myrrh when it was offered to him as a drug to dull His senses. He would do nothing to minimize the suffering for sin.

b. He felt the loneliness of separation from His Father (verse 34). God, being absolutely holy, could not look upon the sin being born by His Son.

c. He cried out with authority and triumph just before dying (verse 37). Jesus, being God in the flesh, gave up His own life—no one took it from him. “His death was an act of His own will, not an involuntary collapse.” (William MacDonald)

THE LOOK

Man became accursed because of the act of disobedience in the Garden of Eden. Paul said, in Galatians 3:13, “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us; for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.” This was the bitter cup of which Christ partook. He became accursed for us, that we, who were under the curse of the law, might be clothed in His righteousness.

The raised one

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: February 24, 2019

TEXT: Mark 16:1-8

THE HOOK

Scripture is replete with examples of the truth of the resurrection. Out of death comes life. It is illustrated in agriculture. John 12:24 states, “. . . except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.” The ordinance of baptism is a beautiful picture of one who has died to the old man, is buried in baptismal waters, and raised to walk in newness of life. Abraham had to reckon Isaac as dead as God commanded him to take him up Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice. But God provided the substitute of a ram caught in the thicket, thus giving him back his son. Esther reckoned her own life as dead since she went in unto the king on behalf of her people—an act which was a capital offense, declaring, “If I perish, I perish.”

THE BOOK

A sad experience expected. What a somber experience the two Marys and Salome were expecting as they made their way to the tomb of the Savior to embalm His body. How many times do we go through the mundane experiences and tasks of life, expecting the same old mundane results, only to find that something spectacular had happened. These three

women were not prepared for the sight they were about to witness. It had to take super human strength to roll the huge stone away from the entrance of the tomb—the Roman seal broken, and the Person in the grave—gone! The resurrection is the message of salvation. Our God is the only One Who was victorious over sin and death.

An unexpected stranger. Actually this “stranger” was a messenger from heaven—appearing as a young man, but was an angel. He dispelled their fears with the good news that Jesus Christ had risen. Have you ever been in a difficult predicament—seemingly no way out, but God sends someone—a stranger—a messenger, to give you encouragement?

A commission to tell of the resurrection. The angel told them to spread the news to Peter and the disciples of the resurrection, and to let them know Jesus would meet them in Galilee.

The ladies left quickly, fleeing from the sepulcher in utter bewilderment. They were frozen with fear—and told no one. Today, over 2,000 years later, people still are gripped with fear about telling the story of the resurrection.

THE LOOK

Out of death comes life. In the case of Jesus’s death on the cross, eternal life has been made available to all who would trust in Him.

After we have been born again, Christ likewise commissions us to tell His story, He will send reinforcement and encouragement. That’s what He said in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) “Go ye, therefore . . . and lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world, Amen.”



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LEAVE IT TO CLEAVER



Random thoughts from Amos

By DR. TONY CLEAVER

“The words of Amos...” (Amos 1:1) His words are a roar not a politically correct tone. In these words there is an inescapable parallel from centuries ago in Israel to this day in America.

Amos 3:2 “I have known only you out of all the clans of the earth; therefore, I will punish you for all your iniquities.”

Tough love is difficult for any parent. Tough love means to let children come to consequences without interfering or rescuing. The parent simply steps out of the way while the child receives the penalty, and that penalty is mostly arranged, prepared, and settled by the parent. Israel was God’s special nation, and they received the punishment of God for their sins. God’s people today are known by Him, are an object of focus by Him, and are loved by Him. Christians, even Christian nations, today stand in the place of punishment as falling away comes to normal behavioral practice. What made the Christian once blush is now known in their inner circle of practice. Yes, God has a prominent place in His heart for those called Christian, yet those with that name must live up to His Name in word, deed, and thoughts of heart emphasis and motivation. Amos told his contemporaries God would punish for all their iniquities. God did do just that. Christian, God knows you of all people on His earth. Live for Him. Respect His knowing you in a special way.

Amos 4:12 “...Israel prepare to meet your God!”

This is not some weirdo walking around in sackcloth and

sandals on your street corner holding a sign saying, “The end is near.” No, this is Amos speaking to a real live people in a real live time in history. This word came because of the nation’s blatant rebellion against the ways of the Lord of Armies. They met their God in a tornadic typhoon of cataclysmic horror. Israel was defeated, overthrown, and became a nation to be no more. Dear Reader, you might say, “That was then and this is now. God would not say those words to our country. We are, after all, a Christian nation.” Remember, Israel was God’s nation too. We live in a great land. God has blessed our land. There is a Christian church on most every corner in small town and city. We observe the Christian holidays. We have set aside times for Christian activities. Yet they all seem to be compartmentalized from daily behavior. Our land talks the Christian talk but we do not walk the Christian walk. The words of Amos break in and over our smartphones, the words interrupt our podcasts, the words snap across our live streams, the words suspend our thousand channel TV choice as they thunder out: America... “prepare to meet your God!”

Amos 6:1 “Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and to those who feel secure on the hill of Samaria-”

Good Reader, is our nation at ease with the Lord of Armies and the stipulation of His requirements? Hurricanes of moral viciousness sweep our land. Ethical standards are in earthquake

disarray. Bubbling up like hot lava are the ineptitudes of politicians and church leaders. Yet in all this we seem to be at ease while we rest on our couches, find comfort in our central air and heated homes, listen to the latest music, and care for ourselves with the newest in potions and lotions to go with our most fashionable clothing. Have we not just passed a new military budget of a gazillion dollars? Don’t we have a modern high tech military force capable of defeating any enemy? What would cause us to worry? Those who rested in the security of the hills of Samaria were surprised when defeat came to them in spite of a booming economy. God pronounced a “woe” to this people. Woe simply means affliction, anguish, distress, despair, or misery. The Lord of Armies has a woe set aside for our land as we come to be at ease with the prerequisites of necessities and constraints He has placed on us His creatures made in His likeness.

Amos 7:8 “The Lord asked me, ‘What do you see, Amos?’ I replied, ‘A plumb line.’”

A plumb line is an accurate measuring instrument with no moving parts, electronic gadgetry, batteries, or computer assisted operations. It is a simple weight attached to a string or cord that is held up to show a perfect 90 degree angle. Gravity holds the weight down and the line straight. Builders for centuries have used the plumb line to erect structures that are “plumb” or straight. The Lord of Armies held up a plumb line to His people to see how they measured in regard to accuracy in their behavior to Him. God still uses a plumb line to measure all of humankind. Are you right with God? There is no standard of deviation when the plumb line is held right beside you. The plumb line measures precisely with perfection. Some say they are pretty close to being right with God or perhaps they are not as bad a person as their neighbor or they have a fascination with talking about religion. The plumb line does not measure almost. It measures the relationship with the Christ of the Gospels. Dear Reader, “Have you been to Jesus for His cleansing power? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?” Only when measured through Christ will any of us rate fully righteous against the plumb line of God.

Tony Cleaver is the director of distance learning and a professor of Biblical studies at Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. He is an author and writer of the popular newspaper column, *Leave It to Cleaver*. He may be contacted at tony.cleaver@bmats.edu.



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EVENTS

WORLD MISSIONS DAY

DATE: February 24, 2019

BMA OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: May 6-8, 2019

PLACE: Northwest Arkansas Convention Center, Rogers, Arkansas

SOAR STUDENT CONFERENCE

DATE: July 3-5, 2019

PLACE: Gaylord Texan, Grapevine, Texas

BMA OF TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: November 4-5, 2019

PLACE: Keltys First Baptist Church, Lufkin, Texas

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

YOUTH MINISTER—Mt. Olive, Scurry is seeking a full-time (30-40 hours per week) youth minister. Must be called by the Lord to minister to youth. Prior experience a plus. Please email resume to landa@h1pm.com or mail to Search Committee, PO BOX 99, Scurry, TX 75158, or call Landa Taylor at 214 649-5625 to drop off resume at the church.

PASTOR—New Salem, Centerville is seeking a pastor. Contact Barbara Brook at 903-388-0752. ^{3/19}

PASTOR—First, Beckville is seeking a bivocational pastor. We are located at 209 East Grand Bluff, Beckville Texas. Send resume to Jerry Phillips at pycno1@windstream.net, cell 903-265-2338. ^{2/19}

PASTOR—New Bethlehem, Cut and Shoot is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to 14630 Millmac Road, Conroe, Texas 77303 or nbbc2112@consolidated.net. ^{1/19}

PASTOR—Nat, Cushing is seeking a pastor. Send resume to P.O. Box 630884, Nacogdoches, Texas 75963.

PASTOR—Cross Roads, Winnsboro is seeking a pastor. Send resume to the church at 1314 County Road 4870, Winnsboro, Texas 75494. ^{1/19}

PASTOR—Antioch, Palestine (located 7 miles outside of Palestine on Highway 84 E.), is in search of a new pastor. Anyone interested should contact Lindy Nichols at 903-729-5249. ^{TFN}

MUSIC—First, DeSoto is seeking a part-time music minister. Must be a Christian. Must be able to play a musical instrument to lead the congregation in worship and provide lyrics for the congregation to participate in worship or use the material available. Time frame is Sunday (2 Services 10:45 a.m./6 p.m.) Wednesday (1 Service 6 pm). Send résumé to fbcdesototx@gmail.com to schedule an appointment. Call 972-223-7448 for more information. ^{TFN}

PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

RILEY PATE has resigned as pastor of Mount Pisgah, Mineola.

CHURCHES in REVIEW

December 16, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Omen		65	
First, Palmer	54	72	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	16	40	
Jackson, Joaquin	84	120	
New Hope, Mineola	79	174	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		55	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	40	58	
Rosewood, Gilmer		397	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	39	73	
Sand Prairie, Normangee		59	
Simmons Hill, Diana	13	25	

December 23, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	53	141	
First, Omen		67	
First, Palmer	43	77	
Glade Creek, Gilmer		55	
Jackson, Joaquin	65	103	
New Harmony, Tyler	268	360	
New Hope, Mineola	71	141	3 by baptism
Olde Tyme, White Oak		51	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	34	50	
Rosewood, Gilmer	126	222	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	39	75	1 by baptism
Sand Prairie, Normangee		67	
Simmons Hill, Diana	12	27	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	16	23	

December 30, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	43	108	
First, Palmer	36	50	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	11	33	
Jackson, Joaquin	63	101	
New Harmony, Tyler	278	316	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		41	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	38	63	
Rosewood, Gilmer	111	179	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	40	67	
Sand Prairie, Normangee		44	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	16	33	

January 6, 2019

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	50	75	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	15	37	
Jackson, Joaquin	79	130	
New Harmony, Tyler	286	349	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		57	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	39	60	
Rosewood, Gilmer	131	226	2 professions of faith
Sand Prairie, Normangee		45	1 by baptism
Security Calvary, Cleveland	14	38	
Simmons Hill, Diana	12	20	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	16	23	



Homecoming 2019

By Randy Decker

Jacksonville College Director of Alumni Relations

For differing reasons, we have experienced a sequence of amazing homecomings in recent years. Homecomings in 2015 and 2016 were fueled by alumni who worked long hours to reach out to reestablish connections and reinvigorate our annual gatherings. Homecoming 2017 saw us celebrate the legacy of our music department and the decades of service and leadership by Gerald Orr, a mentor to thousands. In 2018, we rededicated the refurbished bell from Old Main and changed the format of our meetings. Our expansion of activities into Friday has increased time for personal interaction; our chapter luncheons continue to grow, and our connections and contributions to our college grow as well. Our homecoming attendance for the last 4 years has been more than three hundred with one year topping four hundred in attendance. How do we top that? We don't top it, but we definitely build on it. This year has it all.

This year is about giving thanks for the ministry of our college by celebrating the JC legacy through the accomplishments of giants who have graced our campus. The most obvious and publicized will be Carl Herrera, class of '88. Carl is among the finest basketball players in our college's long history. Those teams from the 80's gave us much to cheer about and much to remember with great pride. The Coming Home Royalty and Distinguished Alumnus to be recognized on Saturday morning don't have the notoriety of Carl, but their contributions are of global significance. This is the stuff of which books could and should be written. We will be recognizing no less than four giants on February 1 and 2. We will also emphasize alumni who attended Jacksonville College in the years ending in 9 (1949, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, 1999, 2009). This is a "bucket list" event that those who love our college and its ministry will not want to miss.

For additional Homecoming 2019 information and updates, visit the alumni web page at jacksonville-college.edu/alumni. For the most current information, make certain the alumni association has your current email address. Contact Jean Galyean at jgalyean@jacksonville-college.edu.

CARL HERRERA RETURNS FOR HOMECOMING

Carl Herrera, a Venezuelan basketball player and 1987-89 alumnus of Jacksonville College, is coming home to JC where his United States basketball career began. While attending Jacksonville College, Carl was named NJCAA All American, and, along with the 1987-1988 Jaguar men's team, he placed 8th in the 1988 NJCAA



Championship. Carl continued his basketball career with the University of Houston Cougars and later was drafted as the first Venezuelan to play the NBA. As a player for the Houston Rockets, Carl assisted his team in winning back-to-back NBA Championships in 1994 and 1995.

Join us at Homecoming 2019 as we celebrate the legacy of Carl Herrera and other distinguished JC alumni who have made their marks in a variety of fields and ministries.

JC alumnus Carl Herrera will be honored at Homecoming 2019 on February 2.



Alumni and Ex-Students HOMECOMING

February 1-2, 2019

Recognizing the classes of
1949, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, 1999, 2009

Jacksonville College Homecoming 2019 Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Alumni Lunch, Campus Tours
6:00 p.m. First Baptist Church
Registration and Light Snacks
7:00 p.m. Business Meeting, Program, Displays, Group Fellowship

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

8:30 a.m. Purple and Gold Breakfast
JAG Store Open, Weatherby Building
9:30 a.m. Registration in Buckner Chapel
10:00 a.m. Program in Buckner Chapel
12:00 a.m. Chapter Luncheons
Kellar Laird Carroll: First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
Bearden Bonner Gaylor: Craft Baptist Church Family Life Center
Anderson-Orr-Small: Los Regios Mexican Restaurant (formerly Lupes)
Crank-Ross: To Be Announced
4:00 p.m. Curtis Carroll Field House/Gymnasium:
Lady Jags Basketball Game
Presentation of JC Homecoming Court at Halftime
6:00 p.m. Curtis Carroll Field House/Gymnasium:
Jaguar Basketball Game
Carl Herrera Honored at Halftime

HOMECOMING 2019 Lodging Accommodations in Jacksonville

All of the accommodations in the list below offer a breakfast and elevator unless otherwise noted.
When making your reservation, be sure to ask for the Jacksonville College Homecoming Rate.

BEST WESTERN

1659 S. Jackson
(903) 586-0007

EXECUTIVE INN

1848 S. Jackson
(903) 589-8500
No elevator



HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

1923 S. Jackson
(903) 589-8900

TRADE WINDS MOTEL

520 S. Jackson
(903) 586-2574
No elevator or breakfast