

# Baptist Progress

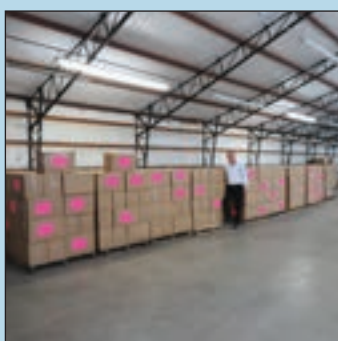
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## Lebanon on the Brink



▲ The Charlie Costa Family

By CHARLIE COSTA

*(The Costa Family has been affiliated with the BMA for five decades beginning with Yousef, who pastored an Arabic-speaking church in Philadelphia and died in 1988. His son Charlie currently serves as Middle East coordinator, and his children make up generation number three: Bro. Charlie's daughter Rana, a cardiologist, coordinates Middle East medical clinics and his son Joe serves youth in the region. All of them were commissioned by the BMA, all are American citizens and all choose to serve in the Middle East.)*

It has been a while since I've written about the work we are doing here in the Middle East. Obviously COVID-19 has been center stage all over the world but lost in this melee was the economic disaster taking place in Lebanon.

For the last year, we have been competing with Venezuela for the honor of worst economy in the world. Here are the repercussions:

- At the time of this writing, the Lebanese currency has been devalued 400 percent.

- For the first time since World War One we see Lebanese families going hungry.
- A quarter of the population has gone below the poverty line in the last three months.
- The bread basket of the Middle East has turned into the beggar's pan of this region. Then there's the resulting violence:

Internal sectarian tensions are high. Lawlessness is increasing and we fear chaos. Many, including unbelievers, are talking about this being the signs of the end of the world. In all of this doom and gloom, there are bright spots of glowing testimonies. Sharing the love of Christ has touched many lives. Thanks to COVID -19, churches here were deployed and ready to take care of people in need. So, when the bad economy tanked, people were already being exposed to the message of salvation.

With the meager resources available, we have been able to help more than 400 families. We are trying to make this assistance with food

packages sustainable for the next few months hoping that this difficulty will ease.

### WHAT CAN THE CHURCHES OF THE BMAA DO AT THIS TIME?

1. Pray and pray hard.
2. Keep supporting your missionaries faithfully so they can continue to operate and function with minimal worry for their livelihood.
3. Give generously to the BMAA relief fund at <https://app.securegive.com/BMAMissions/main/donate/category>, P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033, or call 501-455-4977.
4. Challenge other family members, relatives, and colleagues to join you in giving and praying.

The U.S. embassy in Beirut has arranged for several evacuation flights, but we have chosen to stay. Help us make this stay profitable for the kingdom.



[WWW.BMATEXAS.ORG](http://WWW.BMATEXAS.ORG)



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# Thank you

By **JERRY FULTON**

Thank you to every church, couple and individual who has given to the 2020 Baptist Progress Anniversary Offering Campaign. Throughout the month of June, churches, groups and individuals were asked to give \$108 for 108 years of service to Baptist Progress. Our overall goal is \$10,000. However, to date, we have received only \$6,617. So, we are still \$3,383 away from our goal. We are most grateful for what we have received thus far. We thank the following for their contributions:



▲ Jerry Fulton

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Fulton, Bro. Jerry & Cassie	216.00	South Park, Ft Worth	108.00
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Harmony Missionary, Nacogdoches	108.00	Sunset, Lamesa	108.00

**TOTAL RECEIVED**

**\$6,617.00**

# Adding staff from without— or growing staff from within

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

*Pastor of First, Palmer*

Years ago, I attended a pastor's conference at a large church on the west coast, and learned a unique principle concerning how to add staff members to the church.

At this particular church, a framed picture hung on the wall just outside the office suite of the church, displaying 35 lay elder staff and about 35 pastoral staff. You would think the senior pastor's photo would be a giant 8 x10 glossy planted right in the middle, eclipsing all the other photos, which were less than billfold size. But no—the senior pastor's picture was the same as all the others, and was not even in the center, but off to the side. It portrayed him as being one of the rank and file—just another staff member, a servant-leader, who happened to have the assignment of being the pastor/teacher—or teaching shepherd.

This pastor/teacher, who was posted rather obscurely amid the other staff members, was none other than world-renowned radio and television preacher, author, conference speaker, director of Grace to You, president of a seminary, and pastor of Grace Community Church of Sun Valley, California, Dr. John McArthur.

The people didn't call him Dr. McArthur—not Pastor John, not reverend, nor any other stuffy, clerical titles—they simply called him John. That's what he answered to, and I'm sure still does today after 50 years at the same church. He wants it that way. While he is passionately revered as the man of God, and while the flock deeply respects and admires him as the man of God—as it should be for the man of God, he still wants it to be understood there is only One Who deserves absolute and utmost reverence, worship and adulation. That is God the Father.

McArthur's procedure for adding staff defies the standard

procedure as prescribed by most churches. When asked in the pastor's conference, what their procedure was for choosing staff, he explained, in almost a casual demeanor, that when someone came up to him and voiced their deep concern that someone needed to be appointed to perform a certain task, his reply was always, "Well, it looks like God is laying that on your heart—why don't you go ahead and tackle the job yourself?"

Within a few days, the pastor knew whether or not the person was sincere, or if he or she was just looking for another job for the pastor to do. If they were not sincere, the whole matter just died a natural death. But sometimes, the person would take the pastor at his word and launch into performing the task—or ministry.

McArthur said that it was not long until the member was spending almost as much time at the church as they were in their secular job. And ultimately, they quit their secular job because the ministry turned into a full-time job.

One factor which became apparent was that rather than to seek out a professional staff person from hundreds of miles away to come in, like a hired gun and spend months getting acquainted with, and acclimated to the church body and the pastor's vision and heart, while trying to get established in ministry, it was usually more effective to permit a dedicated person—already in the church, to emerge from within, with a passion for ministry, and an already developed love and familiarity with the congregation.

It sounds refreshing to hear of a church that adds staff because the pastor told someone who already had the passion and calling for a ministry to say, "Looks like God has placed the work on your heart—so go do it."



## Get packed and get prepared, our Forever Home awaits

Extreme situations call for extraordinary solutions, but God is always ready. Moses was dead and God picked Joshua to lead His people to their Promised Land. Along with the challenge came a commitment that He would be with them every step of the way (Joshua 1:9b). Joshua must have been gripped with fear, but God's promise was enough. Backed with the almighty power of God, it was as good as done!

Remembering the Red Sea stories about Moses and past generations delivered from Egyptian bondage should have been encouraging. Maybe it was, but who wants to end up wandering around in the wilderness for 40 years and miss out on the Promised Land? This new generation must have wondered if their journey would end the same way? Perhaps they doubted it was possible for a group of two to three million people to safely cross the rushing, rolling Jordan River at flood stage. Would they survive the journey and realize their dream? In spite of fear and discouragement, when Joshua shared God's challenge and promise, they responded with: "All that you commanded us we will do; and wherever you send us we will go..." Joshua 1:16a (ESV).

So, with God's plan in place, and the vote of confidence from His people, the journey was begun. But not without incident. The spies Joshua sent out had some close calls, but God already had Rahab in place to provide protection. Soon, they reported in with a victory shout that God's already given us the land and our enemies are shaking in their boots! (My summary from Joshua 2:24) Wonderful news! The Israelites were emboldened and ready to move out.

But wait! What about the Canaanites and other enemies who lay in wait? Joshua's prevailing message rang out loud and clear. God's got this! He's walking out in front to still the rushing waters, pile them up in a heap and direct traffic as everyone passes through on dry ground. Keep your eyes on the ark of the Lord and His presence will lead you home to your Promised Land!

We're also on a journey toward our beautiful Forever Home, but some days it seems like we're still wandering around in the wilderness. Struck with a pandemic we don't understand, chaos we can't control and disrespect for both people and property, our country has been ravaged with pain and pandemonium. We too need this message from Joshua: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 (ESV).

Scripture says "All Israel crossed over on dry ground." We can celebrate too! Soak up the truth of Max Lucado's words in his book *Glory Days* and be encouraged:

"Rest in your redemption. The past is past. The future is bright. God's Word is sure. You are a covenant partner with God, a full-fledged member of His Promised Land development program." Amen!

We've been in the wilderness too long. It's time to pack up and get prepared. Our Forever Home Awaits!

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



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# CHURCH HEALTH

## Leading through difficult days

By **LARRY BARKER**

A couple of months ago, we thought the hardest part of leading was whether we should worship in our buildings or not. The reality is that, for some, the harder decision now is how to begin having services again. The lines of demarcation have deepened and it seems that grace is no longer as much a value as it was then. With COVID-19, racial tension and a volatile economy the attacks are intensifying not diminishing. The opposing sides only appear to shout at one another and increase the distance between them with no solution in mind.

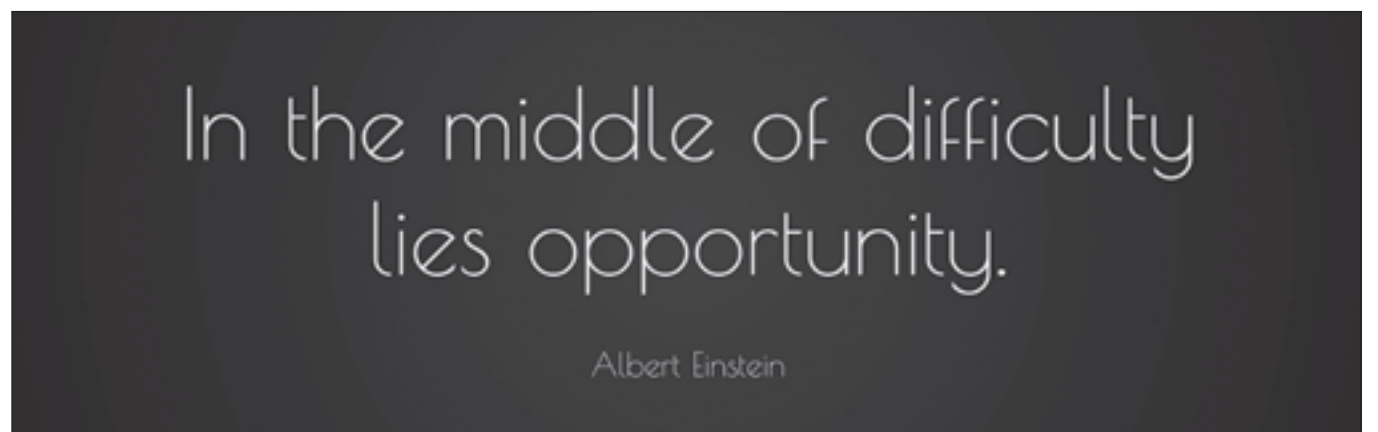
What does biblical leadership look like during these difficult days? Are you striving to lead like Christ and listening to Him through His Word as He admonishes and encourages you? In Matthew 5:44-45 Jesus says, “But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.” I Peter 3:16 says that when you do respond you should, “Do this with gentleness and respect, keeping your conscience clear, so that when you are accused, those who denounce your Christian life will be put to shame.”

There has never been a more important time for pastors, church leaders and all Christians to stand up for truth but to also stand up and speak up for truth in the right way. While we are shouting at others or posting on social media is it apparent that Jesus Christ is Lord and King of your life, your heart, your tongue, and your keypad? The time to lead by example has never been more important than it is right now. Leading under His control and direction with a humility that is evident by how we bear the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

There are several levels of leadership that give you the platform and consent from others to lead. Unfortunately, many will follow the loudest at times and the results can be disastrous.

The first level of leadership is position. The scriptures in I Timothy 3:1-2 say, “If anyone aspires to be an overseer, he desires a noble work. An overseer, therefore, must be above reproach.” Paul challenges every believer to follow him in the same way he was following Christ. The position of leadership must be stewarded well because the influence you have is a huge responsibility.

Even though you have the right to lead, because of your position, a godly leader will follow Christ’s example and will work at building relationships. This takes time and Jesus spent just about every waking hour with His disciples



for three years. Leaders must possess a genuine love for their people with a desire to see them flourish and prosper spiritually. You have no desire to use them to build your ministry or your platform but instead have a ministry focused on building them up. Leadership requires including others in your journey.

John Maxwell describes these levels of leadership as moving from rights, to relationships, to results. The third level is production where you know your purpose and you focus on holding yourself and everyone else accountable for accomplishing the vision God has called you to carry out. There are many good things you could be doing but you are prayerfully pursuing those things that are best for those you lead. This requires understanding your mission, vision, and developing strategies to fulfill that vision with a laser focus on the best things.

The next level of leadership is personnel development as you begin to reproduce more leaders and followers of Christ. The top priority is developing people. Your core value is that people are your greatest asset in accomplishing God’s vision. This requires you being a model worth following as you strive to equip, empower, and release those God has entrusted into your care. Never make the journey alone but you must always be focused on pouring into others. Your goal is to move from showing them what they need to do to where they can show others.

Healthy leadership is not blind loyalty where whatever one person says everyone does it without discussion or input. That is actually how cults are able to thrive. Leadership is where there is healthy input and accountability based on

the authority of God’s word. The scriptures remind us that two cannot walk together unless they are agreed and that a threefold cord is not easily broken. It requires much more effort when traveling together but the effort will make the journey well worth it. Paul was always focused on developing more young leaders.

The fifth level of leadership is personhood where a leader has a proven track record and has earned the respect of those they lead. Many have been mentored and the leader no longer has to carry the full weight and burden of the ministry and or the organization. This level can exponentially increase your ability to multiply more leaders because of your track record and the trust that has been earned. Still there is accountability because you should never forget that, “Absolute power absolutely corrupts.” It may begin with a title but Godly leadership is time tested.

“Shepherd God’s flock among you, not overseeing out of compulsion but freely, according to God’s will; not for the money but eagerly; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory” (1 Peter 5:2-4).

*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](http://www.bmamissions.org).*





# INSIGHTS *for* PASTORS

## A pastor's responsibilities

By DR. ALLEN TILLEY

Charles Jefferson, the author of “The Minister As Shepherd,” said, “It is by no means easy for a young man to become a shepherd, and he ought not to be discouraged if he cannot become one in a day, or a year. An orator he can be without difficulty. A reformer he can become at once. In criticism of politics and society, he can do a flourishing business the first Sunday. But a shepherd he can become only slowly, and by patiently traveling the way of the cross.”

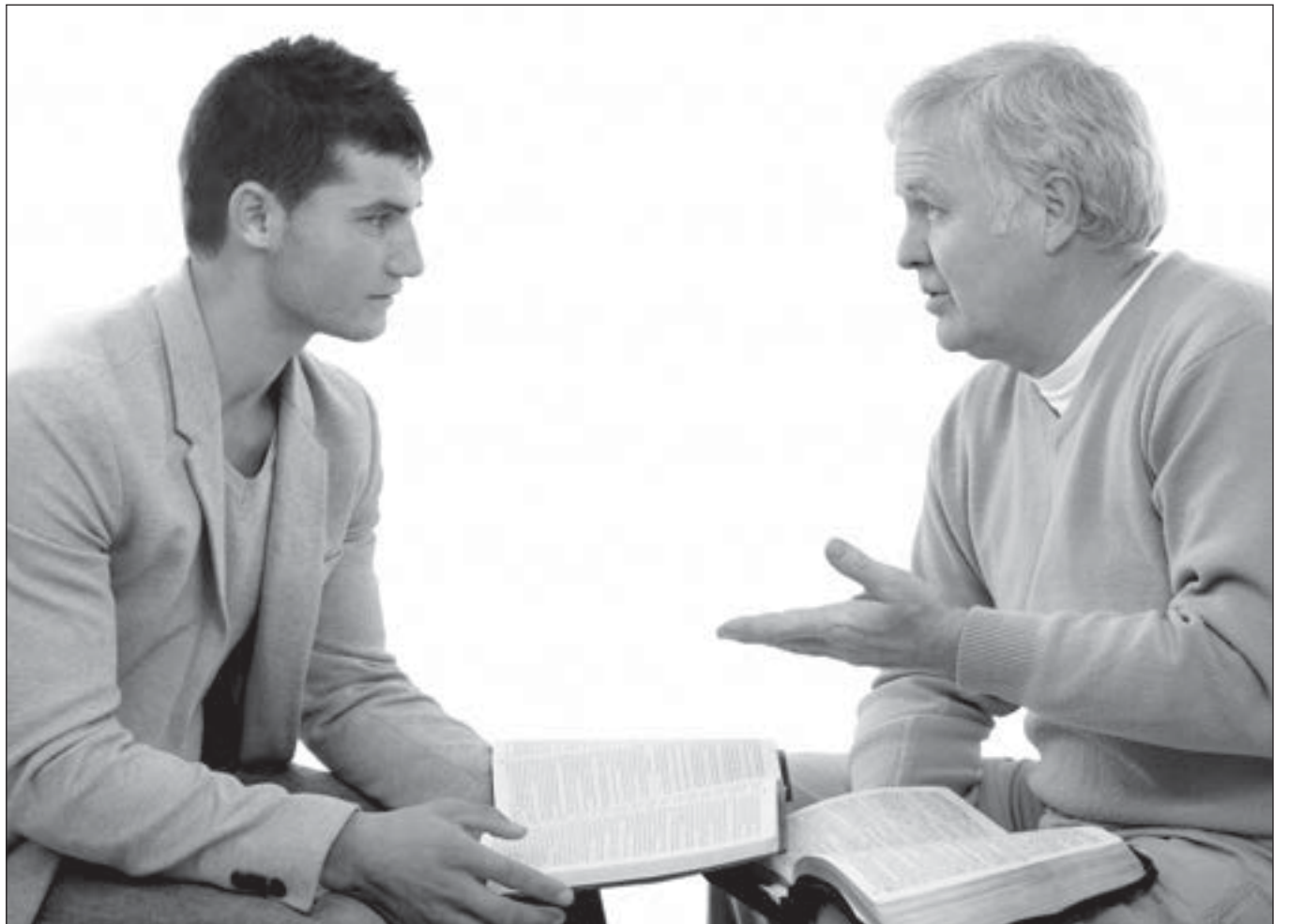
In my younger years, I attended a seminar that told me pastors were executives over organizations. Another conference compared the role of the pastor with a rancher who oversees his herd. A third workshop said pastors were surgeons who tend to the sick. While there may be some truth to these images, the biblical model reveals that pastors are shepherds (Acts 20:28). Because Jesus saw Himself as a shepherd, as a pastor, I must also see myself as a shepherd (John 10:11-12).

Christianity has a relationship-based theology and work ethic. In other words, our salvation is the result of our relationship with Jesus, and the nature of our work involves relationships with other people. To be good shepherds, pastors cannot avoid involvement with people. Here are five responsibilities that every pastor-shepherd has to his flock, no matter how large or small.

**Lead by example.** In the story of the good Samaritan, Jesus noted that the Samaritan “felt compassion” first, then he “took care” of the wounded traveler (Luke 10:30-37). Like Jesus, the pastor-shepherd must be a man with deep compassion for people. Only then can he set the right example. Compassion is not optional for shepherds. He must care for the lambs entrusted to him and watch them grow, especially the weaker ones. A pastor with a heart for people will also show compassion to the lost by reaching out to them. Simply being an example just for the sake of being an example is not enough.

**Lead by ministry.** Although pastors are responsible for equipping the saints for ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12), we must never see ourselves as being above those we serve. Only when we are willing to roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty doing ministry will people follow us. Telling people to do ministry is not as effective as a living example.

**Lead by feeding the flock.** Preaching and teaching should always be a priority for every pastor. Time spent in study



of God’s precious Word is not an obligation but a privilege. My preaching professor, Dr. Joe Pendleton, said, “Shallow preaching produces shallow disciples.” Each week, shepherds must purposefully give their flocks the very best “food,” if they want a healthy church.

**Lead by cultivating maturity.** The goal of shepherding is to raise sheep who will become committed followers of Christ who are helping others become followers of Christ. True discipleship rarely takes place in the pulpit. It happens when pastors intentionally pour themselves into others: one-on-one. Investing yourself into others pays the highest dividends in your church and God’s Kingdom.

**Lead by protecting the flock.** The Shepherd of Psalm 23 comforted the sheep with His rod and staff. In the Shepherd’s

hand, these were instruments of protection and direction. The rod protected the flock against immediate, encroaching danger. The staff served to assemble the sheep, guide them, and even rescue them. The spiritual integrity of the flock depends on the pastor’s devotion to his duties.

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

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## A word from your Missions Office

By HEITH MITCHELL

There are so many distractions swirling around us in a time that we can't afford to be distracted. Between virus shut downs, protests, riots and economic threats we are bombarded. It can overwhelm.

The mission Christ left His Church is too critical for distraction. We must share our faith, make disciples, equip leaders and release them to make disciples and start churches. It is critical in every generation but BMA family, JESUS IS GOING TO RETURN. I believe soon. Time is going to run out for others to know and for us to walk faithfully. In the face of a world in upheaval, we must double down.

Your missionaries are sharing their faith faithfully. They are seeing souls saved and disciples made even in this climate. People are being saved even when churches can't physically meet.

Let's not neglect gospel sharing or the equipping of believers to do so. Also, let's not neglect the care and support of our Texas missionaries on the field. I know that God is being faithful to you and your church. Don't forget your missionaries. Paul gave us a challenging example when the persecuted New Testament churches took up an offering to help the persecuted church at Jerusalem. We need you.

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



- That we see an aggressive multiplication movement of churches who make disciples, equip and release

**leaders and start churches for the glory of God and the advancement of his Kingdom mission**

- That each new mission begins with a plan to begin three new churches in their first 10 years
- That pastors and churches of the association be encouraged and equipped to start new churches
- That we connect, evaluate, identify and train new prospective church planters

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

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

## A word from your missionaries

**NEPTALY MOLINA—  
IGLESIA BAUTISTA MISSION, NACOGDOCHES  
NRMOLINA23@GMAIL.COM**

My wife has been in good health and we are very happy that her heart is getting better. We went to the cardiologist the other day and he congratulated her because he said she had a good heart.

I have been receiving English classes through YouTube since the school I was in is closed due to the coronavirus.

### Prayer needs:

Prayer for health, for new families for the church to respond, for a new family that we are visiting for this coming Sunday



▲ Neptaly Molina

**KINGSLEY NDUKA—  
LIGHT HOUSE MISSION IN HOUSTON  
KINGEDU700@GMAIL.COM**

Even though we are apart physically, we are closer in the Spirit as we pray for one another.

### Prayer Needs:

Pray for my family and me.



▲ Kingsley Nduka

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



## When church members insist on their rights

By DR. JOE MCKEEVER

### "WHY NOT RATHER BE WRONGED?" (1 CORINTHIANS 6:7)

Ask any pastor.

We hear it all the time. Variations on this theme are endless...

—"All these years we have belonged to this church and given our money to support these preachers, and now when we need him, he's in Israel on a holy land tour!"

—"I went by the church. I needed to see the preacher then, not the next day. And you're not going to believe this, but he was on his way out the door, headed to his son's little league game! And me a member of his flock. What kind of preachers are we getting these days?"

—"The preacher needs to apologize to me for what he implied in that sermon on Sunday. I know he was talking about me, even though he used someone else's name."

And one that happened in my last pastorate...

—"I called the church office and told them my dad was dying. Now, I'm not a member of the church but my parents are. They deserve better treatment than what they received." (And what treatment did they receive?) "The pastor sent his wife, and she said something about him having to teach a Bible study then and he would be by later." (Did he come later?) "He came two hours later." (And did your father die?) "Well, not then. He died a few weeks later, but I was angry. When I call for the pastor to come, I expect him to come." (But you're not even a member. You don't even live here, and you had never met the pastor. Yet, you are angry?) "You bet I'm angry. I have a right to expect the pastor to earn his pay."

The stories every pastor could tell. But won't, for obvious reasons.

I tell my brethren that putting up with such trash talk is why

the Lord has to call people into this work, instead of them lining up to volunteer. It's why they pay us the big bucks. (Smile, please.)

Church members who insist on their rights—the very idea is mind-boggling—would do well to consider what an elderly church lady told a deacon who was constantly insisting in a business meeting that "I just want what's coming to me."

"Sit down, Henry. If you got what was coming to you, you'd be in hell."

### SAD TO SAY, THE PASTORS ALSO INSIST ON THEIR RIGHTS...

—Look at what they're paying me. I've not had a raise in three years.

**CHURCH MEMBER RIGHTS** continued on p. 7

# We are still waiting, a 2020 update on EIM's Shepherd's Bag Ministry

By **ROCKY GOODWIN**

Director of Evangelistic International Ministries

I have always heard the quote, "God's timing is not our timing." Never has that been truer than today I think we would all say.

I wanted to update everyone about current news in EIM's Shepherd's Bag Ministry. In late 2019, after completing 16,000 Shepherd's Bags for the Philippines, we were diligently working hard on getting all the red tape of our paperwork cleared to ship there. As you all know, the COVID-19 Pandemic began to unfold across the Pacific before it did in America, so our shipment to the Philippines had to be delayed. We are still unable to ship at this time but are praying that God would soon open the door in His timing.

Additionally, we still have 1,000 Shepherd's Bags for Mexico that was going to be trucked there but again we're still waiting since they have closed the border due to the pandemic. However, we went ahead with plans for 2020 and ordered supplies and have all the materials here in the warehouse to be assembled for 16,000 more Shepherd's Bags for Ghana.

Honestly, we are frustrated and even sometimes discouraged. These Shepherd's Bags and supplies are ready to be used to preach the Gospel to boys and girls overseas but we didn't create the situation and apparently God is allowing this to happen so we just bow to the fact that God is still in control and we'll just wait on Him and He will renew our strength. We'll mount up with wings as eagles, we shall run and not be weary we shall walk and not faint.

Pray for EIM that as we wait, we would use this time wisely and stay faithful to the cause of Christ and be ready when He calls.



▲ Bro. Rocky with Philippine shipment ready to go

## When church members insist on their rights cont.

—I deserve better treatment than this. (Think of Moses in the wilderness. How many times did He bellyache to the Lord for calling him to lead this bunch of disorganized, self-centered, shallow ex-slaves to some place where they'd never been but had only heard of!)

—"It was my tenth anniversary and no one even mentioned it. Don't I have a right to be hurt?" (My answer: Disappointed, maybe. But not hurt. The congregation merely gave you a good reminder that "it is the Lord Christ whom you serve" (Colossians 3:24).

—"Lord, I've done nothing but love them and serve them. And this is the thanks I get!" (And indeed, that's often the case. Even the best and the purest become targets of the Herods and the Pharisees, the mobs and the tyrants.)

To pastors and their families, we say: "Try to hang in there. Your reward is just ahead, and you will be so glad you were faithful." Do that, Jesus said, and "I will give thee a crown of life."

### CONSIDER JESUS. WHAT IF HE HAD INSISTED ON HIS RIGHTS?

"Consider Him who endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself lest you also grow weary and lose heart" (Hebrews 12:3).

If our Lord had insisted on His rights—what He deserved and had every right to expect and ask and even demand—a lot of things would be different...

—He would have called ten thousand angels and put a stop to

that Jerusalem foolishness. (See Matthew 26:53).

—He would never have gone to the cross for you and me. He would not have endured the taunting and spittal and blasphemy. (See Matthew 27:27-44). He would have made short work of them all.

—And He would never ever have loved such a one as you or me. He Himself knows our frame (Psalm 103:14) and thus He would have written earth off as a bad experiment and gone on to Planet X.

"But He died alone...for you and me." (That gospel song alluded to above.)

### WHEN YOU AND I INSIST ON OUR RIGHTS...

—We are showing ourselves carnal. We may as well hang a sign around our neck saying, "I'm a spiritual baby."

—We are shaming the Savior.

—We become part of the problem for the Lord's church instead of part of its answer.

—We hold the gospel up to ridicule before the world. "Look at that bunch. They're just like the rest of us."

—We demonstrate that the Lord's teachings mean absolutely nothing to us. He said, "Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. And whoever hits you on the one cheek, offer him the other also."

And He went further. "Whoever takes away your coat, don't withhold your shirt either. Give to everyone who asks of you. And whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back."

(And on and on He went, saying those things that befuddle the carnal mind and demonstrate something far superior is going on with these who are His redeemed. Luke 6:27-38)

### JESUS IS ALWAYS THE FINAL WORD ON ANY SUBJECT...

He has the final word; He is the final word.

"For you have been called to this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps. Who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth. And while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threat, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously.

For He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls." (1 Peter 2:21-25).

Now, live like it.

Dr. Joe McKeever began preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ in 1961, and has been writing and cartooning for religious publications since the mid-1960s. He was a pastor for 42 years, pastoring six Southern Baptist churches. You can read more article by him at [joemckeever.com](http://joemckeever.com).



# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

## Religious, but rebellious

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: August 2, 2020

TEXT: Amos 4:1-5:17

### THE HOOK

One central theme in our lesson text today seems to be, “you fat, lazy women of Bashan, you are gluttonous, pampered, demanding of your husbands and cruel to people.” (Amos really knew how to talk to a lady!) Yet, you remain faithful in your so-called empty, meaningless worship—even though everyone knows it is insincere. Even when God the Father sent you famine, you still did not get the message—you never hungered and thirsted after Me!

This sounds a lot like Laodicea (Revelation 3)—no focus on the things of God because they were too fat with their own wealth. Empty, meaningless, so-called worship is a stench in the nostrils of a Holy God.

### THE BOOK

**1. Religious but rebellious (verse 1).** A man-made, insincere religion does not foster a genuine and right relationship with a Holy God. We see in verse 1 that they oppressed the poor and needy. They demanded that their husbands serve them. Just as a side note: Could it be that a big part of the whole rebellion was not so much the “fat cows” of Bashan, but the hen-pecked husbands of Bashan. Was that there was no male spiritual leadership at home? Was it not Joshua who said, “But for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” instead of his wife? Such an observation may not be politically correct today, but it is certainly a biblical mandate (Ephesians 5:22-23).

**2. A mockery of religious ritual (verses 4-5).** God uses sarcasm in verse 4 when He said, “Come to Bethel and transgress—give your tithes every three days; use bread with leavening! Their worship was corrupt, empty, actually godless.

**3. A rejection of correction (verse 6-13).** It is tragic when

God’s judgment is unheeded. He cut off food supply, withheld the rains, sent blight, locusts, killed young men with swords, captured their horses, made stench of their camps and yet, they did not return to Him. He even sent judgment as the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Yet, they rejected Him.

**4. God’s remedy: “Seek me and live” says the Lord” (5:4).** Do not place your trust in Bethel, Gilgal, or Beersheba. It is not the place that matters, but the presence of God only.

Seek me, the one that created the stars (verse 8) turns death into morning, controls the waters of the seas.

Seek good rather than evil (5:14) establish justice. There is coming a day of reckoning (5:16-27).

### THE LOOK

The message of Amos is clearly resounded in the New Testament. “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

## Day of the Lord; warnings about complacency

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: August 9, 2020

TEXT: Amos 5:18-6:14

### THE HOOK

What a sad indictment on a people of a false religion. Worship is empty and meaningless. God, the Father neither accepts, nor is glorified by offerings from a rebellious, sinful people. They perform lip service—mechanically go through motions with no heart for God, and no hunger and thirst for Him.

### THE BOOK

**The tragedy of not regarding God’s Judgement Day (verses 18-20).** People, steeped in religion, have no concept of the coming judgment of God. This is especially the thoughts of people who believe in the universal Fatherhood of God/Brotherhood of Man. They believe everybody is going to Heaven. They failed to see the broad way that leads to destruction and the narrow way that leads to everlasting life (Matthew 7:13-14).

**The tragedy of humanly-contrived religion (verses 21-24).** Your gatherings in the name of religion (verse 21). Your fundraising campaigns (verse 22). Your music (verse 23). Forget the style of songs, what is in the hearts of those who sing them?

**The tragedy of forgetting past sincere worship (verse 25).** It is true, that Israel was prone to murmuring and rebellion during their 40 year wanderings in the

wilderness. But there were times of rejoicing and basking in the blessings of God—like Exodus 15 when they praised God for carrying them safely through the Red Sea. And there were the times when God spoke to them, provided for them, and let His promises be known to them.

Let us likewise, recall those blessed times of revival in our midst, and long for them once again.

### THE LOOK

May our prayer today be, “Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?”



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# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

## Visions of judgment and compassion interrupted by opposition

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: August 16, 2020

TEXT: Amos 7:1-17

### THE BOOK

**1. The plague of locusts (7:1-3).** God had formed the assault of locusts (grasshoppers) to devour the land. This was the first of three threats to Israel, and because Amos interceded on behalf of Israel, this onslaught was averted. This is such a comfort for us today in that, regardless of the perils of our nation today, God still hears and answers the prayers of His people.

**2. The devouring fire.** The second threat may refer to the destruction of Samaria by Shalmaneser. Once again, God's judgement was averted by Amos's prayer concerning Jacob.

**3. The plumb line (verses 4-6).** The plumb line speaks of the absolute uprightness of the judgment. God announced that He would not pass by Israel in mercy anymore (verse 8). The plumb line, reveals whether or not the wall is perfectly vertical. God's plumb line revealed that there was a moral standard, and Israel's crooked ways did not measure up. Those who truly hunger and

thirst after God will measure up to God's moral plumb line.

Degenerate men seeks to move it to satisfy their own agendas.

### THE LOOK

Matthew Henry writes, "God bears long, but he will not bear always with a provoking people." Oftentimes we forget the past victories and blessings of God. But God has a way of humbling His people and bringing them back to reality concerning the absolute command to obedience.

## Basket of summer fruit—Israel ripe for judgment

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: August 23, 2020

TEXT: Amos 8:1-14

### THE HOOK

What do you remember, as a child, about summer fruit? The tomatoes were deep red, the cantaloupes were sweet and the peaches were juicy. But we also found that time was short before the wonderful produce from the garden began to rot.

What a great metaphor to describe the perilous place Israel was in in Amos' day.

### THE BOOK

**Israel was corrupt (verses 1-6).** God would no longer confer mercy on them. They were money-hungry, they oppressed and shunned the poor, sold rotted wheat, falsified the scales and practiced corrupt business practices.

**Israel was judged (verses 7-14).** God shook their

foundations, river swollen out of its' banks, confused the days and nights, turned songs of joy into songs of sadness; baldness on every head, famine, thirst, and people seeking the word of the Lord, in vain.

### THE LOOK

A prosperous nation today need not think, for a second, that they are immune from the wrath of God. We are called on to repent from our evil ways (2 Chronicles 7:14).

## Judgment and restoration

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: August 30, 2020

TEXT: Amos 9:1-15

### THE BOOK

Amos 9 is broken up into two parts: The judgment of Israel (verses 1-10) and the restoration (11-15).

### THE JUDGEMENT

Amos saw the Lord standing on the idolatrous altar at Bethel. But Israel was not going to escape the judgment of God. One writer noted that those whom God brings to Heaven, by His grace, shall never be cast down, but those who seek to climb to Heaven in their own strength, will be cast down and filled with shame. This was well illustrated by Nimrod's tower to heaven. He sought to ascend Heaven by the flesh, but God had His way of stopping him.

The Lord scattered the Jews and visited them with destruction. No one could ever survive the judgment of God unless He extended His mercy and grace. In his judgement, no one could hide from under the earth, and no one could escape Him by ascending the

stars. We see, very clearly, the God of wrath in the first half of Amos 9.

### THE RESTORATION

But we see His awesome display of mercy and grace. Look at the glorious restoration of a merciful, gracious God. Verse 11 says that He will raise up the tabernacle of David once again, to be built as in the days of old.

Verse 13 tells us that the land would once again, be plentiful. Yes, He is a God of wrath—and He is a God of mercy.

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



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## Be all you can be

By **GLENDAM CHAMBERLAIN**

Did you know there are inspiring and encouraging devotions posted on [texaswma.com](http://texaswma.com)? Here is one written by Texas WMA President Johnnie Ross. Be sure to check the website for other devotionals.

You know how sometimes the preacher says something in his sermon that just strikes you? That's what happened one Sunday. Of course, you probably know exactly what played out in my head when he said that God wants you to "be all you can be." Yes, my mind immediately reverted to that army recruiting commercial, popular for the last couple of decades of the 20th century, and the tune played out in my mind, over and over, the remainder of the day.

As I thought on why God let that stick with me, I thought about the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:18-20. "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, 'All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.'"

My first year as State WMA Second Vice President, my theme was "The Perfect Woman," taken from Matthew 5:48, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." This statement by Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, is actually one of the commands of Christ that we, according to the Great Commission, are to observe and teach others to observe.

This perfection that Jesus is talking about, which we could also interpret as maturity, or wholeness, or loving without limit, is what we are to strive for. Luke's version of this same sermon says, "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful." (Luke 6:36) So from Luke's gospel, this perfection is being like God in His mercy.

Actually, Christ gave us forty-something commands recorded in the gospels, given in order to move us closer to the Father. His very first command, found in Matthew 4:17, was "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." His first command (Repent) is the first requirement in a relationship with a merciful Father who is providing a way of salvation.

The idea of perfection (maturity) is not limited to this verse. Here are a few more:

Deuteronomy 18:13 "Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God."

2 Corinthians 13:11 "Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

Ephesians 4:13 "Till we all come in the unity of the faith,

and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Philippians 3:15-16 "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you."

James 1:3-4 "Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

So, we realize that here in the flesh, sinless perfection is impossible, but godliness is attainable. Godliness originates in the heart, moves to the mind and heart, then to the hands and feet. But, many of us have become complacent. We do not "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Contentment in my relationship with God allows me as an individual to be the lord of my own life. If I become content in my relationship with God, then I am not following Biblical principles. I am not allowing Jesus to be my Lord and Savior. Contentment says I only want eternal life insurance, not a relationship with the Lord of all Creation.

Let's repent, and strive to be like Him. Let's hide His Word in our hearts. Let's not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. Let's love one another. Let's read and find out what Jesus commanded us to do, so that we can teach others to "observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:"

### 2020 TEXAS SUNBEAM HOUSE PARTY CANCELED

Unfortunately, the Texas Sunbeam House Party has been canceled. It was scheduled for July 17-18, 2020 at Jacksonville College.

In lieu of the House Party, Mrs. Vera Koonce, Texas Sunbeam Promoter, will be sending fun activity packets to each local Sunbeam group. Included will be crafts, candy and a tract to share with a friend. Plus, you can download more information and coloring sheets at [www.texaswma.com](http://www.texaswma.com), click on the Sunbeam tab.

Contributions for the project, Water for Christ, should be mailed to Ms. Shera Clair, 1433 S. Farm-to-market Road 56 56, Glen Rose, Texas 76043.

Texas Sunbeam Counselors plan to meet via Google on Friday, July 10 at 7:00 pm. Be sure Ms. Vera has your email address if you would like to participate in the meeting. You can reach Ms. Vera by email at [djkeak55@yahoo.com](mailto:djkeak55@yahoo.com) or by phone at 281-642-5356.

### FALL LADIES RETREAT

Kristi Key, Texas WMA Second Vice President, is carefully watching the numbers of those affected by COVID-19 and will soon determine whether we can hold the annual Texas WMA Fall Ladies Retreat.

At this time the retreat is planned for Sept. 11-12, 2020 at Northside, Conroe.

Stacie Bostic is slated to be the guest speaker. Stacie is a dynamic daughter of the King of kings with a powerful testimony that women need to hear. Stacie engages women's hearts and souls by sharing her story and her passion for Jesus Christ.

Stacie Bostic has the ability to communicate her joyful and passionate vision in diverse settings. Her message resonates with a wide range of listeners and encourages others to take God more seriously.

Stacie is a thought leader and influencer in East Texas. She leads Girl Power in Gun Barrel City and multi-church, bi-annual praise and worship events in and around her community. Stacie is committed to bringing teaching and testimonies that demonstrate the power of God to her community, and encouraging others to surrender to God's purpose and experience the joy of allowing Him to manifest in their lives.

Stacie Bostic has been schooled by the Spirit of God, and she is a member at Liberty Baptist Church where she serves as a church counselor. The Lord has paved an exciting path for Stacie to touch hearts and minds with her testimony that focuses on the art of surrender, walking by faith, and rising above your circumstances. Stacie's message is firmly grounded in the Word of God, and, staying within those parameters, she has the ability to collaborate with event coordinators to tailor her message to fit your group's unique event theme.

Worship in music by Makaye Key and John Mendez. Kristi has many breakout sessions planned. She also has a prayer journaling time for Friday night.

Be sure to check the WMA website, [www.texaswma.com](http://www.texaswma.com), for more information on the retreat or for special breaking news when a formal decision is made to hold, postpone or cancel the retreat.

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



# EVENTS

## BMA OF TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING

**DATE:** November 9-10, 2020

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

# pastor & staff changes

**DR. MARK LIVINGSTON** has resigned as pastor of Keltys First, Lufkin.

*\* If you are aware of pastor and staff changes, please let us know at Baptist Progress by emailing us at editor@baptistprogress.org*

# PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

## AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**STUDENT MINISTER**—First, Palmer is seeking a part-time director of student ministry. Send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 70, Palmer, Texas 75154, or e-mail resume to FBCpalmer.org, or pastorpaul@fbcpalmer.org. 8/20

**PASTOR**—Beacon, Bryan is seeking a pastor. Send resume to pulpitcommittee@beaconbryan.com or mail it to Tira Sexton, 14614 FM 3090, Anderson, Texas 77830. 7/20

**PASTOR**—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a pastor. Send resume to jimmysealy@aol.com or to FMBC Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346. 7FN

**YOUTH MINISTRY**—South Park, Fort Worth is seeking a bi-vocational youth director and a youth ministry intern. Visit spbc.life/joinourteam for more information. 7FN

**PASTOR**—Mount Olive, Scurry is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 99, Scurry, Texas 75158. 7FN

**PASTOR**—First, Jacksonville is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 210 Philip Street, Jacksonville, Texas 75766 or email to reception@firstjax.org. 7FN

## AVAILABLE MINISTERS

**DOCK LAZARENE** has resigned as interim pastor of Westside, Nacogdoches and is available for pulpit supply. Contact him at 903-685-3005.

## 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 Jun. 1-29, 2020.

## ENDOWMENTS

**MYRA STOKES:** Bill Stokes  
**E ANN PACE:** Karl & Martha Pace

## HONORARIUMS

**HOLLIN ANDERSON:** James & Susan Anderson  
**PALMER ANDERSON:** James & Susan Anderson  
**MR. & MRS. LARRY HENSON:** Leon & Johnnie Ross  
**MR. & MRS. WESLEY HENSON:** Leon & Johnnie Ross  
**MR. & MRS. BRAD JOHNSON:** Leon & Johnnie Ross  
**MR. & MRS. CLARK KEIFER:** Leon & Johnnie Ross  
**MR. & MRS. TIM LEVENDUSKY:** Leon & Johnnie Ross  
**TBHC STAFF:** Earlene Crenshaw; Jason Lewis  
**JENNIFER THOMAS:** Swany & Edwina Walker

## MEMORIALS

**ALVIS & TEHDA ADAMS:** Paul & Mary Adams  
**LARESSA ARCHIBALD:** Temple Baptist Church, Mexia  
**DANIEL BAKER:** BMA Loan Association  
**WALTER BECKER:** Dennis & Ilona Myrice  
**JERRY BELL JR.:** Jerry, Sr. & Martha Bell  
**LARRY & ROSELEN BOBO:** James Bobo  
**OLEN & LULA MAE BRITTON:** Paul & Mary Adams  
**WILLIS BUNN:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Rosewood Baptist Church  
**MARY CALDWELL:** Linda Lewis  
**PAULINE CALDWELL:** Linda Lewis  
**KENNETH WAYNE CLINE:** Joel & Sharon Meece; Michael & Sarah Wilson; Richard & Brenda Yancy; Lesa Verchelde, Amber Hollis, John Owens, Christy Long; James & Sandra Farrar; John & Angie Haynes; Wes Connaway; David Bernard; Wanda Hensley; Morris Fleming; Jeff & Cindy Janke; David & Heidi Lockridge; Jerry Null; Jeremy Garcia-Glasscock; Richard & Marilyn Meece  
**PEGGY DENMAN:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Rosewood Baptist Church; Jed & Glenice Whitaker  
**SHARON DONAGHE:** Michael & Joy Vestal; Temple Baptist Church, Mexia  
**CECIL DOWNEY:** Carlie Downey  
**MARY DUNAVANT:** Rachel Maldonado  
**BRO. JACK EATHERTON:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Rosewood Baptist Church  
**WILLIE MAE FARMER:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson  
**BETTY FILES:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Rosewood Baptist Church;  
**BOB FLEMING:** Don Honeycutt  
**PAULINE & AUBREY GANDY:** Jerry & Virginia Gandy  
**NAOMI GLAZE:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Rosewood Baptist Church  
**BILLY GLENN:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson  
**ROY HAMMONDS:** Joseph & Norma Martin  
**LEWIS HOLDEN:** Ron and Lourita Co  
**EZWOH HOLMES:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson  
**DEAN & SUE JESTER:** Raymond & Claynell Dennis  
**HALEY RENAE JOHNSON:** Leora Johnson  
**JOE MAX JOHNSON:** Leora Johnson  
**JOYCE JOHNSON:** Cindy Weese & Darla Cain @ Bybee Water Sales; Vivian Noska; Zack Heflin  
**DORIS LASITER:** Summer & David Batte; Courtney Kelly; David & Kathy Witherspoon; Antioch Baptist Church, Palestine; Bettie Boone  
**LYNN MCCAULEY:** David & Patsy Webb  
**E.J. MCGEE:** Carlie Downey  
**JOHN ROY MCWHORTER:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson  
**JEARLENE MIZE:** Jerry & Sheree Mize  
**JACOB 'BUD' MORROW:** Forest Hill Baptist Church; Fred & Carolyn Morrow  
**LOVITA LOU OUMMET:** James Oummet  
**REV. JOHNNIE AND JANE POLLARD:** Terry & Debra Brooks  
**CINDY PRIEN:** Gwen Scott  
**ELAINE QUARLES:** Mary Ann Wylie  
**WM. V. RAY:** Brenda Ray  
**ROLAND & DOROTHY ROGERS:** Morris & Glenda Pevehouse  
**DONNY SHAMBURGER:** Rosewood Baptist Church  
**JIMMY TANKERSLEY:** Margaret Tankersley  
**WANDA TRAYLOR:** Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Trimble  
**CULLIS & AULETA WADE:** Lena Green  
**BERNICE WEISINGER:** L.C. & Jenetta Whitehead  
**JO WHITE:** Jerry & Sheree Mize  
**E.T. WILLIAMS:** Minnie Williams  
**DOROTHA WILLIS:** Jimmy & Carla Shipp  
**MARY WOLFINGTON:** John Wolfington

# OBITUARIES

## JACK EATHERTON

Graveside services for Bro. Jack Eatherton, 94, of Gilmer, were conducted at Sunset Memorial Park in Gilmer June 15, 2020.



He was born March 3, 1926, to Jack Samuel Eatherton and Lydia Jewel McCoy Eatherton, in Breckenridge and walked through the Heavenly gates in the presence of his Savior June 12, 2020.

Bro. Eatherton married Belvah Jane McCurry Oct. 24, 1947. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy from 1942-1946. He retired as a minister after serving the Lord for over 60 years. He served as a pastor in Rusk County and the Liberty Association including Matinburg and Rosewood Baptist Churches.

Visit Bro. Eatherton's registration book at www.mcwhorterfh.com to leave a memory for the family.

## ALTON GENE MATHIS

Dr. Alton Gene Mathis, 64, of Jacksonville, passed away peacefully at home June 23, 2020. Memorial services will be held at a later date. He was born Nov. 30, 1955 in Houston to Alton Lee and Dolores Jean (Cupit) Mathis.



In Houston, he spent much time with his beloved Nanny, Dorothy Delilah Cupit, who had a major influence on his life. He accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior, and at age 16, he surrendered to preach. He was licensed at Bayou Drive, Alvin, and ordained at Heights Missionary, Houston.

After high school, he attended Jacksonville College where he met the love of his life, Maryjane Arrington, daughter of Bro. M.S. and Katherine Arrington, BMA missionaries to Bolivia. They were married Dec. 17, 1976 in Houston. Through birth and adoption, they were blessed with nine children and 11 grandchildren. They opened a group home, Mathis Rainbow Home for Children, and blessed the lives of many foster children, mostly those with special needs, for over 20 years. Dr. Mathis attended BMA Theological Seminary in Jacksonville and completed online studies through Andersonville Seminary to earn his Doctorate of Christian Education. He pastored several churches in the BMA of Texas during his 48 years of ministry. His work with the Galilean program of the BMA of Texas and BMA of America was very important to him as was one of the first young men to complete the Galilean steps in his youth. He went on to teach many Galileans over the years.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Jacksonville College, 105 B.J. Albritton Drive,

Jacksonville, TX 75766 and Tyler Street Baptist Church, 910 Tyler Street, Jacksonville, TX 75766.

## LLOYD CASHION

A celebration of life for Bro. Lloyd Cashion, 83, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at South Jefferson, Mt. Pleasant at 2 p.m. July 7, 2020. Bro. Grady Cashion will officiate. A family graveside service will take place beforehand at Greenpond Cemetery with Bro. Terry Bolton officiating. Visitation will be at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs from 6-8 p.m. July 6, 2020. Bro. Lloyd passed away at Christus Mother Frances Hospital in Sulphur Springs July 4, 2020.



Bro. Lloyd Cashion was born to R.O. Cashion and Helen (Ray) Cashion in Crisp June 9, 1937. He married Patricia Wallace in Garland on Oct. 17, 1959. She preceded him in death in 2009. He then married Carol Wylie Aug. 21, 2010. Bro. Lloyd served in the United States Air Force Reserves for two years and served in the Baptist Missionary Association for 50 years. He pastored over 50 years, serving four congregations.

Memorials may be made to the Greenpond Cemetery Association, 2283 FM 1567, Como, TX 75431.

memorials-honorary

## When are things going to be normal again?

By **DR. MIKE SMITH**

People are tired. People are hurting. People are dying. Daily, I hear people ask, "When are things going to be normal again?" Some respond, "This is the new normal." Others react, "You mean mask, social distancing forever?" When someone asks about Jacksonville College, we respond by saying, "Jacksonville College is going to open its doors for face-to-face classes on Aug. 12, though some restrictions may be applied."

You still have time to apply and register for classes. Our coaches are recruiting and preparing to play ball and run the races. The administration is working to make this 2020 Fall Semester as normal yet safe as ever. Pray for us and encourage any student you know to consider Jacksonville College for this upcoming semester.

Does God have help for unusual days like these we are presently experiencing? Yes, He has a book full of encouraging promises and faith building challenges to help us in difficult, confusing days.

Joshua 7: 1-26 records the battle of Ai. Israel was marching through the Promised Land. They had just conquered the largest city, Jericho. They come to Ai. No doubt the army felt that this would be a sure victory. However, scripture records, "they fled before the men of Ai" (Joshua 7:4).

"This is not right; this is not normal; this is not the way it is supposed to be," was probably the cry of many. What caused this interruption in their life of promised victories? Joshua 7:1 gives us the cause for these unusual days in their lives: "Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing." The Old Testament uses six different nouns and three verbs to describe sin. The Hebrew word mahal in this passage describes an act of trespass. In Texas, a common site to see is property owners posting "No Trespassing" signs in order to guard their land. These signs serve as a warning not to go where you are not supposed to travel.

America has committed a trespass. We will never return to normal life until we confess our national sins of abortion and same sex marriage. God told Israel in Joshua 7:13, "thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you." America will never be normal until we separate ourselves from the sins of abortion and same sex marriage.

Dr. Mike Smith is the president of Jacksonville College. Contact him at 105 B.J. Albritton Drive, Jacksonville, TX 75766, 903-586-2518 or [msmith@jacksonville-college.edu](mailto:msmith@jacksonville-college.edu).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SUMMER 2 TERM REGISTRATION

Registration continues through July 7  
Reduced rates and no fees

### FALL 2020 REGISTRATION

July 14, 28, 30, and Aug. 4  
Classes begin August 12

For more information, contact  
[admissions@jacksonville-college.edu](mailto:admissions@jacksonville-college.edu) (903-586-7110).

### PHARMACY TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION

Jacksonville College is adding the Pharmacy Technician Program to its course offerings this fall. This program will prepare students to enter the pharmacy field and to pursue certification including the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board's (PTCB) national certification exam. This course covers the following key areas and topics: pharmacy calculations, medical terminology specific to the pharmacy, skills to read and interpret prescriptions, review of the top 200 drugs, skills to identify drugs by generic and brand names, dosage calculations, I.V. flow rates, drug compounding, and dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control, and billing and reimbursement, as well as education and certification.

**Course Contact Hours: 50 Hours Clinical Hours: 80 Hours**

**Student Tuition: \$1,399 (Textbooks Included)**

**Sept. 8, 2020 – Oct. 27, 2020**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays 6 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.**

**ENROLL TODAY!! 903-586-2518**

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The College is accepting applications for the following positions:

### FULL TIME

- **Vice President of Executive Affairs.** This is a supervisor over Business Office, HR, finances, housing, student life, athletics, and maintenance. A master's degree is required and a doctorate preferred.

- **Director of Library Services.** This is a supervisor over organization, operation, and development of the Norman Library. A Master of Library Science degree is required.

**To apply: see "Employment Application" link under "About JC" at [jacksonville-college.edu](http://jacksonville-college.edu) and send the application to Mike Smith at [msmith@jacksonville-college.edu](mailto:msmith@jacksonville-college.edu).**

### ADJUNCT

- **Adjunct Criminal Justice Instructor:** Required credentials: master's degree in criminal justice, or master's degree in another area with 18 graduate hours in criminal justice.

- **Adjunct Theater Instructor:** Ability to teach both face to face and online preferred. Required credentials: master's degree in theater, or master's degree in another area with 18 graduate hours in theater.

**For all academic/faculty job inquiries, please contact the Academic Dean, [acadean@jacksonville-college.edu](mailto:acadean@jacksonville-college.edu).**



## Jacksonville College 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament Honoring Bennie & Carole Lybrand

Saturday, September 12, 2020

8:00 am shotgun start

Registration begins @ 7:00 am

Cherokee Ranch Golf Club

14881 US HWY 79E

Jacksonville Texas

Entry Fee \$100/golfer (includes green fee/cart/lunch)

Mulligans \$5 (purchase at registration 4/team limit)

4 Person Scramble / Women's and Men's Divisions

Prizes awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams,

Long drive and closest to the Pin

Registration form below

For more info contact Athletic Director/Tournament Director Ken Hamilton at

[khamilton@jacksonville-college.edu](mailto:khamilton@jacksonville-college.edu)

Please return this portion with check payable to:

Jacksonville College

105 B J Albritton Dr.

Jacksonville TX 75766

	Men's Division	Women's Division
Captain		Captain

Individual Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

(Individuals interested in participating are encouraged to sign up)