

Baptist Progress

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INSIDE



PAGE 3
TBHC



PAGE 6
BMA TEXAS MISSIONS



PAGE 8
DARLENE CAREY ACADEMY

Pastor Billy Byrd—Oak Hill, Gilmer Pastor—prosecutor

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

Baptist Progress Correspondent

It would seem that the terms prosecutor and pastor would mix about like oil and water, but God the Father has turned the mixture into a unique and wonderful outreach ministry for Pastor Billy Byrd, Upshur County District Attorney and pastor of Oak Hill Baptist Church.

Since 2019, Byrd has been pastor of Oak Hill, just a few miles north of Gilmer, in the Union Hill School District, where he was raised. He has been the Upshur County District Attorney since 2006, and is presently serving in his fourth term, with the fifth term to begin January 2023.

“I surrendered to preach in January, 2019 on a Wednesday night,” Byrd said. “I came before the church here at Oak Hill, making known to the church of the Lord’s calling on my life. They had me to preach my first message the following Sunday, and then moved to license me.”

The pastor of Oak Hill had just stepped down, and Byrd said he was not thinking of pastoring a church, and in fact, never expected to be called into the preaching ministry.

“The church was looking for a pastor—we had a committee put together and brought in a number of (prospective) pastors—all good men, but for one reason or the other, things did not work out,” said Byrd. “One day, the committee came to me—I took a long time to pray over it, and felt this was where God wanted me to be.”

Byrd’s wife, Kelli, was raised in Oak Hill Church—her father is a deacon in the church, and her grandfather, Paul Knight, who was a longtime BMA pastor, had been pastor of several churches in the east Texas area, including two terms at Oak Hill. Billy and Kelli have three sons, Justice, 13, and 11-year-old twins, Selleck and Sabin.

Blessed with an ability to play baseball, Byrd landed an athletic scholarship in a junior college in Kansas, where he attended for one year—then to Texas Christian University in Fort Worth where he finished his degree in education. His plans were to be a teacher and a coach.

“Through a series of classes during my senior year, I had a professor who encouraged me to think about law school,” Byrd recalled. “I had never met a lawyer, nor had ever been in a court room—and I was the first one in my family to complete college, and had never thought about law school, but the professor saw in me someone who would be good in that field.”

Byrd enrolled in Oklahoma City University, where he received his doctorate of Juris Law, and passed the Oklahoma bar exam. He returned to Texas.

“I knew I wanted to be a trial lawyer, and had an opportunity to work at the district attorney’s office in Longview,” he said. “They hired me and I went to work in 2001—as far as my legal profession, I knew I wanted to be a prosecutor. I was there six years, and decided to run for district attorney in Upshur County—at age 30.”

When asked how wearing the hat of justice and the hat of grace plays out, he said, “When you get down to it, God created a perfect world—a perfect man and a perfect woman—and He created a perfect universe for us—and we fell from Him,” he said. “And people are still falling from



▲ **Billy Byrd**

Him every day. God doesn’t give up on us—but God believes in order and justice—and He has ordered the church, the government, the institution of the family—and in those, there ought to be order—but we have chaos because God is not in people’s lives. They’ve turned on Him, and when that happens, man’s law has to be enforced.”

Byrd says he is a very aggressive prosecutor, and he enforces the law very aggressively. “However, since I have been saved and have been in the ministry, I’ve shared many times with my church, that there is not one person that I’ve ever prosecuted; not one person that’s ever been sent to prison, not one person that’s serving a life sentence and is not going to parole out, that can’t be saved,” he said. “Not one of them are beyond God’s saving grace, so I’m going to make sure that laws are going to be enforced, but I also pray for those that I end up having to prosecute because I know that God can save them.”

Even after Byrd has prosecuted people, he firmly believes there is a

PASTOR BILLY BYRD continued on p. 4



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MAKING PROGRESS

Introducing new BMA Texas Missions, Baptist Missionary Loan Association of Texas and Baptist Progress staff

By **JERRY FULTON**

As with any ministry or business, staff changes are made through the years. For the past two years, Justin Owens, a former BMA pastor and missionary, has served as office manager for the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas Office Building, while earning his degree in computer programming. Recently, Justin informed Heith Mitchell, BMA Texas Missions Director, and me that he would be resigning to accept a position where he could put his degree to work. We are most grateful to Justin for the excellent job he has done and the ministry he has provided to the BMA of Texas during his time with us. In fact, we hate to see him go. Justin has always done his work efficiently and effectively and has been incredibly easy to work with in our office setting. We wish him well as he embarks on a new career adventure.

With Justin's impending departure, because both BMA Texas Missions and the Baptist Missionary Loan Association have grown in size and responsibility, Bro. Mitchell and I decided that it would be best to divide the responsibilities Justin was fulfilling as office manager for the BMA of Texas Office Building into three positions.

First, Doug Strube has been hired as assistant to the BMA Texas Missions Director. Doug handles various projects for Bro. Mitchell on a part-time basis. Doug is a member of Farley Street, Waxahachie, and retired as an engineer. He brings a wealth of knowledge to the BMA Texas Missions office and has superb computer skills.



▲ **Doug Strube**

Letty Lopez has been hired as the office manager for BMA Texas Missions. Letty is the wife of David Lopez, pastor of Mensajeros De La Verdad, Bardwell. What

a great addition she is to the office building, as she speaks English and Spanish fluently. Most likely, it will be Letty who answers the phone, should you call the BMA Texas Missions line at 972-923-0757.



▲ **Letty Lopez**

Lisa Maynard, a member of First, Palmer, has been hired as the office manager for the Baptist Missionary Loan Association and Baptist Progress. For the past several years, Lisa has owned and operated her own bookkeeping service in Waxahachie. In addition to her role of office manager of each department, she will assist Cassie Fulton, business manager of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association.



▲ **Lisa Maynard**

Cassie served for eight years as secretary to Bro. Jerry Burnaman, who led the Baptist Missionary Loan Association until the Lord called him home in August 2020. Baptist Missionary Loan Association Trustees promoted Cassie to the position of business manager when they chose to nominate me as the director of the department in September 2020. Should you call Baptist Progress, at 972-923-0756, it will most likely be Lisa's voice you will hear on the other end of the line. Both Lisa and Cassie answer the Baptist Missionary Loan Association line at 972-923-0758.

Bro. Mitchell and I are excited that God has provided such capable team members as we seek to serve the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association to the best of our abilities. Please pray for Doug, Letty and Lisa as they begin their work with us.

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MINISTRY CONNECTION WORKSHOPS

DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING MINISTRY CONNECTION WORKSHOPS!



Jerry Fulton

Interim Pastor Training (This workshop would benefit any pastor!)

- Led by Jerry Fulton, who has served numerous churches as an interim pastor
- Those who complete the training will be certified as an interim pastor for the BMA of Texas.
- All potential interim pastors must have pastoral experience.

DATE & TIME: Aug. 16, 2022, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch
PLACE: BMA of Texas Building, 632 Farley Street, Waxahachie
REGISTRATION FEE: FREE!

Even if you are not interested in serving as an interim pastor, those who have attended this workshop have said that any pastor would benefit from the training provided in the workshop!



Karl Vaters

Leading the Smaller Church Without Settling for Less

- Led by author, blogger and small church pastor Karl Vaters
- You will learn how to redefine success in ministry, the difference between big churches and small churches, how to discover and use what your church does well, as well as how to find and mentor volunteers in today's and tomorrow's small church.

DATE & TIME: Sept. 13, 2022, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch
PLACE: BMA of Texas Building, 632 Farley Street, Waxahachie
REGISTRATION FEE: FREE!



TBHC

FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

I'm just sayin'

By **JASON CURRY**

TBHC's heritage is deep, and we enjoy the benefit of standing on the great shoulders of those who have gone before. June is a great month for us to celebrate our history. In the modern era no one person embodies our history better than C.B. Stanley. Men and women remember meeting him and reference him often as a vision-caster who set TBHC on the course it has continued today. We want to ask you to turn the dial back to 1960 when men and women like Elvis Presley and Dean Martin were singing their now classics. And hear directly from him in an excerpt from *A Brief History of the Texas Baptist Orphanage*, by T.C. Melton, written by C.B. Stanley, manager/president of the Home.

**MY TWENTY-TWO YEARS
BY C.B. STANLEY**

To go back to November 1938, back to the depression years, back to post-war years, and walk down the already traveled past for a review of happenings at your Texas Baptist Orphanage would not be easy, especially since very little is written out before me. But, if high points can be touched upon, it might prove to be worthwhile even in the future years of work with "our children".

As we have made some history, it might be preserved for generations to follow. If we had had a written history to read and study, it would have been very valuable in charting our course as the head of our beloved institution, which, at that time, had been in the business of giving loving care to hundreds of needy children, for 28 years. Of course there were valuable bits of information which we soon put to use, as a help in doing many things which had been done before, and avoiding some mistakes of the past, yet realizing that no great progress could be made just building on another's foundation, unless the building should be done in a broadening way. So, 22 years ago, we plunged into the work, trusting in the good Lord to give us wisdom, knowledge and a vision of what could be accomplished.

In those days, there were many friends to wish us luck and to help us pray for success in our new undertaking. With such encouragement, it was not difficult to feel that we could stand up under the burden, at least 2 or 3 years, when we did suppose we might go back into the pastorate once again, having had some 24 years' experience in working

with several churches in that capacity. Just why we are here, after 22 years, we do not know, unless it is the Lord's will and that we have the greatest people on Earth to serve as a servant for Jesus' sake."

I want to invite you to join our celebration of TBHC history by reading Stanley's full in its entirety or checking out our social media posts through the month. You can do so by scanning the QR code below.

His contemplation as to the future of TBHC and what history might teach us is so profound.

"But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27 NKJV).

When anyone joins our ministry, I suspect and hope it is always for that possibility of what could be accomplished in serving children. For the sake of God not ourselves "what could be" keeps all our staff going. Knowing that with God all things are possible. I hope you know and live out that truth. We are grateful to those who have gone before to establish a heritage and a ministry worth perpetuating. Serving kids of trauma and giving them a hopeful future. Thank you for all helping serve them "for Jesus' sake"

I'm just sayin'.



C.B. Stanley Blog



Facebook

Jason Curry is the president of the Texas Baptist Home for Children. Contact him 629 Farley St, Waxahachie, Texas 75165, 972-937-1321 or jcurry@tbhc.org. For more information, visit www.tbhc.org.



An expression of everlasting love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend, or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home for Children, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from May 1-31, 2022.

ENDOWMENT:

E ANN PACE: Karl & Martha Pace

MYRA STOKES: Bill Stokes

HONORARIUMS:

DARRYL LOW: Leon & Johnnie Ross

LILLIE PRESSLEY: Leon & Johnnie Ross

MR. & MRS. HEITH WILKERSON: Leon & Johnnie Ross

MR. & MRS. KEN PRESSLEY: Leon & Johnnie Ross

MEMORIALS

ANNIE PIRTLE: Jed & Glenice Whitaker

BETH BLAIR: Emma Burleson

BUBBY & LULU HAZELL: Cheryl Briscoe

DOROTHY BURLESON: Emma Burleson

DOROTHY WRIGHT: Thomas Jeter

E.B. STAFFORD: Rosemarie Stroud

EDDIE S BYRD: Darinda Medcalf

GREGG POTTS: Bobby & Lillian Trimble; Jimmy & Carla Shipp

JAMES CORBIN: Jed & Glenice Whitaker; Brenda Ray

KATHY DANIELS: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

LARRY & ROSELEN BOBO: James Bobo

LAWRENCE PHILPOT: Rosemarie Stroud

LOVITA LOU OUIMET: James Ouimet

LUCILLE CARTER: Jerry Carter

MARTHA SULSER: Lois & Fendley Tucker

MR. & MRS. EDWARD TALBOT: Roy & Elizabeth Talbot

PATRICIA STOKELY: Simmons Hill Baptist Church

PHILIP HOLT: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

RUTH DREW: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

TERRY DAVIS: Tommy & Virginia Gipson

THOMAS JAY: Deborah Jay

WALTER BECKER: Dennis & Ilona Myrice

memorials-honorariums

Pastor Billy Byrd—Oak Hill, Gilmer Pastor—prosecutor cont.

ministry in prison, and that even incarcerated, they can be used of God.

“There have been times that I’ve received correspondence from people whom I’ve prosecuted that have told me very plainly that if they had not been prosecuted and imprisoned, that they would have been dead today,” Byrd noted. “And there are some who have engaged in prison ministry and Bible study groups who have found the Lord. I am in correspondence with more than one right now that are incarcerated. I try to encourage them with scripture and with gospel tracts and just try to encourage them in their life because God has certainly changed my life.”

Byrd admits to sensing a little conflict in his own heart as he balances his prosecutorial duties with his pastor’s heart.

“I’ve had a front row seat in all the evil in the world and have seen the devil’s work every day and how he’s destroying lives,” he said. “It is a daily struggle—the Lord says ‘vengeance is Mine’—I know there are certain people in this world that do such awful things to innocent people, and you want to wield that sword of vengeance when that belongs to the Lord—my job is to prosecute and enforce the laws and do the things that I can do—and the rest of it is up to the Lord.”

He says that it is necessary to compartmentalize those things and to separate those things—and it’s not easy to do on a daily basis.

“As I have told my congregation, I’m in the ditch and in the mud every day, and that’s why it’s good to be around God’s people—to be in God’s house, and I’m thankful God has called me to preach the Word, because that’s refreshing to me—to preach grace, and salvation and the gospel of Christ,” Byrd said.

He testifies to the fact there have been specific cases where, as a prosecutor, he was intending to send someone to prison, but God used the Holy Spirit to tell him that there needs to be something else done.

“There have been times when in the middle of a case, paper work has been signed—somebody was agreeing to a prison sentence and the Lord just really whispered into my heart, ‘Give them a chance of probation and rehabilitation,’ and in the middle of the court proceeding, and with a great district judge, who

is a good Christian man, and who understands, I have stopped pleas in the middle, interrupting him to do something different. I tell you; God always knows what He’s doing, and in certain cases, God has really used them in a mighty way, changing their lives and are using some of them in ministry right now—it’s unbelievable. So, it’s been a great experience, and I get to see God work in the midst of all this evil, chaos and sinful behavior.”

Byrd has had few detractors while being a pastor-prosecutor, but he knows many people don’t believe it’s possible to prosecute people, put them in prison, and then preach grace.

“But God is a God of order, law and justice—people need to know that,” he said.

He also can attest to the fact that his training as a prosecutor now for 21 years, and dealing with difficult situations, has benefitted him in the pastorate.

“I always pray that God will keep me in the spirit and not allow me to get in the flesh—because we are all broken people—and that includes the pastor,” he said. “And so, when we approach difficult things within the church, there’s going to be times when you have to counsel and deal with them, and I am thankful that God has given me this background because I think that it does help in those situations.”

Like other preachers, Byrd feels that expositional preaching of the Word through books of the Bible are the best way to preach.

“I’m not saying that it’s the only way—but drawing from life’s experiences, not only myself, but other people whom I’ve dealt with over the years, allows me to bring in some real-life examples—not something I’ve read or that somebody told me, but things I’ve personally experienced as a prosecutor, to really bring that to the forefront and use real life examples, and makes the passage come alive.”

Possessing a truly compassionate and humble spirit, Byrd considers himself a “work in progress” and feels he has much growing and learning to do. He is vocal about his feelings of inadequacy.

He draws much advice and mentoring from other ministers, but two of his favorites are Dr. Charley Holmes, president of the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in

Jacksonville, who has driven down to Gilmer and given him biblical instruction and encouragement.

He cites another encourager who has given him support and counsel—Bro. Charles Johnson, longtime pastor of Rosewood Baptist Church located just 8 miles from Gilmer.

“I owe so much to these brothers,” Byrd said.

When asked about the future of Oak Hill, Byrd replied, “God’s spirit is here. He guided us through COVID—He has brought us new members and professions of faith. That was the trajectory we were on prior to COVID. God was faithful to see us through. We have a good, kind, warm and welcoming people here.”



Liberty and Wood Associations hold rallies for missions

By **CHARLES JOHNSON**

Rosewood, Gilmer Pastor

Liberty Baptist Association and Wood County Baptist Association held a combined rally for Ukraine missions on Antioch, Gilmer May 10. The meeting was attended by 18 churches and 14 pastors.

Billy Byrd, moderator of Liberty Association, welcomed those in attendance and brought devotional thoughts from the Book of Joel. He introduced BMA missionaries Larry and Tammy Wood who have served in Ukraine since 2018.

The Woods gave an excellent report and slide show on their three church plants. Some of these plants have already birthed new congregations.

The Woods had already made plans to relocate to Czech Republic before the recent Russian invasion and attack on Ukraine. They are returning to this region in eastern

Europe where they will assist in caring for refugees who have fled Ukraine due to the war.

The assembled churches brought offerings totaling \$13,100 to help the Woods with their ministries. Larry reported this will provide over 10 tons of food for the refugees or support housing for some 80 refugee families.

Two nights later, Liberty Association met again at Antioch for a rally for Baptist Medical Missions International. Pastor Michael Pool welcomed the messengers from 12 churches of the association. Moderator Billy Byrd read from Isaiah 41.

Dr. John Ladd, M.D., assistant to the director of Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI), and his wife, Shirley, shared the ministry of the missions outreach. They

showed slides of various parts of the world where medical mission clinics have been held. They also shared various experiences on the mission field and the use of reading glasses distributed by BMMI teams.

The churches were encouraged to participate in the BMMI ministry of Christmas shoeboxes through “Operation Everlasting Smiles.” Fellowship, Pittsburg and Rosewood, Gilmer will be serving as regional collection centers for the shoe boxes. Shoeboxes this year will go to Ukraine refugee children.

Following the service, the host church served a delicious barbecue meal to those in attendance. A rally for Lifeword will be at Camille Acres, Longview at 7 p.m. August 18.

Welcome home to our missionaries



By **ANGELA RICE**

BMA Global Missions

Missionaries consider “home” to be wherever their mission field is located, but those of who serve at BMA Global Missions love to welcome them “back home” during their furloughs and other stateside returns. We are blessed to have two recently remodeled properties next to our offices that we offer for a temporary home base and a comfortable, relaxing stay.

After a recent tour of our Global Missions Center campus, I told Mrs. Barbara Speer, a First, Carthage church member, that our two missionary houses needed updating, especially the beds and bedding. I also shared my desire to raise the necessary funds because I wanted the houses to feel more like home. Not long after Mrs. Barbara’s return to Texas, First, Carthage became the first church to take on this project and raise funds to update furniture and décor in one of the cottages.

When Mrs. Barbara, along with Mrs. Carol Cain, came back to Conway, they were on a mission to shop and

decorate. They totally remodeled one of the bedrooms and added a king-sized bed, chest of drawers, bedding, lamps and pictures for each bedroom. After my online post about the renovations, others began asking to help and gave enough funds to finish one of the houses, which looks beautiful.

As we began preparations to remodel the other house, which is older and needs new paint and flooring, major water damage was discovered. The windows and framing must be replaced and will add to the expense, but we are so thankful for people who love our missionaries and want the houses to feel like home to everyone who stays in them.

If you are interested in helping out, let me know. Any amount given will be used for our missionary homes and needs that may come up. To give, send your check to BMA Missions/Missionary Care, memo: Missionary House, PO Box 878 Conway, Arkansas 72033. If you have questions, call me, Angela Rice, at 214-498-3041.

Your World Missions Day 2022 giving

By **SIDNEY VINES**

BMA Global Missions Relationship Manager

THANK YOU! Those words do not seem adequate for the sacrificial way BMA America churches gave during World Missions Day 2022. More than \$500,000 was given to the Jerry Kidd Missions Offering.

Without your generous giving, we could not do what we do. That includes supporting the work of 60 American missionaries and church planters and 500 ChangeMaker missionaries in 61 countries. Because of you, we can continue to add new ChangeMakers like those in Ecuador, Lebanon and Columbia.

On behalf of the entire Missions team, I want to express my appreciation for being churches that respond to God’s global mission and support those around the world who are sharing the gospel, making disciples, and planting churches. It has been a great joy to serve you during my first year on the Missions team, and to those of you with whom I’ve connected by phone or in person, thank you for your responsiveness and kindness.

Also, it is encouraging to hear how your church supports our missionaries. You are an association that loves to see the gospel spread to all nations. It is a true blessing to be a part of God’s work in and through the BMA.

As always, if there is any way that I can serve, please let me know.



GOD’S GIFT

HEAVEN IS A FREE GIFT!

It is not earned or deserved. No amount of effort or good works can earn a place for you in heaven. Why?

Because . . .

MAN IS A SINNER.

“For all have sinned . . .” (Rom. 3:23) Because of this, man cannot save himself. GOD. On the one hand, God is merciful and does not want to punish us. Yet God is just and must punish sin. God solved this problem for us in the Person of . . .

JESUS CHRIST.

He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and rose from the grave to purchase a place for us in heaven—“the Lord has laid on Him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all” (Isa. 53:6).

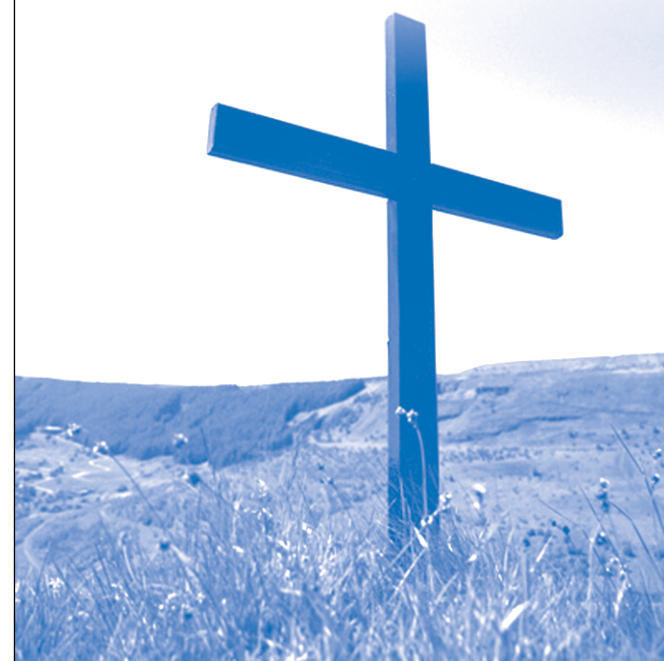
THE GIFT IS RECEIVED BY FAITH.

Saving faith is trusting in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life. It means resting on Christ alone and what He has done, rather than what you or I have done to get us into heaven. “Believe on (or trust in) the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31).

SO MAY WE ASK . . .

Have you received God’s free gift of eternal life? The Bible assures us in 1 John 5:13 that we can know we have eternal life.

Do you know for sure that you are going to heaven when you die? The Bible says, “Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” If you are willing to repent (turn away from your sin and to the Lord Jesus) you can receive the free gift of eternal life by simply praying: Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner and do not deserve eternal life. But I believe You died and rose from the grave to purchase a place in heaven for me. Jesus, come into my life, take control of my life, forgive my sins, and save me. I am now placing my trust in You alone for my salvation, and I accept your free gift of eternal life.



BMA TEXAS

MISSIONS

Your Church's Mission Movement in Texas



A word from your Missions Office

By HEITH MITCHELL

Your Texas mission movement remains focused on our vision and values in order to be the best steward of your mission funds and partner with you in Great Commission work.

OUR VISION SINCE 2016:

Equipping missionaries. We are working to simplify and improve our training, accountability and care structures to make sure we are providing the best care to your missionaries that we can.

Who follow Christ. We do not want to get in the way of a missionary's obedience as they walk in obedience to the Word of God and in step with the Spirit of God. A church already has a head and a believer already has a Lord and King.

In building missional churches. Your BMA missions must become healthy BMA churches with biblical structure. If they aren't sharing the gospel, making disciples, equipping leaders and starting new churches we are missing our mission.

With the support and intimate involvement of local BMA churches. We want to start churches, together, that know you and are known by you. We want them to be part of our BMA family. We want you to have the opportunity to walk beside them and to share in their assignment.

OUR VALUES SINCE 2016:

Plant churches to reach the lost. We don't recruit missionaries. We help men who have a call upon their life and a burden for a pocket of lost Texans. We meet a lot of people wanting to start churches for other reasons.

Plant churches that demonstrate a genuine commitment to multiplying disciples, leaders and churches. Again, we want many missional churches.

Plant churches committed to working together with the BMA of Texas and associated churches to carry out God's mission. We love and believe in our BMA family. We excitedly introduce churches to it and welcome them into the family. We can't wait to see how these new churches positively impact our whole BMA family.

Plant churches with prepared, equipped, and cared for church planters. We believe in heavy investment in a mission. We want to do all we can to help it succeed. We invest in salaries, resourcing, training, coaching, cohorts, retreats, care and healthy accountability.

Plant churches but not at the expense of a church planter's family. We are committed to protecting the family who is church planting. They are under attack in this season and under strain. We try to help with retreats, care packages, encouraging calls and visits for wives. We are committed to ending a mission before the mission ends a marriage.

Plant unique churches that glorify God while reaching into unique and diverse pockets of lost people. Every church has the same Lord, the same gospel, the same mission, the same Holy Spirit, and the same Word. The differences are context and the uniqueness of the missionary and his team. God molds and shapes people uniquely and takes

them on a unique journey. This brings him glory! The BMA is made up of unique churches and we are planting the same. We are different and have everything in common. It is beautiful!

Plant churches while practicing authenticity and transparency with supporting churches, trustees, personnel and church plants. We are aware that this is your mission movement. We don't practice politics and we have nothing to hide from you. We often say that when we hide nothing because we have nothing to hide. You can know and ask. You can be involved. You can give and a mission will be blessed. I thank you for your partnership with your Texas missions.

A word from your missionaries

TIM ALBA - THE BRIDGE IN SEAGOVILLE

Lately, I have learned that it is not only to have a plan and structure when planting a church but also to want God to be a part of it. I know that sounds strange but the truth is that we can get tied up in strategy and planning and forget that it is God who we need in our plans. I have made it very clear to our congregation that God needs to be at the center of the church.



▲ Tim Alba

People can experience an awesome church culture but never experience God. These past couple of Sundays, God has brought this to my attention and we have seen people impacted by God. It has been amazing to see our people move and become more committed each week. I believe it's because God is doing something at our church. We want to have a good plan to be successful, but we also need to see God move in our services and lives. Remember the day of Pentecost? Not only did Peter preach a powerful sermon, but God moved that day. We need to do the same today. We need a movement of God in our churches.

Prayer Needs:

Continue to pray for our family as we strive to serve our King and His kingdom.

ISAIAS MARTINEZ— CONROE MISSION

It has been a great blessing to belong to the BMA family. The multiplication program received in our office in Waxahachie had a great impact on our missionary strategy for the next term. Thank you BMA for preparing us.



▲ Isaias Martinez

Prayer Needs:

Pray for us as we have designed

our multiplication program and want to start it in July of this year.



Daughter's college graduation



Daughter's wedding

CESAR LEAL— IGLESIA BAUTISTA MISIONERA DE SAN ANTONIO

cesarchacin@hotmail.com

I praise God for the opportunity He gives me to serve with my wife in missionary work with Hispanics in Texas. I believe that the results, despite the negative forecasts I hear from other people, God has been good in the area where we are and we have seen the Lord's backing. I have learned that if we do our part in the Kingdom of God, God will do His as He has promised in His Word. If we sow and water, God "will give growth."



▲ Cesar Leal



BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p. 15

Theme for Lifeword Sunday announced



By **JENNIFER HARRELL**

Lifeword

We are excited to announce the theme for Lifeword Sunday 2022: NO BORDERS.

Matthew 24:14 “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations.”

The gospel has NO BORDERS, God’s kingdom has NO BORDERS and therefore, Lifeword has NO BORDERS!

Lifeword Sunday is a day for every church in the BMA to pray for, celebrate and give to the ministry of Lifeword! The 2022 edition of Lifeword Sunday is scheduled for Oct. 23.

Our mission is to make the name of Jesus known among the nations and to share His gospel of hope to a dying world. We are all invited into a spiritual kingdom. There are no guards, fences, barriers or restrictions in His kingdom. God’s only requirement is faith in His Son as Jesus, our Savior.

Lifeword currently shares the gospel in 135 languages in 125 countries around the world. Our goal is to reach 200 languages in the next five years. We are well on our way to reaching that goal. Lifeword never asks for funding over the air; we are totally supported by the generosity of churches and individual donors.

The tools and technology of media are excellent avenues for us to cross borders and cultures to bring hope to people desperate to know Him. Lifeword seeks to share Jesus in the heart languages of those viewing or listening to our message. There is no place we are not willing to go. Our mission is to take the gospel to every tribe, every tongue, every culture, every race, in every nation.

Registration for Lifeword Sunday is now open at www.lifeword.org/lifeword-sunday. Every church who registers will have their pastor entered into the Lifeword Sunday Giveaway which is a free MacBook Air!

We would love the opportunity to share what God is doing through Lifeword. If your church would like to schedule Donny or another team member to come for a visit, you can contact Jennifer at jennifer@lifeword.org.

The Master’s Builders help in Texas



▲ The Master’s Builders at Latch, Gilmer

By **NELDA MALONE**

The Master’s Builders Reporter

The Master’s Builders traveled to Latch, Gilmer in May. They were there to help build a much-needed closet for storage in the church’s family life center. The delicious meals and snacks provided by Pastor Leon and Mrs. Johnnie Ross and the church were greatly appreciated. The Master’s

Builders were scheduled to be at Jacksonville College at the time of this writing. If you have questions about this ministry or if your church has building needs, please contact Mike Green at 972-935-3877 or David Axe at 903-918-0720. And follow us on Facebook!

Coverage for the Unthinkable

Does your insurance policy contain critical coverage gaps for your ministry’s mission teams?

The first moments of any crisis are critical. A kidnap and ransom policy can provide your ministry support from an experienced, multi-lingual crisis management team. The policy provides coverage well beyond kidnapping. It includes extortion, disappearances, express kidnapping, hijacking and more.

These threats are domestic and international issues, and no organization is immune. To learn more, speak with your local agent.

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Call **844.400.2248** or visit **AmericanChurchGroup-Texas.com**.

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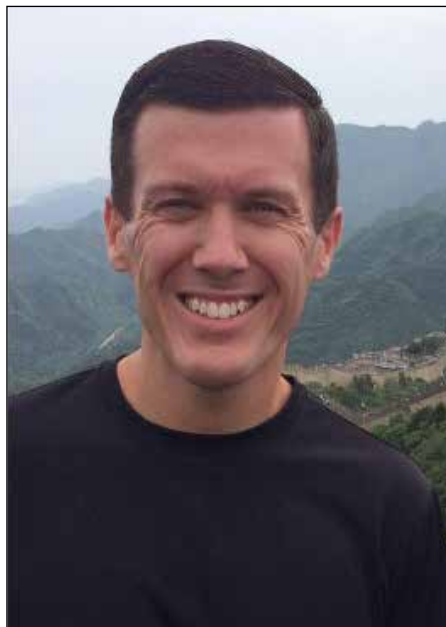
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Caring for our missionaries

By **MARGARET ANDERSON**

BMA Global Missions

Jonathan Montgomery recently transitioned from part-time to full-time status with BMA Missions as director of missionary care. Jonathan previously served as youth and children's pastor at First, Taylor, Arkansas for 11 years, and this month marks 15 years of service in full-time student ministry.



▲ Jonathan Montgomery

Originally from Springhill, Louisiana, Jonathan's passion for missions started years ago as a VSM student. He then served as a VSM team leader, assisted in training other VSM leaders and has led several other short-term trips.

When the pandemic began in 2020, BMA Missions assembled a team to regularly check on every missionary during the earliest months of the pandemic. Jonathan served on this team, and for the last year worked as Bro. Jerry Kidd's assistant for missionary care.

When asked why missionary care is important, Jonathan replied, "The life of a missionary presents many unique challenges both in preparing to go, serving on the field, and transitioning back to the States after years of service.

"Missionary Care is designed to help our missionary servants during these stages of their service and to help them through each transition and whenever a crisis comes up. We hope to minister to the whole missionary (spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional health of each individual) as well as the whole family.

"Missionary Care primarily offers encouragement and prayer support, but we also can connect our missionaries with counselors and coaches for additional support during tough times. We are here to serve our missionaries as they serve others."

Jonathan and his wife, Mandy, have two sons: Max, 12, and Ben, 9. They are a "baseball family," so most of their spare time is spent at the boys' ballgames and practices. They also love to travel and have a goal of visiting all 50 states; in the last two years they have traveled 10,000 miles and visited 42 states. They hope to attend a game at all of the Major League Baseball parks. Jonathan also enjoys reading, especially historical books and biographies.

His start date at BMA Missions was May 1, but he has been "serving our missionaries as they serve others" for years. Join us in welcoming Jonathan to the Missions team.

Dedication of Darlene Carey Christian Academy

By **STAN SCROGGINS**

BMA Missionary to the Philippines

The culmination of six years of meetings, dreaming and planning over two years of construction and continuous prayer was crowned with the wonderful ceremony memorializing and honoring the life of missionary Darlene Carey.

We missionaries often use the modern mission mantra "leave no footprint," meaning that when our mission is done and we depart the mission field, the work will be self-sustaining by the indigenous churches and people. With that in mind, it became very clear that we must come up with a way the Filipinos could continue the work of the Baptist Missionary Association Bible College after Americans depart. The new academy will help move in that direction. Once fully enrolled, the academy can supplement one third of the budget of the Bible College. So, not only is the academy's purpose to provide education to Filipino children, but also allow for the continued preparation for ministry of pastor, missionaries and church workers here in the Philippines and all of Southeast Asia.

There are a lot of words to help phrase our gratefulness. Let me express just a few ways that helped make the dream possible. First, to our fellow laborer's missionaries Doug and Diane Lee and Jimmy and Julie Walker. Jimmy actually took up the task early in his work. Having a background in Christian school administration made him the ideal leader of the project once he arrived here. Doug and Diane Lee sustained us throughout with encouragement and prayers and support.

Next are our faithful BMA churches and individuals. This \$230 thousand project is debt free and paid for by hundreds of gifts from all over the United States. Every amount, big

and small, has provided sustainability for the Filipinos which otherwise would not have been possible.

To the wonderful ladies of our National Women's Missionary Auxiliary, what can be said to emphasize their impact on the project? Thank you to every local church WMA, local and state association chapters who promoted and support the over \$57 thousand given through the National WMA Project.

At the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony, we were excited to welcome all our American Philippine Missionaries: Fil Kakilala, Cris and Alicia Samson, Danny and Rita Ballard, Doug and Diane Lee and Stan and Donna Scroggins. Local missionaries John and Louella Page, area pastors, BMA Bible College faculty and staff, the Academy principal Raydarlyn Vallejere and her teachers, BMAP president Jojo Vallejere, National Department of Education representatives, the local congressman's representative and guests from the United States Jimmy Walker and Dr. Philip Attebery.

Darlene Carey was the epitome of self-sacrifice for the people God had called her. Thousands of people were led to Christ through her personal testimony, she provided education for hundreds of children, and mentored pastors of churches she helped establish. They are all a lasting, living legacy of the Lord's desire for the nations which He accomplished through Darlene's life. All who knew her know that she would most assuredly recoil from all the attention and accolades, honor and praise and rightfully point us to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom all honor, praise and glory are due.



Auxiliaries

Hotdogs, S'mores, crafts and fun at Texas Sunbeam House Party

By **GLENDA CHAMBERLAIN**

Can you smell the hotdogs? Is your mouth watering for S'mores? You may be ready for the Texas Sunbeam House Party.

Do you like to sing around a campfire, run through a maze and make crafts? Would you like to learn how to follow a guide and track a "critter"? Then you ARE ready to attend the Texas Sunbeam House Party.

House Party will be held at Jacksonville College held July 15-16, 2022. In addition to hotdogs, S'mores, crafts and a maze, you'll enjoy singing around the campfire on Friday evening, bunk in the girl's dorm, chow-down in the cafeteria, track a critter around campus, learn how God is our Guide, and have fun! fun! fun!

Plan to make a flag for your Sunbeam group and make a bank to collect your project money. Each Sunbeam can draw and color a picture that tells how God is their Guide. All these items will be displayed.

The current project is to help Sister Barnett in teaching the Roma Children that God loves them and about His salvation. This is very important and you can help!

Make plans to attend, bring your sleeping bag, a toothbrush, and bring a friend. Information about the House Party is online, www.texaswma.com, click on the Sunbeam link at the top of the page. Be sure to contact Texas Sunbeam Promoter Ms. Koonce at 281-642-5356 for more information.

TEXAS LADIES RETREAT AUGUST 26-27

Ladies now is the time to register for our annual TEXAS Ladies Retreat! This year we will gather at Union Hill, Brownsboro. Go to www.texaswma.com and click on events for additional information.

Diana Morris, Texas WMA 2nd vice president, set "Everybody Everywhere Needs Jesus" as the theme for this year, many of the workshops for the retreat are missions centered. One workshop will be Everlasting Smiles Christmas Shoeboxes. These boxes will be sent to Ukraine refugee areas this year. We are asking that you bring items to help fill 250-300 boxes. Contact Diana Morris at grammydi1013@msn.com or call 903-288-7575 to see what items we need.

Guest speaker will be Judy Biggers from Arkansas. Other workshops include Baptist Medical Mission trips, our church and the community impact, how to study your Bible, along with painting and flower arranging fun.

Dates for the retreat are August 26-27, 2022 with a cost of \$45 per person which includes the project T-shirt if registered by August 1st. Be sure to bring items for the silent auction, proceeds go to our project, South Asia mission work. We look forward to seeing each one of you!

DISTRICT NEWS

Cherokee WMA met at Sardis, Henderson April 12, 2022. President Cindy Allen called the meeting to order. The WMA motto was recited by all, and Psalm 130:5 was read by Nancy Washburn. Opening prayer was led by President Cindy, and Sardis gave a warm welcome.

While the offering was taken up, everyone sang "What a Day That Will Be." After Secretary Lugene Sims conducted the roll call, a special in song, "Sheltered in the Arms of God" was presented by Sardis.

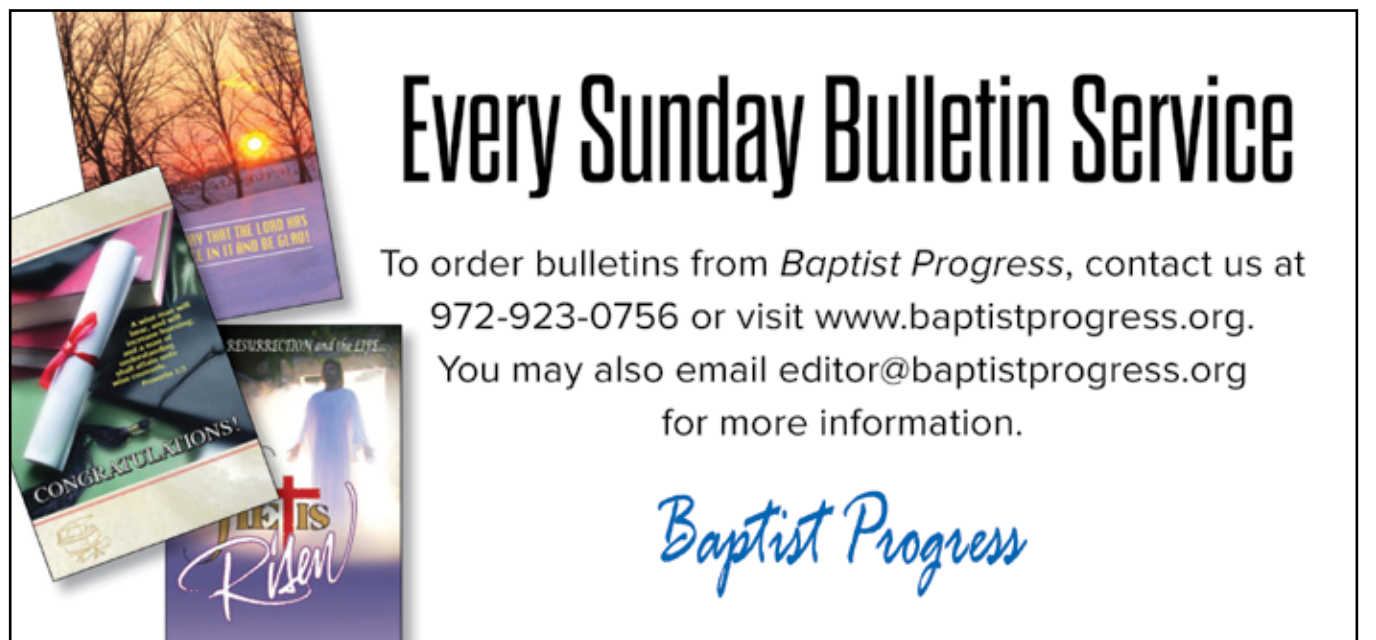
Shirley Reese, guest speaker, with the Cherokee County Child and Family Service Board was introduced. It is a nonprofit organization of volunteers affiliated with Child Protective Services to assist abused and neglected children in the county. Shirley spoke about what is involved when a child is removed from the family and taken into Protective Services. When a child or children are taken in, they sometimes have only the clothes they have on. The Rainbow Room is an emergency resource center supplied through community donations to provide immediate assistance when emergencies occur. Recipients range from infants to youth and all ethnic groups. It is stocked with basic items to meet the needs of these children. Every item and dollar donated is used to directly help these children. Donations consist of money, clothing, all infant care items, youth items, etc. Shirley stated "it takes a village with donations and volunteers to succeed." Mrs. Reese was presented an appreciation gift from the group as well as needed donated items for the Rainbow Room.

President Cindy called for Old Business, which was the

report on the soup lunch for the BMA Seminary. Report on the pizza and ice cream fellowship for the GMA house party, which raised \$400 for the Cherokee WMA District project. Community outreach for the next quarter with a theme of "Let God's love overflow" was presented. We are to engage in the next three months within the community, and record on the pink slips that were handed out to each group what we did to splash some of God's love in our community. We are to bring the completed slips to next district meeting and discuss.

There were 18 in attendance with 3 officers present. The Attendance Banner was awarded to Cornerstone, Jacksonville. A total of \$1,283 received, of which \$1,118 was designated for the project and \$65 for general fund. \$100 was donated to the Rainbow Room. Secretary Lugene read a thank you letter from Dr. Holmes, BMA Seminary, noting that it is the 65th anniversary of the BMA Seminary. Cindy Allen extended words of appreciation for the hospitality and warm welcome given by Sardis. Prayer requests were spoken and Glenda Haynes gave the closing prayer. The next district WMA meeting will be at First, Jacksonville on July 12, 2022.

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.



Every Sunday Bulletin Service

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Baptist Progress

Getting to Know Bro. Jordan Tew

By **JORDAN M. TEW**

Baptist Publishing House Executive Director

Dear friends, I wanted to write a brief letter to the churches of the BMA formally introducing myself and sharing a little about the ministry of Baptist Publishing House (BPH). As many of you probably know, I was elected to serve as the executive director of Baptist Publishing House at the BMAA National Meeting in Springfield, Missouri. I am very happy and excited to serve you in this role.



▲ **Jordan M. Tew**

I came to BPH in 2019 and became a full-time employee in spring of 2020. Since that time, I have learned all the ins and outs of running the day-to-day business it takes to keep BPH operational. As you can imagine, there are many facets to this sort of work.

Before coming to BPH, I served the wonderful people of Eighth Street, Grand Prairie, as their pastor for 6 ½ years. My ministry roles before that were centered upon youth and college ministries—primarily in Jacksonville, (Craft Baptist Church and First Baptist Church). I was ordained to Gospel Ministry at First, Jacksonville. I am currently a member of First, New Summerfield. I teach Sunday school for our adult class.

I am blessed to say that I was able to study and graduate from BMA Seminary with my bachelor's and

master's degrees. I am also currently enrolled in a business management training program to equip me to better serve the churches of the BMA.

My greatest blessings are my wife, Mary, and daughter Savannah. I met Mary while attending Jacksonville College. Her father is Dr. Greg Parsons, a longtime Hebrew and Old Testament professor at BMA Seminary. Mary is also kin to the Reddin and Leslie families. I often say that I “married up” in the BMA when God brought us together. Savannah is our “miracle baby.” We have three babies in Heaven and Savannah's birth almost did not happen. She is truly our pride and joy. We are a small, but very blessed family.

Before any of these things happened, I received a wonderful upbringing in a Christian home. My mom and dad taught me about Jesus and the Bible. They saw to it that I went to church and was raised in a distinctly Christian home. Growing up, my family served in many ministry capacities, and I served with them. I received the call to ministry at age 14. I know that not everybody grows up in a home full of love for the Lord and one another, but I am very grateful that I did.

I was raised to have a strong devotion to the Word of God—a conviction that was only strengthened by my time in seminary and ministry as a pastor. I stand firmly upon the authority and the sufficiency of the Bible because God's Word is perfect. This continues to be my theme as I lead the Baptist Publishing House.

We are devoted to the Word of God and helping people learn it. We will continue to stand upon the Bible, for

devotion to Scripture is my primary goal for BPH. I am also dedicated to ensuring BPH supports and operates in line with the BMA of America Doctrinal Statement. There are zero plans or efforts to write, print or distribute anything that is not in agreement with our doctrinal statement. As stated above, our primary goal is to promote the study of the Bible and supply churches with resources to help them achieve this goal. My plan is to continue the good work that was begun many decades ago by faithful men.

If you are wondering what direction the new director is going to take BPH, just go back 50 years and consider men like Dr. E. Harold Henderson, Dr. Joe Pendleton, J.E. Cobb and D.N. Jackson. Their devotion to the Word of God and being Associational Baptists was clear. I want to continue those things today.

I hope this letter has been encouraging to you and has helped you know more about who I am and what I value. I hope to see many of you in the coming months, as association meetings will take place this fall. If you need anything or want to talk, please feel free to contact me. I am here for you and will do whatever I can to be of service to you or your church.

Jordan M. Tew is the executive director of Baptist Publishing House. Contact him at P.O. Box 279, Jacksonville, Texas 75766, 800-333-1442 or baptistpublishing@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.baptistpublishinghouse.com.



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BMA Texas Missions cont.

HARISHCHANDRA BINAYAK— INDIAN PLANT IN FT. WORTH

Thank you church for supporting me. Your prayer is so precious and it helps me to be strong in the Lord in the midst of challenges. Kindly keep praying for me.

Prayer Needs:

Please pray for my need of a car. Please pray for Aisha and Martin. their father opposes Christianity. Both of them are hiding their faith from their father. Please pray for their protection and also for their father to believe in Jesus as His personal Savior.



▲ Harishchandra Binayak

BRAD HOLCOMB— REDEMPTION BAPTIST IN FT. WORTH

Circling back to the constant need for me as a pastor to remember that my identity is not in what I do but who I am in Jesus. Pastoring is what I have the honor of doing, but I am a son of God through the finished work of Jesus, and so are you if you are in Him. Rest in that, brothers.

Prayer Needs:

Pray for Sydney's migraines.



▲ Brad Holcomb

BICHITRANANDA SATPATHY— INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST MISSION, FORT WORTH

As God's children, let's take time to listen to God and not harden our hearts. It is so critical to have sensitive ears to listen to God what He is saying and pay attention to it as we live a busy life. (Psalm 95:7-8)

Prayer Needs:

Pray for people who hear the gospel to respond, pray for God to



▲ Bichitrananda Satpathy

provide core members, pray for God's wisdom and provision as we strive to pre-launch early 2023. Thank God for those who are getting to hear the gospel and showing great interest in Christ. Pray as we start bible study in a new family. God is doing amazing work here in Fort Worth as He does around the world.

RONNIE MILLS—KINGDOM CHAPEL IN FT. WORTH

Brothers and sisters, we are grateful for all of your continued prayers. We've ended this month with an exciting eight baptisms and four salvations. One thing is for sure, here at Kingdom Chapel, repentance toward Christ is taking place. We're so thankful for the Lord and all He is doing here, and we ask that you continue to pray diligently for us. We can use your help financially if you are able to support us. It will help our students go to camp this summer, among other things such as some mission work we are supporting and along with a church plant. Please send all your funds directly to the BMAT under Ronnie Mills or you may contact us directly at ronnie@kchapel.org. Blessings, and keep fighting the good fight!

Prayer Needs:

Please diligently be in prayer for us as a church that the Lord would open many doors for us to grow the Kingdom, and share the good news. We're grateful for your partnership in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.



▲ Ronnie Mills

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



EVENTS

2022 SOAR STUDENT CONFERENCE

DATE: June 29-July 1, 2022
PLACE: Hilton Anatole Hotel, Dallas

2022 RE:CHARGE LEADERS OASIS

To be decided

2022 BMA OF TEXAS MEETING

DATE: Nov. 7-8, 2022
PLACE: First Baptist Church, Livingston

2022 NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

DATE: Nov. 15-17, 2022
PLACE: Chateau on the Lake, Branson, Missouri

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

PASTOR—Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden (Alba) is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to jesmith_1956@yahoo.com. 10/22

YOUTH PASTOR/MINISTER—New Harmony, Tyler is seeking a full-time youth director/minister. Send resume to the church at 10251 FM 724, Tyler, Texas 75704 or to Russ Jackson at rgjackson63@yahoo.com. TFN

YOUTH/STUDENT MINISTRY—Afton Grove, Jacksonville is seeking a biblically qualified candidate. This is a bivocational position. We are looking for a minister with a heart for God, a heart for students and who is ready to plunge into the work. The candidate will love the Lord and love and lead our students in a growing relationship with Jesus. Please send your resume to Eddie Richardson at fasteddie999elr@gmail.com.

PASTOR—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a pastor. Send resume to 148jimmysealy@gmail.com or to FMBC, Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346. TFN

PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

KEITH WEAVER is the new pastor of First, Omen.

**If you are aware of pastor and staff changes, please notify us by emailing editor@baptistprogress.org.*

BAPTIST MISSIONARY BMLA LOAN ASSOCIATION

The Baptist Missionary Loan Association (BMLA), a ministry of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas, offers loans to churches for everything from land and building purchases, to additions and renovations.

Why consider a loan with BMLA?

We specialize in church building projects.

Since 1953, BMLA has provided loans for churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas. No one understands the needs and goals of BMA congregations and related ministries better than BMLA. Recently, BMLA was authorized by the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas to offer loans to any BMA church in the United States.

We offer competitive rates and terms.

Unlike many commercial lending institutions, BMLA can save your congregation thousands of dollars by requiring minimal closing costs and offering competitive rates.

Faithful stewardship finances our loans.

The money invested in BMLA by congregations and individuals finance our loans for building projects and land purchases.

For more information, visit bmla.org.

If you are ready, you may apply for a loan online at bmla.org. If you have more questions, call us at 972-923-0758.

We look forward to helping you make your dreams come true!

BMLA, P.O. Box 425, Waxahachie, Texas 75168
www.bmla.org

Anniversary Offering

During the month of June, we request that churches, groups and individuals give an anniversary offering of \$110 for 110 years of ministry to the information and equipping ministry of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas—Baptist Progress. Your offering will help Baptist Progress to meet budgetary needs for the year. Perhaps you would consider giving above the requested offering amount of \$110. Our goal is \$10,000.

Send offerings to:

Baptist Progress

P.O. Box 2085

Waxahachie, Texas 75168