

Baptist Progress

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THE INFORMING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRY OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS | JUNE 2021 | VOL. 108 | NO. 06

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EIGHTY THREE YEARS
AND STILL SERVING



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MARTINEZ MINISTERING
IN ROMANIA

Round Prairie, Fairfield Reaching a new generation for Christ

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

Baptist Progress Correspondent

If you were to ask Pastor Chris George what his vision is for the church, the foremost desire of his heart is for his church to be a place where families come to life and when families find Christ, they will find life.

Among the many gifts of Pastor George, who has been pastor of Round Prairie, Fairfield, since March 2016, he has the ability to surround himself with staff and leaders who are effective in pursuing and carrying out the mission of the church to reach Fairfield for Christ, and in helping him to shoulder the load of ministry. He had already built some relations with Round Prairie people when he was youth pastor for them years earlier. From the time when he was at Round Prairie as student pastor until he returned as pastor, he served Herman of Bono, near Jonesboro, Arkansas and from there, he served at O'Quinn, Lufkin as pastor.

George married Fairfield native, Julie Chavers, in 2001, whom he met when they each were attending nurse practitioner school. The couple has two sons and a daughter, Joshua, Caleb, and Lily. According to the church website, his hobbies include flying, traveling with his family and watching college football.

"This is how we ended up back in Fairfield," he said.

He continued, "We didn't come back to pastor Round Prairie—we were back here and the Lord just opened up some doors. I helped with some of the students. I surrendered to preach here at Round Prairie years ago prior to going to the BMA Seminary."

George was raised in Maydelle, near Palestine, where he made his profession of faith in Christ. He surrendered to the ministry in 2003 while serving as student pastor at Round Prairie, and attended seminary in Jacksonville where he graduated from the seminary with a Masters of Religion in 2007. In the advent of his return to Round Prairie, he said he had begun to realize who he was, and in order to be a pastor, he knew he had to be up front with the church and tell them that he was burdened about reaching the next generation right where they were—and if the church extended a call, there had to be some

ROUND PRAIRIE continued on p. 8



▲ Worship Team



▲ Pastor Chris George



▲ Discipleship Pastor Jeff Wright



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MAKING PROGRESS

How much should your church pay a guest preacher?

By **JERRY FULTON**

Recently, I read an article by Art Rainer at artrainer.com titled, “How much should you pay a guest preacher?” I have been asked that question numerous times by churches in need of a preacher to fill their pulpit. From time to time, every church needs someone for pulpit supply. Perhaps the pastor is out of town or he just needs some time off. As Rainer put it in his article, “When this happens, you are faced with the question, ‘How much should we pay the guest preacher?’”

No church should expect any preacher to preach without getting paid. Scripture is clear that those who preach God’s Word should be paid. So, how much should a church pay?

In his article, Rainer gives what he calls four guidelines. They are as follows:

1. Cover travel. Rainer pointed out that as soon as the visiting preacher steps into his car or boards a plane, he becomes your guest. The courteous thing to do is to cover the cost of his flight or his car mileage. The Internal Revenue Service set the current standard mileage rate at \$0.56 per mile for 2021. If the guest speaker flies, he should be offered some form of transportation once he lands such as a rental car.

2. Cover food. Remember, your church has invited a guest preacher, so be a gracious host by providing for his meals. If you are eating out with him, use your credit card. If he is eating on his own, be sure the church reimburses him.

3. Cover accommodations. If the guest preacher is staying overnight, pay for his accommodations. Your church’s guest speaker is sacrificing his time to speak at your church, so be sure to cover any hotel costs.

4. Base the honorarium off your pastor’s salary (including housing allowance). Rainer’s suggestion is that the church should base the guest preacher’s honorarium off of its pastor’s salary.

He pointed out that a church has already decided to pay its pastor a certain amount based on his current responsibilities. Among

these responsibilities are the variables at play with a guest preacher’s honorarium. It makes sense that due to the fact the church’s pastor is already responsible for speaking to a certain size audience for a certain length of time, that the pastor’s salary should be considered when paying a guest preacher.

Rainer suggested that for every service, pay your guest preacher .5 percent of its pastor’s salary.

Example:

- Pastor’s salary (includes housing allowance): \$60,000
- Number of services: 1
- Guest pastor’s honorarium: \$60,000 x .5% = \$300



▲ Jerry Fulton

Such a method in Rainer’s estimation should allow the church to be generous without compromising its stewardship. Of course, churches with a part-time pastor or without a pastor, should base the calculation on what it would pay a full-time pastor.

And, because I do not speak often, but some state and national departmental directors do, I don’t mind telling you that department directors should also be paid when they fill a pulpit as a guest speaker. Some pastors and churches have reasoned that because offerings are already given to the departments, then the cost for the director serving as a guest preacher is covered under his department’s budget. Such reasoning is simply not valid. If your church invites a man to serve as a guest preacher, then your church should pay him, and pay him generously, no matter what position he holds.

\$109 for 109 years of ministry

By **JERRY FULTON**

Baptist Progress

Each year, during the month of June, *Baptist Progress* requests an anniversary offering from churches, classes and groups in order to help meet this ministry’s budget for the year. This year, *Baptist Progress* has requested an offering of \$109 for 109 years of ministry.

As of 2020, with the approval of messengers at the Annual Meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas, *Baptist Progress* became the informing and equipping ministry of the state association. As such, in addition to being the official publication of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas, *Baptist Progress* now offers numerous resources including

Ministry Connection Workshops, interim pastor training, website design and management, a bulletin service, church insurance and more. As the ministry grows, obviously, our budgetary needs will increase. So, we are thankful to those churches who have included us in your budget in addition to what you already pay for your Church Plan subscriptions. And, we are very appreciative to those who have given and will give to this year’s anniversary offering.

Thus far, the churches, listed below, have given \$109 for 109 years of ministry. This year, our goal is to receive \$12,000. Thank you for your partnership in ministry.

Anthony Drive, Ennis
Calvary, Trinidad
Emmanuel, San Antonio
Enon, Gilmer
First, Blooming Grove
First, Crandall

First, Glenn Heights
Friendship, Mesquite
Holly Grove, Livingston
Little Mound, Big Sandy
Mt. Calvary, Carthage
New Hope, New Waverly

New Hope, Streetman
Old Bethel, Canton
Old Tyme, Longview
Red Springs, Tyler
Suburban Wood, Humble
Sunset, Lamesa



Black authors book about his life and ministry

By **JERRY FULTON**

Baptist Progress Editor

A new book, titled *One of His Own*, has been written and published by Optasia Books, and is available at Amazon.com. The author, Dee Black, weaves the story of the unending, yet evermoving presence of God, as he chronicles his life from a poor country boy to Christ's messenger, serving as a pastor. Black's book includes a summary story of his life, and includes 30 original inspirational devotional writings.



He is a graduate of Jacksonville College and Stephen F. Austin University. He also attended the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville. Now retired, Black and his wife, D.J., are members of Keltys First, Lufkin. Keltys First Baptist Church is D.J.'s home church and Black's grandfather, John Anderson Black served as pastor of the church from 1919-1921. Black has pastored churches in Texas and Louisiana.

One of His Own reveals how God has guided the steps of the pastor and his family throughout more than 60 years of ministry. The Blacks have two children, Michael, 52, and Kristi Black Myers, 48, as well as five grandchildren.

In his earlier years, Black was very active in the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas as well as the Baptist Missionary Association of America, serving on numerous trustee boards and committees, including the Texas Baptist Home for Children and the Department of Church Ministries. He was the moderator of three different local associations. Black also was the editor of the youth column for *Baptist Progress* and wrote Sunday school lessons for the Baptist Publishing House. For over five years, he served as the chaplain for Hospice in the Pines in Lufkin.

Black may be contacted at 936-899-5767 or at his address, 4506 Ellen Trout Drive, Apt. 704, Lufkin, Texas 75904. He expresses his deep appreciation for his journey and for all the many friends he and his wife have made and met through the years.



▲ **Dee and DJ Black**

Recognition planned for Dr. Ray Thompson

By **GLENDAM CHAMBERLAIN**

Enon Missionary, Gilmer

Enon Missionary, Gilmer, will host a special event to honor Dr. Ray Thompson at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 27, 2021. The service will include a presentation from the office of Texas Senator Bryan Hughes. This special ceremony will pay tribute to Dr. Thompson as he retires from a ministry that spanned more than half a century.

Dr. Ray Thompson graduated from Quitman High School in 1965. He was ordained by Sand Springs, Mineola. Over the years, he has served as pastor of Coldwater, Winnsboro and Calvary, Gilmer, then went on to lead Enon Missionary, Gilmer, where he and the members of his congregation shared in hundreds of special life moments, such as weddings, baptisms and funerals over the course of nearly five decades. While at Enon, he met and married the love of his life, Maeva Poole Thompson. They have two children, Melady and James Paul, his wife Meagan, and their daughters Molly, Kara and Anna.

In addition to his work with the ministry, Dr. Thompson was employed by a number of public schools and other academic institutions before becoming a professor of education at Texas A&M University-Commerce. He is currently directing the superintendent certification program, teaches doctoral courses and serves as a chair and mentor for doctoral students. He is widely published in educational journals and books.

He has served as president of the Baptist Missionary

Association of Texas and as a member of the BMA Texas Missions Board of Trustees. Dr. Thompson has served as president of the board of trustees at Jacksonville College, where he earned an associate's degree; he also holds a bachelor's degree from East Texas Baptist University, a master of divinity degree from Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary, a master's degree in education from Texas A&M University-Commerce, and a doctoral degree in education from Stephen F. Austin State University.



▲ **Dr. Ray Thompson**

Dr. Thompson has dedicated himself to the spiritual education and enrichment of the congregations he has served, and his ministry will continue to resonate in the Gilmer area and beyond for years to come.

Enon Missionary, Gilmer will host a reception for Dr. Ray Thompson following the service June 27, 2021. It will be a time of celebration and fellowship. Everyone is invited to share this special moment as we recognize and honor his dedication to God's work.

The end of a season

Dear Friend,

The writer of Ecclesiastes said, "to everything there is a season." My season at Jacksonville College will end July 15. The last 10 years have been some of the most stressful and demanding of any in my life, but I have had the privilege of seeing the hand of God like no other time. I am thankful to the trustees of Jacksonville College for placing the operation of this historic school into my care. I also want to thank them and many others for the farewell reception and generous gifts.

I've been blessed to have the best staff. I feel advances and improvements were made. We have seen over 1,000 profess Christ as Savior. But there is much more to be accomplished. I want to thank all the pastors, churches, and associations for allowing me to promote the college and to preach God's Word. I have been in every BMA Association in Texas multiple times. I have been in over 250 BMA churches preaching.

Dr. Joe Lightner will move the school forward. He has my prayers and support.

Susan and I are open to go wherever God leads. We have

sold our home and purchased a fifth-wheel camper and a one-ton truck. We do not need a salary, so I am not asking for money. I am asking for your prayers. Will you be a prayer partner in this ministry?

Please put us on your church's prayer list and your Sunday school prayer list as well as your own. Pray as we are in Costa Rico June 24-July 1 teaching at a pastors' conference. I am bringing our BMA pastors to a beach resort and hosting them in a pastors' and wives' conference. Pray for us after the mission trip. We literally have churches from Maine to Mt. Enterprise asking us to come and help.

I will come back to the East Texas area from time to time and I am available to do Bible studies, revivals and conferences.

Thank you for your friendship through the years and again pray for us.



Mike and Susan Smith
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903-721-0279

BMA TEXAS

MISSIONS

Your Church's Mission Movement in Texas



A word from your Missions Office

By HEITH MITCHELL

Your missionaries saw 61 people receive Christ this month. I know that convicting and saving is God's business. We are simply to be faithful sharers of the gospel. Recognize that for 61 people to have received Jesus as Lord and Savior a lot more relational work and gospel sharing has to take place. Your missionaries are hard at work.

Why are people being saved? It is being prayed for daily. Men who are walking in step with the Holy Spirit are proclaiming Christ. BMA Family, God is still faithfully saving souls. Are we faithfully proclaiming Him?

Remember the Great Commission belongs to each of us. We are to take the gospel with us and proclaim it every day and everywhere we go. The preacher isn't supposed to do it for us. He is supposed to equip us and hold us accountable to obedience. Will you join your Texas Mission Movement in sharing (proclaiming) the gospel in your community? Millions around us need Jesus.

Once we share the gospel we must teach them to walk in obedience to Christ. We are glad to help equip you as a disciple-maker or a gospel sharer. I know your seminary stands ready to help train in these areas as well.

I want to continue to plead with you to join me in praying for God to work mightily among our BMA Family. I pray for souls saved. I praise him for answering. I pray for new disciples of Christ. I pray for equipped leaders. I pray for 100 new churches in the BMA of Texas. I pray that God expands His Kingdom and brings Glory to Himself through us. Thank you for your prayers. Will you let us know at hmittell@bmatexas.org or on the BMA Texas Missions Facebook Page if you are praying with us?



ROBERT LEE— HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH IN NORMANGEE REPLANT BRO.ROBERT.F.LEE@GMAIL.COM

God has definitely blessed us here at Harmony this month. We were excited to have our first baptism since we began replanting! We have also seen God work to help us begin to set up the areas of ministry we need in order to reach families in our community better. I am always amazed at what God does. He has also blessed Rebecca and I with the birth of our fourth child, Josiah French Lee, this month. I cannot thank God enough for all the good things He has done for us.



▲ Robert Lee

PRAYER NEEDS:

Pray that the summer months would not be months that ministry becomes dormant as so often happens in churches, but instead would be a time where we would continue to see growth.

WESLEY BURKE & BLAKE MOORE— REDEMPTION BAPTIST MISSION, NACOGDOCHES WESLEYDAVIDBURKE@GMAIL.COM

Galatians 6:9 says, "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." Don't give up brothers and sisters. Even if the seed we sow in the ground lies there long after we do, it will sprout eventually, for the Word of God does not return to Him void.



▲ Wesley Burke

PRAYER NEEDS:

Pray Galatians 6:9 for our church body as we reach Nacogdoches. "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

CHRIS DRIVER—WEST TEXAS MULTIPLICATION NETWORK/TEXAS MISSIONARY CARE CJDRIVER316@GMAIL.COM

Well, Phase 2 of Oasis Church, Levelland has officially begun! We had our first small group meeting. We had nine adults and six kids the first night. But the most exciting thing is that several of the adults have already begun to invite family members who are far from the Lord to come and join us! I can't tell you how much



▲ Chris Driver

A word from your missionaries

CESAR LEAL— NEW MISSION IN SAN ANTONIO CESARLEAL2002@YAHOO.COM

I am grateful to our God for all He is doing in San Antonio. The Hispanic population here is like a mine. There is much to be done, and I believe that the best days are to come. Let's keep doing our part, trusting that God will keep doing His.



▲ Cesar Leal

ROBERTO MARCELLETTI — ANTHONY DRIVE MISSION, ENNIS ROBBYPATTY@HOTMAIL.COM

I want to thank you for the opportunity to start a work in Ennis. I ask you to support me in prayer. We need the grace and favor of God so that homes are opened to us and we can bring the light of His gospel.



▲ Roberto Marcelletti

MIKE WATT & TREVOR COWAN— CROSS—WORK MISSION, TAHOKA MIKE.WATT@ CROSSWORKCHURCH.ORG

Please pray for our summer outreach. Once a month, we will be spending some time as a church prayer walking, knocking on doors and inviting folks to church. This will be followed by food and fellowship. We have a goal of 50 in our church services this year. We will need your prayers to achieve this lofty goal.



▲ Mike Watt



▲ Trevor Cowan

BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p. 7



I'm just sayin'

By **JASON CURRY**

Though some of our kids come to us under rare circumstances, many of our kids find themselves in circumstances just like the past. Their parents abandon them, are no longer able to care for them or they die with no other family members willing or available to care for them. Children are taken from bad circumstances and don't understand why.

That is where TBHC comes in. We are equipping our foster parents to serve children in their darkest hours, and just like our heritage, we are committed to financially provide and give a future of promise for every child. Our agency strives to be a part of the solution to the traumatic circumstance's society has placed on our kids. Please pray with us for our kids! Help us care for them in the financial provisions so they can have a future of promise! Your gifts make all this possible.

I'm reminded of the song, "Thank You," and the line, "Jesus took the gift you gave and that's why I'm here today." I

wonder, one day in heaven, will one of TBHC's kids walk up and thank you? Our established mission of caring for "*children against all ancient and modern species of crime,*" is still relevant to our current mission statement of *Glorifying God by Caring for Children!*

You can help us this year by uniting with us in that purpose so that together we can make a difference! Go to TBHC.org to learn more. God bless you!

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 TBHC. TBHC, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from May 1, 2021 to May 31, 2021.

ENDOWMENT:

BILL STOKES

E. ANN PACE: KARL AND MARTHA PACE

HONORARIUMS:

HOLLIN ANDERSON: JAMES AND SUSAN ANDERSON

PALMER ANDERSON: JAMES AND SUSAN ANDERSON

SUSAN CONVEY: SANDRA LOHMAN

LARRY AND PAT KEARBY'S 60TH WEDDING: CHARLES AND CHARLOTTE JOHNSON

LINDSEY LAIRD: CHARLES AND IRIS WILSON

JUDGE TODD LITTLE: FIDELITY CHARITABLE, GIVEN BY: MCGILL RICKS

SHARON MARTIN: SANDRA LOHMAN

ANN PUGH: JERRY NULL

ROSEWOOD BAPTIST: DALE AND TRENA TILLERY

WANDA STRACENER: LARRY AND JUNE JOHNSON

MICAKLA VAUGHN: CHARLES AND IRIS WILSON

MEMORIALS:

REV. ARLIS BANKS: JOHN AND DORA BARNETT

CARSON BARBER: DONALD TRAWICH

WALTER BECK: DENNIS AND ILONA MYRICE

LARRY AND ROSELEN BOBO: JAMES BOBO

LUCILLE CARTER: JERRY CARTER

EMILY CULPEPPER: DANNY AND BECKY MILLER

CECIL DOWNEY: CARLIE DOWNEY

DELOIS ESTOL: JOHN AND DORA BARNETT

LETHA ETHERIDGE: DON AND CINDY MANRY

BRO. DANIEL FORTNER: BENNY AND LINDA LEWIS

BEULA MAE HAMMOND: WELDON & LANA SPARKS

DAVID HAMMOND: JOHN AND DORA BARNETT

BILL HERLOCKER: LARRY AND LINDA STOUT

LINDA LANG: EIZABETH STOKES

GERALDINE MCELROY: SANDRA LOHMAN

LANCE ODOM: MORRIS PEVEHOUSE, CHARLES AND CHARLOTTE JOHNSON, JIMMY WOODSON, PAMELA LANE

JERI PAIRISH: TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

VIRGINIA RICKARD: CHARLES AND CHARLOTTE JOHNSON, ROSEWOOD BAPTIST,

CAROL SCHELSTEDER: CHARLES AND CHARLOTTE JOHNSON

RUBY STARKS: HARMONY PTO

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For more information, visit bmla.org.

If you are ready to apply for a loan, download an application from our website and mail or email it to us. 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 73, Waxahachie, TX 75168
www.bmla.org**

memorials-honorariums

CHURCH HEALTH

Knowing Christ and making Him known

By LARRY BARKER

In Philippians 3, Paul states that the goal is to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. Knowing Christ is everything but that goal is incomplete if you are not also making Him known to others in your sphere of influence. Every believer is called to be a disciple of Christ (Luke 9:23) and every disciple of Christ is called to make disciples (Matthew 28:20). The Great commission was not given as a choice for us to decide upon but rather a command to obey. Charles Spurgeon said, "Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter." Jesus said we would be fishers of men.

In *Life on Mission* Dustin Willis and Aaron Coe state, "The gospel moves forward on the shoulders of men & women willing to do the difficult work of making disciples!" In your spiritual growth journey, there are always three influences at work. There is your personal involvement in the process (Phil. 2:12). There is also the providential work of God in your life (Phil. 2:13). Then there is the pastoral element, the equipping responsibility of your church (Gal. 4:19). If you are not growing spiritually or being fruitful you can rest assured that God is always doing His part.

When you fall short in the area of your spiritual goals the problem lies in one of the two other areas of influence. It is either an unwillingness to obey God's clear command (It's Personal) or it is a lack of clear Biblical training (Pastoral). In no way are we implying that this all falls upon the pastor but only using the term to summarize the responsibility of every local church (Eph. 4:11-12). Are you willing to surrender to what God is calling you to do? Is your church providing the necessary training and guidance in how to build relationships with people far from God and how to present the gospel clearly and concisely?

Accepting Jesus command to make Him known requires you accepting your personal responsibility. Mark a dot on a map where you live and then prayerfully begin to develop a strategy to share the love of Christ with those who are far from God. It may not be a geographical dot but a relational dot because of your interests, hobbies, and daily activities. It means adopting the mentality that you have a work to do in representing Christ well by living on mission. Every believer is called to live as a missionary right where God has placed you. Who do you need to have a gospel conversation with?

Everyday missionaries are those who practice life on mission daily in their zip code. It requires an all-hands-on-deck mentality but it does not call for adding something to your already busy schedule. This should intersect with your

current daily rhythms as you live daily as ambassadors for Christ. Willis and Coe refer to this as, "Driven by the truth of the gospel and defined by the mission of God." It means that we accept our role as everyday missionaries who are committed to introducing people to Jesus. No matter what you do whether you are white collar, blue collar, or have no collar at all, tell people about Jesus.

Thankfully, the entire weight of this endeavor does not depend entirely on your efforts. Our missionary God is not waiting on you because He is already at work. He is inviting you to join Him in His mission of redemption and reconciliation. Believers are expected to be disciples and disciples are expected to make more disciples. As you follow Him you should be looking for where He is at work and as Henry Blackaby in *Experiencing God* has said, "Join Him there." You are asked to join Him right in the middle of the greatest rescue mission ever given, the mission of God. Paul was passionate about persuading men and women to Christ.

God has provided His salvation to all and He has called you to join Him on His missionary endeavor to all. As the ultimate missionary Jesus is asking you to represent Him and join Him in His heart and passion, reconciling more and more people to Him. God has always been about forming a gospel people with a gospel mission. Leighton Flowers in His podcast *Soteriology 101* states a firm belief in the truth that God provides salvation for everyone (Titus 2:11). He believes that God is more interested in providing salvation to all than in controlling who receives Christ and who does not.

He quotes A.W. Tozer, "God sovereignly decreed that man should be free to exercise moral choice, and man from the beginning has fulfilled that decree by making his choice between good and evil. When he chooses to do evil, he does not thereby countervail the sovereign will of God but fulfills it, inasmuch as the eternal decree decided not which choice the man should make but that he should be free to make it. ... Man's will is free because God is sovereign. A God less than sovereign could not bestow moral freedom upon His creatures. He would be afraid to do so."

God is sovereign and He decided that man would have the ability, the choice, to follow Him or not. The gospel is the good news to those that are without Him and provides real hope to all in the redemption Jesus offers to all. Your efforts as His messenger do make a difference and making Him known glorifies Him. No matter how bad things may appear, all is not lost as long as His redemption is available



and offered. May all of us press towards the goal of knowing Him and making Him known.

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.



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Contact BMA Foundation Executive Director Charles Attebery for more information.
charles@bmaamerica.org or call 501-472-2183


You're Invited!
2021 Seminary Friends
Dinner

When? Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
(in conjunction with the BMAA annual meeting)

Where? Heritage Baptist Church, Waxahachie
(1000 Butcher Rd.)


Cost? \$35/per ticket - Standard price
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ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 1, 2021**



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BMA Texas Missions cont.

this blesses my heart, because one of our most important core values is that every member be a participant and not just a spectator. It is so exciting to see this first group of believers already embracing their role as missionaries. God is moving through in-depth Bible study and a commitment to not just being a hearer of the word but a doer also! I can't wait to see what God is going to do next!

PRAYER NEEDS:

Please continue to pray for the cities of Levelland, Whitharral, Whiteface, Smyer, Sundown and Morton. Also, pray for the lost we are ministering to and those who are far from God.

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

I liked the workshop I received at the BMA of Texas Office Building last month, with different leaders. It was a great blessing to me and others who participated.

I thank God for the great men who continue working together as one team.



▲ Neptaly Molina

JAIME HENRIQUEZ— FUENTE DE VIDA ETERNA MISSION, HOUSTON DAIRYJENY@YAHOO.COM

Greetings from all our members of our mission! I am pleased to share with all the BMA family that the Lord is doing great things among us. Members have begun to come back to the mission and souls are being saved after a long time of absence. We are praying for all the BMA churches and missions, and we ask to continue to pray for us.



▲ Jaime Henriquez

PRAYER NEEDS:

Pray for a revival in our nation, our communities and our church.

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.



Round Prairie, Fairfield

Reaching a new generation for Christ cont.

changes and he wanted to know that they were comfortable with that.

One of his first tasks at his new pastorate was to travel to a friend's church in Granbury to get some ideas about how to form a second worship service. George said the church had begun to realize that through the years they couldn't seem to maintain over 200 in attendance in a 200-seat auditorium.

He also wanted the church to agree to let him gather a staff who would be agreeable to doing ministry in a way that was headed to where he envisioned the church going. He hired the worship pastor a month later, and he is still serving.

"Rather than have just another duplicate service, we're going to add a completely different type of service," he said.

"We decided to add another venue, and call it 'the loft' since it was upstairs in our youth room—we remodeled it to make it like a coffee shop. We started by asking 30 volunteers to commit to attend, but on that first Sunday we had the 30 volunteers, plus 40 visitors. It just grew from there, and in our last service there before we moved everything downstairs, we had 150 in a space that would only hold about 75 people comfortably," George said.

He believes in being totally transparent with the congregation when casting a vision, so the people won't be surprised at what the leadership is doing.

"So we have town hall meetings where we'll gather together and cast that vision together giving the church the opportunity to ask any questions, no matter who it is, or how long it takes for us to hammer out everything we want to do," he said.

"These town hall meetings have been very productive because it's been an opportunity to give the 'inside scoop' to the whole congregation—to anyone who wants to know," George stated.

The pastor's approach is to let people know he is inviting them on a journey to be a part of reaching a group of people that have yet to be reached, and he implores them to become willing to sacrifice their preferences in order to be effective to this generation of people.

"And when you invite people to become a part of it, it changes everything," George said.

He continued, "We've found that a lot of older people who value the ministry to younger people, because they have kids—they have grandkids, and they value the church that's intentionally trying to reach into that group."

When asked how he wants the ministry to be defined at Round Prairie in the future, he said, "Well, this sounds cliché, but I want my ministry to be one of making disciples on every level—reaching the lost, and sending them out to do what God has called them to do. I really believe every member is a minister, and if you are called to Christ, you are called to serve."

Just prior to COVID-19 hitting in early 2020, the church was having two worship services with an attendance averaging between 280-300 each week.

"Even in post COVID, the church has recovered around 70 percent of the pre-COVID crowd," he said.

Concerning his preaching ministry, George says his preaching is a blend—expository, topical, textual and series.

"No matter what the preaching program is, I seek to exegete the scripture," he said.



▲ Round Prairie Congregation

"When I first came here, I was preaching three times a week, but now I only preach once on Sunday morning. One of the best things I have done is to surround myself with some good Bible teachers. My associate pastor, Jeff Wright, has taken some of that teaching load off of me," the pastor said.

George is a pastor who is "secure in his own skin," and is willing to share the ministry and the workload with others.

"I'm very protective of the pulpit, but I also don't own the pulpit," he said.

He continued, "God has equipped a lot of other people who can do (ministry) and do it well."

He said that at Round Prairie, it seems to work best when all the staff are bivocational. Chris Owens, is the worship pastor, and he is a math teacher at the high school; Jeff Wright, is the discipleship pastor, and he is also a high school teacher: His wife, Betsy, who is an assistant principal at the elementary school, directs the children's ministry of the church. Craig Cunningham, is the facilities director and youth pastor; Ashley Trudell is the secretary.

George said that the church's financial situation continued to flourish even during COVID lockdown.

"We've been really blessed financially as a church with some of the most generous people I've ever seen in this church," the pastor said.

"One gentleman came to my office one day and gave a large donation to the church. and he said, 'Chris I want you to know our church doesn't need to need anything in this season, and if the church has any need financially, I want you to let me know—and that includes you and your family,'" the pastor said.

Even the pastor, although he says the church pays him a full time salary, is allowed to work one day a week in his nurse practitioner profession at a clinic at the steel mill in Jewett.

"Spending a day working at the job sort of flips a switch for me, and keeps me in touch with the workplace," he said.

George believes the church has adequate facilities for the present, but the most needed additions for the church includes well equipped and highly visible playgrounds and common areas where people and families can gather and build relationships.

Round Prairie used to be located in the Young community near U.S. Highway 287 about 10 miles north of Fairfield, but in 1979, they sold their property to the Big Brown Coal Mining operation, and were able to purchase over seven acres on East Main Street in Fairfield, under the leadership of Bro. D. Dewey Morgan, who had served the BMA of Texas as missions director. The church built the first unit which was the sanctuary and educational space. In 1983, under the leadership of Henry Horton, the church added a large education wing and an office suite. In 2007, under the leadership of Ed Ridge, the church erected a family life center, but as attendance grew in recent years, the gym was converted into the permanent worship center. Plans are underway to tie all the facilities together, improving the aesthetics of the buildings and making entry more convenient.

Other former pastors of Round Prairie include Merle Fulmer, Bill Thompson, Roy McLaughlin, Jerry Truett and Jack Comer Jr.

Round Prairie, during pre-COVID, was having over 100 kids for Wednesday night youth ministry, and works diligently to be involved in the schools.

"In a small town like Fairfield, community happens in the school, so if you're not going to become involved in the school, it's going to be hard to become involved in the community," the pastor said.

He continued, "If the school ever has a need, we want them to feel like they can always say, 'let's call Round Prairie.'"

For further information about the ministries of Round Prairie, visit www.rbpcfairfield.org, or e-mail office@rbpc.org.

James Schoenrock

Eighty-three years and still serving

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

Baptist Progress Correspondent

Few preachers have been more miles, and served in a wider scope of ministries in the Kingdom of Christ than James Schoenrock.

In addition to his 11 pastorates, which span over 60 years, Schoenrock was the first fulltime ABS (Association of Baptist Students) director at Southern State University in Magnolia, Arkansas (Now University of Southern Arkansas); he taught extension courses for the BMA seminary, and served in the BMA of America Department of Missions for nine years.

James Vestal Schoenrock was born just a few miles north of Levelland in the Hockley County town of Whitharral in 1937, which was where both his parents, Bro. and Mrs. H.A. Schoenrock were raised.

“The Baptists and the Methodists alternated Sundays in a church building in Whitharral—my dad was Methodist, and my mother was Baptist,” Schoenrock recalled.

Helmer Alec Schoenrock was a sharecropper and by the time the four children, James, Joyce, Helen and John came along, Bro. H.A. was taking his family into Levelland to attend the Fifth Street Baptist Church. The elder Schoenrock surrendered his life to the ministry in 1945, and moved his family to Jacksonville where he enrolled in Jacksonville College. His first pastorate was Beall’s School House church near Mabank. First Baptist Church of Jacksonville ordained him to the ministry.

“I made my profession of faith while we were at First Baptist in Jacksonville,” James said.

“Bro. Roy Flippo from Amarillo was preaching a revival there, and I was baptized by Bro. C.R. Meadows who was the pastor.”

In the years to come, the elder Schoenrock served as pastor in churches in Odessa, Seminole, Winters and Grand Saline.

“It was in 1949, when I was 11 years old that I surrendered to preach,” James said. “Dad was pastor at First, Grand Saline at the time, and Bro. Charlie Hall was preaching a revival there.”

James, who now has logged 72 years in the ministry, said his first message was titled, “The Broad Way and the Narrow Way.”

James graduated from Odessa High School in 1956, and attended Odessa Junior College for one year before transferring to Jacksonville College. While he was attending school in Jacksonville in 1957-1958, he met the love of his life, Wilma Seago, from the Swift community east of Nacogdoches. At the end of the school year in 1958, James and Wilma were married.

After being ordained by First, Jacksonville (the same church that ordained his father a few years earlier), James accepted his first pastorate at Opelika near Brownsboro. From there, he accepted Macedonia Baptist Church of Etoile near Nacogdoches. He said one of the highlights of the pastorate in Etoile was when the church had a revival, with pastor Harold (Smiley) Burns preaching.

“During that revival, Jerry Burnaman came forward on profession of faith, and I got to baptize him that week,” James said.

Very soon afterward, Burnaman surrendered his life to the ministry

Schoenrock graduated from Stephen F. Austin in 1960, and was called to Bethel Baptist Church of Clayton.

“It was during that time that John W. Duggar, who was pastor of First, Carthage, and I rode together to the BMA Seminary,” he noted.

“We left around 6 a.m. and got to school by 7 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.”

Schoenrock worked at J.C. Penney in Nacogdoches, and Safeway Foods in Jacksonville during the years he attended the BMA Seminary. He is a three-time graduate of the BMA Seminary, earning two Bachelor of Divinity degrees from the seminary—one without emphasis on languages, and one with languages. He also earned his Master of Divinity from the BMA Seminary.

Schoenrock taught on campus at the seminary and also taught an extension course at New Hope, Mineola. While he was ABS Director in Magnolia, he also taught at Columbia Bible College in Magnolia, Arkansas and became president upon the death of Bro. E.B Jones, who had held the position for years.

He resigned the ABS work in Magnolia to accept the College View Baptist Church. During the following years, he held pastorates at First, Red Oak and Central, Lubbock before becoming Bro. Craig Branham’s assistant missions director for the BMA of America. After two years, Branham resigned, and Schoenrock became the executive director.

When Schoenrock first went to the missions office in 1979, as assistant to Craig Branham, one of his first assignments was to get on a plane and make a trip around the world visiting mission fields.

“Craig said ‘you gotta get acquainted with the world’—so I took a one-month trip around the world—two weeks with him and two weeks on my own,” Schoenrock remembered.

“Back before that time, I made a mission trip with Lynn Stephens down to Australia and did a camp with (Missionaries) Schachlin and Wilson when they were there.”

On that trip on his own, he was scheduled to catch a connecting flight from Hong Kong to Taiwan, only to discover the flight was canceled. He was stranded in Hong Kong for a couple of days, but the airline put him up in a nice five-star hotel.

“I happened to think, ‘here I am stuck in Hong Kong, and nobody knows where I am,’” he laughed.

Schoenrock also traveled the hills of Mexico with Buddy Johnson and forded streams in the Philippines.

“I’ve had a lot of experiences in the mission fields and even today, I still keep in touch with retired missionaries, and missionary widows.”

When Branham announced his resignation some two years after Schoenrock came to the missions office, the BMA elected James as director.

“My associates were Don Collins, interstate missions director, and Jerry Kidd, foreign missions director,” Schoenrock said.



▲ James and Wilma Schoenrock in their younger days



▲ James and Wilma Schoenrock



▲ James Schoenrock receives reward

JAMES SCHOENROCK continued on p. 13

BMA of America



It's Time to Make Your Reservations

By BMA OF AMERICA COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS

The 2021 session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America will meet August 2-4 at the Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas. The church and hotels are looking forward to our meeting there. Please make your reservations early. Call the local hotels directly to make your reservations. Local telephone numbers are included below. **You must identify that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of America.** Also, when making your reservations, be sure to let them know you want rooms in the block for the BMAA that begins on August 1. Your stay does not have to include the night of the 1st, but that will make sure you get the BMA block rate.

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

Fairfield by Marriott, 2020 Civic Center Lane: (Standard 1 King or Standard 2 Queen: \$135.00). Telephone reservations: 972-937-8886. Reservation cutoff date is July 11, 2021.

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

- **Best Western Plus, 1701 North Highway 77:** (Room Rate: \$99.99). Complimentary hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: 972-938-1600. Reservation cutoff date is July 18, 2021.

- **Comfort Suites, 131 RVG Plaza:** (2 queen suite, \$109.00; King suite, \$109.00; for more than 2 people in the room, not including children, there will be an additional \$15.00/person charge). Hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: 469-517-1600. Reservation cutoff date is July 18, 2021.

- **Hampton Inn, 2010 Civic Center Lane:** (Double Queen: \$120.00; King standard, \$120.00). Hot breakfast daily. Telephone reservations: 972-923-0666, EXT 0. Reservation cutoff date is July 20, 2021.

- **Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 984 North US 287 Bypass:** (Single King, \$139.99; 2 Queen, \$139.99; King Suite, \$169.99). Use Group Code: BMAA 2020. Telephone reservations: 972-938-3300. Reservation cutoff date is July 1, 2021.

- **La Quinta Inns & Suites, 311 Stadium Drive:** (Standard room, \$104.00). Hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: 972-937-5525. Reservation cutoff date is July 1, 2021.

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

72nd Annual BMA of America National Meeting

August 2-4, 2021

Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas

Program

Monday Afternoon, August 2

1:30pm National WMA Officers Meeting - Heritage Baptist Church, Waxahachie Tx
2:00pm Seminary Trustee Meeting - Farley Street Room: 1408
3:00pm WMA Business Meeting - Heritage Baptist Church, Waxahachie Tx

Monday Evening, August 2

6:00pm Registration - 2nd Floor Mezzanine Worship Center
7:00pm Welcome - President - Farley Street Worship Center
7:05pm The Martin's Concert
8:15pm President's Message - Pastor Jeff Swart
Initial Associational Business

Tuesday Morning, August 3

8:30am BMA Orientation for New Pastors and Churches - Farley Street Room: Parlor
8:30am Registration for Women's Ministry Conference - Heritage Baptist Church, Waxahachie Tx
9:00am Women's Ministry Conference - "Share the Vision" - Heritage Baptist Church, Waxahachie Tx
9:00am National Brotherhood Meeting - Farley Street Room: Choir Room 1207
9:30am Committee Meetings, Missions Advisory Committee - Farley Street Room: 1408
Moral Action - Farley Street Room: 2405, Baptist Publishing House - Farley Street Room: 2409
9:30am **Breakout Sessions**
&10:45am **Faithlife Corporation** - Electronic tools for Bible study including Logo software - Farley Street Room: Worship Center
Jason Prewitt, Daniel Springs - Involving Junior High, High School and College Students in Ministry - Farley Street Room: 2401
Jon Dodson, Lifeword - Website - Your Church's Front Door - Farley Street Room: 2413B
Bruce Brulnsma, Envoy Financial - Retirement Reformation - Farley Street Room: 2402
Gary Rohmayer, BMA Missions - Spiritual Dynamics - Farley Street Room: Student Center
Dr. Phillip Attebery, BMA Seminary/Baptist Publishing House - Teach for Results - Farley Street Room: 2410

Tuesday Afternoon, August 3

3:00pm BMA Missions Legacy Awards - Farley Street Worship Center
4:00pm BMA Town Hall Meeting - Farley Street Worship Center
5:00pm Seminary Dinner - Heritage Baptist Church, Waxahachie Tx

Tuesday Evening, August 3

7:00pm Worship Service - Farley Street Worship Center
Annual Message - Luis Ortega
Election of Officers, Business as needed

Wednesday Morning, August 4

8:30am BMA Associational Business - Farley Street Worship Center
BMA Foundation
Moral Action Agency
Baptist Publishing House
Daniel Springs Encampment
Ministers Resource Services
BMA Theological Seminary
Lifeword
Missions Department
Miscellaneous Business

Wednesday Afternoon, August 4

2:00pm Associational Business if needed - Farley Street Worship Center

Wednesday Evening, August 4

7:00pm Missions Commissioning Service - Farley Street Worship Center

Ministry Display Area Farley Street Gym

Monday, August 2nd

6:00pm - Opens
9:30pm - Closes

Tuesday, August 3rd

9:00am - Opens
9:00pm - Closes

Wednesday, August 4th

9:00am - Opens
9:00pm - Closes



News of america



Martinez ministering in Romania

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

BMA Global Missions Center

Romania may be the second poorest country in Europe, but it ranks high on the list of quality, affordable colleges in the world. With 20,000 students and 700 teaching staff, Transylvania University in Braşov is one of those highly ranked colleges. Through this Romanian college, God gave newly elected missionary Cristian Martinez and his wife Vanessa a unique vision to plant and multiply churches in Eastern Europe and beyond.

Their story is one that only God could have orchestrated.

FROM MEXICO TO AMERICA, FROM ROMANIA THEN BACK

Born in Mexico to Christian parents, Cristian was saved at the age of nine and his unique upbringing provided him with an early understanding of the gospel: His father was one of the leaders of Evangelism Explosion (EE) in Mexico and began EE training with Cristian when he was fifteen. He took Cristian with him to meetings and trainings, which Cristian says God used to help him understand his need of a Savior.

In 2012, after his first year of college, he met Dr. Charley Holmes and Dr. Phillip Attebery at Evangelism Explosion training in Mexico. They told him about BMA Theological Seminary (BMATS) and encouraged Cristian to consider studying there. After receiving a full scholarship, he left for the United States to begin studying for a degree in divinity.

At the same time, Vanessa Filimon was a sociology major at a university in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. She also grew up going to church in a household where her mom was a Christian and her dad was Eastern Orthodox, just like 90 percent of Romanians. However, Vanessa says her father was saved later in life and spent his last years serving in the church their family attended together.

Cristian and Vanessa met in college after a mutual friend introduced them in 2015. But that meeting was a virtual one, and for six months they “dated” through Skype and Facebook. When they realized that their long-distance relationship could become serious, they began to study Romans together to determine whether they were spiritually and doctrinally in agreement.

After that confirmation, they began talking about their mutual ministry goals and, after reading a book on marriage, the possibility of getting engaged. Then he went to Romania with an engagement ring to meet her parents and propose. Vanessa graduated college in 2015 with a sociology/anthropology degree and moved to Seattle, where her sister lived. In May of 2016 they married and moved to Jacksonville, Texas, until Cristian graduated from BMATS.

HISPANIC MINISTRY IN TEXAS

Three years before meeting Vanessa, during his first year at seminary, he began preaching to the Hispanic congregation at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Jacksonville. After one year Cornerstone pastor Larry Barker introduced him to Arnulfo Maldonado, BMA Texas Hispanic church planting coordinator, who asked him to pray about church planting.

“When Bro. Arnulfo first talked to me, I was really open-

handed and praying for the next step,” Cristian said. “I had a desire to serve. I wanted to use my gifts and I saw the need for planting Hispanic churches, so we prayed together about it. So, the ‘why’ was clear but the ‘where’ was not.”

While at BMATS, he prayed about and prepared for church planting through assessment and training, then after his marriage to Vanessa, the two prayed and prepared together.

They considered how they could be used by God as a multi-ethnic family then visited the Lubbock area with the intent to plant a church. Without knowing anyone in the area, in 2017 they moved there in faith and began their ministry through Lake Ridge Baptist Church while determining where to plant in Lubbock, particularly to people who had little access to the gospel.

They found that there were pockets of Hispanics segregated from the rest of the city, especially in the north Lubbock area. With very few people to reach those populations, ninety percent of north Lubbock population was Hispanic and had a high crime rate.

Another unique discipleship need was Texas Tech University’s multi-cultural student population. God widened Cristian and Vanessa’s perspective as they learned how to serve college students from other cultures like the Middle East and Asia. With more clarity, Cristian and Vanessa began making disciples in the area for two years.

MINISTRY IN THE 10/40 WINDOW

At the end of their two years in Lubbock, God turned their hearts to the “10/40 window” where most unreached people groups live. Cristian and Vanessa always had the desire to go to Romania, but they thought that would be “maybe ten years from now.” But God fast-forwarded their ministry plans.

Cristian explains the following about their vision of reaching the nations for the gospel in Braşov, Romania: “It is uniquely located at that 10/40 window with the potential for Romanians to send missionaries to countries to the south like Egypt and Turkey and in the Middle East and Asian. Because of its good, cheap education, college students choose Romanian universities like Transylvania University (TU) in Braşov, where we will be.

“Since they are already thinking about going somewhere else when they graduate, we want college students to take the gospel with them. College is a unique season of life, and students have questions about their purpose and if there is a God. They are flexible and they’re discerning their futures at this period of their lives, so we want them to become followers of Jesus. Then we see the potential that after graduation, they can plant churches wherever they go.”

Cristian and Vanessa’s goal is to use those three to four college years to build relationships, share the gospel, then challenge them to consider God’s call on their lives as they become young professionals. They pray that they will be used as instruments for the multiplication and strengthening of disciples, leaders, and churches in Romania as well.



▲ The Cristian Martinez Family

Cristian and Vanessa also say, “We want to have an impact on the Roma (gypsies) even though most of them don’t come to the cities. It’s not an either/or for us to reach this people group. As we prepare young men and women to be missionaries, we will be intentional about ministering in gypsy villages.”

Now with two small children, three-year-old Joellen and one-year-old Ethan, they plan to leave for Romania at the end of 2020 after the completion of their support raising. Initial plans include Romanian language school for Cristian while working on his masters degree in divinity at BMATS, relationship building at TU, then small group discipleship in the local church context.

The Martinez’s request prayer for the following:

to be strengthened and renewed as we grow in the understanding of the love of Christ displayed on the cross (Ephesians 3:17-19) laborers to support our ministry in Romania and laborers to be sent from Romania to the unreached (Luke 10:2)

the clear and powerful proclamation of the gospel in Romania and from Romania to the unreached in other countries (Colossians 4:3-4)

A small group of co-laborers has already begun forming; one of them is Vanessa’s sister, who lives in the States and has already joined them in BMA pre-field trainings. In addition, Vanessa’s home church in Romania has a similar vision to intentionally engage college students beginning with a church plant. Their prayer is for the church to help provide a core group of people to help with ministry.

Their vision for the nations is a multi-cultural, multi-generational one. Because of that unique cultural perspective, they believe God has particularly fitted them for ministry: Vanessa has experienced division in Romania like churches preventing gypsies from attending their services. Cristian has experienced the discrimination of various ethnic groups in Mexico.

But they see a much less divided world as they begin their ministry journey. Cristian says, “We want college students to ask, ‘How can I use my degree to expand the kingdom of God?’ We want to help them see how they could use their gifts and vocations for a purpose that is much greater and lasting than money.”

BMA Of america



Contact your leaders

By **JOHN M. ADAMS, D.Min.**

As reported to the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi, meeting at Southeastern College in Laurel, Mississippi, May 18, 2021, I challenged the church messengers to telephone, write, text or visit state and national leaders. A brief and kind message will do much for reminding political leaders of keeping God and His Son alive in our American culture and homes.



The far-left ideology is using a so-called “cancel culture” to destroy Christian people who dissent their liberal views. The liberal anti-God, anti-church and especially anti-Bible culture has a desire to silence all believers in God and His Son.

According to Alliance Defending Freedom and its President-CEO, Dr. Michael Farris of Scottsdale, Arizona, states “In the media, members routinely disparage anyone who stands up for religious freedom, free speech and life, including judges who believe the U.S. Constitution should be applied as its authors intended. This ideology suggests that America is oppressive—and must be torn down. It rejects free speech and religious freedom. It devalues human life. And it pushes a radical transgender ideology that leaves all children touched by it confused and scared.”

Please share your heart with your leaders by contacting the following:

- **Governor Greg Abbott**
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711-2428
512-463-2000
Twitter - GovAbbott
- **Senator John Cornyn**
202-224-2934
cornyn.senate.gov
Twitter - johncornyn
- **Senator Ted Cruz**
202-224-5922
cruz.senate.gov
Twitter - sentedcruz

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



Mitchell awarded honorary doctorate

By **PHILIP ATTEBERY, Ph.D.**

BMA Theological Seminary Dean

The Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary awarded the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree to Thomas E. Mitchell of Little Rock, Arkansas during its 64th commencement exercises in Jacksonville May 15, 2021.

The degree is awarded to individuals for scholarly achievement, attainments which demonstrate unusual creativity or distinguished service.

The seminary’s board of trustees decided to award the degree in recognition of Mitchell’s distinguished service and ongoing contribution to the Baptist Missionary Association. He has been elected to more positions than anyone in BMA of Arkansas history. With exception of a stint in the U.S. Army, he has served as an officer or trustee for some BMA entity every year since 1964. Currently, he serves as president of the BMA of Arkansas and chair of the BMA Seminary’s Board of Trustees.

Additionally, Mitchell has contributed to writing for several BMA publications, including the *Baptist Trumpet*. He has also performed exemplary acts of community service including the founding and directing several golf tournaments, serving on the Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council Board of Directors, and chairing Arkansas’s Capitol Commission ministry.

His higher education includes studies at Southern Arkansas University and Central Baptist College, from which he received the distinguished alumnus award in 2018.



▲ **Tom Mitchell**



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James Schoenrock

Eighty-three years and still serving cont.

“Don left to become president of Jacksonville College, which left me and Bro. Kidd.”

Schoenrock was with the national missions department for a total of nine years when he stepped down to become pastor of Wakefield Baptist Church of Little Rock. Later he was pastor at First, Springhill, Louisiana; Calvary, Mesquite and today he is pastor of Sheppard Drive, Euless, where he has ministered for the past 16 years.

Schoenrock has been used widely in leadership positions in the BMA work. He was moderator of the BMA of America for two years and was moderator of the BMA of Texas for four years. He served as moderator at every local association where he was pastor, and for several years, he served as parliamentarian of both Texas and national associations of BMA two years—BMA of Texas 4 years.

James, who has always been observed as a people person by all who know him, obviously endears himself to people largely because of his genuine interest in people and their back stories. He tenaciously grills people about their own life’s experiences.

“I love people—I love to ask questions and get a lot of information about people—and the only way to find that out is to ask them,” he said.

He has the knack for knowing what to ask, and he listens intently—and he clearly remembers the stories.

Schoenrock’s deep relationships with and the knowledge

of people, places him in demand as a conductor of funerals for former church members and missionaries, including John and Harriet Elliot, missionaries to Brazil, M.S. “Dek” Arrington, missionary to Bolivia and Craig Branham. He also preached at the graveside following Jerry Burnaman’s funeral. He recently preached the funeral of a former church member, Madaline Rowden, and he was amazed at a back story about her and her husband, Jack which he heard from mutual friends. The Rowdens had been long time members of Mount Calvary, Dallas, and Schoenrock was her pastor at Calvary, Mesquite.

“(Jack and Madaline) graduated from high school in Mineola and he went off to war,” Schoenrock said.

“The two were pen pals while he was deployed overseas during the war and when he came home on leave, he contacted her and said he wanted to meet with her. She told him she was engaged to be married, but he said, ‘I don’t care, I want to see you.’ So, they had the visit—and she broke off the engagement and married him.

Schoenrock added, “You know, people want you to know about them, and the more you know about them, the better equipped you are to minister to them.”

Concerning his preaching ministry, Schoenrock says he utilizes many different styles of sermon delivery, saying, “I preach topical, expository and sometimes textual sermons.”

One of his most enjoyable experiences as a pastor was the relationship he had with the pastor who was a part of the team that organized Central, Lubbock.

“Jack Welch was my associate pastor when I went to Central, James said.

“He and his twin brother Jeff started Central Church.”

Jeff Welch was elected to be the first director of interstate and foreign missions upon the 1950 organization of the national association, but passed away six months after he had been elected. Bro. W. J. Burgess was elected to fill the position.

“Bro. Jack and Mrs. Annie were sweethearts—and when I would take them on associational trips, he’d be up at daybreak on the morning we were to leave to go home, pacing around and wondering when we were going to leave. He was fast with his hospital visits—he’d pop in, make a quick visit, have a short prayer and he was gone.”

Schoenrock was to be presented the Distinguished Alumni Award during the 2021 Jacksonville Homecoming, but was unable to attend. Randy Decker, chair of the Jacksonville College music department was on hand to present it to James at his church last month.

As of August, this year, James and Wilma Schoenrock will celebrate their 63rd wedding anniversary. The Lord blessed them with three children; David, Tammie (Schoenrock) Davis, and Randy, whom the Lord called home on January 14, 2021.

MORAL ACTION

2021 Freedom Offering June 27th & July 4th

www.macbma.net - Web
fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com - E-mail
662-231-3863 - Telephone
P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS, 38855

“Promoting Biblical Morality Across America”



Auxiliaries

Be still and know that I am God

By **GLENDA CHAMBERLAIN**

Gloria Irving is the scheduled keynote speaker for the Texas WMA Women's Retreat Sept. 11, 2021. This wonderful one-day retreat will be held at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp in Gary from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The theme is, Shipwrecked, with theme verse Psalm 46:10a "Be still, and know that I am God".

Gloria Irving is missionary, speaker, teacher and skilled storyteller who travels around the world proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. She is the mother of four grown daughters, two, which were adopted in love at a very young age, and she states "that was her first mission field."

Gloria serves as the minister of missions at Cross City Church, also known as First Baptist Church, Euless. Gloria holds a bachelor of arts in business administration and graduated *summa cum laude* from Dallas Christian College. She is also a graduate from Christian Leaders, Authors and Speaker Services and is pursuing her master of theology degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

For over 20 years, her message has encouraged women to recognize who they are in Christ and to trust God's promises in the uncertainty of the circumstances. Gloria is a contributing writer for Shabby Chic Ministries and President of Glory2Glory Ministry.

From Gloria's heart: "My desire is to know Christ intimately, falling deeply in love with Him every day and to stir the same desire in other women. I want women to understand their needs, their thirsts and hunger for acceptance can be fulfilled only by a life totally abandoned to self and devoted to God. As Paul writes in 2 Cor. 3:17-18 '...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into His image from one degree of glory to another.'"

The retreat will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts. Lunch is provided. The cost for this retreat is \$30. Make your check payable to Cherokee District WMA and mail to Cherokee District WMA, P.O. Box 1633, Jacksonville, TX 75766. Deadline for registration is September 1, 2021.

Psalm 46:10a says, "Be still and know that I am God." So let us quiet the chatter and noise around us and sit quietly with Jesus. He is the source of our power; we cannot fight the enemy alone. The

enemy wants to fill our minds, lives and hearts with so much noise that we cannot see what is keeping us from living a Christ centered life. Silence with God is the beginning of every victory! Be still, sit quietly, and listen, He's there for you. Praise God! Hope to see you at the retreat.

TEXAS SUNBEAMS "BLAST OFF" JULY 15TH

The Texas Sunbeams will meet at Jacksonville College for a one-day astronaut adventure from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. July 15, 2021. All Sunbeam astronauts are requested to rendezvous at the Jacksonville College SUB at 0900 hour (9 a.m.). Activities include astronaut training and briefing (breakfast, crafts and activities). The Sunbeam Space Canteen (cafeteria) and Jacksonville College Bookstore will be open from 1200 to 1300 hours (12 p.m.-1 p.m.). Space travelers will resume in the afternoon with a mission related meeting.

For more information please contact Vera Koonce, state Sunbeam promoter at 281-642-5356. Ms. Koonce is hopeful their usual overnight Houseparty will resume in 2022. The current Sunbeam project is Water for Christ. Please mail your contribution to the project to Shera Clair, 1433 S. FM 56, Glen Rose, Texas 76043.

NATIONAL SUNBEAMS EXTEND PROJECT DEADLINE

The National Sunbeams selected Shepherd's Bags as their project last year and set a goal of \$5,000. Shepherd's Bags are a tool EIM uses to reach children around the world. A one-gallon zip bag is filled with soap, crayons, pencils, a sharpener, a bouncy ball, a small stuffed animal, friendship bracelets, a 7-inch Frisbee designed for EIM, with John 3:16 in the language needed for the country they are sent to, plus a Gospel story coloring book, also designed for EIM, which contains the plan of salvation. It is a simple gift that has opened doors and hearts to the gospel. A salvation message is always preached before handing out Shepherd's Bags, and all are given a chance to respond.

The deadline has been extended until July 15, 2021. Your donations are needed to help reach their goal. Shirley Hoffpauir is the National Sunbeam Promoter and shared thoughts on blessing others. She said, "When I was a teenager, we sang the song Make Me A Blessing at church. In my immature



▲ Gloria Irving

spiritual mind, I interpreted the title as Give Me A Blessing. Then as I grew spiritually, I knew it meant that I was to be a blessing to others. But now, I realize I was actually right in both cases. Now I pray 'Lord, bless me that I may bless others.' By giving to the National Sunbeam Project, we will be blessing children around the world with love and the Gospel message. Gospel Seeds will be planted in their hearts, that potentially will lead to their salvation."

To donate to this worthy project, make your check payable to National Sunbeams Project and mail it to Shirley Hoffpauir, 106 Summit Drive, Gilmer, Texas 75644. Don't forget the deadline is July 15. Please pray for those who will receive the Shepherd's Bags. May the Holy Spirit prepare the hearts of those who will receive these gifts and possibly even hear the gospel for the very first time. We give Him all the glory!

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.



EVENTS

CONCERT & REVIVAL

Central Baptist Church, Mineola

602 N. Line Street

Concert by Psalms Journey:

Sunday morning, June 20 at 11 a.m.

Revival:

Sunday, June 20 at 6 p.m.

Monday, June 21 through Wednesday, June 23 at

7 p.m.

Robbie Caldwell, evangelist

David Cook, music

Chester Burke, pastor

2021 BMA OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: Aug. 2-4, 2021

PLACE: Farley Street Baptist Church,

Waxahachie, Texas

INTERIM PASTOR TRAINING

DATE: Aug. 24, 2021

TIME: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch

provided for \$10

PLACE: BMA of Texas Office Building,

632 Farley Street, Waxahachie

BAPTIST PROGRESS MINISTRY CONNECTION WORKSHOP: REACHING PEOPLE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES

DATE: Sept. 16, 2021

TIME: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch provided for

\$10

PLACE: BMA of Texas Building, 632 Farley Street,

Waxahachie

2021 BMA OF TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: Nov. 4, 2021

PLACE: New Harmony, Tyler

2021 NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

DATE: Nov. 15-17, 2021

PLACE: Chateau on the Lakes, Branson, Missouri

pastor & staff changes

RICK LINEBARGER has resigned as pastor of Mt. Calvary, Carthage after more than 30 years of service due to health issues.

* 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

PASTOR—Mt. Calvary, Carthage is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Team, 249 County Road 278, Carthage, Texas 75633 or ritterpd@yahoo.com.

YOUTH/STUDENT MINISTER—Craft, Jacksonville is seeking a bivocational youth/student minister. Send resume to P.O. Box 1644, Jacksonville, Texas 75766 or james@craftjacksonville.com or call 903-752-6610. 7/21

PASTOR—First, Palmer is seeking a pastor. Send resume to pastorsearch@fbcpalmer.org or mail to P.O. Box 70, Palmer, Texas 75152. TFN

PASTOR—Dr. Ray Thompson has retired as pastor of Enon Missionary, Gilmer. A pulpit committee was formed and is seeking ordained ministers as well as licensed ministers for pulpit supply. Please contact steven.waller60@yahoo.com. TFN

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

YOUTH—Walnut Street, Winnsboro is seeking a full-time youth director. Send resume to Ryan Burchett (Pastor) at pastorryan87@yahoo.com or call 806-778-0103.

In Loving Memory



BILLY LEWIS "JACK" LUSK

Billy Lewis "Jack" Lusk, 93, of Haskell, passed away March 1, 2021. A graveside service was March 5, 2021. He was born in Haskell Jan. 26, 1928. He married Velma Mae Sharp Dec. 28, 1943. Bro. Lusk served as a Baptist minister for 55 years. He was a member of the First Baptist Church, Rule. Condolences may be made at www.haskellfuneralhometx.com.



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).

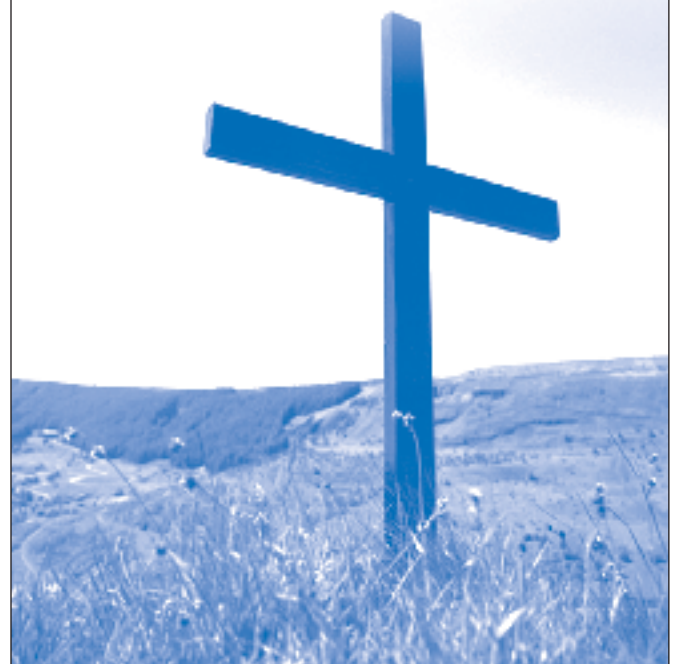
THE GIFT IS RECEIVED BY FAITH.

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.



Anniversary Offering

\$109 for **109 YEARS**
of Ministry

Baptist Progress was established as the official publication of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas in 1912.

In 2020, messengers at the annual Baptist Missionary Association of Texas Meeting gave *Baptist Progress* approval to offer workshops, training opportunities and other resources to pastors, church staff and churches.

With that approval, *Baptist Progress* ceased to be just the official publication of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas and became **the informing and equipping ministry** of the state association.

In addition to offering workshops, training opportunities and resources to pastors, church staff and churches, the purpose of *Baptist Progress* is to promote interest in missions, evangelism, benevolence and Christian education among the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas.

Later this year, *Baptist Progress*, will celebrate 109 years of ministry. Each year, during the month of June, we humbly request a special anniversary offering from churches, classes, groups and individuals. This year, we are requesting an offering of **\$109 for 109 years of ministry** from all who wish to give.

Please keep in mind that because our ministry has expanded to provide equipping and resources, so have our budgetary needs. Therefore, we encourage those of you who can to give above the requested \$109, if possible.

The goal of our anniversary offering is to raise **\$12,000** to meet our budget for the year.

A list of those who give will be published in a future issue of *Baptist Progress*.

Offerings may be mailed to:
Baptist Progress
P.O. Box 2085
Waxahachie, Texas 75168