

# Baptist Progress

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SOAR



# Grace for Today and Tomorrow: A Women's Conference

Women of God, dive deep in to your Father's promises this April 13-14 at Keltys Baptist Church in Lufkin, Texas. Prepare to study and learn to apply God's unending grace in your life by attending the Spring Women's Conference, "Grace for Today and Tomorrow," sponsored by DiscipleGuide.

Holly Elliff, an accomplished speaker and frequent guest on Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth's Revive Our Hearts, will be the keynote speaker for this event.

During the first session, Holly will give an overview of grace and its meaning. The second session will dive deeper, using the example of Hannah from the Bible, studying how her life changed when she understood God's grace. In the third session, Holly will talk about "grace through fears and failures," telling conference-goers how to apply God's grace in difference circumstances.

"I think it is important that, as women, we grow in our knowledge of the Lord," said Vercie McMullin, Women's Ministry Director for Keltys

Baptist Church. "If we're going to become the mature women of God that God wants us to be, if we're going to become like Christ, then it's important that we have a better understanding of God."

The heart behind this event is to give women a conference that is more than simply fellowship and door prizes, but rather one that digs deep in to God's Word. The goal is to have God's Word at the very center of it all.

"Women have an important role in the life of their family and in the church," continued McMullin. "This conference is not for specific phases of life, but rather it is geared toward all women, no matter the age, who want to understand God's grace and apply it to their lives."

So join Keltys Baptist Church this April for the Spring Women's Conference. Worship through music will be provided by Becca Bradley, and those who register before March 1 will be able to register for only \$25. To register, visit [keltys.org/womens-conference](http://keltys.org/womens-conference), or call 936-634-4019.



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



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## It's almost time

By **JERRY FULTON**

Are you making plans to attend the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the BMA of America? The meeting will take place at the Jackson Convention Complex in Jackson, Mississippi April 16-18. Multiple interesting breakout sessions will be conducted including, *Sharing Christ with Muslims*, *Multi-Generational Ministry*, *Opportunities...Hispanic and How to Counsel*. The president's message will be Monday evening. Beginning Tuesday afternoon through Wednesday, reports and recommendations will be presented by each department of the BMA of America. The annual message will be delivered by Terry Kimbrow, president of Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas, on Tuesday evening. A highlight of the meeting, the missions commissioning service, will be held Wednesday evening. I hope to see you there.



▲ Jerry Fulton

## Billy Graham, a genuine man of God

A champion of the faith, Dr. Billy Graham, has been called home. He was a genuine man of God. His ministry and life made a profound impact on my own. I can remember when I was wrestling with the idea of entering the Gospel ministry that I found his biography, *Just As I Am*, to be most helpful. May God raise up more men who are willing to carry His Gospel message to the ends of the earth. Dr. Graham will surely be missed, but his influence in this world will remain for many years to come. Please see Bro. Paul Gauntt's article on Dr. Graham on page 9 of this issue.



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# BMA of America recommendations



The following recommendations will be presented to the BMA of America for consideration during the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the BMA of America in Jackson, Mississippi April 16-18:

## COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS

Your Committee on Arrangements visited the following prospective sites for the 2021 annual meeting of the BMAA: Antioch Baptist Church, Conway, Arkansas.

Our recommendation to our churches is that the 2021 meeting be held at the Antioch Baptist Church, Conway, Arkansas, April 19-22, 2021.

## COORDINATING COUNCIL

1. We recommend that no structural changes be made at this time to the relationship between DiscipleGuide and Daniel Springs Camp. We recommend that this matter continue to be evaluated over the coming year. We further recommend that Camp Director, Jason Prewitt, be encouraged to make contacts and visits among the churches of the association to raise awareness of the camp ministry and needs of the camp.
2. We recommend that January, 2019, be designated as Stewardship Emphasis Month among the churches of the BMA. We encourage our churches to utilize the “Open Hands” material produced by DiscipleGuide as a resource in this emphasis.

## LIFEWORD MEDIA MINISTRIES

1. We recommend that we adopt the proposed operating budget for 2018.
2. We recommend that Sunday, October 21, 2018, be set aside as Lifeword Sunday.
3. We recommend that the housing allowance be set at \$2,500 per month for the Director of Operations, Director of Broadcast Equipping and the Executive Director, and \$1,250 per month for the Financial Advisor for this year and beyond until amended.
4. We recommend that a rising vote of appreciation be given for the following Lifeword Board members completing their second term of service: Brice Martin, Dennis Rankin and John Ben Williams.
5. We recommend that Donny Parrish stand as a nominee for Executive Director.

The Lifeword Executive Director salary is \$81,050. Benefits include one half of Social Security/Medicare, health and dental insurance, retirement at 10% of salary and an auto allowance.

*Note: The compensation is based on an independent evaluation of the executive director position by Phillip Blount and Associates, an independent compensation consulting firm used by a number of Baptist groups. Compensation levels are determined through a three-step process – job analysis, job evaluations, and extensive market research. The amount is at the 50th percentile level.*

## MINISTERS RESOURCE SERVICES

1. That Steve Crawley stand as nominee for Executive Director of Ministers Resource Services.
2. That the Executive Director’s annual salary be \$40,000.00 with \$15,000.00 of that amount being designated as housing allowance for IRS purposes.
3. That the MRS fiscal year be moved to June 1st through May 31st of each year.
4. That the budget for January 1 – May 31, 2018 in the amount of

\$145,182.22 be approved.

5. That the budget for June 1, 2018 – May 31, 2019 in the amount of \$120,990.00 be approved.
6. We urge each church to include Ministers Resource Services in her monthly budgeted offerings to the various departments and agencies of the BMA.

## BMA SEMINARY

1. Affirmation of the proposed budget
2. Re-affirm the appointment of Dr. Charley Holmes as president  
Each church observe Sunday, May 20, 2018, as Scholarship Sunday with: special prayer for our graduates receive a special scholarship offering to support the training of future BMA pastors and missionaries on that Sunday

Verify that the association believes BMA Seminary’s purpose statement clearly, accurately, and realistically articulates the mission of BMA Seminary and the expectations of the association.

The purpose of the Seminary’s divisions of undergraduate and graduate studies is to provide accredited undergraduate and graduate theological education for equipping individuals for Christ-centered service and leadership roles; to support the educational needs of the churches and agencies of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and other groups who share a like commitment to the authority of Scripture; and to serve as a resource center for critical thought and research in a context which nurtures the historical, doctrinal character of the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

## DISCIPLEGUIDE

1. That we adopt the proposed DiscipleGuide operating budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.
2. That we adopt the proposed Daniel Springs operating budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.
3. That the housing allowance be set at \$3,750 per month for the executive director.
4. That the executive director be paid a base salary of \$39,912, one-half of Social Security/Medicare, health and dental insurance, retirement at 10% of salary, and an auto allowance.  
*Note: The recommended compensation is based on an independent evaluation of the executive director position by Phillip Blount and Associates, an independent compensation consulting firm used by a number of Baptist groups. Compensation levels are determined through a three-step process—job analysis, job evaluation, and extensive market research. The recommended amount is at the 25th percentile level.*
5. That Scott Attebery stand as a nominee for executive director.

## BMA FOUNDATION

1. That the proposed 2018-2019 operating budget be approved.
2. That the executive director’s compensation be set at \$9,600.
3. That \$7,200 of the executive director’s compensation be designated as housing allowance for income tax purposes.
4. That Charles Attebery stand as a nominee as executive director.
5. That BMAA church members prayerfully consider including the BMA Foundation in their estate plans. An undesignated bequest will benefit all BMA of America departments and agencies or individuals may designate their bequests as desired.

## MORAL ACTION

1. That Dr. John M. Adams stand as a nominee for executive director of Moral Action.
2. That the proposed Moral Action budget be approved.
3. That our churches and pastors embrace and support our nation by participating and promoting the National Day of Prayer, May 3, 2018, to join other Americans in praying for our nation. Meetings can be conducted at town halls, city halls, county courthouses and State houses.
4. That all our BMA churches schedule June 24 or July 1, 2018 as the Moral Action “Freedom Offering” Sunday. This is an opportunity to honor or give memorials for our soldiers, both past and present.
5. That our local associations, our local and state WMA and Brotherhoods, and our local churches be encouraged to give a financial gift or a budgeted monthly gift to Moral Action.
6. That Dr. John M. Adams, executive director, represent the BMA of America in Washington, D.C. by encouraging and contacting our United States Senators, Congressmen, and other Christian moral/political organizations such as the American Family Association (AFA), Focus on the Family, Family Research Council, Alliance Defending Freedom, and Heritage Foundation.
7. That our Baptist Missionary Association of America reaffirm and approve these five (5) Moral Action resolutions and that they are mailed to the President, United States Senators, the United States House of Representatives, and the United States Supreme Court.
8. That we humbly request that these resolutions be printed in our BMA state newspapers.
9. That the BMA churches recognize and honor our grandparents and great-grandparents on Grandparents Day September 9, 2018. They have so often set the highest of morals.
10. That our churches, pastors, and church staff/deacons utilize the 2 Moral Action web pages: [www.macbma.net](http://www.macbma.net); [www.moralactionofms.net](http://www.moralactionofms.net)

## BMAA MISSIONS

1. We recommend the election of Stephen and Candice Schroeder as BMA missionaries. (PNG)
2. We recommend the election of Jimmy and Julie Walker as BMA missionaries. (Philippines)
3. We recommend the election of Larry and Tammy Wood as BMA missionaries. (Ukraine)
4. We recommend that Paige Ferrell be endorsed by the BMA. (Nicaragua)
5. We recommend the election of Bryan and Pam Risner as BMA missionaries. (Romania)
6. We recommend accepting Bro. Phil Knott as the coordinator of the BMA work in Africa.
7. We recommend giving a 3% increase of base salary to missionaries. Those missionaries on 65/35 will take the increase out of what they raise. Those who raise 100% will take the raise out of what they raise.
8. We recommend the 2018 budget as presented by the Missions Department.
9. We recommend the re-election of Dr. John David Smith as the Executive Director of Missions.
10. We recommend that the Executive Director’s salary be set at \$57,000 and all director’s housing allowance set at \$24,000.

# BMA of america



## The world needs a few good men

By RICHEY HESTER

National Brotherhood Editor and Promoter

There are some prerequisites to being a good father. You need to be a man for one, you need to be functioning as a man, taking responsibility as a man, acting like a man and working like a man. All of these are prerequisites to being a good father!

You will not be a good father until you are a good man. It's a dying art today. There are not many in our nation anymore. Thank God we do have a few good men here. We can always use a few more though.

Men of the Brotherhood of the BMA, we need to stand up tall and teach these young boys and young men how to be real men. Men that are not afraid to stand in the name of Jesus. In our nation you cannot use the name of Jesus in our government. One has to say in the name of God's Son. All this is teaching our kids and grandkids is that it is okay not to believe in Jesus and God's judgement. This is the prime reason that crimes, drugs, rape and murder has become a part of a young person's life. Ezekiel 22:30 *"I searched for a man among them who would build up and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it, but I found no one."* Brothers let's be that one who will stand in the gap. If you want the killing to stop, it has to start with us. We have a voice, let it be heard. Christianity is not dead, we need to teach that.

Tony Evans says *"Young men need a positive influence, especially when they don't have a strong male figure in their lives. They can be influenced by a great, godly man in the church, which gives men a great mission in the church to influence these kids."*

Men of the BMA, will you be that godly influence? You may say how can I do this? You can do it by living by Psalm 107:8, *"Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!"* We are a few good men, let's now show the world.

### NATIONAL BROTHERHOOD MEETING

The 2018 National Brotherhood Meeting will be held at the Jackson Convention Complex in Jackson, Mississippi Tuesday, April 17. This meeting will be held in room 212 at 8 a.m. This meeting is a part of the BMA of America National Meeting. Bryan Risner, missionary to Romania, will be our guest speaker. We need all our BMA men to show up for this meeting. May God bless each and every one of you.

## Over 100 VSM students head to the mission field

By ANGELA RICE

BMA of America Missions

March 2-4 over 100 students and leaders packed out the Lutheran Worship Center on Pettit Jean Mountain to prepare to take the love of Jesus to the nations. VSM World Missions Weekend is a mandatory training event held annually for students going on a summer mission trip. BMA Missions is committed to training everyone going to visit our BMA Missionaries. These students and their leaders have been taught by experienced, faithful men who have dedicated their lives to making God's name famous around the world. Who better to train our students than Dr. John David Smith, Bro. Eric Johnson and Bro Phil Knott? We are so appreciative to them for giving up their weekend to invest in our kids.

Why invest so much time and treasure in training young people to go the mission field? The answer is simple. The goal is for teams to be an effective tool for the missionary to further his mission on the field! Would we want a teacher to teach our students that has never been educated? Would you want a surgeon to operate on you that has never been trained? Understanding the wonder of God's great mission and how they fit into His great plan an imperative. Knowing how to navigate a different culture and how to respond to people immersed in a false religion is indispensable. There is so much more to going on a mission trip than just showing up! It's important for students to understand what missionaries are looking for in a student mission team. Mistakes are made by short term mission teams that lack training that hurt the ministry of the missionary on the field. VSM is committed to providing training to students

so that they will be more effective in their witness for Christ.

It's exciting to be able to report to our BMA churches that these young men and women that will head to the mission field this summer are equipped to go. I am so proud of them for doing the hard work of raising funds and for being committed enough to make their missions a priority and diligent to turn in the necessary paperwork in preparation for their trip. I can't wait to see how God uses these students for His glory. In the next few weeks they will take the love of Jesus to the nations of Peru, China, the Philippines, Panama, Canada, Mexico, Tanzania, and Atlanta, GA.

BMA churches, meet your Volunteer Student Missionaries for 2018! Will you pray for them?



## Join the BMAA Choir!

By JEREMY WILLKERSON

I have been given the honor and privilege of leading the worship this year at the BMAA meeting in Jackson, Miss. On Wednesday, April 18, at 3:30 p.m., we are going to be forming a BMAA choir, and that is where I will need your help!

Anyone and everyone is welcome to come and sing at this time. Please spread the word to everyone you can think of who might be interested in singing with us.

I have chosen four songs — Standing On The Promises, How Great Is Our God, What A Day That Will Be and

Chain Breaker. A copy of the words to all the songs will be distributed as the choir goes on stage at the meeting.

I'm sure everyone is very familiar with the first three songs. The only "new" song is Chain Breaker, and it can be heard at [youtube/JGYjKR69M6U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGYjKR69M6U) (or Google Chain Breaker by Zach Williams).

I chose to end with this song because that is the message and testimony we can all declare together in Christ. Once we were all bound by chains of sin, but as believers we have experienced true freedom in Christ!

# 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the BMA of America

## Hello, Fellow Christians

By **PAUL WHITE**

*BMA of America President*

I encourage your church to begin making plans to attend our national meeting April 16-18 in Jackson, Miss.

One of the things that makes our association unique is the fact that each of our churches, no matter their size, is represented by the same number of messengers. So before you say your vote doesn't matter, I beg to differ. Your vote is as important as anyone's.



▲ Bro. Paul White

Your attendance will not only encourage our departmental leaders and serve as a visible witness to those in the areas where we meet, but when someone comes back and reports on the meeting, it can serve as a needed bridge between our associational work and your local church. Having representation at a local, state and national meeting should be the norm.

Each year, the recommendations to be considered at the meeting are mailed out so each congregation can bring their votes concerning them to the meeting. If it is not possible for your leadership to attend, consider empowering others to stand up for your church family.

## It's Time to Make Your Reservations The Committee on Arrangements

The 2018 session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America will meet April 16-18 at the Jackson Convention Complex, 105 East Pascagoula Street, Jackson, Mississippi. The facilities and hotels are looking forward to our meeting there. Jackson's accommodations offer plenty of space for all of our meetings and lodging. We hope that you will make your reservations early. Most of the hotels can make your reservations either by phone or on-line, **but you must identify that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of America.**

• **Jackson Marriott (Headquarters Hotel), 200 East Amite Street, Jackson, MS:** \$129 per night (Standard Queen or King room). Telephone reservations: 800-228-9290 or 601-969-5100. Online reservation link: Book your group rate for BMAA 2018 Annual Spring Convention. Complimentary parking in hotel parking garage (buses or vans will require metered parking). Reservation cutoff date is March 25, 2018.

• **Hilton Garden Inn, 235 West Capitol Street, Jackson, MS:** \$119 per night (Single or double); \$129 (triple); \$139 (Quad). Telephone reservations: 877-782-9444. All parking is valet, \$14.95 per day. Reservation cutoff date is March 15, 2018.

• **Westin Jackson, 407 S. Congress Street, Jackson, MS:** \$149 per night (Double or King). Telephone reservations: 601-968-8200; Online reservation link: Baptist Missionary Assn of America (or copy and paste the following link into a web browser) <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1801157013&key=26CA8A96>. All parking is valet, \$10.00 per day. Reservation cutoff date is March 16, 2018.

Our association has had to pay extra in the past years because we did not use our full block of rooms. Please help us avoid a situation like that this year. We appreciate your help.

— Jerome Cooper, Charles Attebery, and Bill Thornton



## April 16-18, 2018

Jackson Convention Complex • Jackson, Mississippi

### Schedule

<b>Monday Morning, April 16</b>	
8:00	Display/Exhibit Set-up
<b>Monday Afternoon, April 16</b>	
2:30	Registration Set-up (Enrollment and Finance Committee)
3:00	WMA Meeting Room: 209-210
<b>Monday Evening, April 16</b>	
7:00	Pre-Associational, God & Country Rally
<b>General Session — 1</b>	
	President's Address Paul White
<b>Tuesday Morning, April 17</b>	
8:00	Brotherhood Meeting Room: 212
9:00	Ladies' Retreat Room: 216-217, 218
	Theme: "Outrageously Courageous Dare to Live Beyond Your Fears"
	Nursery Room: 211
9:30	Committee Meetings
	Seminary Trustees Room: 201
	Foundation Trustees Room: 202
	Moral Action Trustees Room: 203
	Missionary Advisory Room: 204
	Lifeword Trustees Room: 205
	DiscipleGuide Trustees Room: 206
	Nominating Committee Board A
11:00	Breakout Sessions
1:	Sharing Christ with Muslims Charles Costa Room: 207
2:	Multi-Generational Ministry Adam Thomas Room: 208
3:	Opportunities... Hispanic Elvis Garcia Room: 209
4:	How to Counsel Sam Bradley Room: 210
<b>Tuesday Afternoon, April 17</b>	
2:00	Breakout Sessions
1:	Sharing Christ with Muslims Charles Costa Room: 207
2:	Multi-Generational Ministry Adam Thomas Room: 208
3:	Opportunities... Hispanic Elvis Garcia Room: 209
4:	How to Counsel Sam Bradley Room: 210
3:00	<b>General Session — 2</b>
	BMA Seminary Singers
	Petitionary Churches
	Reporting:
	Master's Builders
	Brotherhood
	BMA Seminary
	Minister's Resource Services
5:30	Seminary Dinner Room: Gallery
<b>Tuesday Evening, April 17</b>	
7:00	<b>General Session — 3</b>
	Special Music CBC Singers
	Annual Message Terry Kimbrow
<b>Wednesday Morning, April 18</b>	
8:30	<b>General Session — 4</b>
	Reporting:
	Lifeword
	DiscipleGuide
	Coordinating Council
	Nominating Committee
	Committee on Arrangements
	WMA
10:10	BMA Departments Presentation
	Reporting:
	Moral Action
	BMA Foundation
12:00	Missionary Wives Lunch and Session Room: 216-217
	Lunch
<b>Wednesday Afternoon, April 18</b>	
2:00	<b>General Session — 5</b>
	Reporting:
	Revolving Loan Fund
	Missions Department
	Election of Officers
	BMAA Choir Led by Jeremy Wilkinson
	Lifetime Achievement Awards
<b>Wednesday Evening, April 18</b>	
6:30	<b>General Session — 6</b>
	Missions Commissioning Service
<b>Enrollment Committee Schedule</b>	
Monday	2:00-4:00 p.m.
	6:00-7:00 p.m. and 30 minutes after session
Tuesday	8:30-9:00 a.m., 2:00-3:00 p.m.
	6:30-7:00 p.m. and 30 minutes after session
Wednesday	8:00-8:30 a.m.
General Sessions	Trustmark Ballroom
Registration	Outside Trustmark Ballroom
Exhibits	Exhibit Hall A

### Tired of Fluctuations of the Stock Market or the Low Rate of Return on Certificates of Deposit?

A charitable gift annuity offered by the BMA Foundation can provide you a fixed income amount for the remainder of your life at a rate higher than most certificates of deposit.

#### IN ADDITION

- You receive a federal income tax deduction the year of the gift.
- Your annuity income can be partially income tax-free.

Contact BMA Foundation Executive Director Charles Attebery for current annuity rates and additional information.  
[charles@bmaamerica.org](mailto:charles@bmaamerica.org) or call 501-472-2183



\*Annuities issued by the National Christian Foundation on behalf of the BMA Foundation



## Let's do it again!

What? You've got to be kidding! That's how many of us felt when we heard Missionary Gerald Price needed an airplane and we could buy one with Gold Bond Stamps.

Giving up our trading stamps was a big deal! Just in case you're too young to remember, this is how it worked. Retail stores issued one stamp for every 10 cents of merchandise purchased. I'm not sure how profitable it was for the retailers (although it did keep us going back). I joined the stamp frenzy in the 1960's and began building my own stash. The whole process was fun! We collected, saved, pasted them in books and traded our stamps in for all kinds of stuff! So you can imagine our initial response when Bro. W. J. Burgess, Secretary of Missions for the BMA of America challenged us to give them up for a missionary airplane!

At first it seemed impossible. Beyond reason. Hopeless. But it wasn't! As fiercely as we had loved and cherished our stamps, we became just as passionate about giving them up for this worthy missionary effort. Stamps rolled in by the thousands. And in April 1968, a new Cessna 182 Airplane was on its way to enlarge the ministry and advance the spread of the gospel in the vast land of Brazil.

We responded the same way when Missionary Paul Bearfield said one million Betty Crocker coupons would provide a much needed micro-bus for the ministry in Taiwan. That's an overwhelming assignment, but together we did it!

Every year the National WMA selects a missionary project to support. This year we have chosen the BMA Bible College in the Philippines—a training center where young men and women receive a great education and also gain practical experience by serving in our churches. On week days they attend class and study. Every week-end students leave the campus to work with pastors, sharing Christ, leading outreach ministries, teaching children and adult Bible study groups. In one semester, a total of 682 were saved. Now that's an amazing harvest! And what a worthy investment we are making when we support this project.

As of Feb. 28, we have received \$30,417.47 for our entire project: 80 percent goes to the college. Good work! But can we do more? The college budget calls for \$7,000 per month (plus ongoing building maintenance) and our offerings are urgently needed! Can we give one more BIG push? Our goal is \$40,000 and all designated funds received by April 16 will go to this worthy cause. Helping our missionaries is something we do well. And every year I'm impressed as I watch the process. We pray. We link arms. We commit. We work. And God blesses!

Let's do it again! And without a doubt we will see God at work doing more than we ever thought possible. An airplane for trading stamps or a micro-bus for coupons was no big deal for God. And neither are the needs and ministry of our BMA Bible College in the faraway Philippines.

Think about the story of a little boy and his lunch recorded in Matthew 14:15-21. The truth is if over 5,000 people stayed for Sunday lunch at our church I would be nervous too and would have probably slipped out the back door during the closing prayer. Two fish and five loaves of bread? Is that all? But Jesus told the disciples not to worry! He simply asked for what they had, and it was enough! That's all He wants from us, and I'm confident it too will be enough!

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



# Meet Lifeword's Donny Parrish



By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

*Lifeword Media Ministries*

With 40 years of ministry to the churches and departments of the BMA, Donny Parrish considers her people his family and support system. Beginning at Harding Street Baptist Church in Baker, Louisiana, where he, his younger brother and his parents attended, he has loved and served that extended family. Donny recalls his mother, now deceased, as being the “original Walmart greeter” who was hired by a local grocery store in Baker just to talk to everyone who came in. It's easy to see where Donny gets his passion for people.

After high school, Donny attended Louisiana State University for a year, then Jacksonville College in Texas for another year. He met “the prettiest girl on campus,” Datha Ruggles, at Jacksonville and the two married in 1974. Their first place to serve was First Baptist Church at Springhill, Louisiana, where Donny was youth pastor and worship leader. Their daughter, Brittany, was born in 1981, followed by Samantha seven years later.

While at Springhill, he and other student pastors invited youth groups to Teen Bible Conference and Donny and Datha sang and led music for the meetings. National Youth Department Director Bobby Tucker could see the potential of gathering teenagers in one place for worship, Bible study and fellowship. He shared his dream with Donny, and together they launched SOAR Conference in 1991, where music, drama, video and other creative arts are used to teach and inspire students to ministry. It is the largest conference hosted by the BMA.

In 1988, Donny left Springhill to serve as worship leader and youth pastor at Temple Baptist Church in Little Rock, and his relationship with Lifeword began two years later when Executive Director George Reddin asked him to help create the video ministry. Four years later, Donny became worship pastor at Antioch in Conway, Arkansas, and in November of that year, his family endured the most profoundly difficult time of their lives: Eleven-year-old Brittany died of oxygen deprivation after aspirating a balloon at Lifeword's offices.

Three weeks later, Donny returned to Antioch to lead worship, and the choir, accompanists and congregation shared their grief and tears with him, Datha and Samantha. Donny recalls that, “the whole association grieved with us. It was a heartbreaking time for a lot of people.” Twenty-six years later that support continues.

The tragedy has dramatically changed his ministry and given him an understanding of grief, loss and tragedy he wouldn't have known otherwise. He has shared Brittany's testimony and his own countless times and continues to help strangers who contact him about their own losses.

While at Lifeword and serving at churches, Donny led the conference division of DiscipleGuide for over 25 years and the student missions division of BMA Missions for 10 years. Also, after leaving Lifeword in 1999 to serve as executive pastor at Fellowship in Forney, Texas, for 12 years, he continued to provide creative content and serve as radio personality for the ministry.

Donny returned to Lifeword in 2012, at the urging of Executive Director Steve Crawley, to be Chief Creative Officer of the BMA of America. He served as production team leader for all media, conferences and development. In September of 2016 he was reassigned to the Lifeword team full time to focus on broadcast outreach to the United States. Since his return to Conway, he has helped Central Baptist College as spiritual life director, a position that includes planning chapel services for the students for whom he continues to have a heart.

Donny is currently Lifeword's executive director, a position that he is humbled and honored to hold. His vision, the Lifeword Cloud, is an initiative that will reach anyone with internet access, decentralize the ministry, and move it to creative and talented people around the world who will produce programming. Lifeword USA will be the hub for the Lifeword network of churches and producers all over the globe.

His passion for people and their salvation continues.

# Everybody Needs Somebody

By **DR. MIKE SMITH**

*President of Jacksonville College*

“Bear ye one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2).

Have you ever stopped and thanked God for the people that He has brought into your life? In His providence, God orchestrated people to cross your path. You needed these people. God has brought such people into my life as well.

My parents had a great influence on my life. My father taught me to have a strong work ethic. My mother showed me refreshing moments of laughter.

My partner in marriage of 44 years, Susan, has had a tremendous influence. She has encouraged and comforted me and counseled me toward the right decisions. My children and grandchildren have been such a blessing.

My places of ministry have allowed me to grow in my walk with God. I’ve been blessed with diverse places of ministry. Each contributed to my spiritual formation. The failures, as well as the successes, have shaped me.

Through the years, my personal friends have helped not only to encourage me but also to chip off the rough edges by being honest with me. Every Wednesday, for fourteen years, I could be found at the Dairy Queen on Highway 79. My seat was a corner booth. My meal was a \$0.99 breakfast of biscuits, sausage gravy, and a lot of coffee. My friends surrounded me. After fourteen years, we could tell by the countenance on each other’s face if comfort or conviction was needed.

I thank God for the people who have born my burdens over the years.

Since 1899, Jacksonville College has existed because God led alumni, friends, and churches to help carry the burdens of a Christian college. I have not met all the individuals who have

prayed for and offered financial support to the College, but I am deeply grateful for each one of them.

## BEAR YE ONE ANOTHER’S BURDENS

This semester, friends of Jacksonville College have donated the funds necessary to make the following purchases:

- \$8,500 for a power generator for IT equipment
- \$2,000 for a digital keyboard
- \$2,000 for sound system equipment and training for Buckner Chapel
- \$1,500 for a graphic wrap for the equipment trailer used by the choir and golf teams
- \$2,175 for campus Scripture art

We are blessed that God has provided for Jacksonville College through the gifts of many good friends, and we are thankful for gifts of any amount. Please consider making a gift to Jacksonville College to meet the following needs:

- \$5,000 for the replacement of the cafeteria sewer line (interior grey water lines). \$545 has been given to date.
- \$300 for a body weight scale for the weight room
- \$750 for a Nikon digital camera for Public Relations
- \$1,000 for the Spring 2018 Academic/Athletic Banquet
- \$400 for a receiver hitch for Van #5
- \$900 for an exterior paint job and bumper repair for Van #4
- \$3,000 for the replacement of the shower in Suite #203/204 of Collins Hall (women’s residence hall)
- \$3,000 for the replacement of the shower in Suite #207/208 of Collins Hall

## PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING EVENTS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

1. Jacksonville College Day on May 1: Business leaders in Jacksonville will gather for a lunch on our campus to hear an updated report of Jacksonville College. They will be given an opportunity to sponsor a commuter student.

2. Jaguar Day Across Texas on Sunday, May 6: We ask churches, alumni, and friends to give a special financial gift on this Sunday to help Jacksonville College through the summer months.

Jacksonville College has been blessed by the generous donations of individuals like Neatha Cagle Croft, who provided for several needs at the College, including an \$8,500 generator to power IT equipment. She also paid for shelves for the Theater Program, chairs for the library, and a new backboard for the basketball court in the gymnasium. Neatha is a JC alumna who served as Alumni Liaison for the College until she retired in 2015.



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



### JOB OPENINGS AT JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

**Biology:** Jacksonville College is seeking an adjunct Biology instructor. Teaching responsibilities may include Biology I and II, Nutrition, Anatomy and Physiology, and Microbiology. The ability to teach both face-to-face and online classes is preferred.

**Speech:** Jacksonville College is seeking an adjunct Speech instructor. Teaching responsibilities include face-to-face courses in Public Speaking and Business and Professional Speech.

**Accounting:** Jacksonville College is seeking an adjunct Accounting instructor to teach Principles of Accounting I and II. The ability to teach face-to-face classes is preferred, but online classes may be considered.

**Qualifications:** Required qualifications include a master's or doctoral degree or 18 graduate hours in the relevant field. Job related experience is preferred, but not mandatory. Must possess effective verbal and written communications skills, as well as strong organizational and interpersonal skills. Computer proficiency is also required.

**Mission Statement:** Jacksonville College exists to provide a quality education from a biblical worldview that challenges minds, transforms lives, and equips students for servant leadership and lifelong learning.

**Statement of Faith:** A deep faith in God is the foundation of Jacksonville College. The College believes that no education is complete until a student understands who God is and how to relate to Him through His Son Jesus Christ. Doctrinal beliefs influence all that the College does and teaches.

Download an application form at [www.jacksonville-college.edu/contact](http://www.jacksonville-college.edu/contact) by clicking on the *Application Form* link under *Employment*. Mail the form to Dr. Mike Smith, Jacksonville College, 105 B.J. Albritton Drive, Jacksonville College, 75766. Applications may also be submitted via email to [msmith@jacksonville-college.edu](mailto:msmith@jacksonville-college.edu). Include your resume and certified copies of your academic transcripts with your submission.



*Upcoming*  
**EVENTS**

**EARLY REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER TERMS BEGINS**  
Wednesday, March 21

**U.S. CONGRESSMAN LOUIE GOHMERT**  
March 28 at 11:00 a.m. in Buckner Chapel

**SPRING THEATER PRODUCTION OF**  
**FURRY TAILS WITH A TWIST: A SHOW FOR ALL AGES**  
April 12-13 at 6:30 p.m. and April 14 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.  
in the Mary S. Lewis Theater  
Admission: free for children through fifth grade;  
\$5.00 for other students; \$7.00 for adults

**FINE ARTS SHOWCASE**  
**(MUSIC, THEATER AND VISUAL ARTS PROGRAMS)**  
May 3 in the Mary S. Lewis Theater

**JAGUAR DAY ACROSS TEXAS**  
Annual Offering for Jacksonville College  
Sunday, May 6



## 2020 DEBT FREE IN THREE

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your name/church)  
commits to pray for Jacksonville College and to give:

\_\_\_\_\_ a month for operating expenses

\_\_\_\_\_ a month for "Debt Free in Three"

\_\_\_\_\_ as a special gift for "Debt Free in Three"

\_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed

(Cut out and mail this form to: Jacksonville College, 105 B.J. Albritton Drive, Jacksonville, TX 75766)



**A WORD FROM YOUR MISSION OFFICE:**

The BMA of Texas is GROWING! We are excited to announce new works this month. We have new churches beginning in Fort Worth and San Antonio. We have a new intern preparing to train in Houston. We are supporting a new hispanic work in Wills Point. We currently have two existing works preparing to send out and start new works. We see God further expanding our efforts in English and Spanish next month as well. It's a great time to serve God as BMAT Baptists. Our association is growing in Christ and for his glory. Each new church targets the lost around them. As God opens doors in the enemy's territory, we continue to need sincere prayer and resources.

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

**A WORD FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES:**

**MATTHEW PRATHER—**

**THE BRIDGE MISSION, MIDLOTHIAN/WAXAHACHIE**

This has been a good month at The Bridge. This month we have continued to see relationships grow with those attending The Bridge. People are sticking around longer and longer and we are all getting to know each other and beginning to become more a more of a family on mission together. It has been great to see more natural relationship building happening. People are inviting others to their home, taking guests out to eat after church, and things like that. Another, exciting thing was there is one man that really has a heart on influencing the family. This month he planned and led a men's event in his home. There were 14 men in attendance for this event. Many that do not attend The Bridge attended. Please continue to pray for The Bridge as we continue to reach our community for Christ. Thank you for your continued support!!

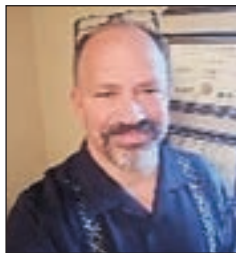


▲ Matthew Prather

**CLIFF ROBERTSON—**

**CARPENTER'S HOUSE MISSION—LAKE JACKSON/CLUTE**

God has been so good to us. We are growing. We are so blessed by the BMA of Texas and the support we get. While we still have a way to go, we are looking toward starting the next church plant later this year. Pray for us!



▲ Cliff Robertson

**NEPTALY MOLINA—**

**IGLESIA BAUTISTA MISSION, NACOGDOCHES**

Titulo: Quien es un bienaventurado

Texto Biblico: Mateo 5:4 Bienaventurado los que lloran , porque de ellos recibiran consolacion.

Introduccion: El sermon del monte, habarca 3 capitulos unos 111 versiculos pero una amplia ensenanzas del señor Jesucristo.

1) Bienaventurado, da la idea de felicidad completa, en Jesucristo

2) Motivo sublimes para llorar, Jesus el m hombre mas grande del mundo, lloro en varias oportunidades, por Lazaro, por Jerusalem, por la gente que estaban descarriada com ovejas que no tenian pastor. (Salmo 126:5-6) Sembrar la palabra, con lagrimas, segaran. (1 Corintios 3:10-13)

3) Los que lloran seran consolados. Una gran promesa. La consolacion es la bendicion que Dios derramara, en aquellos que sirven al señor con abnegacion .

Conclusion.

Oracion

**CHRIS DRIVER—**

**WEST TEXAS CHURCH MULTIPLICATION NETWORK**

Springtime in west Texas means the wind is blowing...and so is the dirt! But God is on the move just the same! Our two up groups are doing great. Loop has started Sunday morning services along with their Sunday and Wednesday night groups. They're averaging over 50 people throughout the week on campus. Whitharral is averaging over 30 in their weekly meeting. They are developing a traveling VBS Team with plans to reach into three towns this summer. I had a chance to share God's big dream for west Texas at the annual Exponential church planting conference in Orlando, Florida, to a packed room that was encouraged to know God still has a heart and plan for small towns! And we're making preparations for the family from east Texas to arrive in early June! The wind is blowing, God is on the move, and we're just trying to hang on! So keep praying!



▲ Chris Driver

**JAIME GARCIA—**

**IGLESIA BAUTISTA NUEVA VIDA MISSION, SPLENDORA**

It is necessary to continue doing what God has commanded and never to falter even when we do not clearly see hope trusting that the Lord is faithful, just as Abraham received strength to have children, because he considered the one who had made the promise faithful.Go ahead brothers because we have another promise like Abraham, that Jesus promised to be with us until the end of the world. Amen. Let's trust that faithful is the one who promised such a promise.



▲ Jaime Garcia

**CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ—  
NEW MISSION, LUBBOCK**

“And he said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest’” (Luke 10:2).

Our brothers and sisters from different churches in west Texas have obediently prayed to the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers to preach the gospel in their area. My family and I moving to Lubbock are a result of those faithful prayers. The Lord continues to generously answer those prayers. In mid-March another family will be joining our church planting team in Lubbock. God had been preparing brother Angel Colon and his family for this work. Angel had been mentored by his pastor in Puerto Rico and had been taking online seminary classes. God, in His providence, allowed a hurricane to cause a great loss in his property moving them to Texas. They know for certain that God's plan is better than their plan and they will gladly work for the Great Commission in Lubbock. Obey the Lord Jesus. Pray for more laborers for the spiritual harvest and do not resist to be a laborer yourself.



▲ Christian Martinez



**JOSHUA PICKARD—**

**INTERN AT THE BRIDGE MISSION, MIDLOTHIAN/  
WAXAHACHIE**

My family has just been elected to work alongside Ronnie Mills to plant a church in Fort Worth. We are incredibly excited for this opportunity to plant in area which we have come to love over the past couple of years.

**BMA TEXAS MISSIONS** continued on p.12



# America's Pastor at home today

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

*Pastor of First, Palmer*

It has been a refreshing change to see the worldwide media turn—if ever so briefly, from political correctness, political scandal, and all the trappings of an evil world, to remember someone who loved Jesus Christ supremely.

I felt like a kid attending church camp again, while sitting in front of my TV watching 2,000 people, under that giant tent, near the Grahams' final resting place. I watched our president and vice president, along with other notable people from around the world, together singing "To God Be the Glory" and "All Hail the Power" accompanied by only a piano. They were participating in what didn't seem like a funeral, but more like an old-time tent revival. And I think it was by design that the giant cross on the Billy Graham Library, was in perfect view of the massive crowd. And it was also by design that the event happened at the very spot where the Billy Graham organization was conceived in 1949.

Graham was a preacher's preacher—an absolutely humble Baptist preacher, who spent eight decades preaching a simple message on the love of Jesus. And God seemed to take pleasure in turning him loose with a huge megaphone and a pulpit in front of the entire world, and said, "Go preach about my only begotten Son."

Graham's own son, Franklin, said his dad was the same at home with his family as he was when he preached in giant stadiums

in 185 countries. The evangelist was comfortable sitting and conversing with kings, queens, popes, movie stars and American presidents, (13 of them to be exact, from Truman to Trump). He was equally comfortable conversing with a homeless, down-and-outer, speaking with the same warm, godly demeanor. He was the same to everybody—"all things to all people" 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.

All through my own life, I watched his crusades and although I have felt the calling of God on my own life since 1965, I never listened to Graham's famous invitation to Christ, listening to the 5,000 voice choir, under the direction of Cliff Barrows sing Just as I Am, without examining my own experience of God's grace, and asking myself, "Am I sure I'm going to Heaven?" Billy had a marvelous gift of inspiring everyone who heard him to privately address that question.

I also loved to hear of the stories of his own humanness. He did have some "lighter" moments—like the video I saw of him calling Barrows and soloist George Beverly Shea to the podium for an impromptu performance of "This Little Light of Mine." (You can catch it on YouTube.) It's a hoot!

Franklin mentioned that his dad loved to talk about the things everybody else talked about while at home with his family, including politics. But I never heard him even allude to any political thoughts or leanings in public—only the gospel of Christ. I suppose he knew very well that he couldn't touch the entire world if he divulged any political leanings. Perhaps that should be a lesson to the rest of us.

He had such a sense of humor. I recall seeing a media personality interview him once, and began a conversation about his marriage to Ruth, asking him if there was ever a time when they considered divorce.

"No!" he said in his trademark Carolinian drawl. "We've never considered divorce, but we have discussed murder once or twice."

I am so thankful the world had 99 years to be touched by Billy Graham. There will never be another one. But I'm sure that's what people said when second century preacher, Polycarp, pastor of Smyrna, who was burned at the stake, while declaring, as a Roman soldier begged him to renounce his faith, "Eighty and six years has

Christ been faithful to me—I shall not deny Him now." Or when 19th Century preachers, Dwight L. Moody, or Charles Spurgeon, who each touched their generation for Christ, or when famed 20th Century pulpiter, Dallas pastor, W. A. Criswell passed on to glory.

No, there won't be another Billy Graham, but it's no problem with God to replace him. And Billy Graham would be the first to celebrate that.

I suppose one of the most memorable quotes from the famed evangelist was when he declared, "Someday you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don't you believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. I will just have changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God."

And he walked into the presence of God, and in the presence of millions of people who said "yes" to Christ at a Billy Graham Crusade.



▲ **Dr. Billy Graham**

## An expression of everlasting love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from Feb. 1, 2018 – Feb. 28, 2018.

### HONORARIUMS

**PASTORS & MISSIONARIES EVERYWHERE:** Roy & Elizabeth Talbot

### MEMORIALS

**JS & MYRTLE BASS:** Charlotte Morgan

**WALTER BECKER:** Dennis & Ilona Myrice

**ROBERT "BOB" BROWN:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Brenda Ray

**JOHN CLEMENS:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**KATHY ANN CONWAY:** Roland & Sandra Plaster

**MRS. JANIS CUNNINGHAM:** Neta Hicks

**LEAH DAVIDSON:** Teresa Davidson

**DIANE:** Linda Hipp

**PAT GHOLSON:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**BILLY GRAHAM:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**MAURICE HANEY:** Eugenia Boley

**ANNA BELL HELM:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**NELDA HOWARD:** Charley & Iris Wilson

**JACK HUME:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**FRAN JACKSON:** Brenda Ray

**TERESA KENNIMER:** Teresa Davidson

**JIMMY MILLICAN:** Joe & Twyla Card

**LOUISE MORRIS:** Terri Hudson

**DONALD O'CONNELL:** Temple Baptist Church

**MABLE JO ODOM:** Jed & Glenice Whitaker

**ALISHA DEON PERKINS:** Macky & Linda Walters

**MILLIE RICHARDSON:** Terri Hudson

**LATRICIA RIGGS:** Teresa Davidson

**JOANN RILEY:** Linda Hipp

**ROSEMARY SEAHORN:** Teresa Davidson

**DEAN SOAPE:** Jackie Blair

**LARRY 'BO' STEGALL:** Donna Dugger, Teresa Davidson

**HATTIE "ARMELL" TIDWELL:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**H.L. WOODARD:** Encouragers Class @ New Hope Baptist Church, Mineola

**KATHY WOODS:** Leon & Linda Lee



## In the Potter's Hands

By **GLENDAM CHAMBERLAIN**

*Texas WMA 2nd Vice President*

Our State WMA theme for the year is In the Potter's Hands. "We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." Isaiah 64:8.

Throughout scripture, God is often referred to as a potter. And we are His clay. As God hovers over His creation, centering or shaping us or even restoring us from collapse, He may transform us in ways we never imagined. God shapes people with care and works in miraculous ways in every life. But this does not mean that every person's spiritual journey will look the same; in fact, like handcrafted pieces of pottery, each is entirely unique. His hands are on our lives.

Our Heavenly Father wants to use the events we encounter everyday as tools with which to shape and sculpt us into the image of Christ. Romans 8:28 says that "God works all things for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose," but the

next verse gives us His purpose: "to be conformed to the image of His Son." (Romans 8:29). We are all works in progress.

The 2018 Texas Ladies' Retreat will be held Friday evening, Sept. 14 and Saturday, Sept. 15. I'm excited to announce New Bethlehem Baptist Church, in Cut and Shoot (near Conroe), has volunteered to host the Texas Ladies' Retreat this fall. New Bethlehem is located at 14630 Millmac Rd, Conroe, Texas. The Tryon District WMA ladies are excited and are already hard at work planning decorations, food, etc. Let's keep this wonderful group of ladies in our prayers as they proceed with plans for the retreat. May God bless them for stepping forward and volunteering.

As we reflect on our theme this year, remember that our Heavenly Father wants to use the events we encounter each day as tools with which to shape and sculpt us into

the image of Christ. He wants to deepen our faith, to develop within us the quality of perseverance, and to make us watertight containers of His love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). Plans for the retreat program are well underway and promises to be a wonderful time in the Lord. If your church has a skit or special music that you would like to see in the program please contact me, I'd love to talk to you. I'll have the registration form and a list of hotel/motels for you in a few weeks. I know you don't want to miss this retreat. It is a special time for ladies from across our great state to come together to worship our Heavenly Father. Ask God to take control of your life today. The Potter is waiting to shape and mold you into His masterpiece...we're all works in progress. Glenda Chamberlain, Texas WMA 2nd Vice President. 903-806-3484.

## WMA enlistment

By **JOHNNIE ROSS**

*Texas WMA 1st Vice President*

If you are a WMA lady, you probably love WMA. You love the Lord, studying His Word and sharing the gospel message. You also love to work with the children and youth in your church. Often, we don't understand why every other woman in our church doesn't share the same love. The truth is, they probably do, but the women you may be thinking of could be feeling overwhelmed with life. I know I felt that way for a while: three kids in school, schoolwork every night; preparing three meals a day, grocery shopping, finding the money for new jeans and tennis shoes, even before cell phone bills; a fulltime job.

Let's consider some ways we might enlist these ladies in WMA, or maybe, church. E-Encourage: Paul said in Romans 1, he was anticipating mutual encouragement because of "each other's faith, both yours and mine." Pray that God will show them our faith, as we pray for them, asking God to show us their faith. What a great way to show encouragement-praying for our mutual faith. N-Notice: In Exodus, God took notice of the plight of the people of Israel (His chosen people) while they were in Egypt. In our mission to let Christ live through

us, we should be noticing what His children are going through. God had a plan for the children of Israel, and He has a plan for His children today. Shouldn't we pray that God will use us and that we would wholeheartedly participate in His plan? L-Love: Between the letters of John and James, we know that we are suppose to be showing our love to our brothers and sisters in Christ. If we do not visibly love fellow believers, then our belief comes into question. Let's pray for opportunities to demonstrate God's Love, allowing it to flow through us. I-Include: Sometimes there is nothing more hurtful to an already fragile personality than to think that you've been left out. Make every effort to include all the ladies, whether they attend or not, in activities of the WMA or ladies' group. Communication is so very important. Keep everyone informed. S-Stand: No matter what, stand firm in belief, conviction, and the teaching of the Word of God. Remember, we are examples to the world (and our fellow believers). We are to exhibit maturity in Christ. What an admonition for us to be what Christ expects us to be! T-Teach: The book of Titus tells us that we are to teach the younger ladies, and tells us what to teach, "so

that the Word of God may not be reviled." Fellow WMA ladies, we need to be teaching our younger ladies, even if we have to step outside the walls of the church to do so. Again, pray that God will grant us opportunities.

### NATIONAL WMA

Keep April 17, 2018 on your schedule to attend the National WMA meeting at the Jackson Convention Center in Jackson, Mississippi. The theme is "Fear Not," and the guest speaker is Kim Crabill, founder and president of Roses and Rainbows Ministries, Inc. and Community COFFEE, (Conversations of Friends of Faith to Encourage and Equip). Her message and passion come from her personal experience of longing to be used by God yet feeling unusable because of past abuse leading to anorexia, diet pill addiction, and depression. Her mother's deathbed challenge set Kim on a new path, a journey she wrote about in her book Burdens to Blessings. Kim challenges women to never give up daring to be all that God has created them to be. Contact Charlotte Johnson-903-790-1385 for more information.

# Closure of BMA Seminary's Arkansas Extension Site

By **PHILIP ATTEBERY**

*BMA Seminary Dean*

On Feb. 16, 2018, the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary's Board of Trustees voted to close the institution's Arkansas Extension Site in Conway, Arkansas at the end of its 2017-18 academic year.

The decision to close the site came following extensive evaluation by the trustees to research the feasibility of the site. In September 2017, the trustees formed a committee of trustees to conduct an initial evaluation. This occurred mostly in response to data showing a recent decline in enrollment. The committee's research focused upon interviewing students, BMA leaders, seminary administrators, the extension site's administrator, and more than 30 pastors in the state.

Current students will have opportunity to complete their degrees through online studies and intensive summer and winter sessions held on the main campus in Jacksonville, Texas.

In 2003, the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary received approval by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) to offer seminary courses and degrees through an extension site on the campus of Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas.

Administrators from the seminary's main campus in

Jacksonville, Texas and Dr. Thom South in Arkansas worked successfully to gain the approval. At the time, BMA Seminary's extension site alone had approval to offer complete seminary degrees in Arkansas.

Seminary administrators continued to enhance the site by gaining its accreditation from both the Commission on Accrediting for the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and continued approval by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

Regretfully, the site will close after 15 years of service to Christian leaders in the great State of Arkansas. The caliber of students coming through the extension site has been outstanding. The total number of unduplicated students educated at the site from fall 2003 to fall 2017 totaled 122. Thirty-four have graduated with three more extension site students scheduled to graduate in May 2018. Nine graduates have since completed doctoral programs. Sixty-eight percent of extension site graduates continue to minister as pastors, chaplains, departmental workers, missionaries, or in other ministries for the BMA.

Central Baptist College has graciously hosted the site for

15 years. Like a true sister institution, CBC administrators and personnel have consistently and kindly provided for the extension site's many needs. Additionally, Lifeword Media Ministries housed an extension library on its campus for several years. Although on campus classes in Conway will cease, the seminary's online enrollment continues to increase significantly. The seminary offers two graduate degrees completely online: Master of Arts (Religion) and Master of Arts (Pastoral Theology).

Seminary administrators recognize the contributions of Dr. Thom South and Professor Brian Rickett who served as extension site administrators and the many highly-credentialed professors who led in providing the site with exceptional higher religious education.

The seminary must also express its appreciation to supporting individuals, churches, and local associations who made the site's existence possible by financially and prayerfully providing for the site. BMA Seminary hopes to continue providing education to Arkansas churches and leaders mostly through short-term seminars and workshops, free non-credit online courses, and for-credit online courses.

# Seminary rededicates Dorman Chapel

By **KERI SOUTHERN**

*Assistant to the President, BMA Seminary*

Many members of the BMA Seminary family and friends gathered together in order to rededicate the Dorman Memorial Chapel to the Lord's service Feb. 15, 2018. The refurbishment of the chapel was the focus of BMA Seminary's 60th Anniversary project.

Services began with prelude music by the Seminary Singers accompanied by Mrs. Jan Childs. Dr. Charley Holmes, BMA Seminary President, extended a warm welcome to all in attendance and introduced Bro. Paul White, BMA of America President, who offered the invocation. Dr. Holmes then provided a brief history of the early days of BMA Seminary up through the original dedication of Dorman Memorial Chapel on Feb. 20, 1968. The chapel is named for Dr. W.J. Dorman, the seminary's first dean as well as Greek/Hebrew and Old Testament professor.

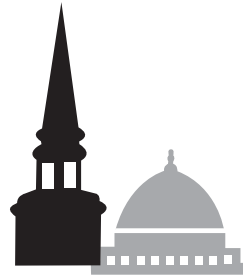
The congregation, led by Trustee Reggie Blake, sang "Faith of our Fathers", followed by a scripture reading from John 7 by Trustee Gary Murph. BMA Seminary Dean Dr. Philip Attebery led in prayer and the congregation followed in singing the hymn "So Send I You."

Dr. Holmes preached a message of dedication from John 7, encouraging each of us to make certain that it can be said of us as it was of Jesus—never man spake like this man. Our churches should be speaking and reflecting the truth of the whole counsel of God rather than attempting to imitate the culture and society at large. This is the commitment BMA Seminary has made in rededicating this chapel—to prepare ministers and church leaders who will seek to follow Christ wholeheartedly.

Board of Trustees chairman Tom Mitchell offered the dedicatory prayer and dismissed the congregation. An informal reception followed in the Gregson Student Center.



# Our Judeo—Christian Heritage Pornography—The National Shame Ephesians 5:3-5



By **DR. JOHN M. ADAMS**

*Moral Action Executive Director*

Some say that pornography such as (sex magazines and videos) is a victimless crime. The Bible exposes sexually explicit magazines for what they really are—smut and filth from Satan's domain.

Paul the Apostle told the Ephesian culture in Ephesians 5:3, not to even let impurity be named among them. Our modern era has to contend with sex parlors, topless bars, porno magazine stands, video stores, sex cable channels, regular T.V. programming and dial-a-porn telephone services to satisfy one's lust for sex. Most in the American culture are willfully ignorant of just how vicious this moral plague has become and how devastatingly widespread it is.

We wish to investigate.

## ADULT PORNOGRAPHY:

The U.S. Justice Department in recent years authorized a study to determine what role Playboy, Hustler, and other sexually explicit pornography plays in juvenile delinquency, teenage violence, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children. This research was sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The research is to be used by police to forecast behavior of juveniles exposed to pornography.

Jesus stated in Mark 7:20-23 that the natural-carnal man will have an evil eye of lasciviousness and foolishness, and He ends the quote that these things defile a man. Pornography in the end becomes ugly and sinfully dangerous.

The sex business made Hugh Hefner worth more than \$148 million. Forbes magazine states, "The magazine Hefner founded, Playboy, was among the prime movers of the sexual revolution that helped legitimize pornography and the so-called soft-porno."

Christian News Network claims: "The 'naughty magazines' of the last generation bear little relation to the porn of today. Far from the skimpily clad or bare breasted models of yesterday, the more than 100 porno magazine titles available today depict: (1) sexual intercourse, (2) homosexual acts, (3) explicit group sex, (4) sex between people and animals, (5) depictions of bondage, (6) torture sex, (7) and rape sex.

The F.B.I. reports that this past year the "adult" film business at hundreds of X-rated theaters in the U.S. will attract 2.75 million admissions per week. No wonder the Apostle Peter cried out to the brethren in 1 Peter 2:11, "Dearly beloved, I beseech you... to abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul..."

## KIDDIE PORN:

The proper term is known as "pedophilia perversion" or child sex. Each year in America 704,000 children are reported missing. Some are runaways that will be home in 72 hours, but more than 2,000 per day will never be found. The F.B.I. law enforcement bulletin describes these strangers abducting children are usually psychotics, baby sellers, pornographers, pedophiles and serial killers.

Children have become a product for sale. A magazine of obscene pictures of children (2 to 13 years) can be produced for 50 cents and sold for as much as \$12.50. The two leading American publications are "Lust for Children" and "Child Discipline". The proliferation of internet child pornography has exploded in America.

A Los Angeles child pornographer produced a travel guide, "Where the Young Ones Are." It listed 378 places in 54 cities in 34 states where a child could be found for sexual services.

## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS BY DR. ADAMS

1. What's the Big Deal about Pornography?  
Dr. Jill C. Manning
2. Undefined  
Harry Schaumburg
3. Pure Eyes, Clean Heart  
Craig and Jen Ferguson
4. The Bible  
God & His Son

*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](http://www.macbma.net) for more information.*



## BMA Texas Missions cont.

### BRANDON DURHAM— REDEEMER'S LOVE MISSION, HOUSTON

Greetings to our BMAT Church Family! Thank you all for your prayers and encouraging notes along the way! By God's grace, Redeemer's Love, Houston continues to grow into a "diverse church for a diverse city!" It's exciting to see our people using their gifts to build up the Body of Christ! Sarah, a



▲ Brandon Durham

single mom of Iranian descent is heading up our children's ministry. Kevin and Kevin, Hispanic and African American, are co-leading our music with vocals, acoustic, and drums. Ryan, a young Vietnamese man, is giving free financial counsel. My wife, Amanda, from Brazil, is starting a women's discipleship initiative. David, with parents from India and Mexico, is heading up our audio/video department. On Sundays, we do a "Living Sign" as our people stand next to our huge banner, smiling, waving, and inviting folks to

join us! We're expecting God to do great things in the days ahead!



### PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE FIELD

-We are currently assessing several new church planting teams. Please pray for wisdom and for God to do big things.

-Pray that God provides the funds and the laborers for more evangelistic disciple making churches.

-Pray for souls saved, disciples made, leaders equipped and sent out to start again.

### PRAISE REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

-15 salvations and 2 baptism were reported this month!

-Several of our current missions in English and Spanish are preparing to send church planters out!

-God continues to answer your prayers on behalf of your mission effort!

BMA of Texas Missions  
PO Box 73  
Waxahachie, TX 75168  
(632 Farley Street)  
972-923-0757  
[hmitchell@bmatexas.org](mailto:hmitchell@bmatexas.org)

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



# EVENTS

## REVIVAL

**DATE:** April 9-13

**PLACE:** Woodland Baptist Church, 6049 FM 3358, Gilmer, Texas

## REVIVAL

**DATE:** March 29-31

**PLACE:** Little Flock Baptist Church, Lufkin

**TIME:** 7 p.m.

**SPEAKER:** Bro. Jim Ross

## 2018 MEETING OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**DATE:** April 16-18, 2018

**PLACE:** Jackson Convention Complex, Jackson, Mississippi

**HEADQUARTERS HOTEL:** The Hilton Garden Inn and Marriott Sleep Inn & Suites

## 118TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

**DATE:** November 5-6, 2018

**PLACE:** Calvary Baptist Church, Fairfield, Texas

# OBITUARIES

## FLOYD RICHARD GASTON

Floyd Richard Gaston, 80, long-time East Texas pastor, went to be with the Lord on Feb. 8, 2018 at his home near Troup, Texas. He was born February 5, 1938. His most recent pastorate was 10 years at Mount



Cove Baptist Church, Rusk, Texas. He was a graduate of Texas Baptist Institute, Henderson, Texas. He was along-time employee of Walmart in Jacksonville. He was preceded in death by his Son, Floyd Richard Gaston, Jr. He is survived by his wife, Jeannette Newton Gaston of Troup and his daughter, Cheryl Gaston of Troup.

# PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

## AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**PASTOR**—First, Rice is seeking a bivocational pastor. Please contact Jason Fisher at 903-467-7299 or email fbcricegale@yahoo.com. 6/18

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

**PASTOR**—Little Flock, Jewett is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to the church at PO Box 897, Jewett, Texas 75846 or call Floris Linton at 903-626-6613. TFN

**YOUTH PASTOR**—Davis Street, Sulphur Springs is seeking a full-time youth pastor. Send resume to dennis@davisstreetbaptist.org. TFN

**PASTOR**—Hill Creek, Whitehouse is seeking a pastor. Send resume and recorded sermon to Hill Creek Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 1287, Whitehouse, Texas 75791. TFN

# PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

**RILEY PATE** is the new pastor of Mt. Pisgah, Mineola.

**MICHAEL PHILLIPS** is the new pastor of Little Mound, Big Sandy.

## Department video reports available online

In the spirit of keeping Annual Reports at the national meeting between 10 and 15 minutes in length, BMA departments (DiscipleGuide, Lifeword, Missions, Ministers Resource Services and BMA Foundation) have videotaped lengthy, in-depth reports for your benefit.

Department leaders want you to have all the information you need about your ministries, so follow this link for a detailed report from each director, then call 1-844-262-8637 and name the department you'd like to speak with regarding any questions you may have:

<https://bmaamerica.org/annualreports/>

## CHURCHES IN REVIEW FEBRUARY 18, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Omen	32	68	1 by baptism
First, Palmer	57	67	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	22	42	
Jackson, Joaquin	76	142	
New Harmony, Tyler		205	
New Hope, Mineola	51	124	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		39	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	42	57	
Pine Brook, Tyler	27	57	
Rosewood, Gilmer	124	224	1 by baptism, 1 profession of faith
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	46	67	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	20	34	
Simmons Hill, Diana	10	17	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	16	19	

## FEBRUARY 25, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	45	68	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	28	42	
Jackson, Joaquin	77	148	
Little Flock, Lufkin	150	200	
New Harmony, Tyler	266	347	1 by baptism
New Hope, Mineola	45	122	1 by baptism
Olde Tyme, White Oak		45	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	35	57	
Pine Brook, Tyler	30	70	1 by letter
Rosewood, Gilmer	137	265	1 by baptism
Security Calvary, Cleveland	25	35	

## MARCH 4, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	53	102	
First, Omen		75	2 by baptism
First, Palmer	58	87	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	26	49	
Jackson, Joaquin	73	148	
New Harmony, Tyler	267	375	
New Hope, Mineola	51	135	1 by letter
Olde Tyme, White Oak		45	
Pine Brook, Tyler	24	71	2 by baptism, 1 by letter
Rosewood, Gilmer	112	202	2 by baptism
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	35	58	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	25	38	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	13	17	

## MARCH 11, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	59	114	
First, Omen	36	61	
First, Palmer	49	69	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	19	46	1 by letter
Jackson, Joaquin	78	134	
Little Flock, Lufkin	50	75	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	28	35	
New Harmony, Tyler	286	356	1 by baptism
New Hope, Mineola	49	130	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		49	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	40	53	
Pine Brook, Tyler	30	74	2 by baptism
Rosewood, Gilmer	150	267	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	43	59	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	22	40	
Simmons Hill, Diana	15	30	



# Sunday School Lessons

## Maturing in Christ

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

**DATE:** April 1, 2018

**TEXT:** Hebrews 4:14; 5:11-14

### 1. A TRULY MATURE BELIEVER RECOGNIZES ABSOLUTE NEED TO DEPEND ON CHRIST

Hebrews 4:14-16

a. The mature believer does not depend on an earthly priest. Under the Old Testament system of worship, a high priest entered the holy of holies, that 15 feet square room that contained the Ark of the Covenant, flanked by two cherubim, and most importantly, the presence of God hovering overhead. This is where the high priest sprinkled the blood of an animal sacrifice for the remission of sins - to all worshippers, and to himself. Today, our High Priest

is in Heaven interceding for the saints today.

b. The mature believer knows that our High Priest identifies with us perfectly, and is totally in tune with our loneliness, hardships, temptations and pain. Although He lived a sinless life, he is not aloof from His followers, but totally attentive to us, and is touched by our infirmities.

c. The mature believer knows that he or she can come boldly to the throne of grace. They also know that they may ask anything, according to His will, when their desires conform to His desires. Psalm 37:4-5

### 2. A TRULY MATURE BELIEVER IS ABLE TO MOVE ON TO DEEPER INSIGHTS INTO GOD'S WORD

The writer of Hebrews cites the spiritual sluggishness

of a babe in Christ who has difficulty delving into the deep things of God. Paul experienced some of these “babes” in Corinth. 1 Corinthians 3:2

Verses 12 and 13 indicate that many in the household of faith ought to be able to eventually teach others, but they, themselves have not moved off of “soft food” (milk) They remain unskilled and inexperienced and must return to receive the milk of the word themselves.

Verse 14—but full grown Christians feed on the meat of the word, and thus are able to discern the evils of human law as opposed to the good of God’s divine laws. Not only do they discern, but seek to live by them.

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## Strong consolation

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

**DATE:** April 8, 2018

**TEXT:** Hebrews 6:13-20

All mature believers have an overwhelming knowledge of the power of God to console. In God the Father, there is great encouragement and reassurance. We can be encouraged and consoled because.

Verse 13: We serve a God Who swears by no one but Himself. He is the ultimate authority. Merriam-Webster defines “swear” as “to invoke the name of a sacred being in an oath; to utter or take solemnly an oath; In a court of law, one places their hand on a Bible and swears an oath that everything they say is accurate and true. But it is futile for anyone on earth to swear by themselves. There is only One who qualifies. What God declares, you can “take it to the

bank.” Be encouraged.

Verse 14: God pronounces blessing on Abraham - namely to multiply his seed through Isaac. Often when God makes such a declaration, it appears to defy logic, as we knew when Sarah laughed at the thought of bringing a baby into the world.

Verse 15: Patient endurance is another hallmark of the mature life in Christ. The result? He obtained the promise.

Verse 16: Men must, of necessity, swear by someone greater than themselves. When the oath is taken to confirm an issue, the result is that it brings all strife to a conclusion.

Verse 17: Abraham and his descendants could rightly trust in the unchangeableness of his purpose and plan. God’s promises are confirmed - ironclad. They cannot, nor will they be changed. Nothing could seal it more effectively than for

God to swear by Himself. Paul verified this great truth when he wrote to the Corinthians. “*For all the promises of God in him are yea, (yes) and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*” 2 Corinthians 1:20.

Verses 18-19: Notice the descriptive terms of the steadfastness of God’s immutable promises. He is our anchor (stabilizer) He is our refuge - our strength - it is impossible for Him to lie or deceive.

I am reminded of what we once sung about from the Broadman Hymnal:

We have an anchor that keeps the soul  
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,  
Fasten to the Rock that cannot move  
Grounded firm and deep, in the Savior’s love”  
Be encouraged!

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## Saved to the uttermost

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

**DATE:** April 15, 2018

**TEXT:** Hebrews 7:20-28

Christ was foreshadowed in the Old Testament by a mysterious figure, Melchizedek, (king of righteousness) who was a king and a high priest of Salem. (peace) Isaiah prophesied concerning the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) Hence, Christ is of the order of Melchizedek.

The theme of Hebrews is “Christ is better.” He is better than all Old Testament types, better than the angels, better

than Moses, and better than His foreshadowing, Melchizedek. (verse 22)

Christ is also superior to all Old Testament high priests, because they were many in a successive line of priests. They all died. (verse 23) But Christ is our eternal, unchangeable High Priest (verse 24)

When we are saved to the uttermost, we have Christ as our Intercessor. He makes intercession for us to His Father, by Whom He sits. Believers have great help in prayer. Christ intercedes, and the Holy Spirit interprets (Romans 8:26)

Being saved to the uttermost (completely, eternally) is due solely upon His grace (Ephesians 2:8) and our coming to God through Jesus Christ (verse 25)

Our High Priest is absolutely equipped - perfect to minister to our need. Old Testament priests were limited. They, themselves, had sin - they were finite, and they could only make sacrifice for sin one day out of the year. Christ continually intercedes in our behalf. (verses 27-28)

## World Missions Banquet hosted by Ellis-Hill Association



A banquet for World Missions was held at Farley Street, Waxahachie Feb. 24, 2018. A delicious meal was served followed by video presentations from Ellis-Hill and Larry and Tammy Wood, missionaries-elect to Ukraine. Music was also presented by the Woods. BMA International Missions Director Eric Johnson was the speaker for the evening. Recognition was given to Volunteer Student Missions participants and checks for their trips was presented by the association.

2017 VSM students from the Ellis-Hill Association were Charity Fitch, Sadiee Lee, Luke Andrews and Logan Andrews.



## Lake Ridge has a Passion for Missions

“We should support BMA Missions because it’s in our name – Baptist Missionary Association. If we say it and believe it, then we need to be active in it.”

This is how Carol Collins, chairman of the missions team at Lake Ridge Baptist Church, feels about supporting BMA Missions. She also has a personal reason why she is passionate about missionary work, as she was saved because of a missionary planting a church near her home in Colorado.

“I am the product of missions, so I just feel and see how important and vital it is,” she continued. “It’s following the Great Commandment.”

In her opinion, the Baptist Missionary Association has departments that are great examples of going in to all the world. Because of this, Lake Ridge participates not only in World Missions Day, but supports Lifeword Media Ministries as well as many individual missionaries.

Lake Ridge doesn’t just have a heart for world missions, though. They know that Christ has placed them in their own community of Lubbock, Texas for a reason, and they intent to serve where they have been placed.

“In Lubbock we have people helping in the food bank,” explained Carol, “we have people helping the homeless, and also those who serve in Meals on Wheels for the elderly. We also have a child evangelism program where teams go in to the schools and serve. There’s also a bus ministry on Wednesday night, which brings the kids in, feeds them, and also gives them a Bible lesson. This results in a large children’s ministry.”

World Missions Day was held Sunday, Feb. 25, but if your church has not had a time to focus on connecting, praying, and giving to BMA Missions, don’t feel like you’ve missed your chance. Simply pick a Sunday that’s right for your church family and register for World Missions Day at [bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday](http://bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday).

If your church did participate in World Missions Day, we want to thank you greatly for your support and prayers! We need every church to participate in the mission so that we can reach every nation for Christ. Thank you for being a part of that.

# Sunday School Lessons

## A new covenant

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: April 22, 2018

TEXT: Hebrews 8:6-13

### The New Covenant means a new Priest.

While the old priesthood served its purpose in offering blood sacrifices by the high priest yearly, it was inferior to the High Priest of the New Covenant. The old covenant priest

### The New Covenant is superior to the old

Verse 7 addresses the need for the New Covenant because of the shortcomings of the first one. It was faultless, because the Old Testament priests were human, and could only be a foreshadowing of the High Priest which was to come. If it was faultless, then there would be no reason for the new.

**The New Covenant was heart centered rather than ritual centered.**

The covenant which the Father gave to the Israelites was inscribed on stone. The new covenant is inscribed upon the hearts and the minds of His people. verse 10

**The New Covenant means intimacy with the Father:** .  
“all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.” Verse 11. Partakers in the New Covenant are blessed to enjoy God’s mercy and forgiveness. Verse 12. The old is put away.

## Purged with blood

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: April 29, 2018

TEXT: Hebrews 9:12-22

Remembering that the theme of Hebrews is the fact the system of worship is far better than the old system. the writer of Hebrews addresses the blood in chapter 9.

Under the old system, the blood of goats and calves was symbolic of that perfect blood which was to come. (verse 12) Only the flesh was purified according to verse 13, but the blood of Christ is perfect. Why? Because of His birth — conceived by the Holy Spirit, and was born of a virgin. No other blood could ever be sufficient to cleanse one from sin.

Jesus Christ is now our Intercessor — or Mediator in this new Covenant which is eternal. He is our High Priest, Who is entered into heaven once for all, and has obtained eternal redemption, through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

What can wash away my sin?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

What can make me whole again?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus

O precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow

No other fount I know; Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

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





## DANIEL SPRINGS 2018 SCHEDULE RELEASED

Daniel Springs is excited to release the 2018 summer camp schedule:

### JUNE 5-8: LEADERSHIP CAMP (STUDENT LEADERS)

Andy Comer will be the speaker. This is a camp for your youth group's student leaders. They will learn what it means to be a good leader, as well as participate in team building activities.

### JUNE 12-15: GMA RETREAT

GMA Retreat is a great time for girls to make advancements in the program and become prepared for a place in the ministry of the local church. No matter where God leads these young ladies, the GMA program provides a wonderful foundation for life.

### JUNE 19-22: COMBO CAMP (4TH GRADE - COLLEGE)

PJ Noland will be the pre-teen speaker. Shawn Hammontree will be the student speaker. Programming is provided simultaneously for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students and 7<sup>th</sup> grade-college age students in various formats. Save gas and only make one trip to camp while ministering to both preteens and students at Combo Camp!

### JUNE 26-29: PRETEEN CAMP 1 (4TH - 6TH GRADES)

Jordan Bowen will be the speaker. This camp is designed for boys and girls. The music, Bible study, worship and recreation are geared toward helping preteens meet Christ and move forward in their spiritual journeys.

### JULY 10-13: PRETEEN CAMP 2 (4TH - 6TH GRADES)

Billy Sheets will be the speaker. This camp is designed for boys and girls. The music, Bible study, worship and recreation are geared toward helping preteens meet Christ and move forward in their spiritual journeys.

### JULY 17-20: ARK-LA-TEX CAMP (ALL AGES)

Scott Attebery will be the speaker. This camp draws from churches in the center of the Bible belt. Families have a great time learning, worshiping and playing together as a family and as a group of Christians. All ages, "from the cradle to the grave," are welcome to attend!

### JULY 24-27: STUDENT CAMP (7TH GRADE - COLLEGE)

Dustin Wisely will be the speaker. This camp is a co-ed teen camp. It is fast paced and high energy to match the pace and energy of this age group. Worship and Bible studies center on discipleship and relationships. To register your group for any of these camps, visit [danielspringscamp.com/register](http://danielspringscamp.com/register).



## SOAR Conference to focus on the local church

Guided by the book of Ephesians, this upcoming SOAR Conference will focus on the importance of God's treasure: the local church.

On July 3-5, 2018 students from all over the nation will gather in Dallas, Texas at the Omni Hotel to learn about how to love, serve, and value their local church as Christ has asked them.

The keynote speaker will be Adam Thomas, Pastor of Teaching at Wyatt Baptist Church. In session one, he will cover the first three chapters of Ephesians, which talk about God bringing people together and saving them under Christ.

"That's what makes up the church," said Thomas, "people who believe this and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ."

In session two, students will learn that the church is a place to love. They will learn the importance of loving their local church and its people. During session three, students will learn that the church is a local place for truth.

"We need the church to speak truth in to our lives," explained Thomas. "When we are being tossed around by the storm, it's important that we have truth. In our culture the church needs to be a place to speak the truth in love - we can't back down from either side of the coin."

Throughout the final session, Adam Thomas will speak about "everyone playing their part well," encouraging students to go back home and invest in their local church, no matter what that means.

"We want students to play their part in the church and to understand that they do have a part to play, no matter what their church looks like," concluded Thomas.

Registration is open now for SOAR 2018! Just visit [gosoar.com](http://gosoar.com) for details. We can't wait to see you there.

# Join BMA Seminary for Justin Peters' presentation:

## Clouds Without Water

A Biblical Critique  
of the  
Word of Faith Movement

### Exposing the False Prosperity Gospel

Please Join Us

Date(s): **April 3 & 5, 2018**

Time(s): **4/3 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.  
4/5 10:00 a.m.**

Location: **1530 E. Pine St.  
Jacksonville, TX  
903-586-2501**

Justin Peters Ministries

# FEAR NOT

Finding courage to be who God wants you to be.

**National WMA 2018**  
Jackson, Mississippi  
Monday, April 16- Tuesday April 17

**Monday Afternoon**  
1:30 pm-2:30 pm Officers meeting, Convention center, room 209-210  
3:00 pm-5:00 pm WMA business meeting, Convention center, room 209-210  
Opening- Ruby Poteet, President  
Welcome- Beth Caldwell, Mississippi President  
Song- Judy Wallace (offering for general fund)  
Song & project offering- Judy Wallace  
Business meeting- Ruby Poteet  
Reports

**Tuesday morning**  
Outrageously Courageous-Dare to Live Beyond Your Fears  
Ladies' Retreat  
Rooms 216-218

8:45 Registration  
9:00 Welcome by WMA President, Ruby Poteet  
Devotional by National Miss GMA  
Prayer by National Jr. Miss GMA  
Door prizes  
Praise & Worship led by Judy Wallace  
Special Music  
Introduction of Program by Charlotte Johnson  
Keynote speaker, Kim Crabill

**2018 National WMA Meeting**  
**April 17, 2018**  
**Jackson Convention Center**  
**Jackson, Mississippi**

For more information contact:  
Charlotte Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
1044 S. Mimosa Road  
Gilmer, Texas 75644  
903-790-1385  
[chj1054@etex.net](mailto:chj1054@etex.net)

**Tuesday afternoon**  
12:00 Lunch at convention center (You must register and pay for meal by February 28, 2018 to Jodi Rhea)  
1:00 Breakout sessions  
1. Sunbeams by Shirley Hollpaur  
2. "From Final to First" by Judy Wallace  
3. Roundtable discussion by Kim Crabill  
4. Missions by Diana Morris  
3:00 Dismissal

**Meal Registration**  
**Deadline: March 25**  
**Cost: \$17.50**  
Mail to: Jodi Rhea  
40156 E CR 1631  
Wynnewood, OK 73098