

Baptist Progress

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GMA—STANDING FIRM
IN THE FAITH

First, Livingston—serving the community— taking the gospel to the world

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

Baptist Progress Correspondent

On November 7-8, 2022, people from all over Texas will converge on First Baptist Church, Livingston for the 122nd Annual Meeting of the BMA of Texas.

First, Livingston has a long, illustrative history in Livingston and Polk County, and has been described as a pacesetter—a flagship church in the BMA. They have had a long line of great leaders and are not afraid to reach their community with the gospel utilizing whatever innovative methods are available.

Lead pastor Brett Lester, who served in the Southern Baptist Convention in church planting and the pastorate and is a Baylor alum, accepted the call to the church in 2012, lauds the ministry fervor of his congregation.

“The biggest thing about our church is that we want to be in the community; our mission statement is simple—‘Go, Serve, Live,’” Lester said. “We want to take the gospel to the ends of the earth, and we also want to serve our community and live it out every day in such a way that people will know there is difference. We want to see God do something that only He can do in Polk County, and for which only He can receive the credit.”

One of the first things pastor emeritus Orval Barger, who served as pastor from 1978-1994, told the new pastor upon arriving at First Baptist 10 years ago was, “Now don’t be afraid to change things because people around here like change.”

“And he’s right,” Lester said. “Any (new program) we want to try to initiate, the congregation’s attitude is ‘Okay, let’s do it.’”

But in heaping accolades on the pastor emeritus, Lester quipped, concerning his taking the reigns of the pastorate at First Baptist was, “I get to drive the Ferrari that Orval paid for.”

The pastor was referring to Barger’s unique, innovative leadership style, which was aptly explained by Kevan Wood, who was in the church during childhood, and is in his 44th year serving in various staff capacities and who introduced the “Ferrari” comment to the new pastor.

Lester commented, “Kevan told me when I first came, that Orval had the courage to get up in front of the church, which was traditional, and said, ‘Look, if we don’t change, we’re going to die.’”



▲ From left, Ken Long, financial director; Brad Butler, pastor of students and families; Orval Barger, pastor emeritus; Daniel McLendon, pastor of worship and media; Kelsey McDonald, associate children’s minister; Duke Atwell, student ministry intern; Kevan Wood, pastor of worship/administration; and Brett Lester, Lead pastor. Staff not in photo include Anna Cain, minister of children and parents; Laddis Thompson, secretary; George Avery, Facilities director; Lori Jones, director of hospitality and Rebecca Bernard, custodian.

FIRST, LIVINGSTON continued on p. 6



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MAKING PROGRESS

Bivocational ministry

By **JERRY FULTON**

This article in no way is my effort to minimize the role of a full-time pastor or to say that either full-time or bivocational ministry is best. Instead, with bivocational ministry on the rise, I simply wish to point out that I believe it to be a good thing! While bivocational ministry is not for everyone, it works for those who are involved in it. And of course, there is scriptural precedent for bivocational ministry. For example, the apostle Paul built tents for a living as he ministered to churches.

As was the case with Paul, there are certain benefits afforded to bivocational pastors and the churches they lead. Below are listed a few of the advantages that one involved in bivocational ministry might enjoy:

Evangelistic. Because bivocational pastors are often employed in a secular workplace, they are afforded opportunities to interact with unsaved and unchurched people throughout the week. Such interaction gives the bivocational pastor moments to speak into the lives of those without Christ and/or those who do not receive encouragement from a church family. Often, but not always, pastors who serve in full-time positions in a church find themselves in a “ministry bubble.” While they rub shoulders with fellow-ministers and Christians each day, they might not be afforded as many opportunities to share the Gospel with the lost.

Pastoral. It could be argued that bivocational pastors can sometimes relate better to the struggles of their members because they too often face similar struggles while living life with people in the world on a weekly basis. They know what it is like to work eight hours a day, to drive home through horrible traffic, to have supper and spend time with their families and experience the very same things those on the other side of the pulpit experience on a daily basis. Because they do, their preaching, teaching, pastoral strategies and expectations might sometimes be better informed. I recall a time when a pastor told me that he takes it personally when members of his congregation do not attend every service offered by the church. I told him that he needed to spend a little time experiencing things from the perspective of those who sit in the pews. With all of life’s demands, it is not always possible for a church member to attend every service of the church. A bivocational pastor might better understand a church member’s occasional absences.

Member Involvement. Knowing that he will not be available to the church twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, gives the bivocational pastor an incentive to designate and equip his congregation to do the work of ministry, something that should be done in any church whether the pastor is bivocational or full-time. Often churches with a full-time pastor or ministerial staff expect the pastor or staff to do the ministry for the church. A bivocational pastor who is not available throughout the day every



▲ Jerry Fulton

day has the opportunity to explain to the congregation that if the ministry is going to be done, then the members are going to have to do it. When members become involved in the day-to-day ministry of the church, excitement builds as a result of their involvement, they take ownership and the church most likely grows.

Leadership Flexibility. I can tell you from personal experience as a bivocational pastor that when a church knows its pastor is not dependent on the salary it pays him, less attempts at power grabs or Diotrephes-type church members challenging the pastor’s God-given authority will be encountered. Therefore, without such threats, the bivocational pastor is often better positioned to lead with less or even no opposition attempting to stall his efforts and the vision the Lord has given to him.

While I admire full-time, fully supported pastors and know that serving in such a capacity is also biblical, entirely appropriate and equally God-glorifying, serving as a bivocational pastor has been the most rewarding experience for me personally. Bivocational ministry is what I choose. I pray this article helps more to see that bivocational ministry is not a less-committed, second-class type of ministry, and it is certainly not “part-time.” The pastor who is worth his salt will give it his all whether or not he receives a full-time salary from the church.





A word from your Missions Office

By HEITH MITCHELL

BMA Church Family, you are amazing. You really live up to your “Missionary” Baptist name. I am taken aback at how you love and encourage your missionaries and their families. You accept and take them in across any divide or boundary the world sets up. You pray for them which is evidenced in the way that God is working and providing. You are faithful to their salaries and generous to their work funds. COVID and an unpredictable world hasn’t slowed you down. You have been faithful and your generosity has increased. Your missionaries face the trials and struggles you face but they are so blessed to have you as family. Thank you.

I don’t know about you, but I have never felt so homesick or out of place in this world. With sin, war, sickness and inflation, I am vividly aware and glad that, “this world is not my home. I’m Just passing through.”

We aren’t at home here. We are God’s Kingdom ambassadors here. We are here on important business but we aren’t home.

Do you feel it? We were made for something better and bigger. Thanks to Jesus, we get to anticipate that better place. For now we need to be good ambassadors. We need to tell everyone about our eternal homeland with our good King. We must tell them how to become citizens! We must do this with more urgency because we are running out of time. It is good to be homesick.

Prayer Request

We are beginning the search for a missionary care coordinator for our Spanish speaking missions in Texas. After six years, Arnulfo Maldonado is no longer in this role. We are thankful for his faithfulness and hard work and are glad that he continues to be a part of our BMA of Texas Family as the pastor of Inglesia Victoria en Christo Church in Spring which he started and leads as pastor. We honor him as a man of God and thank him for his service. Will you join me in prayer for the next man that God has to serve your missionaries and connect with your BMA of Texas family that speaks Spanish.

Arnulfo Maldonado



A word from your missionaries

CHRIS MINDI –
ANCHOR AUSTIN MISSION IN LEANDER
CHRIS.MINDI@BMATS.EDU

Matthew 16:24-28 talks about individual responsibility and seeking God in everyday life to give Him the priority and see how we can join Him in reaching our communities. We never know why God puts us in a location if we do not ask God to help us see why. We are being blessed every day with the opportunities to serve the unchurched. We continue to ask God to show us individually how we can use our God given gifts and talents. Only when we serve and show God’s love generously and genuinely does it touch the hearts of others.



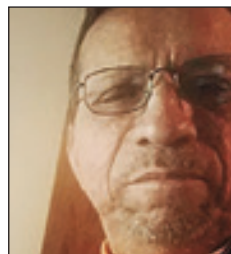
▲ Chris Mindi

Prayer Needs:

Pray that we find Indians who have a heart for other Indians who aren’t saved. Pray that we build strong friendships with those who are not believers.

GUADALUPE ROBLES—
GOFOURTH MISSION, KILGORE
ROBLESQUADALUPE51@GMAIL.COM

We are grateful that we can continue to preach and pray. We will start having a meeting in a home for the first time this week.



▲ Guadalupe Robles

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

First, I want to thank all of the BMA of Texas churches for all your support and prayers. We continue to do the work of the Lord in this mission, reaching the lost, discipling them, equipping the saints for the work of the ministry. We currently have five active small groups and two new believers are been discipled.



▲ Jaime Henriquez

Prayer Needs:

Pray that the Lord will touch the hearts of the lost among us, that they would repent of their sin and accept Christ as their Savior.



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

I praise God for the way He has shown His love and mercies every day. I praise Him as I see how He takes care of me and how He covers my every need. He has given me health and I have not lacked anything. Thanks to my Lord! There is a fire in my heart that encourages me to continue serving Him in the work at all times. When our Beloved Lord sees our disposition he quickly moves to use us for His glory and honor.



▲ Cesar Leal



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

Well, we have a building! Now we need to remodel it. I am so thankful and humbled by the generosity of our BMA of Texas churches! You helped us reach our estimated need for the remodel even before we closed on the building. We are so overwhelmed. Now we have to get this process started and move toward a public launch this summer. We are about to start our second group along with a men’s and women’s group. We are committed to taking it one step at a time and keeping the main thing the main thing. Thank you again for all you do. I’m so proud to be a part of this great association.



▲ Chris Driver

Prayer Needs:

Remodel, remodel, remodel!!!
 New groups starting
 Favor and connections at the college
 Open doors for the gospel
 New home of Oasis, Levelland



BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p. 13

BMA Texas Missions cont.

**BICHITRANANDA SATPATHY—
INTERNATIONAL
BAPTIST MISSION,
FORT WORTH
BICHITRANANDA31
@GMAIL.COM**

Prayer Needs:

Pray for boldness in preaching the gospel and pray for God's provision as I look for a house so that I can serve effectively.



▲ Bichitrananda Satpathy

**KINGSLEY NDUKA /
ADEREMI BADRU-
LIGHT HOUSE
MISSION IN HOUSTON
KINGEDU700@GMAIL.COM /
REMIBADRU44HOPE@YAHOO.
COM**

Thank you for supporting us.

Prayer Needs:

Pray that God will bring us to the people he has prepared for this assignment.



▲ Kingsley Nduka

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

Even in difficult times, there is always hope. This past month has been a reminder of both of those things. I am encouraged to see new faces in our church and look forward to seeing what God has in store for us in the months ahead.

Prayer Needs:

Pray for us as we work toward restarting our children's and youth ministry in the days ahead.



▲ Robert Lee

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

Easter is coming. Pray for us as we gear up for the big holiday. Pray that our people will be inviters and bringers.



▲ Mike Watt



▲ Trevor Cowan

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.



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LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY

- Led by Jason Collins, lead pastor of Crossroads Church, Rowlett
- You will learn how to rely on other leaders, hold each other accountable and guard against failure of any kind.

DATE & TIME: May 3, 2022, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch

PLACE: Crossroads Church, 7900 Chiesa Road, Rowlett

REGISTRATION FEE: \$50

PASTORAL HEALTH SUMMIT

- Led by BMA Texas State Missionary Brad Holcomb
- Based on what Brad has learned in a national cohort, he will discuss spiritual formation, emotional intelligence, marriage and family, adaptive leadership and friendship with the aim of staying true course and finishing well by God's grace.

DATE & TIME: June 7, 2022, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch provided

PLACE: BMA of Texas Building, 632 Farley Street, Waxahachie

REGISTRATION FEE: \$50

INTERIM PASTOR TRAINING

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

DATE & TIME: Aug. 17, 2022, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch

PLACE: BMA of Texas Building, 632 Farley Street, Waxahachie

REGISTRATION FEE: FREE

LEADING THE SMALLER CHURCH WITHOUT SETTLING FOR LESS

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

DATE & TIME: Sept. 13, 2022

PLACE: BMA of Texas Building, 632 Farley Street, Waxahachie

REGISTRATION FEE: \$50



TBHC

FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

I'm just sayin'

By **JASON CURRY**

Mrs. D.C. Dove was elected director in 1922, but the churches decided at the annual meeting that the churches were going to give generously on their own and opted not to elect a financial development officer to help sustain the needs. So, a few short months later, Dove was already fighting debt. Most gifts from individuals as well as churches came in the way of food and clothing, which is still the case today and is appreciated just as much. But it seemed that everyone had forgotten that the orphanage needed things like fuel, medication and whatever the needs of caring for children required. Then as well as today, it was a question of money needs, not just goods.

As the year went on the needs grew. Dove started an event to raise money for the orphanage. It saw very little success. When she was re-elected at the annual meeting by the BMA of Texas she asked for more help. T. C. Melton, the author of *A Brief History of the Texas Baptist Orphanage*, stated that "The Baptists were still unwilling to give unless someone came after it," so in January of 1924, the trustees elected to hire an additional staff as the financial agent to help raise funds. The agent began immediately yet was unable to motivate the churches throughout the year to give better. This allowed Dove to exclusively focus on managing the orphanage.

2 Corinthians 4:16-17 says, "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,"

They continued to work for the children and never gave up. The work and needs continued no matter what. Much like in recent years caring for children doesn't stop even when giving declines. Caring for children is the way we give glory to God! Don't lose heart their afflictions were a time, and they did not give up. Dove is a great inspiration for the heart we all must have; to not quit when it gets hard to not give up when the way is uncertain. I hope you remember TBHC in your prayers and know that we will never give up caring for kids.

I'm just sayin'.

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



An expression of everlasting love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend, or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in bold letters are those honored or remembered from Feb. 1-28, 2022.

ENDOWMENT:

MYRA STOKES: Bill Stokes

HONORARIUMS:

JOHN MY GRANDSON: Eva Evans

JUDGE TODD LITTLE: McGill Ricks

MEMORIALS:

ALICE HILTON: Rosewood Baptist Church

BILL THOMPSON: Temple Baptist Church, Mexia

CARL CLARK: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

CHARLES (WINDY) WINN: Joe & Laorea Donaho

DAVID STANLEY: Grady & Barbara Simmons, Joanna Noggle, Anndy & Nell McCuiston, Sally Kervin, Brenda Sapp, Sean & Kaitlin Cook, Casey Simpson, Tony & Susan Mino, Dennis Waugh

DONNA NANGAUTA: Shelley Gardner, Taavale Sao

DOROTHY WRIGHT: Thomas Jeter

DOYLE FOREMAN: Deborah Pool

EDDIE S BYRD: Darena Medcalf

ELDA SKINNER: Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church

HELEN CLARK: Deborah Pool

JAMES JOHNSON: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

JANETTE MALLORY: Deborah Pool

JOHN PERRYMAN: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

KARL ONEY: Emma Burluson

LARRY & ROSELEN BOBO: James Bobo

LOVITA LOU OUIMET: James Ouimet

LOYCE WILLIAMS: Wendell Carver, Marilyn King, Rickey Kirkland

MAC MCKELLAR: Emma Burluson

MARY PURSER: Deborah Pool

NADINE CARROLL: Charles & Charlotte Johnson, Latch Baptist Church

RICKI JOHNSTON: Duane & Charlotte Turner

RICKY RICKS: Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church

THOMAS JAY: Deborah Jay

VICTOR HASSELL: Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church

WALTER BECKER: Ilona Myrice

memorials-honorariums



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First, Livingston—serving the community— taking the gospel to the world cont.



Lester continued, “To the church’s credit, they followed Orval in that challenge.”

Barger was pastor from 1978-1994, and after he resigned, he was gone from home regularly, involved in interim pastorate work, having served First, Livingston a couple of times, and also served as educational director for two years under Lee Poe’s pastorate (1994-2004).

“Today our senior adults, who were median adults when Orval was pastor, believe in change—and when the pastor changes their schedule, they don’t mind—they are willing to reach people,” said Lester. “It is such a huge blessing to have a group of senior adults who believe in the mission, even if it’s not going to directly benefit them—and that comes from Orval’s leadership.

It is impossible to get any of the staff members to focus on their own ministries because each of them are too busy extolling the ministries and effectiveness of the others—such a vital component in a loving, cooperative staff relationship.

“Kevan has been largely responsible for much of what’s has gone on around here,” said Barger. “He has so many ties in the community and is the one who has been effective in building many of these (community) partnerships.”

With a smile, the lead pastor added, “If Orval bought the Ferrari, then Kevan is the mechanic!”

One of the first priorities of Barger and Wood early-on in their work was to launch out into strategies to raise the image of the church in the community. They reorganized the senior adults, work through them and emphasized the fact that they were the driving force behind the growth of the church.

“I guarantee you, if you go anywhere in the community now and say something, they will bring up First Baptist Church,” Barger said.

Barger’s efforts to tie the church with the community began when he became involved in the Rotary Club and became president. He also started an aggressive prayer ministry years ago when the church was still located downtown, and he had a small chapel building positioned near the front of the church property and he organized a prayer ministry, having people to come invest time praying in the little prayer chapel. The plan caught on, and in a very short while, people began to see the fruit of a praying church.

Another initiative, which further connected the church with the community, was the Christmas event called “A Night

in Bethlehem.”

The event, which was begun 20 years ago, is a reenactment of the story of the birth of Christ, and the settings surrounding it.

“We had to make it into a drive through during COVIC,” Lester said. “Last year over 3,000 people attended, driving from as far away as Wharton, Tomball, Montgomery, and Beaumont—and the city is a great partner with us in this event, allowing us to have it at the city park and they also advertise it in their publications.”

One Sunday each year in May, First Baptist has a service day, with the membership gathering at the church and going out and engaging in projects—yard clean up, building wheelchair ramps, painting, repairs and other odd jobs especially needed around the homes of senior citizens who are not able to do the work. Between 500-600 First Baptist people gather for this event. City and county properties have also been included in the projects.

“One of the cool things that we’ve been told is that both the school district and the city have changed their budgets by moving some of their funds to other projects because they know we’ll come in and mulch, weed and clean city hall so they don’t have to pay workers to do that. It started as just our church, but Kevan reached out to other churches and now 17 churches partner together to do the community projects.

“If we have a project and need 70 volunteers, we get the word out, but have to cut it off quickly because the volunteers really turn out,” said Barger.

The church has only one business meeting per year and only has one committee—the finance committee.

“They give us (the staff) a lot of responsibility, and we take that very seriously—we have to hold ourselves accountable to the church. And that trust also has to go both ways,” said Lester.

Orval had much to say about the pulpit ministry of the senior pastor.

“Our pastor opens the book and preaches it verse-by-verse,” Barger said. “Right now he’s doing a chronological walk with Jesus from His triumphal entry to the cross—I’ve never seen a preacher who could (go into detail) in preaching (expositionally) and at the same time have so many personal applications.”

First Baptist Church of Livingston is excited about hosting

the 2022 Baptist Missionary Association of Texas, November 7-8. Lester expresses his excitement at being able to host the meeting in their 66,000 square foot church plant, located on 75 acres where Texas Highway 146, Business Highway 59 and the “59 bypass” all come together in the north side of Livingston.

“We have plenty of space for people to connect—a coffee shop, plenty of display and breakout spaces,” he said. “We are excited to have the state meeting here. We love our partnership with the state work and state missions, and we look forward to being hosts to the association.”

One of the most interesting and delightful spaces in the church is the History Room, with memorabilia denoting past ministries. The W.B. Wadsworth pulpit is housed there. Dr. Wadsworth was pastor in 1909 and 1910. He left, but came back in 1913 and was pastor until he retired in 1951, having served a total of 42 years. Others who followed as pastor were, S.N. Landrum, 1951; R.C. Vance, 1952-1958; Charles L Hall, 1958-1966; Donald White, 1967-1975; Joe Dennis, 1975-1977; Orval Barger, 1978-1994; Lee Poe, 1994-2004; Rusty Shuler, 2004-2011; and Brett Lester, 2012-present.

Lester is about to complete his second term as a member of the state missions board of trustees.

The senior pastor also explains why the BMA of Texas is going to have access to two auditoriums. The church added the second auditorium about four years ago.

“We were maxing out our modern (contemporary) service,” Lester said. “We didn’t want to have a Saturday service, or a Sunday afternoon service. So the answer was to build a second worship center, and now we are able to have three services—one at 9 a.m., one at 10 a.m. and one at 10:45 a.m.”

First Baptist was about 1,000 in attendance prior to COVID, and since then attendance has slowly come back to around 750 in attendance.

In 2008, First Baptist relocated from their beloved old building, built under Dr. W.B. Wadsworth’s ministry in 1948, and located on Calhoun Street just a block from downtown. The church was sold to another congregation, and the city of Livingston purchased the Wadsworth Family Life Center and turned it into the city library.

For further information for First, Livingston, visit their website at fbclivingston.org. Or visit them on Facebook.

WE ARE THE SCAFFOLDING, NOT THE EDIFICE

BY: Dr. John David Smith
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

One of the potential pitfalls we all deal with is the tendency to judge all things according to MY current reality. This causes us to ignore the lessons of history and the importance of differing cultural contexts to the point where we assume the way we do things is the ONLY way. In missions practice, this can lead to some precarious conclusions such as distorted theological positions and practices.

In missionary ministry, a certain tension has always existed in the instruction and application of biblical truth in local cultural contexts. This process is referred to as indigenization: the attempt to make the gospel belong in a local setting and not be viewed as a foreign idea or expression. Unfortunately, in many places of the world where Western missionaries have pioneered gospel ministry, that ministry has been presented with a significant Western cultural baggage.

Jesus, the Son of God in the flesh, practiced indigenous missions principles during his own personal ministry. He did not walk into a historical/cultural vacuum; he walked into a very specific history and culture in Israel. In Jesus' efforts to convey a message and develop reproducing leaders, he worked in and with cultural norms. He did not view all culture as antagonistic to God's mission.

Jesus used four common metaphors to communicate and illustrate His message: farming, vines, sheep, and fishing. Obviously, these are taken directly from daily life in Israel. Jesus also utilized the synagogue system as long as they would allow Him, and he employed the rabbinical structure of instruction where a rabbi would have a select group of students/followers. Jesus spoke in parables, which was a common teaching method of the local culture. There were many things Jesus did not accept or utilize from the culture, especially the religious system of His day.

Indigenous missions principles are quite evident in the New Testament. Historically, men like Henry Venn and Roland Allen, who both lived and served as missionaries in the early twentieth century, articulated indigenous principles that continue to be a very good resource in the on-going discussion.

For many years, a guiding concept in the indigenization conversation has been the "Three-self" model for churches. In this idea, the goal is for a church to be self-governing, self-sustaining, and self-propagating. This simply means the church makes its own decisions, pays its own way, and is able to multiply . . . ALL without outside interference or help.

This model has been scrutinized for various reasons. One criticism is that it overly emphasizes the "self" part and creates isolation. Another criticism says that it was incomplete, so two more "selves" were added: self-expressing and self-theologizing, which means the local church itself must "look like" an indigenous one in that culture in architecture, worship, communication, and leadership selection styles. Self-theologizing does not mean the creation of some special system of theology. It means missionaries must build and apply biblical theology to local themes we simply do not see very often in the West such as polygamy and animism.

BMA Global Missions attempts to carry out healthy indigenous principles. Noted missionary Hudson Taylor once said that, "missionaries are the scaffolding, not the edifice." Like Christ, our missionary methods must include local forms allowing the development of local leaders in local systems that carry on after the scaffolding has been removed.

Two primary ways BMA Global Missions attempts to accomplish this goal include our church planting grant program through ChangeMaker missionaries and our practice of the "principle of the thirds." Both efforts have the goal of partnering without creating dependence. Prayerfully, this also does not take us to the extremes where we have no ongoing relationship and do not cultivate the "self" part in isolation but in association.

The grant program through ChangeMaker missionaries is carried out in the lives of non-American church planters who receive a church-planting grant for a limited number of years. In essence the partnership is with both the project and the person. It is not open-ended but intended to help the church plant go to the five-self stage and repeat the process as the church becomes part of our worldwide family.

The principle of the thirds is meant to support those churches in their advancement by not giving them gifts where they are not vetted in the process. If they want to make a major purchase or build a building, etc. they are expected to fund the first third of the total cost, then we help them with a third, and the last third can be an interest-free loan from our international loan fund. In the end, we partner and facilitate, we do not enable and create dependence. Also, the local congregation will have paid two-thirds of the total cost when the project is complete.

Much like our own children, we look forward to the day when they are independent from us in finances, decision-making, and other areas of life. That does not end our relationship but merely changes the dynamics. Overall, we as parents rejoice in seeing our children flourish on their own. BMA Global Missions is thankful for many family members in our association around the world that function on their own and yet are a vital part of the ongoing ministry.

If the edifice is going to shine and the children are going to live in a healthy manner on their own . . . the scaffolding and the unhealthy systems of enabling and dependency must come down.



BMA BROTHER IN THE BRONX

BY: David Dickson
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

The last several years have been characterized by the influx of an increasing number of immigrants to the United States, in large part from Mexico and the countries of Central America. Among those who immigrated from Central America are the Garifuna people group who represent a small percentage of the populations of Honduras, Guatemala and Belize. Garifunas are descendants of Africans forcibly transported to the Americas and the Arawak Indians of St. Vincent.

Although Garifunas speak the language of the country where they live (Spanish or English), their heart language remains their own unique language. Those who have immigrated to the U.S. tend to end up living in larger cities of the country in close proximity to other recent immigrants who share their language and culture.

Bro. Cherry Gamboa, former co-pastor of a BMAA Garifuna language congregation in San Juan, Honduras, recently immigrated with his family to the Bronx, New York. He was immediately able to connect with a number of folks who had attended our churches in Honduras before moving to the U.S. The problem they all mentioned to him was that there are no Garifuna-



language Baptist churches in the area . . . at all. (Actually, none in the U.S.) Although there are a handful of Garifuna congregations in the U.S., none are Baptist.

With the authorization and support of the church in San Juan, Bro. Cherry has begun holding services in the basement of a dwelling in the Bronx and is already packing their small meeting area to its maximum capacity. Bro. Cherry supports himself and his family with a secular job, and receives no salary as a missionary/pastor, but that has not slowed him down. With the participation of his family in leadership roles, services are conducted in Garifuna/Spanish, and the Lord has already blessed with professions of faith.

Several of those who attend are “transplants” from BMAA Garifuna churches in Honduras and were active in their congregation before they immigrated to the U.S. They are overjoyed to find a church that is doctrinally sound and preaches the same doctrine as the churches they left in Honduras.

Of course, the pressing problem is finding a larger building for their meetings. Because most of those attendees work in low-paying jobs, locating a meeting place they can afford is a daunting task. But as you would expect, Brother Cherry is optimistic that God will soon provide for them a new meeting place, adequate for his growing congregation.

Keep this missions effort in your prayers: the first and only Baptist church plant among the Garifuna people in our country.

mission:world

NEWS



BY: Gavin Roberts
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

Utah is known for the “Greatest Snow on Earth.” The state is home to some of the greatest skiing in the world. The southern part of the state boasts the “Mighty Five” national parks that attract tourists from around the globe. Within an hour’s drive from where my family and I live you can see snowy mountains or red rock desert. It is a beautiful place!

Depending on where your data comes from, Utah is also the least reached state in the U.S. with the gospel, including a number of areas with significant populations but little to no evangelical presence. This is why my family and I packed up and headed west!

We minister in Morgan, Utah, an incredibly picturesque mountain town. Snowcapped mountains sit above the town on all sides while the Weber River runs through the valley floor and keeps everything green. Morgan is a town of roughly 5,000 residents and the largest city in Morgan County, which has a total population of around 13,000. Geographically, it is the smallest county in the state. My brother, Chase Roberts, and I pastor Morgan Grace Church, the only evangelical church in the city of Morgan and one of only two in the county.

While evangelical churches are few, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints thrives. Utah is the home of the Mormon Church. Many in our BMA family know Mormons from their missionary uniforms. You’ve likely had Mormon missionaries visit your home. Growing up in rural Arkansas this was about the extent of my knowledge of the LDS church. So how does one minister to Mormons? How do we share the gospel with LDS friends?

It is not uncommon for folks in Utah to only know Christians from the South as the people who eat fried food, drink sweet tea, and slam the door in their faces while they’re on their two-year mission with the church. Instead of politely telling missionaries you are a Christian and do not wish to hear their spiel, I would ask that you prayerfully consider a different approach: Invite

them in. Offer them something to drink. Listen to them. Talk with them. Ask them questions. Love them. They are real people just like you.

Our Mormon friends are professional evangelists. We have found that they are generally open to religious conversations. However, debating is often not the best approach. Instead of attacking the LDS faith, ask questions that cause both parties in the conversation to think critically about their faith. When people have only known one faith from birth, they may never have looked at God in a different light.

So ask good questions like, “Who do you think the Bible tells us that Jesus is?” or “What is the authority for how we are to live our lives and receive forgiveness of our sins?” Questions like these allow them to share their beliefs and allow you to share your own. Encourage your Mormon friends to read the Bible. Let God do what God does. He speaks through His Word. He brings life through His Word. God saves sinful people in need of his grace! Just like those of you reading this article.

Ministering to Mormons is about listening and loving. It is something that happens via relationships that take time. We are all broken people, so instead of shutting them out, open the door and open your ears. Win a hearing. Love them. Jesus says in John 6:63, “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” Listen intently. Show grace. God’s Word brings life. Trust God to do what He has promised to do: build His church.

Pray for Utah! Pray for us. Listen to the next Mormon missionaries you meet. Love them. Maybe God will call some of you reading this to be a part of what He is doing in Utah.



THE FORGOTTEN AND ABANDONED

BY: Holly Meriweather
Lifeword
lifeword.org

From Bolivia to Paraguay and Back

“When I was seventeen years old and in high school a friend told me about Jesus. He shared the gospel and I trusted Jesus as my Savior. Like any young person, I was very excited about my new life and very happy to know Jesus. Soon, however, problems arose that drew me away from a deep relationship with Him. I went through some very bitter times before I learned that the love of Christ has no limits.”

Bolivian Ivan Filippini loves to share his salvation story. A church planter in both Paraguay and Bolivia, he is also a Lifeword global partner and shares the gospel to the Americas through media.

Brother Ivan continues his story, explaining that, “As I reached rock bottom I found the sweet grace that transformed my life. I begged God to forgive me and I rejoice that His perfect peace became mine. After this, I had only one desire, to serve Christ with all my being! I began trying to tell everybody about Christ and His forgiveness of sin.”

His enthusiasm for God’s mission led to his ministry calling, and In 2015 Brother Ivan met Regino Acuña, who disciplined him, teaching him biblical principles and other aspects of ministry that, as Ivan puts it, “have been a true blessing to me and drastically changed my life forever.”

Brother Acuña continued to be a great influence on Brother Ivan’s life and introduced him to the BMA (Baptist Missionary Association). The two men began working together pastoring and planting churches in both Bolivia and Paraguay, and in 2019 Brother Ivan planted the first BMA church in Paraguay and now visits churches there to sure make sure they are thriving and multiplying.

Unfortunately, during the pandemic, church members in one area fell victim to people with ulterior motives.

Fighting Back For Lost Souls

It’s called “the forgotten, or abandoned, place.” Tapuinkue is an indigenous community in Paraguay where the Guarani language is spoken. Completely cut off from access to the Internet, the Guarani live far from civilization but not far enough away from groups who preach false doctrine and take advantage of them.

Before Covid hit, there were 45 candidates for baptism among the Guarani, but Brothers Acuña and Philippini were not allowed to travel for five months, so they could not stay in touch with believers there. During that time a group of charismatics entered the community, telling the Guarani their beliefs were the same doctrinally. Unfortunately, much of the work there was destroyed.

When Director of Operations Luis Ortega heard what happened in Tapuinkue, he asked Pastor Ivan Philippini, Lifeword’s Guarani-language speaker, if there was any way the Lifeword team could help. Efforts were already underway to build back the churches’ pre-pandemic numbers, and the result of that conversation led to a technology solution: Brother Ivan would record Bible, discipleship, and teaching content in the Guarani language, then load it onto memory cards for people’s phones so new believers could hear and understand truths from Scripture in an area with limited internet access.

Once a month, Brother Ivan and Brother Regino conduct house-to-house evangelism, preaching, and worship services in Tapuinkue and 60 people recently accepted Christ. The Lifeword team is honored to be part of this initiative.

Please pray that the lives of Guarani in this forgotten and abandoned area will be transformed in the same way as Brother Ivan’s life was long ago.



My Story—Faulk: Main SOAR 2022 Speaker

By **BRAD FAULK**

Main session speaker at SOAR 2022

I was raised in church. My dad was a railroad engineer so he was gone a lot, but my mother always made sure that we were in church on Sundays. Even though I attended church regularly and knew quite a bit about the Bible as a child, I did not give my heart to Jesus until I was a junior in high school. And that changed everything!

Several months after being saved, I went to a church camp in Colorado, and it was there, on a Thursday night, that I felt the Lord calling me into full-time ministry. I wasn't really sure how that would look; I just knew I wanted to surrender to that calling. The Sunday I returned, I let my pastor and the church know I had surrendered my life to full-time ministry and they were, of course, very supportive. In fact, my pastor wanted me to begin preaching, so I, along with two other guys my age, rotated Wednesday nights preaching at Central Baptist Church in Lufkin. I'll never forget my first sermon. I wrote down word for word what I was going to say, hoping I wouldn't be too long winded. Scared to death, I got up that first Wednesday night and preached for a whopping two minutes! I'm sure there are people in my church now who wish I could keep my sermons under to two minutes.

After graduating from high school, I met a girl who took me to her brother's graduation service at a little college in Jacksonville. I was raised independent Baptist so I had never heard of this college, but for whatever reason, there at that graduation service I knew this was the college God wanted me to attend. I had three of the best years of my life at that two-year school. One of the neatest things at Jacksonville College was the opportunity to meet many other young preachers and travel to fill pulpits on Sunday mornings. I'll never forget driving those country roads headed to little country churches way out in the middle of nowhere to preach. I met some of the best people I've ever known at those churches, and I ate a lot of good food.

After that first year at Jacksonville College, I served in a summer youth ministry internship with Gary Willis at Keltys First, Lufkin. We hopped on a bus and did a youth choir tour all the way up to Nashville, Tennessee, where I attended my very first SOAR conference. That was 30 years ago. I'll

forever be grateful to my pastor who gave a young high school boy the opportunity to get up and preach even though it was probably the worst preaching that church had heard. And I'm also grateful to a college that encouraged young preachers and opened doors of opportunity to spread our wings and attempt to fly a bit. Sometimes flying right into a tree, but flying nonetheless.

SOAR 2022 will be focused on God's call on our lives. God's call to salvation, God's call to serve, God's call to missions and God's call to ministry. This year's SOAR could have a huge impact on this generation of students and our churches for years to come. For more information about 2022 SOAR, go to www.soarconference.com.



▲ Brad Faulk



Trustees select nominee for Baptist Publishing House Executive Director

BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE; Jacksonville, Texas—The Trustees of Baptist Publishing House have unanimously selected Jordan Tew as the nominee for executive director of the Baptist Publishing House.

Bro. Tew has served as assistant to the executive director since 2019. He is a graduate of Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary (BAR, MAR) and has served in church ministry for over 15 years. Bro. Tew has been involved in every aspect of Baptist Publishing House's operations and ministry for the last two years.

During that time, the Baptist Publishing House has thrived. Bro. Tew has a strong devotion to the authority of the Bible and fully-endorses the Doctrinal Statement of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. His desire is to see every local church strengthened in the areas of discipleship and Bible teaching.

Jordan Tew will be presented to the association at the national meeting in Springfield, Missouri.



▲ Jordan Tew

The Master's Builders complete work in Ennis

By **ROSE BITTNER**

The Master's Builder's Reporter

A small group from The Master's Builders met recently for two days at Anthony Drive, Ennis. Pastor Matt Walker called the group because the church had the unique "problem" of their youth department growing too fast for the space in which they meet.

The Master's Builders were asked to tear down the walls and ceiling from three classrooms and a hallway to make one large youth meeting room. They also put up a door between the room and the hallway to the rest of the building. The Master's Builders had so much help from the congregation on the first day, that it made the task much easier to tear down and remove all of the debris.

Special thanks to Youth Pastor Korey McCrady and Chris Walker for their nonstop help and for all the other students and church members who came willing to help in any way they could. Special thanks to Ms. Vicki Woods for the delicious enchilada lunch that was prepared for The Master's Builders.

It was an added blessing for The Master's Builders to work on a building that was originally constructed by the group in 1992. The Master's Builders were so thankful to see photos of the original project and the original team from this job in 1992 included in a memory book at the church.

The Master's Builders have had several changes to their spring schedule and the next project is to work at Daniel Springs Camp in Gary, March 14-25. They are then scheduled to build a new sanctuary for Celebration, Haskell, Arkansas in April.

If you have questions about The Master's Builders ministry, would like to join, or if your church has building needs, please contact:

Eddie Sikes at 407-462-1675

Mike Green at 972-935-3877

David Axe at 903-918-0720

Also, like us on Facebook at "The Master's Builders," to follow us and pray for us.



▲ The Master's Builders working at Anthony Drive, Ennis

BMA of America



Coordinating Council Report to the Churches of the BMA of America

By **JEFF SWART**

BMA of America Coordinating Council Chairman

Your Coordinating Council has been busy these past six months working with your departments, agencies and committees. I am thankful for the sweet spirit of cooperation that exists among the members of your council and the fact that every member was faithful to attend the meetings this year.

This associational year, the Coordinating Council has diligently tried to fulfill the mandate given us by the Statement of Principles of Cooperation. We have reviewed the specific mission of each department or agency in an effort to ensure harmony between the departments or agencies, comprehensiveness in their mission, and to avoid duplications in ministry. We have also evaluated the annual budgets and fund-raising activities of each department or agency. Additionally, we agree that there is no need for any additional departments or agencies at this time. We do believe however, that there needs to be a structural change that is reflected in the recommendation #1 below to dissolve the Committee on Arrangements and transfer their responsibilities to the Committee on Production of the National Meeting.

As announced during the 2021 annual session of the BMA of America, this associational year the Coordinating Council has undertaken a complete evaluation of the Statement of Principles of Cooperation that guides the proceedings of the national meeting as well as the functioning of the departments and agencies of the BMA of America. The reason for such a massive undertaking at this time is to:

Remove or correct names that are no longer being used. For example, DiscipleGuide, Baptist Music Fellowship, and the Department of Church Resources no longer exist as departments of the BMAA, Lifeword Broadcast Ministries has been known as Lifeword Media Ministries for several years, and the name of the Global Ministry Center in Conway was changed several years ago to the Global Missions Center.

Stipulate additional qualifications for the officers and directors who serve this great association of churches.

Present a uniform list of responsibilities among all

the trustee boards of our departments and agencies.

To make what we consider to be needed additions to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation that are described in recommendations 2,3,4, & 5 below.

To comply with the will of the association to evaluate the national meeting as reflected in recommendations 2, 6, & 7 below.

A copy of the Statements of Principles of Cooperation with the proposed changes is printed below.

We also gave our best effort to examine the structure of our national meeting in accordance with the commission given us by the churches during the 2021 Baptist Missionary Association of America meeting held in Waxahachie, Texas. The motion presented and approved at that meeting was:

“That the Coordinating Council, in consultation with the arrangements committee, the enrollment and finance committee, and the director of conference ministries, determine a more efficient and effective way to plan and conduct the annual meetings of the Baptist Missionary Association and present recommendations to that effect at the association’s 2022 annual meeting.”

Taking this commission seriously, the Coordinating Council met in person, by Zoom, and corresponded by telephone and email with the Committee on Arrangements, Enrollment and Finance Committee, the Director of Conference Ministries, the BMA Production Team, the BMA Service Team, and the directors of the departments and agencies. There was a wonderful spirit of cooperation among these brethren as they worked tirelessly on your behalf.

The Coordinating Council also met with the directors of our departments and agencies in Conway on October 26, 2021 and March 2, 2022. These meetings are always an uplifting experience as we hear firsthand how God is moving among the departments and agencies of our associated work. I can earnestly say that it is a privilege to be co-laborers with such a fine group of God’s servants.

The members of the Coordinating Council ask that you carefully and prayerfully consider the following

recommendations and proposed amendments to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation.

COORDINATING COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

As the result of the work of the Coordinating Council for the 2021-2022 associated year, we present the following recommendations for consideration by the messengers of the 2022 BMAA national meeting:

That the Committee on Arrangements be disbanded as reflected in the proposed changes to **Article XVIII – Committee on Production of the National Meeting** in the Statement of Principles of Cooperation.

That the specific guidelines for a church desiring membership in the BMA of America be approved as reflected in the proposed changes to **Article III – Membership, Section 3**.

That the proposed additions to **Article XXII – Meetings, Section 6** be approved should the situation ever arise again that the national meeting not be able to meet at a previously approved time and location.

That the purpose of the national meeting as described in **Article XVIII – Committee on Production of the National Meeting, Section 2, sub-section A** be adopted.

We propose that the messengers of the 2022 national meeting suspend the rules of **Article XXII – Meetings** for two years (2023 & 2024) in order to allow the conference division and the officers of the association to experiment with changes in the format of the national meeting.

We propose that the conference division and officers of the association present proposed changes to the format of the national meeting to the Coordinating Council. After proposed changes have been thoroughly discussed, and if need be amended, the Coordinating Council will present the proposed changes to the messengers of our churches assembled in the 2025 annual session.

Proposed revisions and additions to the BMAA Statement of Principles of Cooperation will be provided at a later date.



73rd Annual BMA of America National Meeting April 18-20, 2022 Springfield, Missouri

Monday Afternoon, April 18

10:30am Baptist Publishing House Trustee Meeting - Room: Kansas A
1:30pm Seminary Trustee Meeting - Room: Kansas A
3:00pm Missions Advisory Committee : Room: Kansas B

Monday Evening, April 18

6:00pm Registration
7:00pm **Opening Session**
Welcome - President
President's Message - Pastor Dr. Cliff Johnson - PREACH the Word; Preach THE WORD
Initial Associational Business

Tuesday Morning, April 19

8:30am BMA Orientation for New Pastors and Churches - Room: Kansas C
8:30am Registration for National WMA Conference - Grandview Baptist Church
9:00am National WMA Conference - "Intentional" - Grandview Baptist Church
9:00am National Brotherhood Meeting - Room: Arkansas C

Breakout Sessions

9:30 & 10:45am -BMA Missions - Preaching the Word and the Mission of God - Room: Colorado A
9:30 & 10:45am -Lifeword - We Tell the Creation Story - Room: Oklahoma
9:30 & 10:45am -Minister's Resource Services - Pastor Your Family Well - Tim Brewer - Room: Kansas A
9:30 & 10:45am -Activate - Pray the Word as a Healthy Pastor - Room: Kansas B
9:30 & 10:45am -BMA Seminary - Cut it Straight - Justin Peters - Room: Illinois
9:30 & 10:45am -Baptist Publishing House - Study the Word - Room: Colorado B
9:30 & 10:45am -Daniel Springs Camp - Keep the Word Central in Student Ministry - Room: Arkansas B

Tuesday Afternoon, April 19

3:00pm **Second Session**
Justin Peters - Preach the Sufficient Word
5:00pm Seminary Dinner

Tuesday Evening, April 19

7:00pm **Third Session**
Election of Officers, Business as needed
Annual Message - Richard Smith - Preach the Powerful Word

Wednesday Morning, April 20

8:30am **Fourth Session**
BMA Foundation
Moral Action Agency
Baptist Publishing House
Daniel Springs Encampment
Ministers Resource Services
BMA Theological Seminary
Lifeword
Missions Department
Miscellaneous Business

Wednesday Afternoon, April 20

12:00pm Missionary Ladies Luncheon - Location TBD
12:00pm We Are Free Luncheon - Location TBD
2:00pm Legacy Missionaries
3:00pm **Fifth Session**
Johnmichael Poulin - All the Word to All the World

Wednesday Evening, April 20

7:00pm **Sixth Session**
Missions Commissioning Service

Ministry Display Area

Monday, April 18

4:00pm - Opens
9:30pm - Closes

Tuesday, April 19

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

Wednesday, April 20

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



Relief for Ukraine



BMA OF AMERICA MISSIONS; Conway, Arkansas—

As attacks against Ukraine continue to escalate, BMA Missions would like to update you on the situation there, our response to it, and Ukrainians' reaction to your prayers.

We are working closely with Ukraine Missionaries Larry and Tammy Wood who are currently stateside but staying in close contact with our churches and pastors in that country.

As you pray, please lift up the following pastors and churches by name:

- Sasha and Julia Grebenyuk, Water of Life Church, Lutsk
- Sergiy and Tanya Morozuk, Grace Church, Volodymyr-Volynsk
- Yuri and Sveta Chlek, Church to All Nations, Lutsk

Pastor Yuri, a former army captain, has rejoined the army to fight for his country. Church leaders have assumed ministry roles and responsibilities and caring for the church in Yuri's absence. Please pray for his wife Sveta and their four children.

The war is already having an impact and creating increasing needs we will support. Pastor Sasha is coordinating those relief opportunities, and on Friday he shared "Yesterday we instructed the churches on the methods of action in case of a worse situation in Lutsk while we stay in Lutsk and get ready to serve the people. Now people have a lot of needs, the first thing is food!"

To support our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, BMA Global Missions is setting up the Ukrainian Crisis Relief Fund.

Donation checks can be sent to:
BMA Missions—Ukraine Relief
PO Box 878
Conway, AR 72033

Larry and Tammy tell us that prayers and expressions of love for Ukrainians are very impactful. Pastors and church members, they say, are encouraged and feel uplifted to see people on Facebook saying they are praying. For up-to-date on information on our churches and people in Ukraine please encourage your folks to following us on BMA Missions Facebook page.

Auxiliaries

GMA—Standing Firm in Faith

By **GLENDA CHAMBERLAIN**

The enemies are approaching the castle. Their armies are merciless and destructive. But it's not time to sit down. It's time to suit up with the full armor of God. The Texas Girl's Missionary Auxiliary had an exciting Houseparty Feb. 19, 2022. With the officers dressed as knights and with ladies, princesses and queens in attendance, First, Jacksonville took everyone back to medieval times with the auditorium decorated as a castle. There were around seventy registered for the event.

Darbi Wilson, president, gave a warm welcome to everyone. Trinti Mauk, project promoter, spoke on the current GMA project—Missionary to Romania Candra Barnett. Song leader Abigail Key led several songs.

At the sound of trumpets, officers stormed into the auditorium wearing face-mask helmets, shields and brandishing their swords while riding their gallant stick-horses. April LaRose, second vice president, set the theme for the event "Standing Firm in Faith," based on Ephesians 6:13, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

The officers took a few minutes to introduce themselves, and also stated fun facts. April led the audience in reciting the GMA aim, allegiance and Star Ideals. Trinti presented certificates to each GMA group, which gave to the project.

Abigail Key led the congregation in a soul-stirring song service. Audrey Johnson, secretary, introduced the speaker, her mom Kelly Johnson. Mrs. Johnson spoke on Ephesians 6:10-18 and the importance of wearing the Armor of God. She commented, "Be strong every day, for we are in a very real battle constantly against the deceiver who wants to kill and destroy our lives and testimony."

Kelly talked about preparing to go to Mexico as a missionary's wife with her children, a four-year old and a 10-week old. She talked of the comfortable life she had here in Texas with her husband, Bro. Eric Johnson and family, and the struggle she had thinking of a future sharing the gospel in central Mexico. God eased those struggles when He said to her, "You go in MY strength and MY might."

And in His strength the family went to central Mexico as missionaries ready to share the Good News with people who had never heard of God and of His Saving Grace. Mrs. Johnson said, "You have to decide to take-up the armor each and every day, and to be effective you have to use the whole armor of God, not just a piece or two."

Mrs. Johnson went on to break down the armor of God and how to use each piece. Belt of Truth: a belt to hold everything together, you can believe in God's absolute truth. Breastplate of Righteousness: your testimony. Shoes of the Gospel: we are to take the gospel to others. Shield of Faith: remind yourself everyday what God says about Himself and about you. Helmet of Salvation: our salvation is in Christ alone. Sword of the Spirit: God's Holy Word is perfect. It is also the only item we use to battle on the offensive. All the other pieces of armor

are for our protection against the evil one. She encouraged the young ladies to go to the Lord daily in prayer, have faith in Jesus, surround yourself with Christian friends and to put on the whole armor of God everyday. Abigail Key led the ladies in a time of surrender and prayer.

Trinti Mauk called for nominations for a new project. Rosewood nominated Bro. Gavin Roberts and his ministry in Morgan, Utah. Charlotte Johnson spoke about Bro. Roberts and the work the Lord has set before him among the people in Utah. There were no other nominations and after lunch Bro. Gavin Roberts ministry was approved as the Texas GMA project for 2022-2023. A goal of \$1,500 was set. Abigail Seahorn, historian, reminded everyone to put money in the officer boxes which benefits the current project, Candra Barnett.

The girls went into a fun craft time decorating foam tiaras with dazzling stones, glitter and sequins, and they played games. Lunch was served: pizza, salad, fresh fruit, and ice cream for dessert.

Darbi Wilson, opened the business portion of the meeting. Audrey Johnson read the minutes from the 2021 meeting, Lisa Maynard read the treasurer report. Both approved. Mellissa Henry presented the Advisory Council recommendations. A new slate of officers was elected, please see the website, texasgma.org, for a complete listing. Darbi introduced Texas WMA President Kristi Key to install the newly elected GMA officers. Mrs. Key had the young ladies in the audience to take off one shoe and place on the stage. She spoke of the similarities and the differences in the shoes and how that relates to our lives.

Kristi said, "Shoes are personal, you can't run the race God has for you in someone else's shoes." Mrs. Key had cute little tennis shoe key chains for the officers to remind them to stand firm for the Lord everyday. Kim Cade prayed a special prayer of dedication and protection over the new officers.

Hayley Rasco, GMA promoter, announced the total dollar amounts collected in the officer decorated boxes. Karo Buck, 1st vice president, with the most donations and April LaRose were selected to defend a box of candy from a group of girls with plastic swords. Needless to say the group of girls, led by Dixie Seahorn defeated the two officers by grabbing a candy bar from the box.

Katie Allen, assistant promoter, spoke about the armor of God and the importance of prayer. Mrs. Allen recognized all GMA's who had received salvation this past year and those passing a GMA Step, she also recognized the Queens who were present. 2021 Junior Miss Madalie Gardner presented 2022



▲ Trinti Mauk

Miss GMA Audrey Johnson, Cherokee District; Junior Miss GMA Aileena Maynard, Ellis Hill District; and Alternate Junior Miss GMA Elyssa Pool, Liberty District. Kristi Key presented a VSM scholarship from Texas WMA to Trinti Mauk.

Darbi Wilson presented the president's gavel to the incoming President April LaRose. The outgoing officers gathered on stage to sing a final farewell song.



▲ Elyssa Pool, Audrey Johnson, Aileena Maynard



▲ 2021-2022 Texas GMA Officers (not pictured Hannah Brister)

WEST TEXAS RETREAT POSTPONED UNTIL 2023

Due to unforeseen difficulties the retreat planned for LakeRidge, Lubbock, March 12, 2022 is postponed until next year. The Texas WMA officers are saddened at this lost opportunity to reconnect with our West Texas sisters-in-Christ, and look forward prayerfully to a wonderful Spirit-filled retreat next year.

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

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

DATE: March 26, 2022

PLACE: Camille Acres Baptist Church, Longview

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER: Ronny Moore, charter member

Some of those who grew up in the church will participate with music, testimonies and history of the church. Also, the church will honor Pastor Thomas Ayres for his 30 plus years as pastor.

2022 BMA OF AMERICA MEETING

DATE: April 18-20, 2022

PLACE: University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield, Missouri

2022 SOAR STUDENT CONFERENCE

DATE: June 29-July 1, 2022

PLACE: Hilton Anatole Hotel, Dallas

2022 RE:CHARGE LEADERS OASIS

To be decided

2022 BMA OF TEXAS MEETING

DATE: Nov. 7-8, 2022

PLACE: First Baptist Church, Livingston

2022 NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

DATE: Nov. 15-17, 2022

PLACE: Chateau on the Lake, Branson, Missouri

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

PASTOR—Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden is seeking pastor. Send resume to pr2bcsec@gmail.com or mail to Pilgrim Rest #2 Baptist Church, P.O. Box 99, Golden, Texas 75444.

PASTOR—Jackson Missionary, Joaquin is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to Jackson Baptist Church, ATTN: Pastoral Search Team, P.O. Box 1047, Joaquin, Texas 75954, or by email to jacksonbaptistchurchjoaquin@gmail.com. 4/22

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

YOUTH PASTOR—First, Carthage is seeking a full-time youth pastor who will provide leadership and oversight for all aspects of the student ministry so that students can know and follow Jesus Christ. Send resume to James McRight at james@firstbaptistcarthage.com. 3/22

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

In Loving Memory



LILLIE MOLLY ADAMS

Lilly Molly Adams, 86, of Belton, passed away Feb. 13, 2022. Born in Italy, she met and married the love of her life, Bro. Bobby Adams, at age 18. They were married for 69 cherished years. Two years after their marriage they



started their family and entered the ministry in 1959 at Calvary Baptist Church Temple in Lancaster. After serving many years at First, Ferris, they were then called to pioneer New Beginnings Baptist Bible Church in Ferris, which began with a service in the chapel of Green Funeral Home. Lillie worked most her life in the front office of various businesses as the office manager which is the role she took on at First, Ferris and then New Beginnings Baptist Bible Church until she retired. A funeral service was held at New Beginnings Bible Church Feb. 16, 2022.

NORMAN WEATHERBY

Norman Weatherby, 91, passed away March 7, 2022. He was a longtime BMA pastor, prior to his retirement, having served as pastor of Village, Irving and as pastoral assistant at Sheppard Drive, Euless. Funeral services were pending at the time of this publication.



Every Sunday Bulletin Service

To order bulletins from *Baptist Progress*, contact us at 972-923-0756 or visit www.baptistprogress.org. You may also email editor@baptistprogress.org for more information.

Baptist Progress

See then that ye walk circumspectly,
not as fools, but as wise,
Redeeming the time,
because the days are evil.
Ephesians 5:15-16

2022 National WMA Women's Conference



April 19, 2022
Grandview Baptist Church
3208 N Barnes Ave, Springfield, MO
Theme: Intentional
Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
Short business meeting & Conference
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Guest Speaker
Judy Biggers, Arkansas

Judy Biggers lives in Springfield, Ark. She is a founding member of the Southern Gospel Quartet, Heaven's Echoes, singing lead for 36 years. She has been married to Gus for 39 years and they have 3 girls (2 on earth and 1 in Heaven) and 3 grandchildren. Judy desires to inspire everyone she meets with God's Word through song.

Lunch will be provided at the church \$15.00 per person/ send money to Charlotte Johnson, 1044 S. Mimosa Rd., Gilmer, Texas 75644 or email chj054@etex.net to tell me you are Minister's wives/widow because they may eat free but must register. Deadline March 31, 2022!!

Breakout sessions
Intentional with faith—Kelly Johnson
Intentional with Hospitality—Diana Morris
Intentional with Discipleship—Mandi Townsend
Intentional Transformation—Judy Wallace

Detach and send to address above and make check to National WMA

Name _____ Church/State _____

Attending conference Yes or NO _____ Attending luncheon Yes/No _____

Prepare for Spring Showers

Most people don't think about a building's roof until it leaks. By that time, it could be too late to avoid major water damage and expensive repairs. Follow these general maintenance tips to avoid damage to walls, floors, and electrical systems:

- Inspect your ministry's roof
- Clean gutters and drains
- Trim overhanging tree branches

If you have questions about insurance coverage for your roof and building, speak with your local agent.

Contact American Church Group of Texas today.
Call **844.400.2248** or visit **AmericanChurchGroup-Texas.com**.

Proudly serving the BMA of Texas



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BAPTIST MISSIONARY BMLA LOAN ASSOCIATION

The Baptist Missionary Loan Association (BMLA) offers loans for everything from land and building purchases, to additions, to renovations, to loan refinancing.

Why consider a loan with the BMLA?

We specialize in church building projects.

Since 1953, BMLA has provided loans for churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas. No one understands the needs and goals of BMA congregations and related ministries better than BMLA.

We offer competitive rates and terms.

Unlike many commercial lending institutions, BMLA does not charge for closing costs which saves your congregation thousands of dollars. Furthermore, BMLA has much more competitive rates than we have in several years.

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

For more information, visit bmla.org.

If you are ready to apply for a loan, download an application from our website and mail or email it to us.

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

BMLA, P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, TX 75168
www.bmla.org

Celebrating 60

YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS AT

Beacon Baptist Church

Please join us for a special worship service
with luncheon to follow.

Date: April 24, 2022
10:00 AM—Sharing Memories
11:00 AM—Worship
12:00 PM—Luncheon

Address:
2001 E. Villa Maria
Bryan, TX 77892

RSVP: Info@beaconbryan.com
*Childcare provided