

# Baptist Progress

Baptist Progress, P.O. Box 2085, Waxahatchee, Texas 75168  
Postmaster: send change of address to:  
5010125

Official Publication of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas | March 2, 2016 | Vol. 103 | No. 05

## Church resonates with community

By **JERRY FULTON**

*Baptist Progress Editor*

Feb. 14, 2016 was a special day for Resonate Community Church, a church plant of BMA Texas Missions in Hutto, as they launched their first public worship service. Started a few years ago by another church planter, Resonate regrouped and has grown under the leadership of Pastor Will Hutchinson.

Will and his wife, Kelly, are originally from Mississippi and moved to Hutto in 2014 from Jacksonville with their three children: Katelyn, Isaiah and Zack. On the church's website, [www.resonatecommunity.com](http://www.resonatecommunity.com), Hutchinson explains, "I completed seminary in 2013 and began to get ready to plant a church. After a lot of prayer and consideration, we made the decision to move to the Austin area. We have been amazed at the way God directed us to Hutto and the work he is doing here. We believe that Christians should be active in the community and we make sure you



▲ The Will Hutchinson Family



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*Baptist Progress*

USPS: 043120 • ISSN: 005-5751

Published every first and third week of the month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas

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Periodical postage paid at Waxahachie, Texas 75165 and at additional mailing offices

**SUBSCRIPTION RATE:**

- Mail Church Plan:** \$1.50 per month
  - E-Mail Church Plan:** \$1.00 per month
  - Mail Subscription:** \$21.00 per year
  - E-mail Subscription:** \$15.00 per year
  - Mail & E-mail:** \$25.00 per year
- (Advertising Rates Available on Request)

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# Risen takes first place in new releases

By **DIANA CHANDLER**

*Baptist Press*

NASHVILLE (Baptist Press)—“Risen,” a film that tells of Jesus’ resurrection from the eyes of an unsaved soldier who participated in His crucifixion, opened in first place at the box office among new wide releases the weekend of Feb. 19–21, Box Office Mojo reported.

The movie grossed an estimated \$11.8 million, well ahead of its nearest competitor among new releases “The Witch,” which took in \$8.68 million.

Among all films at theaters, Risen brought in \$4.015 million to place second on opening night Feb. 19 behind the blockbuster “Deadpool,” but over the entire weekend finished a distant third to the comic book fantasy, which raked in an estimated \$55 million.

Risen was also a crowd pleaser, garnering a CinemaScore of A- in ratings received from moviegoers on opening night, and is anticipated to remain in theatres through Easter, March 27. Movieguide gave the film four stars, its highest rating, but advised discretion for older children

The PG-13 film is endorsed by leading Baptists and others.

“Risen is one of the most high quality, historically accurate, and spiritually provoking movies you will see,” Frank S. Page, president and CEO of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, said. “It will speak to audiences of every age. I encourage everyone to see this film.”

Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist

Church of Woodstock, Ga., and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, called Risen “a must-see for pastors and their congregations.”

“Risen is intriguing in that we all wonder what the response of the religious establishment of Jesus’ day would have been after His death and resurrection,” Hunt told Baptist Press. “Risen being fiction simply imagines what might have been.”

Producer Mickey Liddell and director Kevin Reynolds said they worked to remain true enough to Scripture to please the faith community, but dramatic enough to entertain unbelievers.

“We don’t really want to tell anyone what they should believe,” Reynolds said. “People can use this film as a vehicle to examine their own spirituality, or just enjoy the story purely from a cinematic standpoint.”

The lead character Clavius is a fictional Roman military officer but the film includes biblical characters including Jesus, the disciples, Mary Magdalene and Pontius Pilate. Movie promoters noted the movie strives to achieve historical accuracy.

Risen drew an audience predominantly of 25-year-olds and above, but Josh Griffin, high school pastor at Saddleback Church and founder of DownloadYouthMinistry.com, recommends the film for teenagers as well as adults.

Affirm Films, a division of Sony



Pictures, has distributed top faith-based films including the Kendrick Brothers’ “War Room” and “Courageous.” Risen ministry resources include a church kit with customizable sermon outlines, outreach resources including postcards, door hangers and bulletin inserts, and a novel from Bethany House Publishers. More information is available at risen-movie.com.

Reprinted from Baptist Press (www.baptistpress.com), news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

## HAVE YOU REGISTERED? NEXT MINISTRY CONNECTION WORKSHOP, MARCH 31, 2016



Baptist Progress will host the second Ministry Connection Workshop of 2016, Starting Ministries for Those With Hurts, Habits & Hangups (Celebration Recovery, DivorceCare & GriefShare), Thursday, March 31, 2016.

Alan Rogers, care pastor, The Avenue Church, Waxahachie and former president of Texas Baptist Home for Children will facilitate the workshop.



The workshop will be conducted at BMA of Texas Building, 632 Farley Street, Waxahachie from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

To register email editor@baptistprogress.org or call 972-923-0756. You may also preregister for future workshops by visiting <http://www.bmatexas.org/registration.html> or calling the number above.



# BMA of America News

## DiscipleGuide CHURCH RESOURCES

### BMA pastors: Free confidential help is available

By SCOTT ATTEBERY

A typical day in the life of a pastor may consist of listening to a hurting widow, counseling a marriage in crisis, comforting children in the aftermath of divorce, and arbitrating a dispute between family members.

After a long day of shepherding, who will pastor the pastor? To whom can he bring his problems? Confidentiality prohibits him from discussing matters with other church members and most pastors often want to protect their wives from the drama.

For this reason, pastors are often the loneliest people in the church. They find themselves without anyone with whom they can share their pain and struggles. Many pastors long to have someone who will listen and understand where they are coming from.

If they don't find someone to speak with, they will likely face burnout. Many will leave the pastorate all together or grow calloused toward the ministry.

Sadly, these pastors don't suffer alone. The isolation felt by pastors can spread to the home. Wives begin to feel that their husbands are married to the church instead of to them. Children feel neglected as their father spends more time with

other families and less time at home.

DiscipleGuide wants to help pastors and their families receive the help they need. Pastors may call 844-877-4BMA between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. CST Monday through Friday for free, confidential help. This new partnership with Focus on the Family will provide a trained specialist for every caller. Each specialist has vocational ministry experience so they understand where pastors are coming from.

The help line is available for all BMA pastors and their wives to discuss any issue ranging from dealing with a difficult church member, pornography, addictions, anxiety/depression, personal marriage issues, parenting, etc.

"Our goal," according to DiscipleGuide Executive Director Scott Attebery, "is to give pastors resources to help them prevent pastoral burnout, family struggles, and destructive behavior. That benefits everyone—the pastor, his family, and the church."

*Dr. Scott Attebery is the executive director of DiscipleGuide Church Resources. Contact him by email at [scott@discipleguide.org](mailto:scott@discipleguide.org), on Facebook: Scott Attebery or Twitter @scottattebery. Visit [www.DiscipleGuide.org](http://www.DiscipleGuide.org).*



Pastor's Help Line  
844-877-4BMA

Specialists Available  
Monday - Friday, 7:00am - 9:00pm (CST)

DiscipleGuide

### Getting ready for Summer 2016

By JASON PREWITT

The last few months have been filled with a lot of phone calls, planning and assessing where the campground needs the most work. Since we have so many buildings and so much equipment, it is sometimes hard to find a starting place. Over the last year, God has continued to bring partners in ministry to the camp and it is really exciting to host groups that come and invest their resources, time, energy and help.

In December, we hosted a small winter retreat that we hope will grow larger each year. Worship was led by Aaron Greenwood and some of our summer staff returned to lead breakout Bible study sessions and recreation. The focus of the retreat was on service so we were blessed to have the Student Ministries from Union Hill, Brownsboro and Calvary, Fairfield come and serve by helping with the start of the main tabernacle remodel. They, along with our maintenance worker, Benjie Russ, were able to take down the ceiling panels and insulation. This allowed us to get a closer look at the metal roof and supports and opened our eyes to some major repair needs that we were not able to see with the drop ceiling in place.

In February, the Louisiana Tech Association of Baptist Students (ABS) came and spent several days working at the camp. During their three days, they were able to accomplish many things. They demolished three of the open-air tabernacles along with framing and pouring the concrete footings for the new tabernacles that will replace the ones torn down. They replaced wood on the outside of the cafeteria and covered area by the snack bar and power washed areas in preparation of painting and resealing countless windows all over the campground. The

students were also very helpful with the continued work on the main tabernacle. They removed the metal ceiling grid that was still hanging from the drop ceiling and helped prepare the metal roof and beams for the spray-in foam insulation that will be finished later this spring.

We were also thankful to have Rick Cheeks, Howard Mount, Bob Hart and Art Leyva from the Mt. Olive, Scurry here during the same time as the Louisiana Tech ABS Team. This group of men is part of the Missions Committee that has been working with the camp since September 2015 in preparation of their church's mission trip. Mt Olive will be bringing a larger group in March for a week. These men have been vital in preparing for groups like the ABS team and others who want to plan trips to help at the camp. They have already reached out to many churches asking for help with manpower and also finances to accomplish much-needed repairs and replacement of things that were just worn out. Because of their help in bringing awareness and helping with contacting other churches, we have teams coming both the weeks of March 7 and March 14, 2016.

Daniel Springs is a valuable place for the BMA. To ensure future generations the opportunity to experience the greatness of Daniel Springs, more work needs to be done. Call us at 1-903-685-2433 or e-mail [jason@danielspringscamp.com](mailto:jason@danielspringscamp.com) to schedule a time for your church to come help us get ready for Summer 2016.

*Jason Prewitt is the executive director of Daniel Springs Baptist Camp. Contact him at [info@danielsprings](mailto:info@danielsprings) or 903-685-2433. Visit [danielspringscamp.com](http://danielspringscamp.com) for more information.*



### MISSIONARIES ON FURLOUGH



Greetings to our BMA family. We will be in the United States on furlough May through early July. We look forward to visiting churches and Individuals to share and give an update on the work. We also seek an opportunity to work and partner with you as we continue to be on the field. If you would like to meet with me we can be contacted via email at [bradleygath@gmail.com](mailto:bradleygath@gmail.com).

*Brad and Penny Gathright*

# Church Issues

## 10 Signals That Say “You are Not Welcome in This Church”

By JOE MCKEEVER

“You shall love (the stranger) as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 19:34).

As a retired pastor who preaches in a different church almost every Sunday, a fun thing I get to do is study the church bulletins (or handouts or worship guides) which everyone receives on entering the building. You can learn a great deal about a church’s priorities and personality in five minutes of perusing that sheet.

As an outsider—that is, not a member or regular here—I get to see how first-timers read that material and feel something of the same thing they feel. I become the ultimate mystery shopper for churches. That is not to say that I pass along all my (ahem) insights and conclusions to pastors. Truth be told, most leaders do not welcome judgments from visitors on what they are doing and how they can do it better. So, unless asked, I keep it to myself. And put it in my blog. (smiley face goes here)

Now, in all fairness, most churches are eager to receive newcomers and want them to feel at home and even consider joining. And the worship bulletins reflect that with announcements of after-benediction receptions to meet the pastors, the occasional luncheon for newcomers to learn about the church and get their questions answered, and free materials in the foyer.

Now, surely all the other churches want first-timers to like them and consider joining. No church willingly turns its nose up at newcomers, at least none that I know of. But that is the effect of our misbehavior.

Here are ten ways churches signal newcomers they are not wanted.

**1. The front door is locked.** One church where I was to preach has a lovely front facade which borders on the sidewalk. The front doors are impressive and stately. So, after parking to the side of the building, I did what I always do: walked to the front and entered as a visitor would. Except I didn’t go in. The doors were locked. All of them.

After walking back around the side and entering from the parking lot, I approached an usher and asked about the locked door. “No one comes in from that entrance,” he said. “The parking lot is to the side.”

I said, “What about walk-ups? People from the neighborhood who come across the street.”

He said, “No one does that.”

He’s right. They stay away because the church has told them they’re not welcome.

One church I visited had plate glass doors where the interior of the lobby was clearly visible from the front steps. A table had been shoved against the doors to prevent anyone from entering that way. I did not ask why; I knew. The parking lot was in the rear. Regulars parked back there and entered through those doors.

That church, in a constant struggle for survival, is its own worst enemy. They might as well erect a sign in front of the church that reads, “First-timers unwelcome.”

**2. The functioning entrance is opened late.** Even if we understand why a rarely used front door is kept locked, it makes no sense that the primary door should be closed. And yet, I have walked up to an entrance clearly marked and found it locked. The pastor explained, “We unlock it 15 minutes prior to the service.”

If that pastor is a friend and we already have a solid relationship, I will say something gracious, like, “What? Are you out of your cotton-picking mind? A lot of people like to come early. Seniors do. First-timers like to get there early to see the lay of the land. That door ought to be unlocked a minimum of 45 minutes prior to the announced worship time.”

If the pastor and I are meeting for the first time, I’ll still make the point, although a little gentler than that.

**3. The church bulletin gives inadequate information.** The announcement reads: “The youth will have their next meeting this week at Stacy’s house. See Shawn for directions. Team B is in charge of refreshments.”

Good luck to the young person visiting that day and hoping to break into the clique. He has no idea who Shawn is, how to get to Stacy’s house or what’s going on if he dares to attend.

So, the youth does not return. Next Sunday, he tries that church across town that is drawing in great crowds of teens. For good reason, I imagine. They act like they actually want them to come.

**4. The pulpit is unfriendly to first-timers.** The pastor says, “I’m going to call on Bob to lead the prayer.” Or, “Now, Susan will tell us about the women’s luncheon today.” “Tom will be at the front door with information on the project.”

By not using the full names of the individuals, the pastor ends up speaking only to the insiders. Outsiders entered without knowing anyone and leave the same way.

**5. The congregation sends its own signals.** Is visitors parking clearly marked? And when you park there, does someone greet you with a warm welcome and helpful information? Or, do you find a parking place wherever you can and receive only stares as you approach the entrance?

Did you get the impression that you were sitting in someone else’s pew today?

Did anyone make an effort to learn your name and see if you have a question? Or, was the only handshake you received given during the in-service time as announced in the bulletin? (Those, incidentally, do not count when assessing the friendliness of a congregation. Only spontaneous acts of kindness count.)

This week, a pastor and I had lunch at a diner in downtown New Orleans which I’ve visited only once and he not at all. We were amused at some of the signs posted around the eatery. One said rather prominently, “Guests are not to stay beyond one hour.” My friend Jim laughed, “I guess they’re saying we shouldn’t dawdle.”

Churches have their own signs, although not as clear or blatant as that. Usually, they are read in the faces, smiles (or lack of one), and tone of voice of members.

**6. The insider language keeps outsiders away.** Now, I’m not one who believes we should strip all our worship service prayers and hymns and sermons of all references to sanctification, the blood, justification, atonement, and such. This is who we are.

However, when we use the terms without a word of explanation—particularly, if we do it again and again—first-timers unaccustomed to the terms feel the same way you would if you dropped in on a foreign language class mid-semester: lost.

We signal visitors that they are welcome in our services when we give occasional explanations to our terms and customs which they might find strange.

**7. No attempt is made to get information on visitors.** Now, most church bulletins which I see from week to week have the perforated tear-off which asks for all kinds of information and even gives people ways to sign up for courses or dinners. But I’ve been amazed at how many do not ask for that information.

So, a visitor comes and goes. The church had one opportunity to reach out to him or her and blew it.

A church which is successful in reaching people for Christ will use redundancy. That is, they will have multiple methods for engaging newcomers, everything from greeters in the parking lot to friendly ushers to attractive bulletins and after-service receptions.

**8. No one follows up on first-timers.** One of the ministers of my church helped me with this. He said, “Asking people to fill out a guest card implies that there will be some kind of contact with them afterwards.” He pointed out that our pastor informs them “no salesman will call,” but even so, “Someone phones many visitors and letters go out to most.”

The first-timer who visits a church and does everything right has a right to expect some kind of follow-up from a leader of that congregation.

We’re frequently told that people today cherish their privacy and do not want to give their name and contact information until they decide this church is trustworthy. My response to that is: it’s true, but not universally true. Many people still want to be enthusiastically welcomed and will respond to invitations to give given the grand tour and taken to lunch afterwards.

In most cases leaders can tell from guest cards whether a visit will be welcomed. If not, at the very least a phone call should be made. If the caller receives an answering machine, he/she leaves the message and may decide this is sufficient for the first time. (Every situation is different. There are few hard and fast rules. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you.)

CHURCH ISSUES continued on p. 11



# Church Health

## Greeters

By LARRY BARKER

Most pastors and ministry leaders say they have a desire for their churches to be healthy, to grow, and for their people to be properly cared for. How do we do all of that? If the pastor is the only one who cares for all of the flock that model simply will not scale! A “pastor’s heart” is a good thing but it can also lead to unsustainable expectations and burn out. This is especially true if the pastor is a people pleaser.

There are solutions to the problems we face if we will consider structuring things differently. In *Lasting Impact*, by Carey Nieuwhof, he says, “Sometimes things aren’t as mysterious as we make them out to be!” Case in point, Moses! The children of Israel were now in the wilderness and Moses was trying as best he could to meet all of their needs. Everyone was coming to him as the man of God to solve their problems.

Then Moses’ father-in-law Jethro says to him, “What you’re doing is not good. You will certainly wear out both yourself and these people who are with you, because the task is too heavy for you. You can’t do it alone.” The size of any group does have an impact upon how you can minister to the needs of the people who belong to it. There is a difference between immediate family, extended family, and a gathering of family.

There is a principle known as the “Rule of 70” which says that no matter what size your church is you can really only know 70 people personally. That is the number of an extended family. When you reach that size and grow past that size things have to change. When a church grows larger than 70 new people can no longer just walk in and make new friends. The extended family’s relational connectors are full!

Churches 70 or larger must (smaller can also) have greeters and connectors who help those who visit to meet the family and engage with them. More intentionality is needed now more than ever. In stagnant churches the greeters think their job is to welcome the regular members and that is part of it. In vibrant growing churches, the greeters see their first priority as introducing themselves to newcomers and helping them get connected to the family.

If we want to continue to add people to our church family then we must realize that Sunday morning is not just about connecting with our friends but also, and more importantly, ministering to newcomers. Growing and getting larger requires adjustments and building ministry teams to take care of and shepherd those God sends our way. This does mean that you have to structure bigger if you want to grow bigger.

Wait a minute, is this all about how “big” we get? Absolutely not! It is about sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with everyone we can. Quoting from Carey Nieuwhof again, “We’re leading people to Jesus, not to ourselves or to our awesome church. Keeping the focus on Christ ensures that



genuine life change happens and lasts.” The mission of the church has never changed and remains being obedient to the Great Commission.

People will attend your services for many reasons but they stay for one reason; a relational connection with Christ and with His people. People in our culture value knowing and being known, so if 70 is the limit, you must develop a system of groups of 70’s. There are two things that every person who visits your church needs. First, they need a role—a place of service. Secondly, they need a relationship—a place in a group.

Everyone needs to accept the responsibility to be a greeter, introducer, and a host. The process of assimilation simply means practicing Biblical hospitality in an intentional caring way. Every member of the church family must desire to welcome guests at your church the same way they would welcome guests into their home. People will bond to a church where they feel cared for. If no friendships are formed they will go somewhere they can find them.

Here are some ideas to consider on how to welcome those who visit:

- Look for someone you don’t know.
- Introduce yourself to them by asking them polite

questions about themselves or their family.

- Offer to sit by them, if possible, or ask if they would like to sit with you.
- Engage with them in a conversation. Try to find a subject they are interested in or ask them if they have any questions about the church and its ministry.
- Invite them for a time of coffee, refreshments, or offer to take them to lunch.
- Practice the 3/10 rule! Encourage everyone at the end of the services to meet and engage with three people they do not know for the 10 minutes before everyone leaves!

We must train our church family how to take successive steps to help our guests to know how to become a part of our family! Healthy churches realize they must have a clear strategy to move people from being outside the family to becoming a fully committed family member!

Larry Barker is the pastor of Cornerstone, Jacksonville. He also serves as the operations director for North American Missions. For more information or to contact him, visit [www.bmamissions.org](http://www.bmamissions.org).





# Church resonates with community cont.

have plenty of opportunity to serve in a ministry at church and in the community.”

In August 2015, the church had outgrown its original meeting place, so they moved to the local YMCA. It is a beautiful facility in a great location. Because of the great relationship with the YMCA and the amount of room available in the building, Hutchinson said that the church could still be worshipping there should they reach 1,000 in attendance.

Larry Cook, a member of Resonate, said, “We have an intimate setting and a lot of community involvement. You don't get shamed here. It's a church for those with no church experience or those who've had a bad church experience.”

He added, “When he moved to the Austin area 20 years ago, there were more Baptists than any other denomination. Due to the influx of people moving to the area from all over the country, especially California, Catholics are now the dominant group. However, only 20 percent of the population attend a place of worship.”

The pastor shared that members of the church plant have recently helped four families move, helped 19 people get food when they couldn't secure it from a food pantry and witnessed thousands of lives touched through father/daughter and mother/son events.

Judging by the diverse crowd in attendance, it is clear that Resonate Community Church is resonating

with their community for the cause of Christ.

The church and the YMCA are teaming to make a room within the facility sound proof. Doing so will eliminate echoes from the church's sound system. Approximately \$4,000 is needed to complete the project. Churches desiring to help may send offerings to BMA Texas Missions, P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, Texas 75168. Checks should be marked “Resonate, Hutto sound proof project.”



**LAKE HIGHLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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 donnyberry65@verizon.net

*Dream BIG*

featured speaker  
**PAT QUESENBURY**  
 “Dream Big Dreams  
 and Depend on a Big God”  
**Saturday, April 2, 2016**  
 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
 Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Teaching sessions and catered lunch.  
 This will be a time of spiritual renewal with fun and fellowship with our sisters in Christ.  
 Bring a friend! We hope to see you there.  
**NO NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED**

**Registration Coupon**  
 Send to Lake Highlands Baptist Church, P O Box 441, Sulphur Springs, TX 75483, along with check for \$15.00 before March 18th.  
 After that date, cost will be \$20.00

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# BMA TEXAS

## MISSIONS

Your Church's Mission Movement in Texas



# A shared burden

By HEITH MITCHELL

BMA Texas Missions Director

It is the burden of everyone involved with your Texas Missions Movement that we see missional, biblically sound, self-sustainable churches as a result of our cooperation. Also, it is our burden that these churches be BMA. We want each missionary to be relationally connected to our association of churches and for each mission to have a true understanding of what it means to be BMA Baptists. Here are a few of the steps we have taken to make this a reality:

- From the beginning, each mission will tithe 10 percent of their offerings from the plant to the missional work of the BMA. This offering can be divided between the departments of the local, state and national departments. We encourage that at least 6 percent be designated missions. Missions and giving must be a part of a church's DNA from the beginning.
- Missionaries are encouraged to raise resource fund support from BMAT churches.
- Missionaries will submit a monthly update that will be published *Baptist Progress*.
- Missionaries are encouraged to share videos and pictures on the Texas Missions Facebook page.
- Missionaries will be provided the BMA Directory and Handbook, as well as subscriptions to *Baptist Progress* and *Mission:World*.
- Members of BMAT Missions will be provided with free email-subscriptions of *Baptist Progress* and a subscription to *Mission:World* while they are receiving support from BMAT Missions.
- Missionaries will be involved in their local associations.
- Missionaries are encouraged to involve their mission in BMA retreats and conferences.
- Missionaries should let their people know that BMA churches are supporting them and praying for them. When finances are reported, make sure the church plant congregation sees their mission's support. It is also good to share the stories of other mission projects.
- Missionaries are encouraged to preach and report at BMAT churches.
- Missionaries are encouraged to invite BMA department leaders and BMA pastors to share in their pulpit post launch.
- BMAT Missions office will maintain a list of mission opportunities to which churches can connect. Each mission is encouraged to submit a list of possible opportunities.
- Missionaries should plan to attend the BMA of Texas Annual Meeting each year.

We hope that you can connect to your Texas Missions Movement in a real way and that when a mission becomes a church it continues to connect to our associational work.

We have a few new connecting points I want to share with each of you.

- A new website: [www.bmatexasmissions.org](http://www.bmatexasmissions.org).
- A new Facebook page: BMA Texas Missions
- A new way to receive text updates and prayer requests from the field: Text the word "Texas" to 972-992-1358



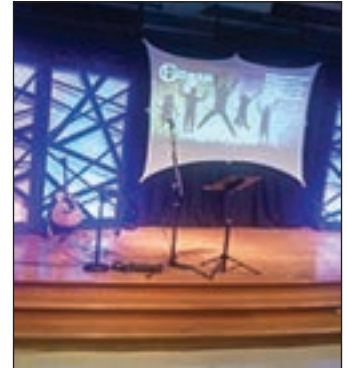
▲ These three photos are from the 2016 Activate kick off here in Texas. There are 20 BMA of Texas churches committed to Activate and working on their health.



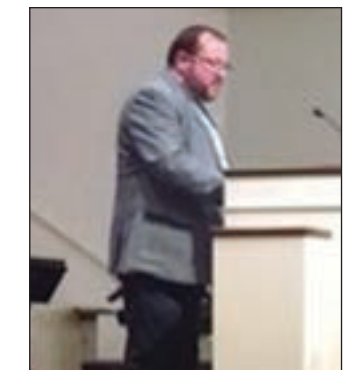
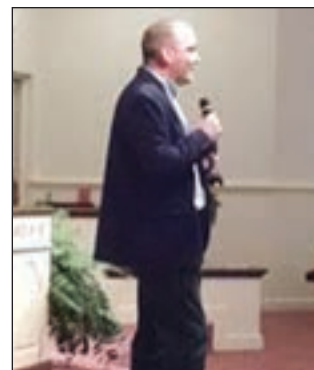
▲ Resonate Mission in Hutto had their public launch on February 14. The mission is off to a good start.



▲ Celina Elementary is set up and ready for the Bridge Mission to meet and worship. ►



◀ On February 14 most of your Texas missionaries spoke at a State Mission's Rally at New Harmony, Tyler. It was a real honor. We spent the following Monday through Wednesday in training with Bro. Larry Barker in Waxahachie.



Heith Mitchell is the director of BMA of Texas Missions. Contact him at [hmitchell@bmatexas.org](mailto:hmitchell@bmatexas.org) or 972-923-0757. Visit [www.bmatexasmissions.org](http://www.bmatexasmissions.org).





# MONEY WISE

## Peace of mind when it comes to your money

By **JERRY BURNAMAN**

*BMLA Business Manager*

During His earthly ministry our Lord talked a great deal about money. Some examples are the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-29) and the two masters (Luke 16:13).

It is essential for people to have an income for the provisions of food, shelter and other living essentials. But “having peace of mind when it comes to our money depends on much more than your net worth.” (Scott Hanson)

People think it would be great to have no money worries, plenty of assets and complete financial independence. The reality is that few people seem to be at peace with their financial lives.

Scott Hanson, writing in the Kiplinger’s Financial Letter wrote, “I’ve seen extremely wealthy folks live in constant stress and fear about their money, and I’ve known people of relative moderate means who are completely at peace with their financial situation.”

The key thought for Christian believers is to realize that God owns everything (Psalm 24:1). This fact is eternal and unchanging. Therefore, we ask God for wisdom so that we may be “MoneyWise.”

Is it possible to be free from financial emotional stress and excess worry? Yes, when we realize that all we have belongs to God and He is in control. Scott Hanson gives six keys to guide our financial strategy.

**1. Be Debt Free.** But there is nothing wrong to borrow money for certain purchases, such as taking out a mortgage to buy a house. However, the goal should be to eliminate the debt in due time and pay extra if possible.

Fortunately we no longer live in a time when you can be thrown into debtor’s prison for not paying your debts. However, a great deal of debt is stressful because the wise man Solomon said, “The borrower is slave to the lender” (Proverbs 22:7).

**2. Have few financial obligations.** A large and complicated lifestyle doesn’t guarantee happiness. On the contrary, those with abundant wealth seek happiness on what great experience they can purchase for themselves. When one great emotional rush passes, they look for another bigger and better one to satisfy their thirst for happiness.

Oftentimes, people with simple lifestyles feel the more freedom. The fear of another global financial crisis doesn’t concern them because they don’t need to generate hundreds of thousands of dollars per month to pay the bills.

**3. Have a diversified portfolio.** If you invest, the old adage remains true: “Don’t put all your eggs in one

basket.” Seek a reputable financial planner to help you with your investments. Diversification is designed to protect your wealth and, in turn, your lifestyle.

**4. Spend less that you can afford.** While working, we should spend less than we earn so we can save the difference. You’ve probably heard about the 80/20 principle. Spend 80 percent of your salary on necessities; give 10 percent to the Lord and save 10 percent. It takes a great deal of discipline to achieve this goal.

**5. Be emotionally prepared to live on much less.** Real financial freedom is being in a position where your finances or lack thereof, do not impact peace or happiness. People who hold onto their possessions loosely and don’t worry about losing them are the ones who seem least concerned about the financial news of the moment.

**6. Give.** When we give, whether it’s giving of our time, talent or our treasure, it takes the focus off of ourselves and puts it on others. Some of the most relaxed people in the world are the most generous.

By diligently practicing these six keys and depending on God’s wisdom, you’ll find yourself among the small percentage of people who are “MoneyWise” and financially independent. It’s best to learn them when you are young.

Most of you reading these few words practice financial planning and discipline. I’m thankful for those who invest in the BMA of Texas Loan Association. As of Monday, Feb. 22, there are 241 investors, including individuals, churches, associations and auxiliaries. Your investment is loaned to churches to purchase property, build new buildings and remodel existing buildings. These tools are used for the growth of God’s Kingdom. Thank you for your generosity.

It would be my joy to talk with you about investing in the BMA Loan Association of Texas. We pay 2.5 percent on our CDs and 2 percent on share accounts. Just give me a call at (972) 923-0758 or send me an email message, [jerryburnaman@yahoo.com](mailto:jerryburnaman@yahoo.com).

*Jerry Burnaman is the business manager of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association. Contact him at [jerryburnaman@yahoo.com](mailto:jerryburnaman@yahoo.com) or 972-923-0758.*



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# Auxiliaries

## The forgotten fund

By SHARON COLE

Every year our emphasis is placed on the fundraising project of the Texas state WMA, and rightly so, for it is always an important and worthy cause. But the operating fund, or General Fund, is not thought about the way it should be. To keep this auxiliary page running the general fund pays \$450 per quarter. The domain name and website is \$150 per year. Approximately \$180 per year is paid for postage and \$40 for printing of the 3 WMA newsletters sent to all church WMA groups. Annual officer salaries are \$1050 and officer expenses and supplies are approximately \$500. The annual WMA meeting costs from \$300-400. So you see why the general fund is so important for the Texas WMA to function and accomplish our goal of pleasing the Lord through our giving.

Each quarter your local and district WMA should support the general fund when you send in your report. If the money that you send is not designated for any special cause, it is put into the general fund. We all know that as

Christians God blesses us for giving to others. He tells us to give our money, time, talents, effort and anything we have cheerfully that will be a help to others. He promises to make all grace abound toward us so that we have all things sufficient for all that we do. This applies to our spiritual life as we tell others about Christ as well as our physical life as we share what God has given to us with those in need.

When you give your money through the Women's Missionary Auxiliary, you are sharing what God has blessed you with. You don't have to be a WMA lady or even have a WMA group in your church to give. Let the Lord speak to your heart about being a part of spreading the gospel to our spiritually lost and dying world. The needs are many for this work, so please give abundantly. Send all monies to Corresponding Secretary: Jo Strong, 149 NW Suzanne Terrace, Burleson, TX 76028. Contact her at 817-480-0888 or email at [jokenstrong@juno.com](mailto:jokenstrong@juno.com).

### REMEMBER THE TEXAS WMA PROJECT

The Texas WMA has chosen to raise funds this year to help Jacksonville College obtain a Front-End Loader Tractor and a mower deck to use in maintenance at the college. Much work needs to be done in moving heavy objects, dirt work and landscaping and mowing. This tractor will be a great help in doing a good job of keeping the campus looking nice. Please consider helping us raise the funds for this project. Send your offerings and/or donations to the Texas WMA Corresponding Secretary (address above).

Sharon Cole is the editor for the Texas WMA. Contact her at [S9Co@aol.com](mailto:S9Co@aol.com). For more information on the Texas WMA, visit [www.texaswma.com](http://www.texaswma.com).



## Open homes, open hearts

By JOHNNIE ROSS

BMA of Texas WMA 2nd Vice President

From cover to cover, God's Word teaches hospitality. In Genesis 18, Abraham showed hospitality to the three visitors, and in Revelation 22:17, "The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price." That's God's ultimate hospitality. Acts 16 contains several of the well-known Bible stories about Paul.

In the first few verses, we find how Timothy joined Paul and Silas, then the story of the Macedonian call. Also in this chapter is recorded how Paul and Silas ended up beaten and imprisoned and ends with the conversion of the Philippian jailer. But, right in the middle of the chapter is the story of Lydia. Paul and Silas went outside the city of Philippi to the riverside, looking for a place of prayer. What they found was a group of women who had come together, one of them named Lydia.

This is where we find the theme verse for this year in WMA. "...we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together...The Lord opened her heart." Acts 16:13, 14 (ESV). Many times we read scripture without seeing everything that we're reading. Friends, throughout this chapter, we are being taught hospitality.

Look in verse 5, "So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily." This came through meeting with the brethren, in homes, and discussing the Gospel.

In verse 8, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." This is a request for help on a personal level.

After Lydia's (and her household's) conversion and baptism, we find in verse 15 she says, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us."

Dear sisters, we should desire that people come to our homes so that we can share discussions of the things of God with other believers, as well as those who do not know Him.

After the Philippian jailer is saved in verses 34-35, we find his response to a saving faith. "And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God."

Then the chapter ends with these words. "So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed." My fellow WMA ladies, is this also our response to the saving faith so graciously given us by God Himself? Scripturally, we are to become soul-winners and encouragers in our homes.

My dear sisters in Christ, I ask you this year to make hospitality a matter of prayer, a matter of Bible study, and a matter upon your heart. Ask others into your home, not so you can highlight your cooking, or your beautiful home, or your latest Pinterest project. But, let the reason for inviting others to share a cup of tea, or a slice of pie, or maybe just a

few minutes of your time, be to encourage fellow believers in their faith or in their Christian walk. Invite believers so that you can say, "...we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together...and the Lord opened her heart."



### What Happens To Your Gift to the BMA Foundation?

All gifts to the Foundation, except those designated for operating expenses, are placed in an endowment fund and invested for one or more of the BMA departments or agencies as specified by the donor. Income from the investments provides supplemental funding for those ministries until the Lord returns. Gifts of cash should be mailed to P.O. Box 1188, Conway, Arkansas 72033. Call the Foundation office at 501-329-6891 for more information on other ways to give.



## EVENTS

### MARCH 6, 2016

100th Anniversary  
Mahl Baptist Church,  
Nacogdoches  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### MARCH 17, 2016

Liberty Association rally  
for Texas Baptist Home  
Fellowship Baptist Church, Pittsburg

### MARCH 31, 2016

Baptist Progress Ministry  
Connection Workshop:  
Starting Ministries  
for Those With Hurts,  
Habits & Hangups  
(Celebration Recovery,  
DivorceCare & GriefShare)  
with Alan Rogers, care pastor,  
The Avenue Church, Waxahachie &  
former president of Texas Baptist Home  
for Children  
BMA of Texas Building  
632 Farley Street,  
Waxahachie, Texas  
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### APRIL 25-27, 2016

67th Annual Session  
of the BMA of America  
Gatlinburg Convention  
Center Headquarters  
(Hotel: Glenstone Hotel),  
Gatlinburg, Tennessee

### MAY 1, 2016

Jaguar Day Across Texas  
Annual Offering for  
Jacksonville College

### MAY 7, 2016

Commencement Ceremonies  
105 B.J. Albritton Dr.,  
Jacksonville College  
1:30 p.m.

### MAY 12, 2016

Liberty Association rally  
for Baptist Medical Missions  
Fellowship Baptist Church, White Oak

### MAY 14, 2016

Baptist Progress Ministry  
Connection Workshop:  
Making the Most  
of Media, Design &  
Communication  
with Brandon Cox, pastor of  
Grace Hills Church,  
Bentonville, Arkansas &  
editor of Pastors.com  
Farley Street Baptist Church Gym  
1116 Brown Street, Waxahachie, Texas  
10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

## PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

### AVAILABLE MINISTERS

**TOBY GOODMAN** is available for pulpit supply. He is currently planting a church in Lindale. Contact him at 903-353-6719 or T\_Goodman@sbcglobal.net.

**TOMMY HALL** is available for pulpit supply or to serve as interim pastor. He is a member of Davis Street, Sulphur Springs. Contact him at 903-335-0581 or oldbishop53@yahoo.com.

**JOHN HENDERSON** is available for pulpit supply. He is a member of First of Providence, Livingston. Contact him at 936-327-9228 or henderson2@livingston.net.

### AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**MUSIC/YOUTH**—Lake Highland, Sulphur Springs is seeking a minister of music and youth. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 441, Sulphur Springs, Texas 75483 or call 903-885-9188. <sup>3/23</sup>

**PASTOR**—Myrtle Springs, Quitman is seeking a pastor. Send resume to the church at 2185 FM 2225, Quitman, Texas 75783.

**PASTOR**—Glenfawn, Cushing is seeking a pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 126, Laneville, Texas 75667 or call Dean Risinger at 903-404-0292.

**PIANIST**—New Beginnings, Mansfield is seeking a pianist to play traditional and contemporary style praise and worship music. This is for Sunday morning only, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. \$100 per week. Contact Pastor Brian at 817-291-6727. <sup>3/2</sup>

**PASTOR**—Grace Temple, San Angelo is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resumes to 105 Guthrie, San Angelo, Texas 76901 or gtm@gtministries.com or call 325-949-0713. <sup>3/2</sup>

**PASTOR**—Blackjack, Troup is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to the church at blackjackbaptistchurch@gmail.com or P.O. Box 605, Troup, Texas 75789. <sup>TFN</sup>

**PASTOR**—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a fulltime pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346 or to jimmysealy@aol.com. <sup>TFN</sup>

## PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

**CHRIS GEORGE** is the new pastor at Round Prairie, Fairfield.

**DUSTIN HUERTA** is new youth director at Antioch Gilmer.

## CHURCHES IN REVIEW

### FEBRUARY 14, 2016

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis		89	
Cedar Creek, Teague	11	33	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	522	672	2 By Statement
First, Blooming Grove	202		
First, Omen	46	85	
First, Palmer	60	92	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	20	53	
Harvest, Lufkin	45	55	
Little Flock, Lufkin	6	6	
New Harmony, Tyler	296	328	
New Hope, Mineola	62	135	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	35	47	
Pine Brook, Tyler	37	58	
Piney Creek, Kennard	17	28	
Rosewood, Gilmer	131	201	1 By Baptism, 1 By Letter
Round Prairie, Fairfield	68	111	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	23	50	

### FEBRUARY 21, 2016

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis		91	
Antioch, Gilmer	40	98	
Bible Baptist, Robert Lee	13	15	
Cedar Creek, Teague	10	20	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	529	567	2 By Letter
First, Blooming Grove	207		1 By Baptism
First, Omen	49	92	
First, Palmer	49	77	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	19	54	
Harvest, Lufkin	41	45	1 By Baptism
Jackson, Joaquin	73	130	1 By Baptism
Little Flock, Lufkin		14	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	12	12	
New Hope, Mineola	64	137	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	39	57	
Pine Brook, Tyler	30	49	
Piney Creek, Kennard	16	30	
Rosewood, Gilmer	110	200	2 By Profession
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	17	26	

For publication, statistics for Churches in Review must be received by Monday at 5 p.m. on Monday.

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# Sunday School Lessons

## Hosea—Faithfulness

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: March 13, 2016

TEXT: Hosea

### GOD'S PICTURE OF ISRAEL'S UNFAITHFULNESS

Hosea was one of the minor prophets, who ministered during the reigns of Uzziah, Jothan, Ahaz and Hezekiah, who were kings of Judah. The name Hosea means "He saves." God the Father instructed Hosea to marry Gomer, a harlot (pronounced "Go-MARE") with emphasis on second syllable, with the marriage serving as a type of Israel's unfaithfulness to God. The book records events from 753-715 BC, including the fall of the Northern Kingdom in 722. Hosea's marriage to Gomer and even the names of their two sons and one daughter, served as a living picture of Israel's desire to chase after false gods and to worship idols.

She became pregnant with a son, who, by direction of the Lord, was named Jezreel to symbolize the murders King Jehu committed at Jezreel. A second child, a daughter, was born to Hosea and Gomer. God told Hosea to name the child Lo-ruhamah, ("not loved") signifying God's ceasing to show love to the people of Israel.

But Judah was a different story—God freed them from their enemies by his power (1:6)

A second son was born, and again God directed them to hame him Lo-ammi ("not my people").

The book of Hosea also describes not only the unfaithfulness of Israel toward God the Father, but also God's desire for Israel to repent and turn from their wicked ways. He always had in mind to restore them, but they continued to walk in disobedience to God's laws.

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children." (4:6)

### APPLICATION:

God cannot look upon sin. He is holy, and He demands that His people be holy as well. God has said He would give people over to a reprobate mind who continues to live in rebellion and chase after other gods.

Today's wayward culture should take heed to this grave warning of God's wrath upon unfaithfulness. If God rejected Israel as recorded in Hosea 4, the United States need not think we will be immune to His hand of judgement—and soon.

## Joel—Promise

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: March 20, 2016

TEXT: Joel

### A MESSAGE OF JUDGEMENT ON ISRAEL:

These three brief chapters of the book of Joel, written around 841-835 B.C. possibly before the fall of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms, serves as a reminder to God's people to not lapse into complacency, but to remember that we are in the end times, and our redemption "draweth nigh."

The message of the book is to call the Kingdom to repentance or else experience the judgement of God. Joel compares the destruction and judgement of God to a reference to a plague of locust. "For a nation has invaded my land, mighty and without number; its teeth are the teeth of a lion, and it has the fangs of a lioness." (1:6)

In chapters 2-3, God, again, calls His people to turn from their wickedness and disobedience with a promise that their land would be restored. He calls for fasting, weeping and mourning. (2:12)

### THE GOD OF WRATH IS ALSO THE GOD OF GRACE

Even in the grave warning of God's wrath upon a disobedient people, Joel describes God's heart of love and mercy. "And rend your

heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil." (2:13)

### A GLIMPSE OF PROPHECY

Joel 2 gives us a glimpse into the end times, as described by John the Revelator. "The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:" 2:10, 31. Joel also foretells the glorious descent of the Holy Spirit upon the New Testament Church in Jerusalem. (2:28)

### APPLICATION:

A deep study and thoughtful application of the book of Joel (as with any book of the Bible) will serve to awaken us from complacency. Bible prophecy is unfolding every day, and it is time for God's people to heed Luke 21:28; "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

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).



## 10 Signals That Say "You are Not Welcome in This Church" cont.

### 9. Intangibles often send the signals loud and clear.

In one church I served, a couple roamed the auditorium before and after services in search of anyone they did not know. Lee and Dottie Andrews greeted the newcomers, engaged them in conversation, and quickly determined if an invitation to lunch would be in order. Almost every Sunday, they hosted a visiting family at the local cafeteria. At least half of these joined our church.

In another church, a husband and wife who sold real estate brought their clients to church with them. Some of the most active and faithful members who joined during my years in that church were introduced by Bob and Beth Keys.

Often, it's nothing more than a great smile that seals the deal. Or a warm, genuinely friendly handshake.

A friendly, "Hey, have you found everything you need here?" may be all that's needed.

Some churches install a newcomers desk in the foyer, where visitors can meet knowledgeable leaders, pick up material, and get

questions answered. Those can be great, but there is one caveat: you must have the right people on that desk. Individuals gifted with great smiles and servant spirits and infinite patience are ideal.

**10. What happens following the service can make the difference.** You the newcomer have enjoyed the service, you were blessed by the sermon, and you would like to greet the pastor and begin an acquaintance with this church. Most churches are set up for you to do just this. But not all.

I've been in churches where within five minutes after the benediction, the place was deserted. People were so eager to leave, they hardly spoke to one another, much less guests. The signal they send the visitor is clear: "We don't care for our church and you wouldn't either."

Healthy church congregations love each other and welcome newcomers and their people are reluctant to leave following the end of services.

One wonders if pastors and other leaders realize just how scary it can be for a person new in the city to venture into an unfamiliar church. It is an act of courage of the first dimension.

The Lord told Israel to reach out to newcomers and welcome them. After all, they themselves knew what it was to live in a strange country where the language and customs were foreign and they were missing home. God wanted Israel to remember always how that felt so they would welcome the stranger within their gates.

Dr. Joe McKeever is an itinerant preacher who served five years as director of missions for the 100 Southern Baptist churches of metro New Orleans, and several years as a pastor. Visit [www.joemckeever.com](http://www.joemckeever.com).







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