

Baptist Progress

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Ronnie Floyd to speak at BMA National Meeting

Dr. Ronnie Floyd, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will be one of the guest speakers at the annual meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. He has been a pastor for over 37 years. His experience, wisdom and passion for God make him a powerful proclaimer of God's Word. He teaches principles from the Bible that encourage and uplift thousands of people all over the world via television, the Internet, podcasts, radio, speaking engagements and books.



▲ Dr. Ronnie Floyd

Since 1986, Pastor Floyd has served as senior pastor of Cross Church in Northwest Arkansas. Dr. Floyd's ministry as a local church pastor has been one of commitment to evangelism, discipleship and the advancement of the gospel to America and around the world. In Dr. Floyd's 28 years of ministry in Northwest Arkansas, the church has baptized over 17,000 persons.

In 2001 First Baptist Church of Springdale became a multi-campus ministry with the beginning of The Church at Pinnacle Hills. In 2010 the church changed its name to Cross Church, and in 2011 the church further expanded its ministry with the beginning of a campus in the city of Fayetteville. Each week, thousands gather in multiple worship venues. While meeting at various local sites and five campuses, the church is committed to planting churches regionally, nationally and internationally.



Beyond his church and denomination, Pastor Floyd has spoken at many national and international conferences such as Promise Keepers and has been featured on numerous television and radio programs including Focus on the Family. Pastor Floyd has authored 20 books including *The Power of Prayer and Fasting*, revised and expanded; *10 Things Every Minister Needs to Know*; and *Our Last Great Hope: Awakening the Great Commission*. His next book, *FORWARD: 7 Distinguishing Marks for Future Leaders*, will be released in 2015.

Pastor Floyd's proudest accomplishments stem from his personal life. He and his wife Jeana have been married for 38 years. They have two sons, Josh and Nick. Josh is married to Kate, and they have three sons, Peyton, Parker and Jack. Nick is married to Meredith, and they have two daughters, Reese and Norah and a son, Beckham.

"We're excited to have Dr. Floyd spend time with us at our National Meeting," said BMA President Dr. Jason Aultman. "This will be one of the highlights of our meeting this year. There will be several other opportunities for learning and growing as leaders that we will be offering at the National Meeting as well."

President Aultman recently announced that this year's meeting would not only be a time of business, but also a time of encouragement and leadership development. Various breakout topics to help BMA churches do a more effective job of reaching their communities will be offered as well.

The BMA National Meeting will be held April 20-22 at the University Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield, Missouri.

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BAMA of America News

Have you created a monster?

By SCOTT ATTEBERY

Fact: Some congregations chew up pastors and spit them out every two to three years. I don't have a Bama Study or Pew Research Poll to verify that assertion, but I don't think verification is necessary. We've all seen the tragedy of "Monster Churches."

What leads me to believe it is the church's fault? Before I get to that, let me admit that it *isn't* always the church's fault. I know many men who are just not effective pastors, no matter their congregational context. (That's a topic for a future blog post entitled "Monster Pastors.")

Having said that, there are plenty of cases where the church undoubtedly has a problem. That is particularly evident in cases where: the problem occurs over and over for a long period of time with a multitude of pastors. In these cases, the only common denominator is the congregation. Pastors leave the church to find warm welcome and fruitful, long-term ministry in another congregation. When this happens, change in the church makes all the difference. The pastor remains the same. The congregation denies that any problem exists at all. Pride is a powerful deceiver.

Once again, I admit that a church may have experienced all three of these factors and still not be the source of the problems. But that would be the exception, not the rule.

For the rest of us (the ones honest with ourselves), we recognize that these factors point to a Monster Church. If such congregations do not change course, they will eventually experience more problems such as power struggles, authority issues, financial disagreements, loss of members, a tainted reputation, a diminished effectiveness, lack of conversions, decline of maturity, and eventual dismay. Their course will eventually lead to destruction for the congregation and all within its path.

Eventually, all monster churches become either tiny assemblies with big reputations (for all the wrong things) and/or abandoned buildings full of questions about "what went wrong." That is, unless they change.

So, how do you stop a monster from destroying itself and everyone in its path? Here are a few ideas:

Seek Christ, the foundation, leader, husband and purchaser of the church. All issues of power struggles and authority disputes must end at the cross. If Jesus is not Lord of your church, you must repent as a congregation.

Pray for repentance. Giving intellectual ascent to Christ's rule over your church is not enough. The congregation must be whole-heartedly submitted to Him. This does not happen without serious heart change. Therefore, you must pray for repentance. Prayers may start with just one person or a small group. God loves to answer the prayers of the few on behalf of the many.

Beg for revival. I'm not talking about a set of meetings. Revival is an awakening of the church in light of the glory of Christ! Much like a doctor uses the defibrillator pads to awaken a dying patient, the Great Physician awakens His body through revival.

Be willing to exhort and rebuke (2 Timothy 4:2). This is not a call for vigilante church discipline. In fact, don't exhort and rebuke without first seeking Christ, praying for repentance and begging for revival. If you can't speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) with a heart for Christ's glory in the church, you will only make things worse. However, keep in mind that most Monster Churches are created because people neglected to have hard conversations with church members who seek to create division (1 Corinthians 11:18) and strife within the church for self-serving reasons (1 Corinthians 3:3).

Be willing to ask for help. There are many ministries willing to help churches identify problems and work through solutions. Sometimes, an objective point of view helps a congregation see things more clearly. One word of wisdom, however: If you think your church needs outside help, the request needs to come from the pastor or current leadership. "Going over the head" of a pastor or leader can cause more harm than intended. Don't be guilty of helping "create a monster!"

If you are a pastor or leader of a local church in need of assistance, feel free to contact DiscipleGuide. I am blessed to serve alongside wonderful folks at DiscipleGuide who have a heart for helping churches make disciples. You may contact us at info@discipleguide.org.

Dr. Scott Attebery is the executive director of DiscipleGuide Church Resources. Contact him by email at scott@discipleguide.org, on Facebook: Scott Attebery or Twitter @scottattebery. Visit www.DiscipleGuide.org.



DiscipleGuide CHURCH RESOURCES

DiscipleGuide adds two team members

By SCOTT ATTEBERY

DiscipleGuide is pleased to announce two new staff additions. Bro. Todd West is the new Director of Church Solutions and Dr. Mark Livingston is the Managing Editor of the *Compass* adult Bible study curriculum. Both positions are part-time and both men will continue pastoring their respective congregations.

Todd West, Director of Church Solutions

West is the pastor of Oasis Church in Maumelle, Arkansas. According to DiscipleGuide Executive Director Scott Attebery, "Todd's experience and track record as a pastor, church planter, and consultant have prepared him to serve in this role." West's role as Director of Church Solutions is a new position focused on DiscipleGuide's new emphasis on getting personally involved with local churches.

Already, DiscipleGuide is working with several churches through the new Activate initiative, a coach-driven approach to helping hurting churches experience revitalization. Also on the horizon for the new Church Solutions division are much-needed resources such as an Intentional Interim program and a confidential Pastor's Helpline.

"It will be an honor to serve pastors and churches who are seeking solutions to the challenges we face today," said West.

Dr. Mark Livingston, Managing Editor of Compass

The *Compass* curriculum (formerly entitled "Adult Quarterly") boasts a sixty-five year history of trusted materials for Sunday schools. As the new Managing Editor of *Compass*, Dr. Livingston plans

to build upon the foundation of former editors such as C.O. Strong, Dr. Larry Silvey, and Charles Reddin.

"DiscipleGuide is blessed to have Mark on board as the new *Compass* Editor. His experience and education in the exposition of Scripture are going to be an asset to the churches who use *Compass* curriculum," said Attebery.

New writers are currently being acquired for the development of manuscripts. "When churches use DiscipleGuide material they can trust that the entire process is centered on God's truth, and the intention is to give our churches sound instruction that is profitable (2 Timothy 3:16)," said Livingston. "The mission of DiscipleGuide has not changed, and through new writers and new opportunities we will continue to provide the local church with biblically based resources for spiritual transformation."

Attebery notes, "DiscipleGuide is working hard to find ways to invest in the church. Our desire is to be the local church's best friend. In fact, we believe that the local church is the key to fulfilling the Great Commission. No one church can do it alone. But as an association of local churches partnering together for the kingdom, we can make a difference. We are better together."

DiscipleGuide helps local churches make disciples through conferences, curriculum, camps, and consulting. For more information on DiscipleGuide ministries, or to order resources, please call 800-333-1442 or email info@discipleguide.org.



Family Matters

God is always going to help you

By **DR. TRAVIS PLUMLEE**

We are told in the Bible over and over again that Christians will have troubles. We will have fiery trials. We will have tribulations. We will have woes. Yet, it seems most of us are still taken aback in shock when troubles come. I suspect that is from the worry or heartache that comes with trouble. We don't like it.

It does usually take us by surprise. And in our human condition, we start focusing on the trouble, rather than the God who is a constant help in times of trouble. When you are hurting, it is so easy to get totally involved in your pain and your panic that we forget that God is going to help us. It is good that we memorize a few scriptures relating to God helping us, so that when the troubled times come; we can bring those back to our conscious level of thinking, and find peace in the midst of the storm.

God and His Word should bring us comfort. We must grow enough in our faith to quit asking why bad things happen. We know why. We live in a broken world. Sin has ruined the perfect creation.

Because sin entered the world, we will have tribulations. But don't give up. Be happy and of good cheer because Jesus Christ has overcome everything in this world that tries to overcome you (John 16:33).

Not even death can overcome you as a Christian. It is possible to have peace in the middle of your panic. It is possible to have peace in the midst of a mess.

Next time trouble calls or comes a knocking, remember that God is your helper. Don't seek others first. Seek God first. Call out to Him first when troubles arrive on your doorstep.

If you have financial woes, if sickness is striking you or a loved one, if there are family problems that are breaking your heart and causing you to worry, remember who God said He is. Remember what God has said He will do (Psalm 46:1, Hebrews 13:6, Psalm 118:5-6, Romans 8:31).

There are two important themes in these verses to remember. God will help us. He is constantly ready to help us. He is always present. He is a refuge in the storms of life. You can call on the Lord when you are stressed or distressed, and He will answer you.

Scripture does not say He will consider answering you. It does not say He will help you when He gets around to it. He states that He will answer you and that He is always present to help you. That is comforting in hard times.

Jeremiah 33:3 tells us to call upon the Lord and He will come to us. If God is right there for us, and He has all the power of the universe and beyond in Him; then that should give us peace because we are his kids. He loves us. God will help you.

The second theme in these verses to claim is that God will help you and is on your side. You don't even have to



say it half-heartedly or with timidity. You should boldly proclaim that you do not fear what people are going to do to you because God is for you.

You may have to repeat this to yourself several times in a row when troubles are with you. When your heart is broken, you may have to tell yourself over and over again that God is for you. When people go through a divorce they need to know that God is still for them. When a parent or a child or grandchild breaks your heart, you need to remember that God is for you.

The devil wants you to think that no help is coming and that you are all alone. That is why when we have those thoughts we need to renew our mind with the truth of scripture. I am never alone. He is an ever present help in times of trouble. There is help coming, for the Lord is my helper.

How do we know God is for us? We humans all sinned and rebelled against God, but He was still for us. So, He looked into His Son's eyes and said, "I love these people. I am for them. Therefore, go and die for them so that I can have them live with me forever."

Wow! If you ever one time doubt if God is for you, if

you ever start thinking that God is not listening to you or caring about your situation, then just remember Calvary. How much more could God prove how much He is for us, than that? Sometimes when we have pain we seek the bottle of Advil, a couple of Tylenol or even an Aleve.

Maybe we should always seek God for our pain first. There is nothing wrong with taking a pain killer. But the ultimate pain killer and comforter is our Heavenly Father. Psalm 118:5 states that in my distress and anguish I cried out to God and He set me free. He put me in a large place.

Only a large God can put you in a large place in times of trouble. He will. He shall. He always has. God is for you!

Dr. Travis Plumlee is a full-time professional speaker and leads Family Ark Ministries. He is national board certified as a therapist/specialist in various areas of human behavior. For more information or to contact him, visit www.travisplumlee.com.





www.bmatexas.org

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Texas Baptist Home for Children

A rich heritage

By **EDDIE MARSH**

Texas Baptist Home for Children is proud of our heritage of 105 years. This legacy would not be possible were it not for those who served this ministry in its infancy. In an effort to remember our heritage and to preserve the history of the Baptist Home, the Townley Chapel is going through a facelift. Due to a generous donation from the Southern Baptist of Texas Convention and support of churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas, the floor has been replaced and video/audio equipment has been installed. One section of the walls displays the pictures of the five previous presidents of the Home. The first manager of the Home was J.S. Evans who served for the year of 1910. The first children lived in his home. The second manager was J.S. Elliott who served for the years of 1910 to 1913. The first building was completed in 1912 and the by May 1913, the Orphanage was celebrating its official opening with 19 children in care at the time. A picture of Mr. Elliott and that group hangs in our chapel. There is also a picture of Mr. and Mrs. Elliott that is displayed with the other pictures of W.H. Day, C.B. Stanley, Ted Stanley, Ted Johnson and Alan Rogers.

The Home would like to make our wall complete by honoring all who have served in leadership of the Home. Therefore, we would like to have pictures of J.S. Evans, J.M. McClung, who served 1913-1920, A.J. Parks, who served 1920-1922, Mrs. D.C. Dove who served 1922- 1924, P.L. Tomlinson, who served 1924- 1925, D.C. Dove,

who served 1925-1930 and J.W. Harper who served 1930- 1933. If a church or individual may know how we may acquire a picture of any of these who have served, please notify Texas Baptist Home for Children. If you are a family member and have a picture that the Home could copy, every effort will be made to take care in the processing. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

The Baptist Home set a record last year for adoptions. The adoption department states that we are on pace to have even more adoptions this year. Please make this an object of prayer. Even though every effort is made to provide excellent care for every child who comes into care, children function best in a permanent family.

The staff issues an invitation for you to visit and see what God is doing in your Home for Children. Please mark your calendar for June 27, 2015 for Open House.

Eddie Marsh is president of the Texas Baptist Home for Children in Waxahachie, Tex. Contact him at emarsh@tbhc.org or 972-937-1321. You may also visit the TBHC website, www.tbhc.org.



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EVENTS

MARCH 12, 2015

Senior Adult JOY Fest!
with Mark Lowry
and Stan Whitmire
@ Northside, Conroe
10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Call 936-756-4630
to purchase tickets for \$25

MARCH 12, 2015

Liberty Association
Texas Baptist Home Rally
@ Coffeeville, Ore City

APRIL 20-22, 2015

BMA of America Annual Session
@ University Plaza Hotel
and Convention Center
Springfield, Missouri
Headquarters Hotel:
University Plaza Hotel

MAY 14, 2015

Liberty Association BMMI Rally
@ Concord, Gilmer

AUGUST 13, 2015

Liberty Association Lifeward Rally
@ Cross Roads, Pittsburg

OCTOBER 11, 2015

Liberty Association Annual Meeting
@ First, Judson
Begin at 3 p.m.
First Session Speaker—
Charles Johnson
Dismiss for Supper at 5 p.m.
Begin second session at 6 p.m.
Second Session Speaker—
Randy Stracener

APRIL 25-27, 2016

BMA of America Annual Session
@ Gatlinburg Convention Center
Gatlinburg, Tennessee
Headquarters Hotel: Glenstone Hotel

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE MINISTERS

ELDON BUSENITZ is available for pulpit supply or to serve as interim pastor. He has 46 years of experience as a pastor, with a passion for clear, practical Bible teaching. He is a member of Heritage, Waxahachie. Contact him at 214-399-9520.

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

PIANIST—First of Providence, Livingston, needs a pianist for the worship services. Call Mark Moore, song leader, at 936-327-1529. TFN

PASTOR—Grace Temple, San Angelo is seeking a full-time senior pastor. He will also oversee associate pastors and child development center. Send resume to Pat Jackson 7809 CR 339, Christoval, Texas 76935, email pwjack@aol.com or call 325-651-7875. TFN

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

YOUTH—South Park, Fort Worth is seeking a director of youth ministry. For information about the position and to submit a resume visit fortworthbaptistchurch.org/YouthDirectorSearch/. TFN

PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

JOE WHITE is the new pastor of Little Mound, Big Sandy.

OBITUARY

LYNDA CLARE CRUMP

Funeral services for Lynda Clare Crump, 72, of Longview were Feb. 25, 2015 at Little Mound Baptist Church in Upshur County with Bro. Charles Johnson officiating. Mrs. Crump went to be with her Lord and Savior Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015 in Kilgore. Lynda married longtime BMA pastor Bro. Jim Crump Nov. 5, 1960. The family wishes to express thanks to the staff of the Willows Nursing Home in Kilgore as well as Heart to Heart Hospice for their great care and concern.



ANN BOZEMAN FULTON

Funeral services for Ann Bozeman Fulton, 73, of Simsboro, were Feb. 23, 2015 at Calvary Baptist Church in Mexia with her son, Bro. Jerry Fulton; Bro. Paul Gauntt and Bro. Gaylan Henry officiating. Ann went to be with her Lord Feb. 21, 2015. Memorials may be made to *Baptist Progress*, P.O. Box 2085, Waxahachie, Texas 75168 or Anthony Drive Baptist Church Improvement Fund, P.O. Box 9, Ennis, Texas 75120.



CHURCHES IN REVIEW

FEBRUARY 15, 2015

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Cedar Creek, Teague	15	19	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	482	592	1 By Profession, 2 By Letter
First, Palmer	28	75	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	26	42	
Harvest, Lufkin	15	20	
Jackson, Joaquin	65	115	
Little Flock, Lufkin	10	15	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	40	50	1 By Letter
Merriman Hills, Sherman	21	21	
New Harmony, Tyler	274	357	1 By Letter
New Hope, Mineola	51	107	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	50	55	
Pine Brook, Tyler	27	96	
Rosewood, Gilmer	139	223	2 By Baptism, 1 By Profession
Security Calvary, Cleveland	22	33	1 By Letter
Temple, Mexia	40	54	
Woodland, Splendora	45	60	

FEBRUARY 22, 2015

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	60	84	
Cedar Creek, Teague	16	48	
First, Omen	40	55	
First, Palmer	36	54	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	18	38	
Jackson, Joaquin	58	122	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	41	44	
New Harmony, Tyler	307	415	3 By Letter
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	40	50	
Pine Brook, Tyler	24	70	
Rosewood, Gilmer	104	198	1 By Baptism, 1 By Profession
Security Calvary, Cleveland	21	38	
Temple, Mexia	34	47	
Woodland, Splendora	45	90	2 By Statement

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

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Want to Make a Gift That Keeps Giving?

The BMA Foundation provides that opportunity. Your gift is never spent, it is invested and only the earnings are used to support any or all departments of the BMA of America as you specify. Your gift keeps giving until the Lord returns. You may make a cash contribution or contribute through your estate plan. Checks should be made payable to BMA Foundation and mailed to P.O. Box 1188, Conway, Arkansas 72033. For more information, call the BMA Foundation office at 501-329-6891.

Give Water, Give Life



By **DIANE SPRIGGS**
Baptist Trumpet Editor

When someone gives to Water for Christ, a ministry of the BMA of America, they are giving to help fund people and resources to drill, pipe and install fully functioning water wells, often in remote locations where water is far away and unclear at best. Providing the gift of clean water will transform the living conditions and health situations of an entire village.

The wells drilled by Water for Christ serve as epicenters where people gather, so they try to dig the wells near a Bible school or BMA church plant. That way, when people come for the physical water, they are also told about the Living Water, Jesus Christ.

A report on the last WFC trip to Ghana appeared in the Dec. 3 and Dec. 10 issues of the Baptist Trumpet. Those articles were written by Editor Diane Spriggs, who was part of the November 2014 team.

The next trip to Ghana will be March 13-27, led by WFC Director Tim Tyler, who is a member of Friendship Baptist Church at Greenbrier. With the help of Missionary Dale Broom and Ghanaian workers, he hopes to drill four new water wells this time. They will also check and maintain wells that were drilled by WFC during earlier trips.

Rodney Castleberry, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church at White Hall, will once again be part of the team. Although he also helps with the wells, his primary focus is evangelism. During the November trip, over 3,000 people heard the gospel and there were 841 professions of faith. Bro. Rodney visits the schools during the day and holds evangelistic campaigns each night.

Bro. Tyler is a Gideon and an integral part of each trip to Ghana is the distribution of Bibles, especially in the schools — elementary through high school.

Ben Temple, the third American on the trip, will be running media operations. “I am helping with the public relations aspect of WFC,” said Ben. “There is no better way to tell others about this ministry than to see for yourself what happens and how it happens. I also want to be an asset to the team in aiding and supporting all efforts — evangelism, media, travel plans, labor, cooking — while learning the culture of Ghana.”

The Biggest Need

A problem the team will face on next month’s trip is that it is the dry season in Ghana and water is scarce. The drilling rig they currently use operates primarily by using a large amount of water that is hauled in to help to excavate the ground and to help cull dirt, rock, mud, soil, cuttings and earth debris that must be removed from the drilling site. Many of the ponds and other water sources are almost dry now, and this could present a problem.

A heavy-duty air compressor (like the one shown at the top of this article) would make Water for Christ’s efforts much more efficient. The ministry is looking for a used compressor — high pressure, 250 lb. output with 700 cfm (cubic feet per minute) capability, in good condition. These compressors allow drilling to be achieved in locations where water is scarce and allow for drilling almost anywhere and at anytime. “Although a new one would be nice,” said Bro. Tyler, “a used is preferred because the drilling location is in Africa.”

The compressor will cost around \$20,000 used and is very expensive (estimate, \$15,000) to ship overseas.

If you’d like to help with this project, WFC is working with the BMA in Conway to get set up, hopefully by the time you read this, to be able to receive donations online. Water for Christ will also soon have a donation page setup on BMAmissions.org website, under the give tab or make a donation link. Donations can also be sent to Water For Christ, P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033.

For more information, visit the WBC Facebook page at www.facebook.com/waterforchrist, Instagram User ID [water4christ](https://www.instagram.com/water4christ) or their website at www.waterforchrist.com.



WATER FOR CHRIST

**Northside Baptist Church
Conroe, Texas**
Presents:
Senior Adult JOY Fest!
with
MARK LOWRY
and Stan Whitmire

Thursday, March 12, 2015
10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Tickets \$25.00

Special Guests:
Kingdom Dogs
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Call (936) 756-4630 to purchase tickets!



Auxiliaries

Get into the game of life

By SHARON COLE

GMA girls and counselors from all over the state will convene March 20-21, 2015 at Daniel Springs Encampment for the Texas GMA Houseparty. Last minute plans are being made as you read to make this year's Houseparty the best ever. The promoters and officers desire everyone's prayers as they prepare the schedule, program and decorate the tabernacle to make this event one that will stay in the girls' memory for a long time.

Auxiliaries continued on p. 10



Alaina Verhelle - Miss GMA - Cherokee District - Cornerstone Baptist, Jacksonville



Alexis Stanford - Jr. Miss GMA - Cherokee District - Cornerstone Baptist, Jacksonville



Rebekah Holmes - Miss GMA - Van Zandt District - Tundra Baptist, Canton



Jenna Schmidt - Jr. Miss GMA - Ellis Hill District - First Baptist, Palmer



Kaitlynn Crudginton - Jr. Miss GMA - Van Zandt District - Oak Grove Baptist, Canton

Philippine missionaries on furlough



Doug and Diane Lee have been serving as BMA missionaries in the Philippines for three years. They are seeking churches interested in partnering and working with them in the Philippines. For the month of April, we are taking appointments. They are excited to share their unique music ministry with your church or association meeting. Contact them at 601-427-0128 or doug@musicervicesinc.com.

Seminary Dinner, Kellar Award honoree named

Everyone is cordially invited to the annual BMA Seminary Friends Dinner at 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 21, 2015. Held in conjunction with the BMA of America Annual Meeting, the 2015 dinner will be in the Oklahoma-Illinois rooms at the University Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Missouri. The cost of the dinner will be \$25 per person. Each attendee will receive a special gift specifically designed for this occasion.

The 2015 Kellar Award will be presented to Bro. Jeff Swart. Swart is the twelfth Kellar Award recipient. This award, named in honor of the late Dr. Gerald Kellar, the founding president of BMA Seminary, recognizes a seminary alumnus for outstanding contributions in ministry typifying the legacy of Dr. Kellar.

Swart, a native of Girard, Kansas, is the son of the late William L. and Evelyn Gaston Swart. He is married to Debbie Boore Swart, a native of Radley, Kansas. They have three children: Josh, Andy and wife, Carman; and Rachel and husband, Jonathan. They have four grandchildren: Laine, Ellie, Copeland, and Eisley. Brother Swart and his wife live in Galena, KS, where he has been Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church since 2009.

He has earned a B.A. in Sociology and Political Science from Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas; an M.A. in Professional Counseling from Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia, and an M.R.E. from Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas.

Swart has been in full-time Christian ministry for 40 years and has served as a North American church planter in Nevada, Missouri; dean of students at Jacksonville College; assistant to the director of foreign missions for the BMA of America; an English speaker for Lifeword Media Ministries; a church growth consultant for DiscipleGuide; and he has pastored churches in Kansas, Missouri, Texas and Arkansas. He has also served as an adjunct instructor at various Bible colleges, institutes and seminaries and has spoken in 35 countries around the world.

The 2015 Kellar Award honoree is the author of *The Church Planting Model*, which is being used around the world to teach lay people how to plant New Testament churches.

Swart currently serves as moderator of the BMA of Kansas and Western Missouri, as chairman of the BMAA Missions advisory committee, and the second vice president of the BMA of America.

To make reservations for the Seminary Dinner, contact Carol Shine at 800-259-5673 or president@bmat.edu.



▲ Jeff Swart



Church Health

Four ingredients of outwardly focused leaders

By **LARRY BARKER**

Recently, I was asked to meet with the staffs of three larger churches. They all had the same passion: “We want to do a better job of reaching our communities for Christ!” That is music to my ears! The leadership of all three churches was trying to break the “missional code” of their community and discern which door God wanted them to walk through so they could more effectively reach people far from God. They had a good grasp of what they did well, but they also desperately wanted to improve in penetrating the lostness of their city!

There are three things about this that thrill me:

- The passion and heart they have to share Christ. They want to make a difference.
- Their willingness to examine their effectiveness and change. They desired input and were not afraid of being evaluated.
- They all voiced a discontent with the status quo. They refused to just go through the motions of doing church and had a burden to be the church. They were trying to discern how they could better mobilize their membership to live on mission throughout the week. These leaders were greatly burdened for their church to be the church Jesus intended them to be.

There are three elements involved in healthy churches:

- Is the church Biblical? Is the Bible seen and preached as the authoritative Word of God? All three of these churches have an extremely high view of the Scriptures and I have not worked with a church that does not. No heresy was found.
- Is the church relational? All three voiced how well the membership got along, and visitors commented on how friendly they were. Just a side note: People are not looking for a friendly church as much as they are looking for friends!
- Is the church missional? This area is the greatest challenge to most churches. It is easy to become comfortable and satisfied because the Word is being preached and everyone is enjoying being together. The problem is, if we are not careful, we become inwardly focused. In U-Turn Church, Kevin Harney puts it this way, “The gravitational force of the church naturally pulls us inward, toward each other. If we are going to move outward toward those who are lost, it will take more energy Four Ingredients of Outwardly Focused Leaders than most of us dream!” What effort will be put into reaching the lost, the last and the least with the gospel of Jesus Christ?



I noticed several ingredients necessary for a church to be led toward being outwardly focused:

- The leaders must be outwardly focused. Don’t expect those who follow you to catch what you are teaching unless they see you demonstrating it in your life. The speed of the leaders will determine the speed of the team. You must have a story to tell of how you are sharing His story with others. When asked, are you able to share who you are actively praying for, building a relationship with and striving to bring to Christ? Do others see your passion to share Christ daily as God gives you the opportunity?
- The church regularly celebrates stories of transformation. Unfortunately, many churches are not very good at celebrating the right things. We become what we celebrate, and if we celebrate the wrong things our culture will be inwardly focused. Think about ways you can creatively celebrate life transformation and those who are committed to making a difference. Consider interviewing them during a service, showing a video of their outreach ministry and others ways you can celebrate those who are living a missional lifestyle.
- The church celebrates those who are being the church during the week, not just doing church on Sunday. This doesn’t mean we don’t celebrate those serving the Lord in the ministries on the campus of the ministry, but that we also make an intentional effort to celebrate

those living as missionaries in their zip code. It is not an either/or but a both/and commitment to celebrating both. Make sure you regularly recognize those who are volunteering in local ministries, schools, hospitals, civic groups, etc. They are penetrating the darkness in your community with the truth.

- The church isn’t afraid to find out what other churches are doing and learn from them. These leaders are always actively looking for ways to better connect with their city and their neighborhoods. They refuse to sit idly by, waiting for the lost to enter their buildings, attend their services or sign up for a Bible study. They are pursuing them by loving them and displaying the love of Christ to them in practical ways. They are more concerned about serving their city than they are about building their church.

Healthy churches have leaders who are always working hard at remaining outwardly focused!

Larry Barker is the operations director for North American Missions. For more information or to contact him, visit www.bmamissions.org.





Mission Life

Get done what matters

By JERRY BURNAMAN

Procrastination is a real problem for many, and sometimes all of us succumb to the malady. Did you see the notice on Facebook? “The Overcoming Procrastination Workshop has been postponed.” The organizers missed the irony!

Oscar Wilde wrote, “I never put off till tomorrow what I can possibly do—the day after.” We laugh about procrastination, but it keeps us from achieving our goals and diminishes our productivity.

Why Do We Procrastinate?

Here are a few thoughts. See if you can relate to any of them.

1. I’ll have time later. This reason often plagues me, and I’m sure I’m not alone. Psychologists have identified our tendency to believe we will have more time later (we won’t) and underestimate (by 50 percent) how long it will take to accomplish certain tasks.

2. I don’t want to do it. We’re not interested or motivated to do some things. For some of us it’s bookkeeping, filing, answering emails, writing a report or getting out a newsletter.

3. I don’t know how to do it. If we’re not clear about how to do something, it’s easy to be hesitant about beginning. After all, we don’t want to start and then get stuck midway through the task.

4. If I can’t do it right, I don’t do it at all. This could be perfectionism or self-protection against disappointment if the finished task doesn’t meet our standards.

5. Other things keep crowding in. Life is busy with many demands. Some things can’t wait and push to the

front of the line. Other important but not urgent things get relegated to “when I have time,” which we rarely do.

6. I’m worried I’ll fail...or succeed. If we do a challenging task, we risk failure. Sometimes we worry about success. What if this thing takes off and makes me busier than I am already?

How to Get Things Done

This is the end of February and it’s necessary to get busy accomplishing our goals for the year. A simple survey probably reveals we’re already behind on certain projects; therefore, it’s time to regroup and beat that besetting procrastination.

“What is the one activity that you **know** if you did superbly well and consistently would have significant positive results in your professional or work life. If you **know** these things would make such a significant difference, why are you not doing them now?”

—Stephen R. Covey

Here are some ideas about how to stop procrastinating and get things done. Perhaps they will be help to you.

1. Clarify the goal. You have already written down some goals that you would like to achieve for 2015. Look at the priority list and select the number one, then write out a specific plan to accomplishing it.

2. Know why the goal is important to you, or your ministry. What will achieving this goal do for you or your church? Sometimes the answer may be to keep people happy.

But, if possible, link the goal to your values and vision

3. Decide you will do it. Make a commitment to complete the goal by a certain time. Commit in your heart, not just your mind. And commit to someone else, your staff or your team. I can already feel greater determination after writing my goal for others to see. Oh, and I want to have it done by May 1, 2015.

4. Break the goal into tasks. What are the necessary tasks to accomplish your goal? This is more than just planning, it’s also motivational. By completing each task you experience a small victory—celebrate the win!

5. Schedule the tasks. Here’s where we get real. It’s essential to move the tasks off your to-do list and schedule them into your calendar. Find blocks of time and protect them.

6. Do it. For each block of time, and each task, think through points 1-4 above. Then do the work. Push to accomplish something tangible during each block of time you’re working.

7. Ask for help when you need it. I’ve been coached to help achieve tasks and ministries. I’ve also coached people to achieve goals they haven’t been able to do on their own. At times we all need to draw on the expertise of others.

Now it’s your turn. What goal came to your mind as you read this article? Follow the steps above to go after it and get it done. Then celebrate the wins with your family, your church leaders, and your church.

Adapted from Keith Webb
Certified Life Coach



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Auxiliaries

Get into the game of life cont.

By SHARON COLE

Churches and girls are encouraged to decorate a theme-related game board approximately 11x17 inches in size. Guest speakers will be Stacie Gail Martin Bostic and Diana Morris. For more information contact Texas GMA Promoter, Kristi Key, 17304 CR 2854, Eustace, Texas 75124, 903-451-1929 and outnumberdad@aol.com.

If your church does not have an organized GMA group and have girls between grades 4 and 12, consider attending and bring your girls to see what the GMA program is all about. Let them experience the fellowship with other girls from all over the state and learn how they can have fun while they serve the Lord. The GMA program will prepare your girls beginning with salvation, learning scripture, about the church, missionaries and how they can be a missionary right where they live.

They are given opportunities to learn church business through being officers and practicing parliamentary procedure. They learn the importance of depending on God to lead them and even are able to teach the younger girls as they grow older. They put into practice the Watchword, "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ..." 2 Corinthians 5:20.

Remember, even if you are not involved in GMA, you can be a blessing to them and others by supporting their project: 90 percent to Matthew and Amy Prather and The Bridge, the church planting mission in Celina), 10 percent Texas GMA General Fund. Their goal is \$3,000. Please send your offerings to Jeanie Walker, 13 Timber Creek Dr. Conroe, Texas 77301, leonawalker@consolidated.net, 936-537-3794.

Profiles of Virtue

"Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies." The most important thing we can do as Christians is study God's Word. Are you looking for a study book that is different, unique and full of the core values that a Christian needs to be all that you need to be? *Profiles of Virtue* is the book for you.

Written by Mrs. Jackie Blackerby Ricks, the book is based on the study of Proverbs 31:10-31. Several Bible women are highlighted throughout the book with parts of their life compared to the virtuous woman's characteristics. Prayerfully consider studying this book individually or as a group. To order this book, contact Jackie at jdbricks@att.net or check out her web page at amazon.com/author/jackiericks or her Facebook page under Jackie Ricks.

Texas WMA Project

Ashraf and Jenny Sara ministry in the Dallas area is the 2014-2015 Texas WMA Project. They have been working with the Arabic speaking people and have begun the first BMA Arabic church in Dallas, Living Word Arabic Church. They desire your prayers as they minister to people and ask that churches begin to partner with them by providing places for Arabic-speaking groups to meet.

They also have many physical needs in their ministry. There are many creative and fun ways to raise funds. 1. Have a Karaoke Night: Pay a certain amount to sing, read a poem, perform with an instrument, or do a skit. Some may want to pay not to take part! 2. Homemade Ice Cream Supper: Several people with ice cream makers make the ice

cream, charge a certain amount or accept donations, also sell bags of cookies to go with the ice cream. The fellowship is always wonderful. 3. Plan a Dine In or Carry Out Lunch after Sunday Services. Plan a menu, put the food in carry out boxes and sell them for a certain amount or accept donations. Suggestions for food are ham, baked beans, salad, roll and dessert; barbeque beef on bun, potato salad and dessert or spaghetti, green beans, roll and salad. 4. Rummage sales are a lot of work but well worth it.

You can combine it with a bake sale with fresh food to go such as hotdogs, nachos or chili. Ideas are endless but the important thing is to have fun with it, and know that the proceeds are going to support the Lord's work. Send offerings and donations to the Texas WMA Project to Jo Strong, 149 NW Suzanne Terrace, Burleson, Texas 76028, 817-480-0888, jokenstrong@juno.com.

Service is our middle name

"...the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28

To be a servant and meet the needs of others, you must first know the Lord and have daily fellowship with Him. Motive is most important. There is a wide spectrum of being a servant; anywhere from being a pastor, Sunday school teacher, pianist, greeter at the door, to going out into the community and sharing God's Word with those who are in spiritual need.

Make an extra effort to show love and understanding to those around you who may be hurting or in need in some way. Also remember that smiling is one way to encourage others and encouragement is a form of service. Your motivation for service should always be to help others in order to glorify God. You should never serve or do anything to receive any recognition for yourself.

Offer to take a disabled person to the doctor or shopping. Be a prayer partner with a person who is house-bound or in the nursing home. Call those who are sick and unable to attend worship services. Take them a bulletin or a recording of the service. Clean your church if you don't have a paid custodian. Offer to keep a small child so the mother can do some shopping or just get some rest. Make welcome baskets for new members of the church or people who have moved into the community.

Always include a gospel tract and bulletin from your church. Remember, service is an outward expression of what is inside. When our relationship with God is where it ought to be, it is a joy to serve Him.

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Sharon Cole is the editor for the Texas WMA. Contact her at S9Co@aol.com. For more information on the Texas WMA, visit www.texaswma.com.



Sunday School Lessons

Jesus in Genesis

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: March 1, 2015

TEXT: Genesis 3:15

We read in Genesis, and throughout the Old Testament, that Christ was there represented by types and pictures. But Christ did not have His beginning at creation. God said in Genesis 1:26 "Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. . ."

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit were present when the Creator spoke everything into existence and breathed His life into a lump of clay, making it into a living soul.

As only a holy, sovereign God could do, His plan for the ages was already in tact when Adam and Eve sinned against God in the garden.

Satan deceives man to sin: He sold Eve the bill of goods that she and her husband would be like God if they

partook of the forbidden fruit. They succumbed to his trickery and suddenly, they fell from a state of perfection and pure fellowship with their Holy God into a state of condemnation.

God places a curse on the earth: Everything we experience today in the way of pain and suffering is a direct result of the curse brought about by Adam's and Eve's rebellion in the garden. Thorns, thistles, women's pain in childbirth, and man's toiling "in the sweat of your face" to scratch a living from a cursed ground were some of the results. For the first time, Adam and Eve knew the torment of guilt and shame, seeing themselves as naked.

God provides a way of redemption: Satan was informed of God that one day Eve's Seed would bruise the head of Satan and Satan would bruise His heel. The

bruising of Jesus' heel reached it's apex at Calvary. Jesus was despised and rejected by his countrymen; He experienced excruciating beatings, humiliation, and the most painful execution known to man — crucifixion. ; He suffered agony in Gethsemane while praying to His Father; He suffered the agony the next day, which came as a result of bearing the load of all the sin man had ever, or would ever commit. But the worst bruising of all was those moments on the cross when His fellowship between He and His Father was broken as the Father turned and looked away as He was bearing those sins.

But Romans 16:20 declares, "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. . ." Paul reassures the Thessalonians of this truth in 2 Thessalonians 2:8. "And then shall that

wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming." That is at the conclusion of the tribulation just before Satan is bound and Jesus sets up His Kingdom in a sinless Earth.

One of the great paradoxes and ironies of scripture is how God the Father would one day crush the head of the serpent with the Seed of the woman who yielded to his temptation. What a God we serve!

God's Old Testament picture of redemption: Genesis 3:21 "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them." God covered the shame of their nakedness through the sacrifice of the life of animals, which is the picture of the Messiah who would give His life one day as a ransom for sin.

The divine requirement

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: March 8, 2015

TEXT: Leviticus 16:1-10, 17:11

The Divine Requirement we study this week is the doctrine which is central to the Christian faith -- Atonement. To atone means to be reconciled, to make amends, to make right a relationship which has been broken. The word "atone" (at-one) describes the subject clearly -- to be "at one" with God the Father through Jesus Christ.

The necessity for atonement: Man, through the rebellion in the Garden of Eden, became separated from fellowship with God. Adam and Eve were no longer eligible to walk with God as they had done before. Scripture tells us that since that time, all mankind was born into this sinful state (Romans 3:23) thus bringing the wrath of God upon all; "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience." Eph. 5:6

Note, Paul did not refer to them as disobedient children, but children of disobedience. A disobedient child can be

a child of God through a relationship with the Son, yet occasionally lapsing into sin; (Romans 7) but a child of disobedience is totally permeated with corruption, They are "past feeling" (and) "have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness." Ephesians 4:19. Not only does a child of disobedience revel in his or her lifestyle, they would love to make it their livelihood.

Adrain Rogers once said, "A sinner leaps into sin and loves it; but a saint lapses into sin and loathes it." That's the difference between one who is "at one" with God and a "child of disobedience."

The folly of seeking atonement man's way: In Leviticus 10 we find that Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, had substituted a different incense from what God had commanded. Apparently they chose not to use the "sweet incense" mentioned in Leviticus 16:12. The result: Aaron's sons were consumed in the backdraft of the fire. God the Father had a certain, specified way for bringing the offering to the altar of sacrifice. There is no other way, or to put it

into New Testament terms, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12

The way to atonement: Our main text today, Leviticus 16:1-10 specifies God's plan for atonement between fallen man and a Holy God. It includes "a young bullock for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering." God was very intricate in His requirement for the clothing of the High Priest, and he must offer his own bullock as a sin offering for himself and his family. He sprinkles blood of the bullock upon the mercy seat which is located in the Holy of Holies. "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission." Hebrews 9:22.

But God Himself, through the Person of Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, and Who was God incarnate, permitted His own blood to be shed on the cross, once and for all, providing

redemption. "For the life is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement." Leviticus 17:11. Those Old Testament animal sacrifices were foreshadowings of the blood Jesus would shed, giving eternal life to all who would believe. Life is in the blood -- and ETERNAL LIFE is in the perfect, sinless, shed blood of Jesus Christ. It is through that blood that we may become "at one" with a Holy God.

"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness,

I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus Name.

On Christ the Solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand."

Paul Gauntt is the former 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 paul.gauntt@att.net.





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Registrar

By **DR. MIKE SMITH**

Jodye Lynne Herring, registrar at Jacksonville College, has a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Texas at Tyler and a Masters of Education degree in Educational Administration from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas.

Jodye and her husband, Jonathan Herring, were married 20 years until his death in 2013. Jodye is the mother of two children, a source of great joy in her life. Active in her local church, she has taught Vacation Bible School and presently works with other women who have lost their loved ones. Jodye is very creative and loves decorating as well as baking.

Jodye relates, "I serve at Jacksonville College because it is where God placed me. After my husband's death, I learned to rely solely on God and His unfailing love, comfort, and strength. I hope to be able to share God's love and care for us as I work to fulfill the mission of the College."

Jodye also serves as chair of the Math Department during her transition to the Registrar position. She enjoys teaching math because, she says, "By revealing God in mathematics, students can understand that learning to 'do' math correlates to serving God. It also develops an understanding of how He works in our lives."

Jacksonville College is a mission field and strives to challenge minds and transform lives so that students are equipped for servant leadership and lifelong learning.



▲ Jodye Lynne Herring

Dr. Mike Smith is the president of Jacksonville College. Contact him at msmith@jacksonville-college.edu or 903-589-7106. You may also visit the Jacksonville College website, www.jacksonville-college.edu



Jag Club Chili Luncheon

The Jacksonville College Jag Club is hosting a chili luncheon from 12-1:30 p.m. Saturday Feb. 28 in the college cafeteria. The event is open to the public, and the cost is \$5 dollars. The meal will include chili, corn bread, crackers, drinks and cookies. Proceeds will go to the athletic program to help with travel for spring playoffs.

The purpose of the Jag Club is to promote the Jacksonville College Athletic Department. Members devote their time and financial assistance to support Jacksonville College student athletes. The Jag Club is also the fundraising arm of the sports program, and the chili luncheon will give members the opportunity to interact with the local community to promote interest in the athletic program, while raising funds to support the athletes.

Following the chili luncheon, guests can also show their support for the JC athletes by attending the double header basketball games in the Curtis Carroll Field House/Gymnasium. The Lady Jaguars will play at 2 p.m., and the Jaguars will play at 4 p.m.



Will Cumbee, president of the Jacksonville College Jag Club, plans the chili luncheon with Debra Grubbs, director of food services for the College.

NOTICE:

March 9-13 Jacksonville College offices will be closed for Spring Break.