

# Baptist Progress

Baptist Progress, P.O. Box 2055, Waxahachie, Texas 75168  
500125  
Postmaster: send change of address to:

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS | MAY 2017 | VOL. 104 | NO. 05

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## BRICK by BRICK, HIGHLIGHTS from the 2017 BMA of America MEETING

By **JERRY FULTON**  
*Baptist Progress Editor*

### JACK GRAHAM

The 2017 BMA of America Meeting began with congregational worship and a worshipful performance by Jacksonville College Choir May 1. Following the choir, Dr. Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood, Plano, preached using the theme of the meeting, Brick by Brick.

Graham preached that the church prevails against the gates of hell because our focus is upon the Lord, our fellowship is in the Lord and our future is with Him.



▲ Dr. Jack Graham

### PETITIONING CHURCHES

Petitioning churches including Grace Hills, Bentonville, Arkansas; Olde Tyme, Gilmer; The Bridge, Mountain Home, Arkansas; and The Refuge, Terrell were accepted into the BMA of America.

### DISCIPLEGUIDE CHURCH RESOURCES

Dr. Scott Attebery, executive director of DiscipleGuide spoke of the updated format for Compass curriculum that debuted in the winter of 2016. He said, "After two years of development, the launch was successful and has received positive reviews from our churches." He noted that the new Compass Commentary edition was created for classes who enjoy a more traditional format. Now churches can choose between fill-in-the-blanks and discussion questions, and a traditional lecture format with printed Scripture and extended lesson texts. Because of the positive reception, DiscipleGuide is considering future additions to their curriculum line.

Speaking about conferences offered by DiscipleGuide, Attebery shared that the SOAR student conference will take place at the Gaylord Texan in Grapevine July 5-7, 2017. He also introduced plans for a Church Leaders Cruise that will be January 13-18. The cruise will be for pastors, student ministers, children's ministers and other church staff and will take the place of Pastors Oasis.

The annual Senior Adult Conference will be Nov. 13-15 at the Hilton Convention Center Hotel in Branson, Missouri, and will feature Don Chandler, pastor of Central, Conway; vocalist, Steve Green; and a



▲ Dr. Scott Attebery

special Christmas show at the Sight and Sound Theater.

Attebery promoted Activate, a consulting ministry led by Todd West that provides coaching to church leaders.

Speaking about Daniel Springs Camp, Attebery noted it is currently experiencing financial difficulties, and he called on churches to support the ministry. A special study will be conducted over the next year by the Coordinating Council on how best to manage the camp and hopefully improve its financial condition. Attebery gave high praise to Camp Director Jason Prewitt saying that he has worked diligently to create a camp that our churches can be proud of.

### BMA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

In his report for the BMA Theological Seminary, President Charley Holmes, spoke of how the seminary has grown from an enrollment of just under 70 in 1997 to 170 today. The seminary's budget has also increased from that time from \$500,000 to \$1,500,000 today. Goals for the future include 60 new students in the coming year, \$60,000 to refurbish the Dorman Memorial Chapel and the Gregson Center, and \$60,000 to be added to the building fund for needed repairs. The BMA Seminary Dinner this year did not include a Kellar Award recipient, but emphasis was placed on the seminary's 60 years of ministry. Former Kellar Award recipients, Grady Higgs and Buddy Johnson, shared testimonies of their time at the school.



▲ Dr. Charley Holmes

### LIFEWORD

Outgoing Lifeword Media Ministries Executive Director Steve Crawley shared how over 50 new community radio stations have been started in the past year by Lifeword. Now, 2 billion people worldwide can hear Lifeword broadcasts. One-fourth of the world is now reached by Lifeword Media Ministries. In the past year, four new languages have been added to their broadcast lineup.

Following the report by Crawley, Donny Parrish, who was elected as the new executive



▲ Donny Parrish

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued on p. 7



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*Baptist Progress*

USPS: 043120 • ISSN: 005-5751

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

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972-923-0756 (office) • 972-923-3534 (fax)

[www.baptistprogress.org](http://www.baptistprogress.org)

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

**SUBSCRIPTION RATE:**

**Mail Church Plan:** \$1.75 per month  
**E-Mail Church Plan:** \$1.25 per month  
**Mail Subscription:** \$24.00 per year  
**E-mail Subscription:** \$18.00 per year  
(Advertising Rates Available on Request)

Postmaster: Send address changes to  
Baptist Progress, P.O. Box 2085,  
Waxahachie, Texas 75168

# CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES 2017

**ANTHONY DRIVE, ENNIS**

Maci Adair  
Colton Flynt

**CALVARY, FAIRFIELD**

Chance Bancroft  
Felicia Ivy

**CALVARY FIRST, MESQUITE**

Callie Clifton  
Kaleb Johnson

**CAMILLE ACRES, LONGVIEW**

Rebekah Ayres  
Kiara Gomez

**CORINTH, GRAND SALINE**

Stephen James LaPrade

**CORNERSTONE, JACKSONVILLE**

Eva Hammock  
Henry Hernandez  
Trevor Nolly  
Abigail Verhelle  
Adam Verhelle  
Evan Yount

**DAVIS STREET, SULPHUR SPRINGS**

Jaspin Johnson  
Dylan Joiner  
Sloan McGahee  
AnnMarie Winburn  
Kimberly Weems  
Malarie White

**EIGHTH AVENUE, TEAGUE**

Dylan Angel  
Colton Gore  
Laney McAdams  
Cooper Richey  
Madeline Wright

**FIRST OF PROVIDENCE, LIVINGSTON**

Bradly Diffie  
Zachary Randall  
Cody Smith

**FARLEY STREET, WAXAHACHIE**

Makayla Burton  
Zachary Fitch  
Clara Holiman

Isaac Oebel  
Ian Porter  
Melissa Rodriguez  
Jackie Teel  
Rachel Ussery  
Gisel Vazquez  
Kaleb Wilson

**FIRST, BLOOMING GROVE**

Jourdan Anderson  
Peyton Buckhannan  
Nathan Green  
Kaitlyn Lewis  
Cheyenne Webb  
Patrick Yates

**FIRST, NEW SUMMERFIELD**

Leah Carnes  
Brayden Davis

**FIRST MISSIONARY, TERRELL**

Mark Ballew  
Jada Mitchelltree

**HERITAGE, WAXAHACHIE**

Tyler Cobb  
Tom Dodgen  
Lucy Griffiths  
Kenzie Yarbrough

**FRIENDSHIP, MESQUITE**

Issac Castillo  
Travis Spivey  
Mark Wilson, Jr.

**KELTYS FIRST, LUFKIN**

Morgan Currie  
Matthew Landrum  
Camryn Shaver  
Katie Vandergriff  
Christina Wallace

**LAKERIDGE, LUBBOCK**

Levi Cantrell  
Mallori Cantrell  
Stetson Cantrell  
Emily Evans-Hancock

**LATCH, GILMER**

Molly Chamberlain  
Destany Fawcett

**MYRTLE SPRINGS, QUITMAN**

Sarah Cook

**NEW HARMONY, TYLER**

Sarah Crosby  
Skylore Evans  
Tylar Flanakin  
John Mooney  
Nick Navarro  
Topanga Oliver  
Brandon Price  
Kale Ridge  
Brady Weaver

**OAK HILL, GILMER**

Adam Kuza

**PILGRIM REST #2, GOLDEN**

Charlie Ruelas Anderson  
Kale Holland  
Daisy Kearby  
Colt Vaughn

**ROCKHOUSE, KELLER**

Dei-Ana McCullough  
Seth Montandon

**ROSE HILL, MINEOLA**

Brett Fowler  
Carty Heim  
Cody Ross  
Jordan Ross  
Briana Weissert

**ROSEWOOD, GILMER**

Alisha Allen  
Jed Elwell  
Paige Howard  
Cammy Johnson  
Lexie Miller  
Riley Pate  
Emily Roots  
Dawson Simms  
Coye Taff  
Emma Whiteside  
Justin Wingfield

**SOUTH PARK, FORT WORTH**

Rachael Mahan  
David Peters

# President's Message

## Brick by Brick: Working Together

By PAUL WHITE

President, BMA of America

**C**an we make a difference? There are thousands all around the world who would answer this question with a resounding “yes.” In fact, I am living proof that the BMAA does make a difference. How about you?

Helen Keller said, “Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much.” Brick by Brick—Working Together is the theme for this year’s meeting, and our text is Neh. 3:1-32.

Nehemiah 3 is one of those chapters that consists largely of unpronounceable names and long forgotten people! It can be discouraging to come to a chapter like this, and sometimes we are tempted to skip over them and move on to the next one. After all, there couldn’t be much to be gained from a chapter like that, right? Wrong! If we did that with Nehemiah 3, we would miss some powerful and valuable lessons on building for God!

We have tried to give each person present a piece of a puzzle. My son, Chad, used this illustration in one of his sermons, and I have borrowed it for today. You see, fitting into the big picture is somewhat like an individual piece of a puzzle.

Have you ever tried to put together a jigsaw puzzle? Some of them, like the 1,000 piece ones, can be challenging. What makes them so difficult is that the tiny pieces don’t look like much of anything by themselves. They are small, oddly colored and oddly shaped. When you pick up a piece of the puzzle, then look at the box and look back at the tiny piece in your hand, you think “There is no way this is a part of that.”

However, as you put each piece in its place, before long, a picture begins to emerge. Soon you realize that your tiny, misshaped piece was a vital part of a grand design.

I want to back up for a moment to Neh. 2:18 where we find nine powerful words: “...so they strengthened their hands for this good work.” The key to their success in rebuilding the wall was based on the pronoun “they.”

While it has been said that great works for God depend upon great leadership, but in Nehemiah, we can clearly see that great works for God also depend upon great follow-ship because, without follow-ship, leadership does not exist. That is where each of us comes in.

This association is not an organization of superstars and mega churches. It is a team that depends on the willingness of all its members to see the good things our leaders set before us, then work to accomplish them. God has blessed us with Godly leaders that we, as an association of churches, have placed in key positions to bring structure and organization to our combined efforts.

Throughout His Word, God has blessed those who work together in unity. A definition of unity is this: “followers, working side-by-side with other followers.”

While building Liberty Memorial Baptist Church in Memphis, two hired hands got upset with one another over something that wouldn’t amount to a hill of beans. I came into the building and saw each of them trying to do a two-man job alone. Their indifference resulted in wasted time and productivity. They had temporarily forgotten our purpose — to build a building. Needless to say, after we had a short “go to Jesus meeting,” unity was restored at the building site.

Whether we agree on everything is not important as

long as we agree on our purpose. Coach Paul “Bear” Bryant said, “In order to have a winner, the team must have a feeling of unity. Every player must put the team first—ahead of personal glory.”

That is why the success of our association, or any association today, depends upon a “side-by-side” mentality. It is coming together in purpose that turns our weak birdshot into powerful buckshot! Great teamwork makes things happen more than anything else in an organization—more than skill, qualifications or money.

I used to hate working all day, then rushing to the ballpark—only to find that we had to forfeit because of a lack of team members. Uncaring people on a team remind me of two guys in a sinking boat, sitting together at one end doing nothing while the people at the other end are bailing furiously. One said, “Thank God that hole isn’t in our end of the boat.” I wish we would keep in mind that our lack of involvement leaves others vulnerable.

Sometimes we, as team members, are called on to sacrifice our time, effort, comfort and even our own desires for the sake of the team. The team’s success must always be of greater value than our individual interests. When everyone adds their piece of the wall, (their piece of the puzzle) then, and only then, can the work be completed.

Just imagine, dare to envision, what our association would look like if all of us simply built our portion of the wall and did what we could to help the team! But being followers sometimes goes against our nature. That is why great followers sometimes find themselves doing what they are not used to doing, for the good of the body.

Our text tells us that when someone finished their portion of the wall, they immediately moved over to help those next to them. Even in the presence of opposition and negativity, they remained faithful to the team and the team’s cause.

I have always loved Nehemiah’s answer to those who were against him and the good work that was being done: “...I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?” (Neh. 6:3).

A few years back in one of our Coordinating Council meetings, Dr. Steve Crawley used a term I thought for sure he must have made up—synergy. Then I discovered that synergy occurs when combining forces produces better results than individual effort. When each of us does our part, amazing things begin to happen. That is what we saw taking place in the rebuilding of the wall. Teamwork produced a greater outcome than going solo. In other words, 1 + 1 = 3! Here’s a simple illustration of what I mean:

Person A is too short to reach an apple on a tree, and so is Person B. But when Person B sits on the shoulders of Person A, they are more than tall enough to reach the apples and both of



▲ Paul White



I couldn’t believe my eyes! There it was in bold print on my birth certificate: “stillborn!” What? I had been told my birth was difficult and that I weighed only 4 and one-half pounds, but stillborn? I don’t think so!

When this shocking news surfaced, Mama was already in heaven so I asked Daddy to share the details and this was his story. “The doctor couldn’t get you to breathe, so he pronounced you dead and apologized as he left the room.” Daddy went on to say, “your mama would have none of it and said ‘Johnnie, bring that baby to me. I’ve already lost two and I’m not losing this one!’” And she didn’t! Laying me face down on her chest, she pressed and rubbed my tiny body, begging God to give life. And He did! **She was there when I was born.**

Eleven years later, **she was there when I was ‘born again’ into the family of God.** It happened in a revival meeting in the Prairie Valley Baptist Church near Snyder, Okla. When the invitation began, I started down the aisle and Mama met me in the altar. With her by my side, we knelt and prayed as I asked Jesus to be my Savior.

**For 18 years she was there for me... sharing truth and teaching life lessons.** Sometimes she spoke words; more often she lived out her convictions in front of me. Mama wanted to help everyone so we took food, gave hugs and prayed. At that young age, I hated being with sad people so I suggested we let them grieve alone and pray at home. She never responded harshly to my childish theories. But we kept going, and I kept marching right up to the front door with a covered dish in my hands. She believed the Bible and was determined I should follow it. Here’s a sample of truth she wanted me to know and learn to live by:

- Put God first and everything else will work out.
- God’s Word is true and tells us how to live.
- Find ways to help someone else and you will be happy.
- Who you are on the inside is more important than how you look on the outside.
- Jesus is coming soon. Be ready!

When I was in college about to celebrate my 18th birthday, Mama sent money for a new Bible, telling me to “buy it through our book store because a portion of that sale goes to mission work.” **She was there when I learned to love missionaries**—a love which remains today.

I’m grateful my mama, Serrintha West Kenmore, was there when I was born and didn’t give up when I couldn’t breathe. I am blessed she spent the rest of her life pouring love and truth into my heart and mind. Now it’s my turn! Yours too! No matter the age—no matter the season—someone we know needs a hug, a listening ear and God’s Word. This month The Heart Connection salutes all moms because you truly are “far more precious than jewels.”

(see Proverbs 31.)

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



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# BMA of america



## Joe and Mira Costa, an incredible inspiration

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

*BMA of America Missions*

“Joe and Mira Costa are an incredible inspiration. They both have fathers who have spent their lives in ministry in the Middle East, and now Joe and Mira will continue that faithful service to the Lord as part of the BMA Missions team in that part of the world. We are excited to partner with this dedicated couple and journey with them in their ministry to reach the youth of the Middle East and to strengthen churches in that region.” This is how Dr. John David Smith, executive director of BMA Missions, describes Joe and Mira, who will become missionaries to Lebanon in the near future.

Joe Costa is the son of BMA Missionary Charlie Costa, who was commissioned in 1993 when Joe was only five years old. Joe says that living most of his life in the Middle East and being a part of that Arab culture has become an integral part of his life.

“As a family, we grew up with Arab traditions, doing everything like the local Lebanese people, so as a mission kid I felt like more of a local than anything else,” Joe said.

One element that did differ in the Costa family was that they were heavily focused on serving people inside and outside of the church. He described living a life like many other pastors’ children in that his routine was going to church, doing Bible studies, and going to youth group. At the age of sixteen, though, God began to call upon him to adopt a deeper, more real faith.

“I was talking to a friend, and he told me that I need to be friends with Jesus. Real friends. Not acquaintances,” Joe recalled. “My attitude towards faith [now] is not because I am a missionary kid; that does not make me a real follower. My attitude towards faith has changed.”

Several years later at the age of 21, God called Joe Costa into a life of full-time ministry, and then at the age of 28, he knew God was calling him to become a missionary to the youth of the Arab world.

Joe and Mira met at a youth ministry training conference in Lebanon. Both their fathers were pastors, and that helped them form a common bond. They dated several years, much of the time long-distance, because Mira came to the United States to get her master’s degree.

“Long distance tested our relationship. It gave us an opportunity to pray for each other and focus on the spiritual part of our relationship. It had its difficulties, but it was nice. During that time, I knew she had a heart for young people in the Arab world, and that drew us closer together,” said Joe.

They have been married since August 2016 and are living in the Dallas, Texas, area until September of this year, working on preparing for the move back to Lebanon. They

are currently serving in a BMA national missionary’s Arabic church in Garland, Texas, helping with the youth group. They are also visiting churches, working to raise funds for their future ministry.

“We have 35 percent of our support raised, and still have 65 percent that we need to raise,” said Joe. “Hopefully by September, by the grace of God, we will have that amount so we can go back to Lebanon and begin ministry.”

They are looking for people to sponsor their ministry monthly and create a continuance momentum that will help keep them supported on a monthly basis.

“This will give us the proper resources in terms of a work fund – a salary – so that we can go back to Lebanon fully funded and focus fully on the ministry. There are a lot of projects and plans that we want to do in Lebanon, Iraq, and Jordan, but we can’t do it without monthly support,” said Joe.

When they arrive on the mission field, the Costas have three “pillars” of ministry they are going to focus on. The first is working with youth pastors to train them in mentoring and discipling the younger generation. The second pillar is to work with churches and assess their needs, finding out how they can assist their ministry, especially their youth ministry. The third pillar will be working with Syrian refugees in Lebanon, starting small groups and youth groups for unbelievers and those who have questions about the Christian faith.

“So these are the main three pillars,” explained Joe. “In each one, there are a lot of ideas and things we want to do.”

Joe and Mira Costa ask for your prayers. They ask for protection and wisdom as they approach their date to return to Lebanon. They ask you to pray that they would mature in the Lord, and also be in prayer for the young people in the Arab world. Finally, they request prayer for the Muslims in their home nation, that they would come to know Christ.

They are currently staying in the Dallas area and would love to speak at your local church to share their vision and mission to the Middle East. To inquire about scheduling them to speak to your congregation, email BMA Missions at [mati@bmaamerica.org](mailto:mati@bmaamerica.org).



## BMA Seminary’s Sixtieth Commencement

By **DR. PHILIP ATTEBERY**

*BMA Seminary Dean*

The Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary of Jacksonville will hold its 2017 commencement exercises on Saturday, May 20 at 2:00 p.m. in the seminary’s Dorman Memorial Chapel. BMA Seminary is located at 1530 East Pine Street in Jacksonville.

The event is open to the public.

The 2017 graduating class will be the seminary’s sixtieth. Graduates will receive Associate, Bachelor and Master’s degrees during the ceremony.

Dr. John M. Adams, Jr. of Mantachie, Mississippi will present the commencement address. He has served as Senior Pastor in churches of Mississippi, Texas, Colorado, and Arkansas. Adams presently serves as Executive Director of Moral Action of Mississippi and the national organization, Moral Action of Baptist Missionary Association (BMA). He has served as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Mantachie, Mississippi since 2000. Adams and his wife have two children and a grandchild.



▲ **Dr. John Adams**

Adams graduated from Benton High School, Benton, Mississippi, earned the Bachelor of Arts degree from Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel, Mississippi; The Master of Education from Texas Tech University; and the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Luther Rice Seminary. He also received national certification in History at Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, Arkansas in 1987.

BMA Seminary provides accredited theological education to qualified individuals by seeking to equip them for Christian service and leadership roles. The seminary supports the educational needs of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and other groups who share a like commitment to the authority of Scripture.

# BMA of america



## Seminary Summer Schedule Includes Free Online Preaching Course

Since 2000, the BMA Seminary has offered intensive week-long studies each summer that focus upon various areas of religious education. The 2017 summer schedule includes courses for both credit and non-credit students.

Non-credit students may be interested in auditing the seminary's DiscipleWay training June 12-15, 2017 on its main campus in Jacksonville, Texas. The training includes an introduction to the biblical, educational, and philosophical principles that undergird DiscipleWay curriculum, exposes individuals to each DiscipleWay discipline, and gives particular attention to the disciplines of Bible study and witnessing. DiscipleWay's goal is to teach individuals how to perform disciplines without the help of a teacher while also developing the ability for those same individuals to teach others without the help of a teacher.

Non-credit students may also be interested in the seminary's free online course in Oral Communication/Preaching course with Dr. Tony Cleaver. The study begins May 30 and ends July 25, 2017.

Credit seeking students can enroll in both on campus, online, and hybrid courses. Students may enroll in an appropriate level of DiscipleWay training on campus with Drs. Philip Attebery, David Hellwig, and Ronnie Johnson June 12-16. Online students may enroll in Church Administration with Dr. Mark Livingston, Greek Appreciation with Dr. Gary O'Neal, or New Testament Interpretation: Gospel of John with Dr. David Hellwig (May 30-July 25), and a hybrid course in Sermon Preparation or Expository Preaching with Dr. Charley Holmes (July 17-19).

Deadline for registration is May 12, 2017. All courses may be taken at reduced costs for non-credit. Students interested in DiscipleWay training without credit may register until May 30, 2017.



## Compass to Explore Ephesians This Summer

By SCOTT ATTEBERY

Every human being wants to know, "Who am I?" and "How should I live?"

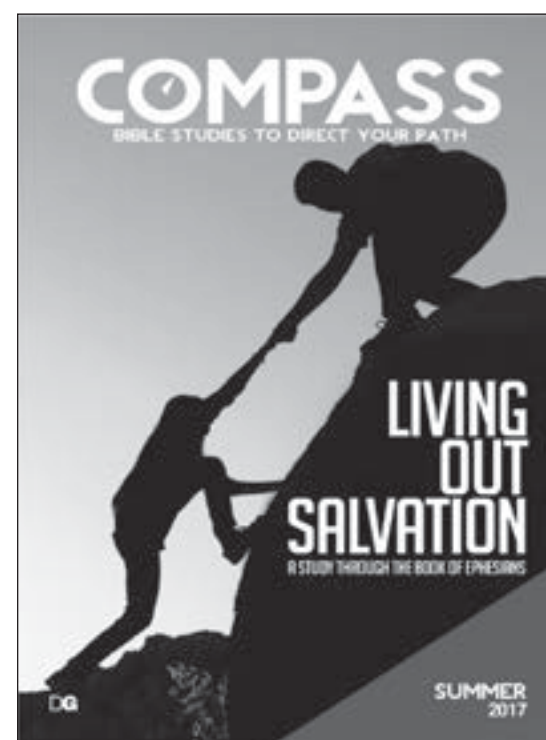
This summer, Compass Adult Bible Studies will seek to answer both questions through lessons entitled Living out Salvation: Exploring the Book of Ephesians. This study will examine the blessings and responsibilities that await believers in Christ Jesus. Each lesson has been prayerfully composed by Bro. Tim Brewer.



▲ Tim Brewer

Tim serves as pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Guy, Arkansas, where he and his wife Christie have ministered for seventeen years. He is dad to five children: Drew, Page, Sam, John, and Lydia. Tim is a graduate of Central Baptist College, Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

To order or learn more about Compass Adult Bible Studies, visit [discipleguide.org](http://discipleguide.org) or call 800-333-1442.



## Daniel Springs is ready for campers

By SCOTT ATTEBERY

The small town of Gary, Texas is ready to come alive! For the fifty-second summer in a row, church buses full of children and teenagers will roll in to Daniel Springs Camp. Every camper comes with different expectations. Some look forward to paddle boating on the lake, while others can't wait for swimming or team sports.

More important than the recreation, however, is the preaching of God's Word. Every camper will hear the gospel presented multiple times throughout the camp week. Camp worship sessions are age-targeted and biblically sound. In addition, daily devotional times are led by college-age leaders trained especially for communicating to youth.

For the past fifty-one years, God has saved multitudes of children every summer at Daniel Springs Camp. Pray that God continues to save souls during year fifty-two!

To learn more about this year's summer camp schedule, or to register your group, visit [danielspringscamp.com](http://danielspringscamp.com) today!

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).



# Builders of America



## Master's Builders begin their annual work at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp

By ROSE BITTNER

Master's Builders Reporter

The second week in April was the time set aside for The Master's Builders to begin their annual work at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp in Gary. This was the 147th job for the Master's Builders and the second job this year. The Master's Builders first worked at Daniel Springs in 1995 and have worked at the camp a total of seven times over the years.

Once again, Camp Director Jason Prewitt had plans for the men to tear out more concrete cinder block dividers in six more dorm bathrooms and to build new walls and doors for each bathroom. The men also cut and installed vinyl planks for the floor in each shower, installed door latches on all of the bathroom doors completed this year and last, and modified 100 bunk beds by raising them higher as they were way too short for even the youngest campers.

There was a lot of laughter and fellowship shared by the men during these projects! Jason Prewitt and his sweet family were on hand to visit with the Builders off and on during the job. There were 11 RVs parked on the hill by the large dorm, with two men staying in the dorms and one that drove back and forth each day, for a total of 14 men.

The women enjoyed bible study each day and plenty of "porch sitting and visiting" on the big front porch of the dorm. The women also planned the 50 annual "Everlasting Smiles Shoeboxes" that will be filled by the Builders this year in May.

While at Gary, the Builders attended worship services at Bethel, Clayton. The Master's Builders helped in the construction of Bethel Baptist in September 2015 and the

members at Bethel have always been such a blessing to the group. The Builders enjoyed two meals and lots of wonderful fellowship with the great folks at Bethel during this job.

The Master's Builders plan to be at Jacksonville College in Jacksonville May 8, and then on to Summers Baptist Church in Summers, Ark. on June 5.

Remember, you can keep up with our work on our Facebook page —**The Master's Builders**. "Like" our page for our job updates and photos during each job. If you feel the Lord is leading you toward this ministry, if you have any questions about the ministry, or if your church has building needs, you can contact our Office Coordinator John Mangum at 318-205-5155 or his cell at 318-607-4100; or our Field Coordinator Eddie Sikes at 903-725-6549 or his cell at 479-462-1675. Not pictured in the group photo is Bobby Samuels who also worked on this project.



## An update on Bro. Marvin Clack's health condition

By C.D. WALKER

Pastor of Bethel of White Rock, Dallas

Many of you read in the Jan. 16, 2016 edition of Baptist Progress how Bro. Marvin Clack became completely paralyzed from the waist down on Sept. 8, 2015. Bro. Marvin has served as a state missionary for four years and pastor for 37 years with various missions/churches in Gun Barrel, Sunnyvale in Pleasant Grove, and First Baptist at St. Elmo. Bro. Marvin has endured numerous surgeries to locate the blockage of blood in his spine including over 30 hours of surgery to prevent any further paralysis moving up his body. At that time, he was given only a five percent chance of recovery. He also has endured additional complications and blood clots in his leg and both lungs. After nine weeks in the hospital and six months in rehab, he was returned to the hospital for additional surgery. Unfortunately, any progress made during 2016 was lost after the last surgery.

Recently, Marvin's wife Janet has suffered heart problems due to her being the primary caregiver. As you can imagine, their financial resources have been depleted due to Marvin's medical bills. In addition, they have had to purchase a wheelchair accessible van and modify their home to allow wheelchair access for him.

Bro. Marvin and Janet celebrated 56 years of marriage this past April 27. They both appreciate your prayers and those that have made contributions in the past to help them with these expenses. However, they still need your help and if you wish to make a donation to help them with their medical expenses, please forward your loving offering made out to "Bethel Baptist Church" and designated "Marvin Clack Fund" and mail to Bethel Baptist Church of White Rock, 9314 Ferguson Road, Dallas, TX 75228-4636. You will receive confirmation of your donation.

# The Church Leaders Cruise Inspiration Track about encouragement

By **BRENT SUMMERHILL**

*Church Leaders Cruise Inspiration Track Speaker*

**T**he Church Leaders Cruise will give church and lay leaders an opportunity to get away from daily pressures and relax, refresh, and renew physically and spiritually.

The Inspiration Track of the 2018 Church Leaders Cruise is all about encouragement. Every church leadership experience is different and yet similar. While our

locations, cultures, and demographics will vary, we all have a calling upon our lives and a passion for Christ, his gospel, and his church. And in some way at some time we all face discouragement as we pursue that passion. Together we will learn from God's Word how to see the onset of discouragement, understand its impact not only on our ministry but also on our families, and find the encouragement we all need to serve Jesus and his church.

I have served as a pastor for 26 years. For 23 years, I served a church in Cabot, Arkansas. I was blessed to be there as the Lord grew the young church both spiritually and numerically. Over two decades I experienced life as a "small church" pastor and as a "senior pastor." The calling never changed, but the expectations, both from others and myself, did. In 2014, after a season of reflection and renewed surrender, the Lord brought me to First Baptist Church, Magnolia, Arkansas, an established church with new challenges and expectations.

Through the years, the Lord has allowed me to see and experience ministry from different perspectives including involvement in global missions, teaching in church leadership seminars, and preaching at pastor and missionary conferences. This ministry journey has not been a solo ride, though. Cindy and I have been married for over 30 years. We were blessed with two wonderful children who are now "grown and gone." I cannot imagine doing what I do without my family.

The motivation to do what I do is the gospel. People are fickle and circumstances are fluid. The gospel is unchanging. And the need for the gospel is constant. The gospel is the hope for sinners. The gospel is the compelling motive for church leadership, whether as a vocational ministry or a volunteer.

Join me in the Inspiration Track of the Church Leaders Cruise, which will provide renewal as we find encouragement together through God's Word, prayer, and fellowship. I encourage all church leaders, whether you are vocational, bivocational, or volunteer to join us.

To register for the Church Leaders Cruise or to get more information, visit [discipleguide.org/cruise](http://discipleguide.org/cruise).



▲ Brent Summerhill

# BRICK by BRICK, HIGHLIGHTS from the 2017 BMA of America MEETING cont.

director of Lifeword, praised Crawley for his leadership and spoke of how Lifeword will expand their ministries in the near future via the Internet and social media.

## MINISTERS RESOURCE SERVICES

Ron Chesser, director of Ministers Resource Services shared that the purpose of the department he leads is to provide retirement and benevolent services to the pastors, churches and entities of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Long term growth accounts at Ministers Resource Services have averaged, net of fees, a growth of 6.3 percent each year for the pastor 14 years.

The BMA Retirement portfolio assets totaled \$12,740,993.80 on Dec. 16, 2016. In 2016, MRS received and deposited \$990,564.20 to participants' retirement accounts, a daily average of \$2,713.87. The BMA Retirement portfolio over the past 14 years has had a growth in assets of \$8,881,083.02.



▲ Ron Chesser

Scroggins to the Philippines, Jayna Williams as an endorse missionary candidate, Michael Barton to Canada, Jordan and Sarah Bowen to a self-funded missional church planting residency/internship, Nathan Brewer as a church planter to Oklahoma City and Thomas Mobly as associate church planter.

Also, elected as the new International Missions Director was Eric Johnson who will replace Phil Knott who is retiring.



▲ Dr. John David Smith

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Elected to serve as officers for the new associational year were current officer holders, Paul White, president; Jeff Swart, first vice president; Mark Livingston, second vice president; and Jerome Cooper, Greg Medanwald and James Ray Raines, recording clerks.

Elected to bring the annual message next year was Terry Kimbrow, president of Central Baptist College, Conway, Arkansas. Elected as his alternate was Clif Johnson, pastor of Garrett Memorial, Hope, Arkansas.

The 2018 BMA of America meeting will be held in Jackson, Mississippi.

## BMAA MISSIONS

Elected to serve as missionaries were Stan and Donna

## NEED A PROJECT FOR VBS?



### "REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION"

With EIM's Shepherd Bags Ministry children can reach other children around the globe with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For more information on how your children can be involved, contact Fonda Norris at 870-226-3626 or [fnorris@eimworldwide.org](mailto:fnorris@eimworldwide.org) Also visit our website at [www.eimworldwide.org](http://www.eimworldwide.org)



By HEITH MITCHELL

**A WORD FROM YOUR MISSIONS OFFICE**

We were blessed this month to be able to take most of your lead missionaries to Florida for a training conference called Exponential. They joined with church planters from around the world along with existing churches with a heart to reproduce disciples and churches. We were inspired to pursue our God given mission to make disciples and start churches together. Each missionary found tools they need. They encouraged one another as well. Your churches giving not only pays these men's salaries but it also provides the equipping they need. Again we say, Thank You.

I have some open dates in the next few months and would love to share with your church about your Texas Mission Movement. Also feel free to contact us anytime with questions and concerns. Call me at the Missions Office or email me.

**A WORD FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES:  
ARNULFO MALDONADO—  
TEXAS HISPANIC MISSION COORDINATOR**

I would like to thank all the churches from my heart for participating with us and collaborating with us in prayed and funds and different resources.

Here are is an update in pictures from your new Hispanic mission in Nacogdoches with Bro. Naphtali Molina: 1. A discipleship group 2. Ladies Ministry 3 and 4 Mission Activity



▲ Arnulfo Maldonado



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

We're having a lot of fun these days, down in Southwest Houston. We're seeing a lot of men, in particular, get hungry for discipleship. One of our single dads, who recently

came to faith, is attending faithfully, taking vigorous notes during sermons, bringing his son, and asking tons of questions about the Christian life. We're creating custom "man plans" for our men, and challenging our men to leave behind mediocrity and "journey with Jesus, from lost to likeness." Jesus said, in Luke 6:40b "...everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher." We're challenging the cultural narrative, and saying "NO" to silly caricatures, such as "men don't read books." Our sisters are excited about this new energy, and cheering us on! Please pray for us, that Christ will truly be formed in the hearts of our men and women! We want to increasingly reflect Christ to our community!



▲ Brandon Durham



**MATTHEW PRATHER—  
THE BRIDGE MISSION, MIDLOTHIAN/WAXAHACHIE**

Wow! What a month of April. We had our launch service on Easter Sunday, with at least 130 in attendance. Our team has been working hard for months toward our launch service. There have been many hours put in meeting new people, serving our community and building relationships. They have done a great job. We have been doing a lot of follow up in the past few weeks with those that came Launch Sunday. Many, have come back the past couple weeks. Please pray for us as we continue to reach out



▲ Matthew Prather



and build relationships with those that have come the past few weeks as well as we continue to build new relationships. There is still a lot of work to be done in the coming months to continue to lead this new church forward, but we are so excited about what God is doing through The Bridge. Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers.

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

Our mission is growing!!! 34 The local paper came out and is writing a story about us. God is so good!



▲ Cliff Robertson



**WILL HUTCHINSON—  
RESONATE COMMUNITY MISSION, HUTTO**

I want to thank so many people for supporting our ministry in Hutto for so long. God is changing lives and has now opened a huge door for us. We are asking for help to raise funds for some needed equipment for ministry. The YMCA, city, and school have partnered with us to start having an open ministry to teens. We are going to need some supplies for this that the organizations do not have. The main supplies are a portable stage with a cart and two more speakers to go with our system. Also our biggest need is Prayer. To have an open door at the school is a great answer to prayer. Pray with us for laborers. Just like a God says in John 4:35 the harvest is here but the laborers are few.



▲ Will Hutchinson

**GARY SOUTHARD—  
THE CHURCH AT VALLEY RANCH MISSION, NEW CANEY**

During the month of April, we were doing the Easter Egg Story with our children. They were very excited to see the new egg each week and to tell the story of the other eggs we had

BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p.11



# BMA of America Missions Commissioning Service



▲ Retiring Missionary Jeff Franks from Ukraine



▲ Retiring Missionaries John and Shirley Ladd from Mexico



▲ New Church Planter Nathan Brewer



▲ Endorsed Missionary Candidate Jayna Williams



▲ Jerry Kidd leads commissioning prayer

*Welcome to 164th  
Homecoming / Anniversary*  
**May 28, 2017**  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAS COLINAS**  
1930 Gateway Dr., Irving, TX 75038

**HISTORY:**  
Bear Creek United Baptist Church of Christ (1853-1911)  
Bear Creek Missionary Baptist Church (1911-1960)  
Western Heights Baptist Church (1960-1974)  
First Baptist Church of Las Colinas (1974-2017)

**PASTORS:** The church has had a total of 61 pastors in her 164 years of history. Bro. Joe Eaton has the distinction of serving the longest – almost nineteen years. Bro. Dale Thornton, the present pastor, after serving as missionary to Taiwan for 40 years, has now been pastor for 15 ½ years.

**CHURCH DISTINCTIVES:** Long History – Belief in biblical doctrines of the BMAA – Expository preaching through the books of the Bible – A Family-Integrated Church where families sit together, study together and worship together – Fellowship lunch every Sunday that has helped make the church one big family in the Lord.

**HOMECOMING PROGRAM:**  
10 a.m. – Sunday school  
11 a.m. – Worship and celebration  
12:30 p.m. – Fellowship lunch  
2 p.m. – Concert by the Foto Sisters  
(thefotosisters.com)



**ASOCIACION BAPTISTA MISIONERA AMERICANA**  
**RETIRO DE VARONES 2017**  
**HOMBRES DE VALOR PARADOS EN LA BRECHA**

Y BUSQUE ENTRE ELLOS HOMBRES QUE HICIERAN VALLEADO Y QUE SE PUSIERA EN LA BRECHA DELANTE DE MI. AFAVOR DE LA TIERRA. PARA QUE YO NO LA DESTRUYESE; Y NO LO HABLE. EZEQUIEL 22:30




**HOMBRES DE VALOR**

**HOMBRES De Verdad**

**LUGAR: DANIEL SPRING 1571 FM 999 GARY TX. 75643**

**DÍAS: VIERNES 19 Y SÁBADO 20 DE MAYO**

**INVERSIÓN \$ 45 P/P**  
*¡VEN Y VIVE LA EXPERIENCIA!*

## An expression of everlasting love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from April 1, 2017– April 30, 2017.

### ENDOWMENTS

**MYRA STOKES:** Mr. Bill Stokes

### HONORARIUMS

**DAN ADAMS:** Windy Barnard

**GERARDO FLORES:** Miriam Alonso

**UNIE BELLE GREEN:** Margaret Wolf

**BRO. EDDIE MARSH AND FAMILY:** Linda Collins; Mary Dunavant; J.M. & Margaret Tankersley

### MEMORIALS

**LEON ALEXANDER:** Stan & Terry Mann

**OLLIE ALEXANDER:** Stan & Terry Mann

**WALTER BECKER:** Dennis & Ilona Myrice

**DON P. BLOUNT:** Johnny & Phyllis Howell

**SYBIL CONDOR:** Mae Frances Harnsberry

**DELIA CROAN:** Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Mineola

**JOHNNY DODSON:** Stanley & Doris Allen; Jed & Glen Whitaker

**EARL RAY DOHERTY:** Jed & Glen Whitaker

**RICHARD GOTHARD:** Suburban Wood Baptist Church

**BENNY GOTHARD:** Suburban Wood Baptist Church

**TOMMY HUGHES:** Jed & Glen Whitaker; Rosewood Baptist Church

**JAMES 'JIM' HYMER:** Rosewood Baptist Church; Laverne Volz; Stanley & Doris Allen; Jed & Glen Whitaker; Tommy Gipson; Leora Johnson; Jim & Evelyn Parker

**ROY LEWIS:** Linda Lewis

**PATSY NELSON:** Mr. & Mrs. Larry Starnes

**MARION E. 'PETE' PATTERSON:** Noah Pruitt, Jr.; Norma Allbright

**RALPH PATTERSON:** Glee Hutson

**HANNAH GRACE PEREZ:** Lauren Carter

**JAMES "RED" ROBERTSON:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**LEE SHORT:** Florence Short

**LINDA SIMPSON:** H.V. & Betty Minter

**CARL STOBBE:** Sandra Sharp

**MARZELL WARTERS:** Mary Dunavant

**MAXINE WELCH:** Travis & Brenda Floyd

**GARY WILSON:** Kenneth & Carol Cline



## Texas Baptist Home seeks applicants for president

By **CHARLES JOHNSON**

*TBHC Board of Trustees Chairman*

**T**he trustees of Texas Baptist Home are seeking applicants for the position of Home president. Resumes of potential candidates may be sent to Home H-R contact Kelly Saunders at [k Saunders@tbhc.org](mailto:k Saunders@tbhc.org) or mailed to TBH, Attn: Kelly Saunders, P.O. Box 309, Waxahachie, TX 75168-9977.

The duties of the Home president consist of supervising the Home employees and acting as a liaison between the Home and churches of The Baptist Missionary Association of Texas and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. A complete list of the president's duties and qualifications may be found on the Home's website at [www.tbhc.org](http://www.tbhc.org). For more information interested applicants may call the Home

office at 972 937-1321.

Deadline for submitting resumes for consideration is noon (CDST) on Friday, June 2, 2017.

The search committee, composed of the board officers, will only act as a nominating committee to present their choice to an executive called session of The BMA of Texas which has the final authority in selecting the Home president.

Texas Baptist Home is a fully licensed and accredited childcare agency which was originally chartered in 1910. The Home is owned by the BMA of Texas and supported by the SBTC. The Home's main campus is in Waxahachie, and a satellite branch is located in Bedford.

## A mission field in disguise

By **MEREDITH FARLEY**

*Texas Baptist Home for Children*

**I** have served in several different capacities within Texas Baptist Home: Intern, Case Manager, Family Developer and now Foster Care Director. When I was working as the Family Developer, I spent a lot of time evaluating my career. You see, I grew up on the mission field in Belize. While there, I had a front row seat to see how God used my parents and family to minister to the people in Belize. As the family developer, I felt that maybe I was not living up to God's potential for my life. Of course, the Lord knew exactly what I was going through and He knew what I needed to hear (as He always does!).

The group of potential foster and adoptive parents I was working with that particular month was amazing and absolutely sent by God. They were so encouraging and a joy to be around. One individual in the group shared a book with me that I had never heard of called "Becoming Home" by Jedd Medefind. As I read this book, **I was reminded that foster care and adoption is what God has called me to and this ministry is my mission field.** I got to witness first hand, the work that the Lord was doing right here in DFW. Every day, I got to train and equip new foster and adoptive families and was in the front seat again watching how God used them to help these kids who were abused and neglected.

Foster care is hard work. As I interact with our foster families, I get so excited because I am watching them live out the call God has placed on their lives. Many of our families truly view foster care as their mission field and it is such a joy to be a part their journey. I love that this is the ministry God has called me to, and I am so thankful for the many foster families that join me in our own foster care mission field.

May is foster care awareness month. This month we like to celebrate our foster families. If you know a foster parent, please take the opportunity to appreciate them. Ask how you can help them and remind them of the successes they have experienced. Encourage them in the fact that they have faithfully responded to the Lords' calling are planting eternal seeds. For more information about helping foster families or becoming a foster family, visit our website at [www.TBHC.org](http://www.TBHC.org)

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

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

#### IN ADDITION

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

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



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



# insights for pastors

## Dealing with criticism

By DR. ALLEN TILLEY

**E**arly in my ministry, I was severely criticized by a high school English teacher on my command of the English language. The critic went on to say that I was an embarrassment to our church and should resign. Her rant lasted nearly thirty minutes. I was dumbfounded. I felt my stomach drop through the floor and the blood rush to my face. I felt ashamed, angry, upset, and confused. If not for my wife, I would have handed in my resignation the next Sunday.

Criticism can crush you. Preachers are criticized for just about everything. At one time or another, every preacher has heard, “Why did you let someone park in my spot. You misspelled a word in the handout. It’s too hot (or cold) in here. You preached too long. You didn’t attend the bladder suspension of my third cousin.” The list of complaints a pastor receives are endless. Pastors, before throwing in the towel and walking away, here is how I learned to deal with criticism.

**Expect it.** Jesus was criticized. Are you above Christ?

As Jesus lists the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12, He even guarantees that we will be persecuted. No matter how perfectly you do things, you cannot avoid criticism. Even if you do nothing, you will still be criticized.

**Analyze it.** Count to ten, take a deep breath, and settle down. Instead of reacting, try to understand the source of the criticism. Is the critic just having a bad day? Is it a personal preference? Is it realistic? Is it legitimate? Uncovering the truth will probably take time and prayer. Let your critics know you heard them, which is usually all they want anyway, and that you will get back with them.

**Separate it.** In other words, don’t take it personally. Even if your character is called into question, you know who you are in Christ. Instead of having a pity party or feeling sorry for yourself, spend your time on the real issue.

**Resolve it.** Don’t let it hang around. Problems that linger never go away. They only grow worse. Sit down with the critic

and come up with a solution that works best for everyone. When you meet with a critic, always have someone one with you who can verify what took place.

**Forget it.** Once the problem has been dealt with – move on. Don’t let it rob you of your joy, drain you of your energy, or slow down your momentum. Choosing how you react to criticism can make you bitter or better. As for me, when I was criticized about my use of the English language so I audited an English class at the local junior college and became better.

*Dr. Allen Tilley is pastor of First Baptist Church of Carthage, Texas. He has over 30 years of pastoral experience, and God has continually blessed his ministry with dynamic spiritual and numerical growth. Contact him at allen@firstbaptistcarthage.com.*



## BMA Texas Missions cont.

already gone through.

Due to the content of the Easter story, evangelism is sure to follow. We celebrate with the angels above that we had three kids saved this past month.

Since then we have discovered that there are three more needing to be baptized. We are looking forward to have a baptism party on May 21 to baptize these.

Please continue to pray that God will send us eight new families between now and the first of 2018.



▲ Gary Southard

### JOHN HARRIS— FOUNDATION COMMUNITY MISSION, BENBROOK

God has given us a great vision for Benbrook, and has placed us in a place where we feel that we can see that vision come to life. But we couldn’t do anything without your support, your prayers, and your encouragement to us. So thank you for the opportunity to serve the BMAT in Benbrook!



▲ John Harris

### PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE FIELD

-Pray for new families reached at The Church at Valley Ranch Mission. They are specifically praying for 8 new families.

-Arnulfo Maldonado asks you to pray for discernment as he promotes a culture of missions.

-Brandon of Redeemer’s Love ask us to pray for Wisdom to manage the growth god is providing.

-Interns Toby Goodman and Christian Martinez are seeking God’s direction about where God would have them to serve.

-Matthew of The Bridge Mission asks you to pray for wisdom to lead and for continued growth. Also pray for his wife Amy as she searches for a teaching job.

-Please pray for God to provide an Associate missionary at Resonate-Hutto, Carpenter’s House-Lake Jackson, and Foundations-Benbrook.

-Cliff Robertson and Carpenters House Mission of Lake Jackson/Clute asks you to pray for God to send them a worship leader.

-Intern Christian Martinez asks prayer for his expecting wife and baby. Please pray for both of their health.

-Neptaly Molina from the Nacogdoches Mission is waiting on his Religious Work Visa approval.

### PRAISE REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

-9 Salvations were reported from the field this month!

-The Church at Valley Ranch Mission in New Caney saw 3 saved this month and have six awaiting baptism!

-Your Hispanic Mission in Spring saw 35 youth this month in an outreach Rally!

-The Bridge Mission in Midlothian held their public launch in April with over 130 present!

-Resonate Mission in Hutto has seen two families on Mission trips this month, a family looking to start a new ministry, and a family preparing for foreign missions!

-John and Sarah Harris are moved into their new home in Benbrook!

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

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





# auxiliaries

## Miracles from Heaven

By SHARON COLE

**M**iracles from Heaven is a remarkable true story of faith and blessings. It is the topic that will be discussed at the Ladies Retreat at Rosewood Baptist Church, Gilmer Oct. 6-7, 2017. The author of the book will be present to relate her story and how she and her family endured the trials while working toward a cure for her daughter's chronic disease. Mark your calendars for this date and plan to be there to hear this remarkable story. The Ladies Retreat is an annual event that will inspire and refresh you and give you a new perspective on life. Registration details will be published at a later date.

### WMA FUNDS AND PROJECTS

You may ask yourself, where does all the money go that we give to the Texas State WMA? All monies received by the corresponding secretary are put into different funds for which they are designated. The Project Fund begins each year in November after the state meeting. Each year a new project is chosen from nominations sent by local auxiliaries. These nominations must be a part of the BMA work, national or state, and sent to the project selection committee before the state meeting. They research and evaluate the projects submitted and present them to the state auxiliary for consideration and a vote.

When you give to the project, your checks or letters must say, "State WMA Project Fund." You may give specific instructions for it to be divided between the project and general fund. If there are no instructions for your donations and offerings, all the money is put into the General Fund.

The General Fund is important for the operations of the State WMA. Each quarter your local auxiliary and district auxiliary should support the general fund to help supply the following: the cost of printing this Auxiliary page in Baptist Progress, salaries for the corresponding secretary, editor, and webmaster, other officer expenses including postage and mail-outs, phone calls, travel mileage, teaching aids, office supplies for the corresponding secretary and any other expense approved by the State Auxiliary. We pay speakers for the State meetings and Annual Ladies' Retreat and gifts for Miss/Jr. Miss GMA at their State Meeting.

The General Fund is important for the Texas WMA to function and accomplish our goal of pleasing the Lord through our giving. The Youth Fund is available for the Sunbeam and GMA Promoters to use for expenses of

their group's Annual meeting which includes mileage, postage, phone calls, teaching aids, decorations, etc. In 2 Corinthians 9:7, the apostle Paul writes, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." Send your offerings to: Jo Strong, 149 NW Suzanne Terrace, Burleson, TX. 76028, jokenstrong@juno.com.

### STATE WMA PROJECT

The project this year has been Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment in Gary. Many changes have been made to the camp over the last several months: changes for the better. Most or all of the class tabernacles have been remodeled, cabins have been remodeled and painted, the worship tabernacle has been remodeled also. The activity tables, or ping-pong tables have been painted and restored. There is so much more that needs to be done and your help is needed. This camp has been, through the years, a place of relaxation, restoration and fun. Many people have surrendered their life to the Lord for salvation and for missions. It holds a special place in so many peoples' heart and it is important to keep it a beautiful, comfortable and safe place to go. Make this project a matter of prayer as the camp directors continue to make their main goal of reaching people for Christ.

### DISTRICT WMA NEWS

The MT. OLIVE DISTRICT WMA met April 25, 2017 with Old Center Baptist Church at 6:30pm for a fellowship meal and quarterly business. Presiding was President, Leona Wimberly. After opening exercises and business the theme song, "Ten Thousand Reasons" was sung. To keep people informed about District WMA, a newsletter will be printed and mailed to churches. A project fundraiser will be set up at the Farmer's Market this summer in Joaquin led by Emilee Baker. A committee of investigation was appointed to check out the areas that would be best for a one-day VBS for the district. The program was presented by Shawn Norris, 2nd Vice President on Flourishing as a Christian in our Community. We need to create opportunities to bring the unchurched into the kingdom bringing honor to God.

The LIBERTY DISTRICT WMA met at Camille Acres Baptist Church, Longview, Saturday, April 8, 2017 with 47 present. During the WMA meeting the GMA girls held their meeting in the fellowship hall with Caroline Ayers

and Mellissa Henry leading. Elizabeth Midkiff opened the meeting with reading Jeremiah 23:3. Present for the meeting was Lisa Kakilala, missionary to the Philippines. She reported on the children's ministry that she and her husband, Fil are working with there. The Liberty District has chosen the "Kakilala Philippine Ministry" as the project for the year. The money raised will help them purchase food and supplies for the children's ministry. A total of \$2100 has been collected. Johnnie Ross introduced our theme: "Encouraging Others," and the program speaker, Jennifer Barton, a member of Rosewood, Gilmer. She spoke about the theme using I John 4:7-10. She stated that we are to love one another, for love comes from God. Shirley Hoffpaur gave us a free fishing lesson and invited us all to a miraculous catch with our Sunbeams on May 6, 2017 at Fellowship, Pittsburg. Charlotte Johnson invited all the ladies to the Texas Ladies' Retreat which will be at Rosewood, Gilmer on October 6-7, 2017. The host church prepared a delicious meal of soup, sandwiches and desserts and everyone enjoyed fellowship.

The CHEROKEE DISTRICT WMA met April 11, 2017 with First Baptist Church, Maydelle beginning with a meal of baked potatoes and salads and desserts prepared by Cornerstone Baptist Church, Jacksonville. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m by President, Cindy Allen leading the opening exercises and singing the theme song: "God Bless America." The outreach project was a baby shower for the Children's Home in Waxahachie. The program was about Texas Children's Homes presented by Jennifer Walker and Meredith Farley. Information was given about the Foster Care program and appreciation was expressed for all the help given them. The next meeting will be August 11, 2017 at Mt. Selman Baptist Church with the induction of new officers for the year. The outreach for July will be tennis shoes for the children. There were 27 ladies, three ministers and eight visitors present. New Summerfield Baptist Church received the attendance banner.

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](http://www.texaswma.com).



# EVENTS

## 104TH ANNIVERSARY

**DATE:** June 4, 2017

**TIME:** 10:30 a.m.

**Place:** Little Flock Baptist Church, Lufkin, Texas

**SPEAKER:** Former Pastor Gene Hazel

Dinner on the grounds

## SOAR

**DATE:** July 5-7, 2017

**PLACE:** Gaylord Texan Hotel, Grapevine, Texas

## SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

**DATE:** November 13-15, 2017

**PLACE:** Branson Hilton Convention Center, Branson, Missouri

## BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION 117TH ANNUAL SESSION

**DATE:** November 6-7, 2017

**PLACE:** New Harmony Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas



Later this year, Baptist Progress, will celebrate 105 years of ministry. During the month of June, we are asking each church to send

**\$105 for 105  
years of ministry**

to Baptist Progress. The goal of our anniversary offering is to raise **\$15,000** to meet our budget for the year.

**WILL YOUR CHURCH HELP US?**

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# PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

## AVAILABLE MINISTER

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

**JIM BOSLEY** is available for pulpit supply. Contact him in Cisco at 254-442-1939.

**SCOTT SCHULLE** is available to serve as a bivocational pastor. He is a member of First, Maydelle. Contact him at 903-945-0058 or 903-795-3886.

**EDDIE BALLARD** is available for pulpit supply. Contact him at 936-635-4195 or eballard-228@att.net.

**DR. BOBBY ADAMS** is available for pulpit supply or interim pastor. He may be reached in Belton at 972-342-3085.

**ROGER MANNING** is available for pulpit supply, interim pastor duties, or a permanent call as Senior or Associate Pastor. He is ordained and has over nine years of preaching experience. Resume and past sermons are available at [www.rogermanning.com](http://www.rogermanning.com). Roger lives in Waxahachie and can be reached at [roger@rogermanning.com](mailto:roger@rogermanning.com) or at 402-510-3019.

## AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**PASTOR**—Mt. Pisgah, Mineola is seeking a pastor. Send resume to the church at 4995 FM 49, Mineola, Texas 75773, or [dmvaughn@peoplescom.net](mailto:dmvaughn@peoplescom.net) or call 903-967-3767 for more information.

**WORSHIP PASTOR**—Farley Street, Waxahachie is seeking a Worship Pastor to lead an established choir, praise team including musicians for blended worship and oversee adult education programs. Must have major or minor degree in Music. Preferred 3-5 years of experience supervising choral/musical ministries. Salary TBD. Send resumes to [resumes@farleystreet.com](mailto:resumes@farleystreet.com).

**MUSIC**—First, DeSoto is seeking a bivocational music minister. Send resume to Dr. Kerry Moore at 221 West Beltline, DeSoto, Texas, [fbcdesototxgmail.com](mailto:fbcdesototxgmail.com) or call 972-223-7441 for more information.

**PASTOR**—Ashmore, Loop is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Tom Ingle, HCR 1, Box 23, Loop, Texas 79342, [ingle@scogindickey.com](mailto:ingle@scogindickey.com) or call 806-928-8843. <sup>7/17</sup>

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

## DEACON ORDINATION

**NORTHSIDE, GARLAND**—Bro. Grady Moore, interim at Northside, Garland, has invites all pastors and deacons of the Dallas County BMA to participate in an ordination service for Bro. Richard Searles. The service is scheduled for Sunday, May 21 at 3 p.m. in the fellowship hall at Northside

# Churches in review APRIL 16, 2017

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	59	144	
Calvary, Ennis	19	60	
First, Omen		140	
First, Palmer	43	108	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	16	71	
Jackson, Joaquin	7	177	1 by baptism
Little Flock, Lufkin	66	84	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	37	47	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	30	38	
New Harmony, Tyler	368	635	
New Hope, Mineola	59	139	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		80	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden		79	
Pine Brook, Tyler	32	77	
Rosewood, Gilmer	140	460	4 by baptism, 2 by letter
Security Calvary, Cleveland	32	86	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	16	24	

## APRIL 23, 2017

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	51	121	
First, Blooming Grove	211		1 by baptism, 1 by letter
First, Palmer	53	67	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	14	33	
Jackson, Joaquin	69	124	
Little Flock, Lufkin	89	89	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	16	26	1 by statement
New Harmony, Tyler	263	306	
New Hope, Mineola	53	93	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	38	44	
Pine Brook, Tyler	32	50	
Rosewood, Gilmer	142	257	4 by baptism, 1 by letter
Security Calvary, Cleveland	34	55	1 by baptism
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	17	23	

## APRIL 30, 2017

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	60	90	1 by letter
First, Blooming Grove	209		
First, Palmer	55	88	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	17	37	
Jackson, Joaquin	67	151	
Little Flock, Lufkin	50	70	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	34	40	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	13	26	
New Harmony, Tyler	313	402	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		59	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	31	39	
Pine Brook, Tyler	27	49	
Rosewood, Gilmer	110	238	6 by baptism, 2 by letter

## MAY 7, 2017

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	59	110	
First, Blooming Grove	204		
First, Palmer	46	71	
Jackson, Joaquin	60	124	1 by letter
Little Flock, Lufkin	50	80	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	9	32	9 by statement
New Harmony, Tyler	331	371	
New Hope, Mineola	59	96	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		55	
Pine Brook, Tyler	37	65	
Rosewood, Gilmer	133	260	5 by baptism

# Sunday School Lessons

## Meet Ephesians

By PAUL GAUNTT

**DATE:** June 4, 2017

**TEXT:** Ephesians 1:1-2

### THE WRITER:

The Apostle Paul is the undisputed writer of the book of Ephesians. Scholars tell us that this book was a circular letter, delivered to several different churches. The church at Ephesus was Paul's longest pastorate, having spent about three years pouring his life and ministry into the church. Read Acts chapter 16 through 19 for a detailed account of Paul's ministry in Ephesus.

### THE WRITER'S CREDENTIALS:

Notice the subdued nature of Paul's salutations in all his writing. Rather than introduce himself as Paul, the

once great leader of the Sanhedrin, educated by Gamaliel, he simply presents himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ. Elsewhere he refers to himself as a prisoner of Christ. He was not concerned with impressing anyone with his resume of greatness—he yielded all the glory and honor to his Savior.

### THE WRITER'S BLESSING:

Paul wishes for Ephesus, as he does for all who received his letters, grace and peace, which can only come from God the Father, and His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

### THE WRITING:

The first three chapters of Ephesians addresses positional truth—our position in Christ, and the sovereignty of God.

We have a thorough explanation of the doctrine of salvation—by grace, through faith—not of ourselves. (Chapter 2) We are inundated with information concerning all the riches that we have in Christ. (blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies) The latter three chapters deal with practical truth—how we ought to behave because of who we are in Christ. Someone once said that if we were to be taken over by a totalitarian government, which outlawed the Bible, but allowed us to keep one book from it, Ephesians would be the book to have. All Bible doctrine is represented in Ephesians—a clear, concise treatise on how the New Testament Church is to be governed, maintaining godly, earthly relationships, marriages, child-rearing, spiritual warfare and other vital issues of the Christian life. All of these are contained in this small but powerful book.

## Experiencing God's grace brings gratitude

By PAUL GAUNTT

**DATE:** JUNE 11, 2017

**TEXT:** Ephesians 1:3-14

1. God's Grace brings blessings: verse 3 We commonly think of blessings as being tangible, earthly bounty and well-being. But blessings from God showered upon His people represent both terrestrial and celestial blessings. Literally, He blesses us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies. And every blessing comes from God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. God's Grace means He has sovereignly selected us in Him from before the foundation of the world. (verse 4) Salvation is totally of Him. Man does not have the power in his flesh to declare himself spiritually alive - it can only be the quickening and drawing power of the grace of almighty God through Jesus Christ. That, and only that is what prompts man to call upon the name of the Lord. (John 6:37) Sometimes man recoils at such a doctrine because it removes all reason for him to glory in himself.

3. God's Grace means He has chosen us for His own good pleasure. (verse 5) Salvation is not for the purpose of giving us eternal fire insurance - it is for His divine purpose and pleasure. But eternal life in glory with Him is a wonderful benefit.

4. God's Grace means He has conferred upon us His

wisdom and the ability to value knowledge. (verse 8)

5. God's Grace means He has saved us for His own purpose (verse 9)

6. God's Grace means He has made known the mystery of the ages, which He reveals in Ephesians 3:6 that the gentiles are made fellow heirs with the Jews. That truth was a mystery to the Old Testament prophets, but is now revealed to the church.

7. God's grace means security (verse 13-14) Paul uses two terms to emphasize this: The Holy Spirit's seal, which is illustrated by the king's signet issuing a proclamation. (Esther 8:8) King Ahasuerus proclamation established the Feast of Purim, celebrating Israel's victory over Haman. That proclamation was sealed in wax, and had the king's signet stamped in it, and it was irreversible. This is analogous to the sealing of the Holy Spirit on us

Paul also uses a real estate term — earnest - which means down payment. One pays down earnest money to secure a house deal. The Holy Spirit's seal is God's earnest — or down payment on our eternal life, and He will never renege on that promise. The word also denotes “engagement ring.” As the Body of Christ, we are “engaged” to Christ, and one day that engagement will result in the great wedding feast.

And it is all “unto the praise of his glory.” verse 14

## Experiencing God's amazing grace

By PAUL GAUNTT

**DATE:** June 25, 2017

**TEXT:** Ephesians 2:1-9

Ephesians 2 gives the greatest, most concise description of salvation, the plan, purpose, and the benefits of salvation.

1. Through salvation, the dead are made alive. verse 1

2. It is God through His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who has made us alive spiritually, in Him. The lump of clay in the Garden of Eden had no way of making its' own life—only when the breath of Almighty God breathed into it, did it become a living soul.

3. Through salvation, our lifestyle and desires change; verse 2

4. Before God quickened us through salvation, our desires and our behavior were completely driven by our own lusts. Self-gratification was our motive for living.

5. Salvation is made possible through: verses 4-6

- His riches Romans 11:33; Colossians 1:27; 2 Cor. 8:9
- His mercy withholding from us what we deserve
- His grace - giving us what we do not deserve
- His great love unconditional love

6. His purpose for saving us. verse 6

To demonstrate His power, wealth and kindness to us - verse 7

7. Man has no part in God's great salvation; verses 8

Grace, faith and salvation are totally of God. It is a gift. If man could work for it then (1) he would have whereof to boast; and (2) God's grace would be of no effect; (3) to advocate a works-based salvation casts an aspersion upon the sovereignty of God. Verse 10 assures us that God's grace produces salvation which produces works—not the reverse.

# Sunday School Lessons

## Grace's prayers

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: June 18, 2017

TEXT: Ephesians 1:15-23

In our text this week, Paul gives us a crash course in how to pray for the fellowship of the church.

1. Paul rejoiced in their faith and love toward all the saints. What power would be wrought if God's people in the local body rejoiced in the faith of the believers and demonstrated pure unconditional love for all the saints. Paul never ceased to give thanks for the church. A pastor will do his church no greater service than to spend hours upon his knees (1) communing with God, and (2) interceding on behalf of the flock. (verse 15)

2. Paul made specific requests as he prayed for the people of Ephesus. (verse 17) He always prayed for the church to have a spirit of wisdom - insights into the mysteries of God, and the God-given ability to act upon those insights with a deep, intimate knowledge of Him.

3. Paul also prayed that the church would be able to

comprehend the immeasurable, all encompassing greatness of God's power which is in us (Ephesians 3:20)

4. Paul knew that as their hearts were filled with the light of understanding (discernment) they would have a greater knowledge of God's riches. 1 Corinthians 2 tells us only the spiritual man is able to discern the deep things of God. Paul was passionate in this discernment growing among the people.

5. Paul explains that the "exceeding greatness" of (God's power) already works in the members of the body. (verse 19)

6. The Source of that power comes from Christ, and as Christ led captivity captive (Ephesians 4) He simultaneously dispersed spiritual gifts to the body as He was being raised from the grave to sit at the right hand of His Father.

7. Paul reminded the church of the position of God the Father and the Son—they are above all principalities not only in this world, but the world to come.

8. Paul emphasizes the truth that all this power has been vested in the New Testament Church. (verse 22) He

has unleashed this awesome, indescribable power into His church—His Body—What things are bound on earth are bound in Heaven - whatever things are loosed on earth shall be loosed in Heaven. (Matthew 18:18) That power has been unleashed on the church. None of us today have a clue as to the magnitude of the power Christ has endured the church with.

If Ephesians could be given a title, it might be 'The Glory and Power of Christ Unleashed in the Church.'

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).



## President's message cont.

them can eat their fill.

Think what we have accomplished together as an association of churches that each church couldn't possibly have done alone.

Another quality of great followers is that they are tireless workers who are focused on the prize, the goal of the work at hand, and do not compare what they do with others. That's why we must maintain the right focus.

To make the main things the main things takes loyalty and determination because commitment is the glue that holds the teammate to the team and the team's objectives. It has been said that "Many hands will make light work." That's just common sense!

Enthusiasm is contagious! The people in our text were so fired up about the work that they finished it in 52 days. Nearly all the people were eager to join in the work at hand. Sadly, there will always be those who, for whatever excuse, will justify their inactiveness—like the leaders of Tekoa, who must have thought the work Nehemiah and the others were doing was beneath them.

If you don't get anything else out of this message, remember great followers (not so much great in size, but great in passion) is where it's at! Nehemiah is not even mentioned in Nehemiah 3, but the names of the people who built the wall have their names recorded there in God's Word. Let that be an encouragement to you.

When people make up their minds to work together, nothing

can hinder them from fulfilling what God has called them to do. We, as an association, have been given the privilege of being a part of something much larger than ourselves. We have been given the opportunity to work together and to invest in local, state, national and global ministries through the planting of churches, broadcasting to people who had never heard the Gospel before, providing teaching materials and aiding local churches, and educating the Nehemiahs of tomorrow — and the list can go on and on.

A 17th century quote says: "If everybody would sweep the area in front of their own home, the whole street would be clean." That means, in order to accomplish God's purpose, we need a common vision, dedicated leaders and willing workers who do their part.

There will always be resistance to the work of God. That's why we need to work together as if it all depends on us, and pray together as if it all depends on God.

I will close with Paul's exhortation to the followers in Corinth: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (I Cor. 15:58)

Can your association count on you to exercise your influence and leadership? Can the association (the team) count on you to help her be all she can be for the glory of God? If we can do that, the best days of the BMAA are yet to come!

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**MAY 2017**



# JAGUAR DAY ACROSS TEXAS

## ANNUAL OFFERING FOR JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

Dear Jacksonville College Supporters,

Thank you for your faithful support and prayers. God is blessing Jacksonville College. Following our March 22 Chapel service, 24 students came forward and made commitments to follow Christ. These students are now being disciplined. Also, a number of our students are going on mission trips, working in Christian camps, and helping churches during the summer.

God has also blessed us with a spring enrollment record of 574 students. Because of our continued growth, we need to add more bedrooms and bathrooms in some of our housing. To help with this project, The Master's Builders plan to be on campus in the latter part of May.

Sunday, May 7 is Jaguar Day Across Texas, and we ask you and your church to pray about giving a special offering at that time to Jacksonville College. However, while May 7 is the designated date, any date in May will work. This offering helps JC through the lean financial months of summer, benefits our students, and supports the special projects needed for continual improvements to our campus.

This offering will help the College in the following ways:

- 1) Pay expenses during summer months
- 2) Paint buildings such as the historic Newburn house
- 3) Add bedrooms and bathrooms for student housing

We ask for the following:

- 1) That 100 churches/individuals give \$200
- 2) That 200 churches/individuals give \$100
- 3) That 300 churches/individuals give \$50

**JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE  
JAGUAR DAY ACROSS TEXAS  
OFFERING GOAL**

**\$55,000.00**

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