

Baptist Progress

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INSIDE



PAGE 7
GRADUATES OF 2018



PAGE 8
BMA TEXAS MISSIONS



PAGE 16
JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE



▲ Pastor James Schoenrock, former executive director of BMA of America Missions leads commissioning prayer for new missionaries

BMA OF AMERICA MEETING

The 2017 BMA of America was held April 16-18, at the Jackson Convention Center in Jackson, Mississippi. In attendance were 567 messengers and visitors from 425 churches. Messengers received a welcome from Mississippi Lt. Governor Tate Reeves on Monday evening. Following the welcome, a God and Country Rally was conducted by Moral Action, an agency of the BMA of America. Led by Dr. John Adams, executive director of the agency, an honor guard from the Mississippi National Guard presented the colors and Adams preached a message titled *America, 1969-2019*.



▲ Dr. John Adams

Terry Kimbrow, president of Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas preached the annual message titled, *The Toughest Job I've Ever Loved*, Tuesday

evening.

Two new churches petitioned the association for membership including South Forrest Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Mississippi and Grace Baptist Church, Clinton, Mississippi.

REPORTS

COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS

Messengers approved a recommendation by the Committee on Arrangements to hold the 2021 meeting with Antioch Baptist Church, Conway, Arkansas. The 2019 meeting will be held in Rogers, Arkansas, May 6-8, 2019.

BMA SEMINARY

Dr. Charley Holmes, shared that there are 149 students currently attending the seminary from 14 states and 14 countries around the world. Sound biblical preaching is the main emphasis at the seminary, according to Holmes. On Tuesday evening of the meeting, the seminary hosted the annual Seminary Friends Dinner. During the dinner, Dr. Tony Cleaver was honored as the recipient of the Kellar Award. Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army chaplain and currently serves a director of distance learning for the BMA Seminary. He is the son-in-law of Dr. Gerald Kellar for

whom the award was named. Sunday, May 20, 2018 will be Scholarship Sunday across the BMA of America with special prayer for graduates and a special scholarship offering to support the training of future BMA pastors and missionaries being received by participating churches.



▲ Dr. Tony Cleaver (left) receives Kellar Award from Dr. Charley Holmes, president of BMA Seminary (right)

MINISTERS RESOURCE SERVICES

Bro. Ron Chesser gave his final report as executive director of Ministers Resource Services (MRS) and along with his wife, Gloria, received gifts from MRS trustees. He is retiring after over 18 years of service to MRS. Chesser shared that each retirement participant had a return of 12 percent in growth posted to their account in 2017. The

BMA OF AMERICA MEETING continued on p. 3



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It's HIS church

By **JERRY FULTON**

Have you ever heard someone refer to the church they attend as “MY church?” Often those words are spoken by someone who wants the church to do things according to his or her preferences.

The truth is, while we may be a part of the church and belong to a church family, the church does not belong to us, it belongs to Christ. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus says, “I will build MY church.” He didn’t say that He would build the church of the one who has been a member the longest, who gives the most money or who wields the most influence. Instead, the Lord said, “I will build MY church.”

A problem called entitlement has crept into the church. Instead of having an attitude like Jesus, who “...did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life – a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45), so many want things their way.

Thom Rainer, president and CEO of Lifeway Church Resources shared some key reasons many of our congregations have become more like country clubs than churches, a place where some members demand their way instead of serving and self-sacrificing. The reasons he noted are as follows:

- 1.Failure to state clearly the expectations of church membership on the front end.** A membership class, or some similar entry point into churches, should not only give information about the church, it should provide expectations about membership. Membership without expectations becomes membership with entitlements.
- 2.Failure to make certain as possible that members are Christians.** Sadly, we church leaders often neglect to discuss the spiritual conditions of prospective members. Are they truly followers of Christ? As a result, many of our churches have unregenerate members.
- 3.Seeking numerical growth at all costs.** We certainly should be Great Commission churches. We certainly should be inviting people and sharing the gospel. But if our end goal is numbers, we will make compromising statements to bring people into our churches. We should seek to grow our churches out of obedience to God, not to create our own kingdoms.

4.Failure to remind the congregation regularly what it means to be a part of the body of Christ. All of us church members have the potential to lapse into self-serving, entitlement members. We all need to be reminded that church membership is not about perks and privileges but serving and sacrifice. I have been encouraged to see many churches have annual renewal and commitment services.



▲ Jerry Fulton

5.Allowing the most entitled members into positions of key leadership in the church. One of the more common manifestations of an entitled church member is a person who seeks to gain power and leadership positions in a church so he or she can control and get his or her own way. We yield to them too often because they might be big givers or because we don’t have the fortitude to resist their bullying behavior.

6.Failure to deal with difficult issues. Church leaders too often are conflict avoiders. And while we shouldn’t pick a fight over every issue of minutia, neither should we allow a pervasive culture of entitlement, bullying, and manipulation to grow unabated. A problem not handled now is a larger problem later.

Rainer wrote, “The biblical mandate for local congregations is counter-cultural. In many passages of the New Testament, such as 1 Corinthians 12, we are clearly taught that members are to be sacrificial, giving and serving. Such a mentality goes counter to the culture in which the church ministers. Church is not about having it our way. It’s about bringing glory to God by having it His way.”

Entitlement must stop in the church! Why? Because the church is not YOUR church, it is not MY church, it is HIS church.

\$106 for 106 years of service

Baptist Progress will celebrate 106 years of ministry later this year. To help us celebrate, we are asking each church to send us \$106 for 106 years of service during the month of June. We depend on these special offerings to meet our budget each year. So can your church help us by sending \$106 or more? Of course, individuals, Sunday school classes and auxiliaries may also give. Offerings may be mailed to:

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BMA of America Meeting cont.

BMA Retirement Portfolio assets totaled \$14,184,867.99 on December 2017. Newly elected executive director Dr. Steve Crawley introduced changes that are coming for the department.



▲ Bro. Ron and Gloria Chesser presented with gifts for their years of service to Ministers Resource Services

LIFEWORD MEDIA MINISTRIES

Lifeword Media Ministries Executive Director Donny Parrish shared that through Lifeword, the gospel message is shared in 42 languages in 121 countries reaching an audience of ¼ of the world. Within the next 3 to 5 years, the goal is to reach 200 languages through the Lifeword Cloud. Sunday, Oct. 21, 2018 has been set aside as Lifeword Sunday across the BMA of America.

DISCIPLEGUIDE CHURCH RESOURCES

Dr. Scott Attebery, executive director of DiscipleGuide, gave his last report to messengers in Mississippi. He has resigned to spend more time with his son. In the interim, Dr. John David Smith, executive director of BMA of America Missions, Dr. Steve Crawley, executive director of Ministers Resource Services and Donny Parrish, director of Lifeword Media Ministries will oversee the department as trustees discuss and plan for the department's future.



▲ Dr. Scott Attebery

AUXILIARIES

The Women's Missionary Auxiliary included a retreat this year, featuring Kim Crabill, founder and director of Roses and Rainbows Ministry. The event was followed by a special luncheon honoring ministers' wives and widows. The WMA raised \$34,296.28 for their 2017-18 project — 80 percent Philippine Bible College, 10

percent Youth Auxiliary and 10 percent WMA General Fund. The coming year, 80 percent will be given to We Are FREE.

The Brotherhood raised \$2,459.22 for Philippines Bible College and \$945.85 for National Galileans. The project for the coming year is 35 percent Jimmy Walker (Philippines) Work Fund, 30 percent Bryan Risner (Romania) Work Fund, 25 percent National Galileans and 10 percent Brotherhood General Fund.

MASTER'S BUILDERS

Field Coordinator Eddie Sikes spoke on behalf of Master's Builders. He reported that the group has finished 154 projects since the group began in 1961. Six projects were completed this year.

BMA FOUNDATION

BMA Foundation Executive Director Charles Attebery reported that six churches have hosted Estate Planning events, and also outlined how individuals can leave part of their estate to charitable causes, including BMA ministries through the BMA Foundation.

COORDINATING COUNCIL

The Coordinating Council recommended January 2019 be designated as Stewardship Emphasis Month. After studying the relationship of DiscipleGuide and Daniel Springs Baptist Camp, based on a good financial year for the camp, the council recommended no changes in the relationship for another year.

MORAL ACTION

Moral Action Executive Director Dr. John Adams shared that he continues to travel to Washington D.C. on behalf of the BMA of America to meet with members of Congress and senators for activism in the long-term fight against abortion, homosexual rights and other moral issues. Most conversations with law-makers center around the need of a godly, Christian nation, the need to recognize God on our coins and in our pledge of allegiance, the concern over Islam and Muslim Sharia Law and its influence rising in America and the desire to protect and support God's people, Israel. All BMA churches are asked to recognize June 24 or July 1, 2018 as Moral Action "Freedom Offering" Sunday.



▲ Pastor Charles and Charlotte Johnson of Rosewood, Gilmer (left) with Wendy and Tracy Miller (right)

BMA OF AMERICA MISSIONS

The BMA of America Missions commissioning service for newly elected missionaries was held on Wednesday evening of the meeting. Among those elected were three missionaries or missionary families from Texas. Tracy and Wendy Miller, members of Rosewood, Gilmer, were elected to serve with Stonepoint Church, Cumming, Georgia, where Tracy is the associate pastor. Also elected was Paige Ferrell (not pictured), a member of New Harmony, Tyler where she will serve as a missionary in Nicaragua. Finally, Larry and Tammy Wood, members of Farley Street, Waxahachie, where Larry served a worship pastor for 17 years, were elected to go to Ukraine as missionaries. Others elected from outside of Texas as missionaries were Stephen and Candice Schroeder to Papua New Guinea, Jimmy and Julie Walker to the Philippines and Bryan and Pam Risner to Romania.



▲ Larry and Tammy Wood (left) with Kim and Pastor Richard Smith of Farley Street, Waxahachie (right)

OFFICERS

Officers elected for 2018-2019 are President Jeff Swart of Kansas, First Vice President Dr. Mark Livingston of Texas, and Second Vice President Justin Rhodes of Mississippi. Greg Medenwald was reelected to serve another term as recording clerk.

The 2019 annual message will be preached by Cliff Johnson, pastor of Garrett Memorial Church, Hope, Arkansas, with Andy Comer, pastor of Antioch, Georgetown serving as alternate.



▲ 2018-2019 BMAA Officers: (from the left) Jeff Swart, president; Dr. Mark Livingston, first vice president; Justin Rhodes, second vice president; Greg Medenwald, recording clerk; Jerome Cooper, recording clerk; Jame Ray Raines, recording clerk (not pictured)

BMA Of america



BMA Global Missions Offers B+ Security Training

BMA Global Missions is glad to partner with Stronghold Security to offer B+ security training to our newly elected missionaries and to other missionaries who are able to attend. The training will take place at the BMA Global Ministry Center in Conway, Arkansas on June 18-19. There are some spots available to the public for those who are interested. The cost will be \$250 per person.

The B+ course is recommended for faith-based travelers who go abroad often, lead teams abroad, live abroad for prolonged periods of time, and for anyone working in an advanced security risk area with regards to criminal activity and/or unfriendly host governments.

Classes will be conducted using lecture, demonstrations, videos, discussion and hands-on role-play scenarios designed to allow students to practice the skills being taught under limited simulated pressure. Topics covered include crime avoidance and target hardening, developing situational awareness, Code of Conduct, organizational policy and procedure, captivity survival, Information protection, car-jack survival, robbery survival, handling confidential questions appropriately, etc.

The training will be led by Stronghold Security President David Dose, who has a professional background in education and training, law enforcement, US Military survival and hostage recovery. David has trained just over 50,000 long and short-term missionaries and volunteers over the past 18 years with a focus on security and survival for Christian Missions personnel. To sign up for the training or to get more information, please contact Paige West at the BMA Global Ministry Center. paige@bmaam.com; 501-358-3848 or 501.455.4977.



Cruise leadership track to teach about followership

By **MATI SPENCER**

DiscipleGuide Church Resources

During the 2018 Church Leaders Cruise, men and women from across the country gathered to rest, relax, and recharge while sailing on the sunny Caribbean. They participated in ministry tracks, which included the inspiration track, family ministry track, and leadership skills track.

This coming year, Dr. Timothy Paul Jones will be conducting the leadership skills track, in which he will be teaching from his new book, *The God Who Goes Before You*, which talks about pastoral leadership as Christ-centered followership.

“The idea is that to be a leader is ultimately to be a follower,” said Dr. Jones. “If you follow well, you will lead well.”

In this session, attendees will think through leadership as followership, since, ultimately, godly leaders will be following after Christ.

“In some sense,” continued Dr. Jones, “instead of people following us, people need to follow Christ through us. It’s not about people following me, it’s about equipping them to follow Christ through me.”

This year’s leadership skills track sessions will build on last year’s track by appealing to a broad range of people. Dr. Jones’s concepts not only work for the lead pastor of a church, but also for a person in their line of work, whatever that may be. Additionally, the research found in *The God Who Goes Before You* is brand new and filled with fresh ideas for the Christian leader.

“The track will be about church leadership, but the concepts will apply in other areas of life also,” explained Dr. Jones. “The material is broader in scope of usefulness, and hopefully it will be helpful to a broad range of people.”

According to Dr. Jones, this conference is the type of conference he would want to take his church to when he was a pastor.

“It is a lot of fun!” he quipped. “It’s a good balance of reflection, content, and relaxation. There’s time to rest, but also time to be engaged.”

If you would like more information about the Church Leaders Cruise 2019, visit discipleguide.org/cruise.

Bethel, Port Arthur rededicates building

Hurricane Harvey caused severe flooding of Bethel, Port Arthur, where Jim Lea serves as pastor. Having cleaned up following the flood, the church reconstructed their sanctuary and rededicated it to the Lord’s use Sunday, May 6, 2018. The celebration included music from *The Southern Plainsmen* and Bro. Thomas Monroe spoke from Exodus 25:1-8 and 25:1-3 in a message titled, *So I Can Dwell Among Them*.

Pastor Lea said, “From the beginning, when it seemed the expenses of our repairs would be far greater than our church treasury, our God quickly answered our prayers with a sizeable

donation from a friend of Bethel.”

He continued, “It was a sign from God that He was with us in our pain and would be with us in our reconstruction.”

Help came from churches known and unknown to the Bethel congregation, and over \$65,000 was raised for the reconstruction. One large donation came all the way from a church in Missouri.

Lea said of the assistance, “Our help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth. What a great God He is!”

At the conclusion of the service, Bro. Lea voiced a prayer of dedication and a fellowship meal followed.



Church health

Men's discipleship

By **LARRY BARKER**

Much is being said today about a vacuum that has been created by the missing father in the home and rightfully so. We see a leadership shortage not only in the home but also in the church. There is a great need to raise up godly men of courage who will step forward and be who God has called them to be. It should sadden us to know that all too often if we ask men in our churches to tell us what it means to be a man of God they struggle to give a clear and concise answer. Churches need discipleship but maybe they need men's discipleship the most.

Robert Lewis, one of the founders of Men's Fraternity, says that if God were giving out the 10 Commandments again there would be 11. The eleventh would be, "Thou shalt raise up godly men!" He reports that a study revealed several years ago that if you reach a child you have a 25 percent chance of reaching the entire family. If you reach the mom you have a 29 percent chance of reaching the family but if you reach the dad you have a 95 percent chance of reaching the entire family. Churches need to make sure their men are going beyond the normal surface relationships.

Solving the problem of the absentee father begins by training up men to be the spiritual leaders of their families. For that to become a reality they must have the spiritual walk that is necessary to be who God wants them to be. A life of godly integrity challenges us to have a one-to-one correlation between our Bible, our beliefs, and our behavior. The key is making Jesus Christ the priority of your life through devotion and study of Him. Pat Morley describes a life of devotion as loving Him more and more while a life of study is getting to know Him more and more.

In *Seven Seasons of the Man in the Mirror* Morley says, "There is a God we want, and there is a God who is. They are not the same God. The turning point of our lives is when we stop seeking the God we want and start seeking the God who is." Are we willing to spend the time necessary in devoting our lives to Him and discovering who He actually is? That commitment to a closer relationship with Him is required but well worth the effort and the journey. The question must be asked, "What do men need?" Robert Lewis offers six things men need for them to be able to be God desires for them to be.

First, men need a "safe place" where they can discover someone understands them, and they are not alone. The temptation is to go it alone and accept a Lone Ranger approach but that is not the focus of community in the word



of God.

The second thing men need is a clear and compelling vision of biblical manhood they can take hold of. Men need a discipleship process that challenges them beyond their comfort zones. Safety in the brotherhood is crucial but it must also address the need to risk and step out in faith. We must be willing to practice a tough love.

Third, men need time with other men to effectively process their manhood. All too often discipleship has an event focus but we need much more than just a pep rally. Who will make sure you follow through on your commitments at the event you attended? Who will hold you accountable? Event driven discipleship takes men to the mountaintop and exhorts them but does not provide the most needed component for actual growth, which is time with other men that make sure we do obey. We need other godly men speaking into our lives.

The fourth need is the practical how-tos of tasting success in our progress as we grow. There must be an implementation plan for men to grow and learn from the successes and failures of other men. Nothing encourages us like success. When we step on the scale and have lost weight that encourages us to keep working on it.

Fifth, men need male cheerleaders. Do not underestimate the importance of finding two or three other men who will affirm their accomplishments and cheer their godly efforts. There are not many cheerleaders out there for godliness and noble things.

The last thing men need in a solid discipleship process are sacred moments where you know you have become the man God wants you to be. Those moments can be some

kind of ceremony at big moments in our lives at a certain age, graduation from high school or college, marriage, or some other worthy accomplishment. Your band of brothers can develop very simple ceremonies of "manhood" that can take on a very epic proportion. What accomplishments are deserving of a ceremony and what might that ceremony look like?

So, where do you start? Look for other men who have a heart to put Christ first in their lives, desire to make that journey with other men who have that same passion, and want to hold one another accountable to that journey. Pat Morley asks this question, "Have you really wanted to know God, or have you just wanted Him to know you?" The difference can determine whether we see ourselves in charge of our lives or that God is in charge. Unfortunately, all too often, Christians seem to have a respect of the scriptures but no knowledge of their contents.

Men's discipleship should seek to study the word to discover the God who is not just the God we desire. The focus must be to make Him King of our lives as we seek to advance His kingdom. The kingdom of God can be defined as what the world looks like when King Jesus gets His way! It is surrendering to His rule and reign in our lives!

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





insights for pastors

Dealing With Problem People

By **DR. ALLEN TILLEY**

Every pastor has critics. They come with the call. They always have a better way to do things. They expect you to visit them regularly. They speak up at business meetings, always negatively. Just know, they won't ever go away. You can either leave ministry because of them, or you can deal with them. Here are six ways to deal with problem people.

Realize all churches have problem people. They are troublesome, at times demoralizing but never fatal. Changing churches doesn't work. Just the names of the problem people change. The Lord didn't promise it would be easy or that He would remove the problem people from your ministry.

Ignore them. When problem people know they're getting under your skin, they become more aggressive. Most of the time, the issue almost always goes away. When you look back, you will wonder why you acted like it was a major crisis. If the threat is real, enlist the help of trusted leaders. Exercise discernment to win the battle.

Focus on the Lord. If you focus on problem people, they can

take you down. If you focus on those things God has called you to do, you will forget about the critics. Never waste your time on problem people. Invest yourself in people who genuinely want to see God's will done in their lives.

Pray for them. Jesus told us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44). Giving them over to God is the best use of your time. Jesus dealt with problem people throughout His earthly ministry. Just remember, He can deal with them better than you ever can.

Look for joy. Problem people enjoy stealing your joy, faith, and strength. God gives you a limited supply of each, each day. Don't be like the pastor who couldn't find joy in his ministry because he was too busy dealing with the small bites of problem people. Be the pastor who finds joy in doing the great things God is unveiling in his church.

Invest in a godly counselor. Since all pastors have dealt with problem people, seek out a mature pastor who still has his joy. Ask

how he dealt with such people. Solicit his advice and perspective. Resist the temptation to talk about problem people with people in your church. You don't need allies, creating factions in the church. You need an outside friend who can walk with you, offering practical solutions.

In my younger years, I tried to make the problem people go away. Now that I'm older, I realize they are part of ministry. We must not only accept them as a part of ministry, we must also learn to accept, pray and love problem people.

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.



Master's Builders begin annual work at Daniel Springs Camp

By **ROSE BITTNER**

Master's Builders Reporter

Once again, 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 153rd job for the Master's Builders to date and the second job in 2018. The Master's Builders first worked at Daniel Springs in 1995 and have worked at the camp a total of eight times over 23 years.

Camp Director Jason Prewitt had plans for the men to work on an exciting remodeling project for the Daniel Dorm and also to build a much-needed shade shelter at the pool. The Daniel Dorm received a renovation that turned the dorm in to a multipurpose meeting/retreat building and dorm space for adults, students, and a variety of groups. The attached artist's drawing shows the new look of the building. The renovations include a large multipurpose room with a small stage area for meetings and worship, and also tables for shared meals or study. The Master's Builders also added a new kitchen area and remodeled two bathrooms to be used within the multipurpose area. This exciting renovation will allow more flexibility to accommodate adult retreats and enhanced youth experiences.

A total of 14 Builders worked on this job including our sweet friends, and honorary members, "Tex" and Donnette Parks from Bethel, Clayton and a new couple, Wes and Kathy Bateman from Arlington, Texas. It is our prayer that they all

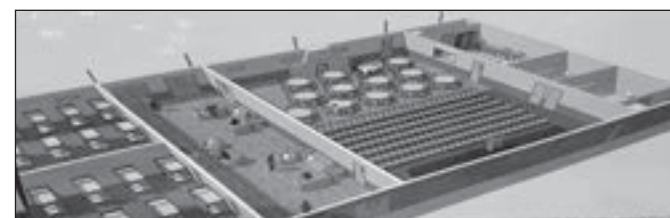
will join the Master's Builders and work with us again soon.

The women enjoyed Bible study and fellowship each day. As always, there was a lot of laughter and fellowship shared by the men during the work on these projects! Jason Prewitt and his sweet family were on hand to visit with the Master's Builders off and on during the job. While at Gary, the Master's Builders always look forward to attending worship services at Bethel, Clayton. The Master's Builders helped in the construction of a new sanctuary for Bethel in Sept. 2015 and the members at Bethel have always been such a blessing to the Master's Builders. The Master's Builders enjoyed two meals and lots of wonderful fellowship with the great folks at Bethel during this job!

The Master's Builders plan to work on a large project with other volunteer organizations in June called the "We Are Free" Hebron Hills aftercare facility in South Arkansas. This facility will provide Christ centered care, housing, and counseling for victims of sex trafficking. We will be building the first of several group homes and a Counseling Center on 25 acres near Hope, Arkansas. Please be in prayer for this work and this facility. If you would like to know more about this work you can visit their web page at www.wearefree.us.

We hope you were able to stop by our table at the BMA National Meeting and visit with us. 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.



High School Graduates

Congratulations to the Class of 2018!

Following are a list of high school seniors who are members of BMA of Texas churches.

ASHMORE, LOOP

Clayton Medlin

BEACON HILL, WACO

*Sarah Adams
Demarcus Allgood
Sophie Widemon*

BLACKJACK, TROUP

*Breana Elizabeth Hill
Bayleigh Anne Lavender
Adam Lee Riggs*

CALVARY, FAIRFIELD

*Rachel Chavers
Jasmine Gomez
Miller Smith*

CAMILLE ACRES, LONGVIEW

*Kyle Croley
Austin Henry
Desiree Murray
Joshua Sexton*

CENTRAL, ASPERMONT

*Luke Carter
Anthony Castaneda
Kolby Jones*

CORNERSTONE, JACKSONVILLE

*Mason Hendrix
Jacie Pollard*

CORINTH, GRAND SALINE

Randy Denton

CROSS ROADS, WINNSBORO

Morgan Dougherty

EIGHTH AVENUE, TEAGUE

*Devin Angel
Dustin Angel
Kade Collins
Cameron Cothran
Justin Cox
Bethany Gilbert*

Makayla Grabs

Jacob Maggard

James Powell

Caelyn Thompson

ELWOOD, WILLS POINT

Samantha Keener

FARLEY STREET, WAXAHACHIE

Joshua Brickey

Daniel Harris

Emma Korbler

Zachary Korbler

Reed Laviolette

Sierra Mahan

Lyndon Prewitt

Kennedie Savage

Cheyenne Taylor

Katherine Yarbrough

FELLOWSHIP, PITTSBURG

Trey Fry

Blake Kirkpatrick

Sarah Kizer

FIRST, BLOOMING GROVE

Logan Andrews

Brint Bray

Heather Chapman

Collin Drain

Taylor Drain

Brock Elmore

Noah Grounds

Claire Plemons

Jordan Tinsley

Mark Von Hoffman

Dakota Webb

FIRST, PALMER

Taylor Rene Morris

Alyssa Justine Nicole Rogers

FRIENDSHIP, MESQUITE

Mylex Bateman

Marissa Berry

Morgan Parker

Nikki Reasor

JACKSON, JOAQUIN

Ally Garrett

Taylor Nichols

Weston Van Houte

LANDMARK, CUSHING

Jordan DeLaney French

Brandon Keith Oliver

LITTLE MOUND, BIG SANDY

Abby Phillips

Jack Whitworth

MAHL, NACOGDOCHES

Emily Bobo

MERRIMAN HILLS, SHERMAN

Angela Perry

MOUNT PISGAH, MINEOLA

Clayton Reiland

MYRTLE SPRINGS, QUITMAN

Ashley Nicole Richey

NEW HARMONY, TYLER

Maddie Beckham

Brianna Brandenburg

Daisy Duran

Cason Parker

OAK GROVE, CANTON

Mitchell Gebauer

OASIS, ARLINGTON

Daniel Trotman

Stephen Trotman

OLD BETHEL, CANTON

Rachel Cade

Cheyenne Collard

Dylan Cox

Chloe Key

D.J. Spencer

Emily Watson

ROSE HILL, MINEOLA

Carson Jones

ROSEWOOD, GILMER

Marshall Baker

Cayden Burnett

Justin Coffey

D.J. Click

Samuel Crossland

Rainy Dollison

Madeline Ebert

Lorie Henry

Nicholas Hoelscher

Emily McCauley

J.P. Powers

Katelyn Seahorn

Tori Thomas

SAND SPRINGS, MINEOLA

Jessica Cockrum

Steven Galyeon

Ryan Gonzalez

Matthew Johnson

Hannah Monk

Jordan Moore

Libbie Peel

Crystal Pierce

Emma Shuttlesworth

STONE RIDGE, KILGORE

Austin Adams

Morgan Peek

TEMPLE, MEXIA

James Powell

WINTERFIELD, PICKTON

Briley Adcock

Parker Cummings



A WORD FROM YOUR MISSION OFFICE:

Our continued burden is to be your ministry partner in reaching your state with the gospel of Christ. We understand that your church's health is critically important in you being able to engage your state. We have some simple helps.

-We continue to partner with National Missions to provide Activate. This program helps a church to assess its health, reengage in its mission, and improve its systems. Activate helps a healthy or slightly unhealthy church to do more for the Kingdom. Contact National Missions or our office.

-Have you ever had a desire to be a good parent or partner to a church plant? It isn't too late to join us for a three day workshop called Churches Planting Churches May 21-23. Bro. Buddy Johnson will be leading this training at the BMA of Texas Building in Waxahachie. Let us know if you would like to attend.

-Arnulfo, I, and a several others would love to share a simple tool with you called The Multiplication Workshop. We will sit down with you one on one and help you to glean from this resource. You will see the missional heart of God along with the mission he has for his church. Contact us for more info.

-We can take a few pastors along for the journey of our next Church Planting Essentials Workshop on June 25-27. We find that pastors really benefit from things they learn in this training. Pastors have plenty of good insight for new planters in our discussion. Let us know if you are interested.

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

A WORD FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES:

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

This past month, toward the end of April, The Bridge Church celebrated it's one year birthday. It has now been one year since we have launched weekly services on Sunday. God has been good and we celebrate all that he has done this past year. God has been extremely faithful as we look back over this past year. I find myself however looking forward to what God is going to do in year two of The Bridge. We ask that you would join us in praying for God to do some mighty things through The Bridge in year two. Pray that God would allow us to see 50 people saved this next year. Pray that God would provide our next meeting place for our Sunday gatherings. Pray that disciples will be made and people will truly understand what it means to serve Him! We are grateful and humbled by your continued support and prayers and we are looking forward to



▲ Matthew Prather

how God is going to use The Bridge in year two!

**JAIME GARCIA—
IGLESIA BAUTISTA NUEVA VIDA MISSION, SPLENDORA**

My words for my brothers in general are always looking more and more to get involved in missions both nationally and internationally, and that we are or have in our hearts love of souls and remember the great need that remains as expressed by the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us pray for pious workers with a grateful heart for the goodness and love of Christ.



▲ Jaime Garcia



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

April has come and gone. We had a solid turn out from the community for our first ever Easter Cook Out. Our small team did a great job of serving and extending warm hospitality. The occasion allowed us to share a gospel presentation with 125+ first time guests, as well as a presentation for children (see pic). We're kicking off the month of May with a membership informational breakfast to help some of our new guests and regular attenders intentionally assimilate into the life of the church. My wife and I continue to deal with chronic illness. Amanda isn't able to leave the house much, so she's decided to start a ministry from home; a Youtube channel, called "Faithfully Feminine," to help disciple women. We greatly appreciate all of your prayers, words of encouragement and support. We consider it a great privilege to serve as part of the BMAT.



▲ Brandon Durham



**NEPTALY MOLINA—
IGLESIA BAUTISTA MISSION, NACOGDOCHES**

Four people have made the decision to follow Christ. I am discipling a group, preparing them to go down to the baptismal waters in Nacogdoches May 27. I think that we are progressing spiritually.



▲ Neptaly Molina

**CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ—
GRACE HARVEST BAPTIST MISSION, LUBBOCK**

This last month we began to see more visible fruit in people desiring to be disciples of Christ. Even though there are challenges in reaching people in a community where we recently moved, God has provided some persons of peace that have responded to the gospel with joy. And they have immediately reached to their family and friends so that they can also hear the good news and begin to follow Christ. It has been amazing to see that! This is something that no strategy can warranty to accomplish but can only be brought about by God's power through the prayers of many of you. Please keep praying for us to be faithful and that God would lead us to find His lost sheep. Please pray also for a church planting partner since the family that had recently joined us needed to go back to Puerto Rico to take care of their parents that are probably in their last days of life.



▲ Christian Martinez

**CHRIS DRIVER—
WEST TEXAS CHURCH MULTIPLICATION NETWORK**

Isaiah 55:8 reminds us that God doesn't think like we think and He doesn't work like we work. I've never known that to be more true than in the work God is doing in west Texas, because the work He is doing isn't just in west Texas! I have connected with a young church planter in South Dakota who God has burdened to reach rural South Dakota the same way God has burdened me for west Texas. We are in regular communication and are sharing ideas and encouragement! In addition to that, a couple from the Journey Fellowship Mission in Loop had to move to Colorado for medical reasons but has since started a group there and are using Facebook live to connect to Loop and the people and mission there!! It's so



▲ Chris Driver

Celebrating our past, looking to our future

By **JASON CURRY**

Texas Baptist Home for Children President

One of the greatest privileges I have had, has been to be TBHC's President. I have been able to travel and preach sharing the heart of the ministry that has meant so much to so many. I have been privileged to stand back and watch many associations and churches take time to encourage and care for our ministry to our foster care and adoption children. There have been pastor breakfasts, meals with churches and donors, or just a cup of coffee spending time talking about what God has done at TBHC.

With everyone I have enjoyed sharing stories about the TBHC kids, foster and adoptive parents, and some of my personal journey over the years. Each time I had great fellowship with believers. Each association took special care to appreciate and praise the work we are doing. I received the blessings of TBHC's great heritage and longevity. Everyone seemed to know before they ever heard from me that we are a place that equips parents, cares for kids and follows the Lords leading in all we do. I had the privilege to preach at four rallies this past spring. I shared how we need everyone to give a helping hand by being a true neighbor. Thank you Liberty Association, Wood Association, Trinity River Association and Landmark Nacogdoches Association for each individual association coming together to make an impact on our ministry. These rallies blessed us so much with a grand total of \$11,630.00. God bless you for your generosity!

As we approach summer don't forget about our Celebration Day! This is a combination of our Change for Children and Homecoming event. This new event called Celebration day will be to celebrate what God is doing for us over the last 108 years and we want YOU to join us. This is a chance for your church to see the impact your donations and support are having for TBHC children. These children are so important to us and it's on this one day each year that you can

come out and see the campus, pray and visit with our families and other donor families as we remember what God has done and will do for years to come! Join us June 9 as we celebrate our past while looking to our future!

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



An expression of everlasting love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from Apr. 1, 2018 – Apr. 30, 2018.

ENDOWMENTS

E ANN PACE: Karl & Martha Pace

MYRA STOKES: Bill Stokes

HONORARIUMS

EMMA ALLRED'S 90TH BIRTHDAY: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

OUR LORD: Earlene Crenshaw

WAYNE & JOANN PETREA'S 65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: Sam & Brenda Reeves

ROSEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH: Jacob & HollyAnn Thompson

MEMORIALS

WALTER BECKER: Dennis & Ilona Myrice

ADDIE MAY BREWER: Sarah Kaiser

WILMA CANN: Jerry & Alice Null

BETTY CHERRY: Terry Hudson

GRETCHEN CLEGG: Michael & Kathy Fox

GEORGE CONN: Oma Conn

KRISSY CORDRAY: Jed & Glenice Whitaker

FLEANOY AVON CORLEY (F.A.): William & Sheri Foster; Byron & Nita Meads; Tonja Van Sickle; Southwest Airlines

CALVIN DEAN: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

PAT WINDSOR GHOLSON: Brent & Tammy Swanner

RICKIE GIPSON: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

KANNY GRAHAM: J Wayne & Betty Holmes

DEE HANCOCK: Patsy Bishop

FLOYD HENDRICK: Charles & Portia Gordon

VERN KUHN: Jim & Carol Bledsoe; Son Shine Class @ Farley Street Baptist Church; Sandra Williams

WILLIAM "BILL" LAKES: Rosewood Baptist Church

KATIE LANDRUM: Jed & Glenice Whitaker; Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Rosewood Baptist Church

BETTY LANGFORD: John Langford

BETTY JANE LLEWELLYN: Margaret Wolf

BOBBIE MILLER: Temple Baptist Church, Mexia

CHARLES MITCHELL: Gay Mitchell

LACY MORRIS: Jed & Glenice Whitaker

LILLIAN OWENS: Regina Crane

SAM RENO: Johnny & Phyllis Howell

BRO. GABRIEL SALDIVAR: Freestone Baptist Church, Teague

LARRY SANDIFER: Rose Hill Baptist Church, Mineola; J.C. & Anita Lassiter; Shirley Brooke

BILLY RAE STELLY: Joseph & Norma Martin

PAM STOVALL: Johnny & Phyllis Howell

WILMA LOUISE THOMAS: Margaret Wolf

JAMES TURNER: Johnny & Phyllis Howell

CULLIS & AULETA WADE: Lena Green

E.T. WILLIAMS: Minnie Williams

MARY WOLFINGTON: John Wolfington

MEMORIALS - HONORARIUMS



Highlights of the National WMA Meeting

By SHARON COLE

The National WMA met April 16, 2018 at Jackson, Mississippi Convention Center with approximately 105 in attendance, representing 67 churches and 1 foreign country. In the business meeting, the following officers were elected: President-Jodi Rhea; 1st Vice President-Charlotte Johnson; 2nd Vice President-Brenda Hornaday; 3rd Vice President-Cindy Allen; Recording Secretaries-Linda Dertinger and Jessica Haden; Treasurers-Pat Duncan and Janet Widger; Media Editor-Alicia Johnson; Editor-Jackie Ricks; Historian-Sandy Kennedy; Directors of Youth Auxiliaries-Mandi Townsend and Laurie Hicks; GMA/YLA Promoters-Lisa Christian and Lane Flint; Sunbeam Promoters-Shirley Hoffpauir and Sandra Kizer; Song Leader-Judy Wallace; Pianist-Jerene Reddin; Project Promotion Committee-Diana Morris, Kelly Williams and Terri Adams; Salary & Expense Committee-Beth Caldwell, Victory White and Connie Reifsteck; Study Book Committee-Narita Roady, Carolyn Colvert and Glenda Chamberlain; Advisory Council-Bro. Claude Evans, Bro. David Kizer and Bro. Randy Rhea.

The new project for the year is "We Are Free." More information on this project will be given at a later date. The meeting continued Tuesday with Charlotte Johnson giving a welcome and short devotional, reading from Esther 4:14.

After singing and door prizes, Mandi Townsend, director of youth auxiliaries, introduced National Miss GMA Sarah Landsford, who presented a devotional challenge from Job stating that we serve a mighty God who is pleased with the humble.

Sandra Jordan then gave her testimony. Several songs were sung praising Jesus' name including: "There Is No Other Name;" and "Purified and Holy," which Judy Wallace and Jerene Reddin wrote. Special speaker: Kim Crabill presented a short video: "Burdens to Blessings," after which she spoke on the subject of "Fear." She stated that fear is not from God, but it can be used for God. Seek, stand and be set free; be outrageous courageous; go face our fear, fight it or flight it." "Run to Jesus."

After a delicious meal in honor of pastors' wives and widows, Kim Crabill came and gave a few words of encouragement and gave a rose to each one and Jodie Rhea gave each a necklace made by her 92 year old mother. Sabrina Clayton sang: "Thank You."

In the afternoon "Breakout Sessions," Shirley Hoffpauir led the Sunbeam group; "From Final to First" was led by Judy Wallace; "Roundtable discussion was led by Kim Crabill; and Diana Morris led "Missions." There were over 200 in attendance at this session.

DISTRICT NEWS

The **Mt. Olive District WMA** met April 24, 2018 at Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment "KID ZONE" building for quarterly business, program and fellowship meal at 6:30 p.m. President Leona Wimberly, presided over the meeting. After the business meeting, Jason Prewitt, director of Daniel Springs Camp, spoke to the group about the "KID ZONE" building that is in the process of being remodeled and decorated to be used as an activity center during camp season for young children. This will be a valuable tool to use during camp time to teach the little ones. The "KID ZONE" building is our Mt. Olive District WMA project for the year. All donations to this project may be sent to the treasurer: Sharon Cole, 609 CR 405, Carthage, TX 75633. Project Promoter, Emilee Baker has worked hard this year and previous years on the different projects. The Lord has blessed through her efforts. The July 24th meeting will be with Old Center, Tenaha.

The **Liberty District WMA** met at Latch, Gilmer, April 7, 2018 with 78 in attendance with three pastors and nine churches represented. President, Johnnie Ross presided over the meeting reading Colossians 3:16-17. After the business meeting, Missionary Wendy Miller, (our 2017-2018 district project), gave a report on Stone Point Church in Cummings, Georgia. Our goal is \$3,500. She stated that they are meeting in a new, bigger and better facility. The money being raised will go to their children's ministry. Lisa Kakilala, missionary to the Philippines, spoke about her family's work in reaching out to teens and children with Bible study in their home. A skit was presented by Shirley Hoffpauir and her granddaughter dressed as lab professors to advertise the upcoming Sunbeam theme: "In the Lab with Professor "G." The next district Sunbeam meeting will be at Camille Acres May 19th. Also speaking at the meeting were Chloe Key and Mary Kate Key from Van Zandt County District. Chloe has attended VSM mission trips to Panama and Mexico. She shared with us that she heard her calling when she was at a SOAR Conference. In Panama she helped with VBS in Mexico and worked with Tommy and Sara Rose painting and cleaning the church. Mary Kate shared her salvation testimony and about her trip to Ukraine visiting orphanages and helping in VBS. Everyone enjoyed a luncheon served by the host church.

The **Cherokee District WMA** met April 4, 2018 at First, Jacksonville with a fellowship meal at 6 p.m. prepared by the host church and Sardis Baptist Church. After business meeting a student from Jacksonville

College, Misty, sang a beautiful song. Bro. and Mrs. Robert Isaacs, former missionaries and director of Hispanic Publications, spoke on their experiences serving the Lord in the mission field. Our April outreach project was to collect reading glasses for the BMMI. Nine hundred pair of glasses were collected. The next outreach project will be to collect cleaning supplies and paper goods for the Seminary and Jacksonville College. Cornerstone, Jacksonville received the attendance banner. The next meeting will be July 7, 2018 at Friendship, Jacksonville.

The **Houston-Anderson District WMA** met April 7, 2018 with Sheridan Terrace, Palestine. The meeting began with singing and Barbara Brown brought a lesson on sunflowers for "Share Time." Second Vice President Brenda Hornaday, spoke on "The Three Little Pigs" and sang "He Grew the Tree." A delicious casserole and salad lunch was prepared by the host church. The July 14th meeting will be hosted by Ephesus, Latexo.

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.



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 Atsbery for current annuity rates and additional information. charles@bmaamerica.org or call 501-472-2183



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

National WMA project selected for 2018-19

By KELLY WILLIAMS

CHAIRPERSON OF NATIONAL WMA PROJECT COMMITTEE

The National WMA met in Jackson, Mississippi, and what a great time we had! A big thank you goes to Charlotte Johnson and Jodi Rhea for having the outrageous courage to make a change in our meeting plans. We conducted business on Monday afternoon with about 100 women present, and then enjoyed a retreat on Tuesday that was wonderful! We heard from Kim Crabill, founder of Roses and Rainbows Ministries, we enjoyed a wonderful time of lunch together and then had four break out sessions to pick from in the afternoon. Again, thank you to Charlotte and Jodi for this great retreat day.

During our business meeting we heard from Mrs. Diane Lee of the College in the Philippines, thanking the National WMA for the funds we raised during the last year. Our ladies and churches raised approximately \$33,000, 80 percent of which went to the college. The other twenty percent is designated to the WMA General Fund and the Youth Auxiliary Fund. Mrs. Lee sends a big thank you to all who helped.

There were three nominations this year for the 2018-19 National WMA Project. They were We Are Free, LifeWord Cloud, and the BMA Moral Action Committee. We heard from all three organizations. The ladies voted to choose We Are Free as the National WMA Project. Angelyn McMurray, founder of this organization, shared some facts with us about human trafficking. Angelyn is the granddaughter of Silas McMurray, a BMA Missionary to New Jersey in the 1960's and 1970's. Her dad is now the pastor of that

church. Their website is www.wearefree.us and I urge you to visit that website for more information.

Ms. McMurray, who is an attorney, was so moved by the facts of human trafficking that she started this organization. She speaks so passionately about the people affected by human trafficking and she speaks to groups about ways to avoid being pulled into any relationship that can lead to human trafficking.

The National WMA Project Committee met with Ms. McMurray and other officers and interested parties after the retreat to discuss how best to promote this project this year. Ms. McMurray has offered to visit any church, WMA district meeting, or state meeting to share about this ministry with no cost to the churches. The committee is also willing to travel to your meetings to share about the great need of We Are FREE.

We are stepping out in faith with our goal for this project. Ms. McMurray shared at the meeting that the first building has begun and they have funds to finish that building, but no funds to furnish it. She asked that the WMA help her to make this building into a home. The cost to furnish the home, kitchen, bedrooms, living room, conference rooms, etc. is approximately \$60,000. We considered that as our budget but because we take 20 percent of the funds received for the general fund and youth auxiliary, we decided to set a goal of \$80,000, so that her portion is the \$60,000 needed. She will be sending to me some information about how much each room would cost so that if your church or district or state wants to take on a particular room, we will know what that looks like.

Last year was my first year to serve as a national

officer on this committee. Here is what I learned: IT ONLY TAKES ONE PERSON DECIDING TO HELP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE! No amount is too small! If your church (or even you yourself) want to give toward this worthy cause, please understand that every dollar helps!

Here are some things from We Are FREE's website:

DID YOU KNOW...

– There are roughly 27 million slaves in the world. There are more slaves now than at any other time in human history.

– More than 17,500 persons will be trafficked into the United States each year.

– Every year, approximately 100,000 U.S. Citizen children will be trafficked within the United States.

– In the United States, forced prostitution (trafficking) begins at an average age of 13 for girls and 12 for boys.

– And in the United States alone, human trafficking is a 9.8 Billion dollar industry. More specifically, in major urban areas, a pimp will earn as much as 1.7 Million dollars every year.

My prayer is that some day this facility will not be needed because we have eradicated the problem of human trafficking, but I'm realistic enough to know that Satan is alive and well and seeking whom he may devour. Let's all get behind this project and make a difference this year!

You can contact me at kelgirl0805@gmail.com or call me at 214-534-9875 to ask for a visit to your WMA.

National Brotherhood Annual Report

By RICHEY HESTER

Editor and Promoter

The National Brotherhood of the BMA met on April 17, 2018 at the Jackson Convention Center in Jackson, Mississippi with 62 present. Dr. Kenneth Pollock opened in prayer. President Mark Jones declared the Brotherhood in business. The first order of business was the election of officers. Officers were elected as follows,

President-Mark Jones

1st Vice President-Van Widger

2nd Vice President- James Laminack

3rd Vice President-Chris Hamilton

Secretary/Treasurer-Robert Bynum

Editor/Promoter-Richey Hester

Music Leader-Bill Thornton

Asst. Music Leader-Matt Hudson

Galilean Director-Kenneth Colvert

Asst. Galilean Director-Dan Williams

The Brotherhood project for 2018-19 is the Bible College in the Philippines and Missionary Bryan Risner.

35 percent to Philippians Bible College-Jimmy Walker Work Fund

30 percent to Missionary Bryan Risner

25 percent to Galileans

10 percent General Fund

Brother Kenneth Covert gave the Galilean report. He first thanked the Brotherhood for their support. Bro. Covert said that they are giving the boys a purpose in life. This purpose might keep them out of trouble or even prison. There are more men in prison than women. Bro. Covert said he wanted to get Jesus to them before they end up in prison. National Galilean camp is set for June 28-July 1, 2018 at Stoneridge Baptist Camp in Smithville, Arkansas. This year's Galilean theme is

“Separated” from 2 Corinthians 6:17 and Eric Johnson will be the camp pastor.

Bro. Stan Scroggins thanked the Brotherhood for the support of the Philippines Bible College. The support equaled 100,000 pesos, 100 pesos = \$1000.00, so 100,000 pesos = \$1,000,000. Bro Jimmy Walker gave thanks for the continued support of the Bible College.

Bro. Bryan Risner, Missionary to Romania gave the message. The message came from Acts 1:10-11, he asked the question, “Are you salting, are you going where God leads you?”. He tells us why Romania, 86.7 percent of the population is orthodox, only 0.6 percent are Baptist. That's why he will follow God's call and leave Arkansas and go to Romania. He finished with the question, “Where is God leading you?”.

Bro. David Lawrence led in closing prayer.

Overall it was a great meeting. Remember to support the Brotherhood and our projects.

LEAVE IT TO CLEAVER



Random thoughts on the Decalogue (Ten Commandments)

By **DR. TONY CLEAVER**

EXODUS 20:2 "I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD..."

The introduction to any great work sets the tone for all that follows. The preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America is such an example. The preamble contained in this Scripture is by far head-and-shoulders above all introductions ever written in world literature. It is the very word of God concerning life laws. I AM are the words spoken to Moses to name the God of Heaven. It is no inconsequential character who is speaking this introduction. When Jesus was asked the garden if He was the one they were looking for, when He responded "I Am", the guards fell to the ground. Dear friend as we read the words of this passage of The Commandments, we ourselves need to fall to the ground at the words of I AM.

DEUTERONOMY 5:7 "DO NOT HAVE OTHER GODS BESIDES ME."

Exclusivity, exclusiveness, and exclusive are words that carry the sense of this Command. Most people of a general church crowd say they obey this first commandment. Do we? The I Am specifically instructs His people not to have any God instead of Him. He wanted His people to be exclusively His people. He did not want His people to share allegiance with the many gods of the day. Today many gods are still available to all of us. His people are to exclusively choose, honor, give allegiance, focus on, think about, and live in His presence as His dear children. He desires to cover His children with his exclusive presence as we choose Him as our God. For He is our God. He is an exclusive God of other so-called gods! Don't have other gods beside me. Good reader, we cannot have him as God plus an addition of another god!

DEUTERONOMY 5:8 "DO NOT MAKE AN IDOL FOR YOURSELF..."

All who are idolaters please raise your hand. And of course no one will raise their hand to admit to idolatry. It is not so much the shape of the idol, the image. It is more the bowing to worship and the serving them. It is the next promotion. It is the being chosen for a position. It is the accolade of community, It is the applause of society, or other things that have the ability to make us bow and serve. Reality assures all of us that I cannot ignore the I Am. I cannot be in a relationship with Him and at the same time bow and serve another prime focus in my life. He is the one reserved exclusively for my bowing to worship and kneeling to serve!

EXODUS 20:7 "DO NOT MISUSE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD..."

Certainly we have all been told "not to cuss." That is true, but it does not cover the whole sense of this First Commandment. Holy is His name. Awesome is He. Beyond our imagination best describes Him. If the scribes carefully wash before writing His name on scrolls, how much more we who claim Christianity should walk in life to give honor to His Name! Disservice is the term that comes to mind here with these words. Disrespect follows quickly. Taking God's name as worthless or with light-heartedness is right there. Misuse or in vain tells us how awesome the Lord God is. No one is to take Him lightly by using His name other than in the way of what He is, what He stands for, and what He wants for us. I AM wants us to be forthright in the use of His name!

DEUTERONOMY 5:12 "BE CAREFUL TO REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY..."

"But I have to work on Sunday. If I don't I will lose my job!" That is probably true when spoken by many who have shift work

jobs. Yet there is a time to remember God who provided that job. There is time in shift work to remember the God who gave life, family, joy, and even friends. Remember the miracle of God in your life! Take time to think through them. Take time to ponder his strong hand and outstretched arm that has made your life what it is today. That is why the Lord your God has given this fourth part of the Decalogue for us who call ourselves Christians. We are to remember a special time for the I AM-not just a passing "hello."

EXODUS 20:12 "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER..."

Commandment Five is a transition from focus on the I AM to focus on parents who act in the place of God. God is over all of humankind. Parents become the premier guide for children in the home. Certainly the Command with no wavering delineates the honor God requires children to have for their parents. The command also tells parents to be the honorable people who are worthy of respect from their children. Jesus is a great example for all of us to emulate in giving parental honor. We honor our parents even if it's not convenient to us or not just the right moment for us to do an act that is honoring to parents. This is the Command that tells us there is only positive for us from God when we fulfill our honor to our parents. When I AM makes a promise, He keeps it.

DEUTERONOMY 5:17 "DO NOT MURDER."

Hatred, animosity, jealousy, rage, cunning plans, or temper can lead to the heinous act of murder. If honest, most of us have said of another person at one time or another, "I wish you were dead." Thank goodness we did not bring the wishful thinking to the violation of the Sixth Commandment! Murder begins in the heart. Murder consummate with a spilling of blood- the taking of life. It is not an accident. Murder is volitional of the human heart. Murder is not only the "top crime" of humanity it is also a violation of taking a life that God gave. When God gives a life, I have no right to take it. It is His. It is spoken by I AM that His creatures are not to murder each other.

EXODUS 20:14 "DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY."

It seems adultery is no longer a crime. Yet according to the I AM in the Seventh Commandment it is a higher order than crime. It is a sin. Sin is a volitional act that is willful and forceful behavior that goes against the word, will, and ways of God. Society has popularized adultery as "not that bad." Media portrays adultery in a positive light. The Commandment shows the nature of adultery. The Creator who made us male and female knows best for us- His creatures. Jesus teaches us that adultery is forgivable, however Jesus teaches adultery is not repeatable. So let us renew our look at this Seventh Commandment in the light of what God has put forth for our lives. After all what God says is much more important than what popular media tells us.

DEUTERONOMY 5:19 "DO NOT STEAL."

Everybody takes pencils, pens, and some paper clips home from the office, don't they? Everybody fudges a little on their income tax, don't they? The Eighth Commandment demands of us not to steal. Stealing can become a way of life with our tongue as well as our fingers. We can steal a person's reputation and good name in our "innocent" conversations with others. Sometimes we bail out of our credit card debts. We simply don't pay them. We have friends who walked off from a house they owed a great deal

of money to a mortgage. We must evaluate our lifestyle in the light of this Commandment: "Do not steal." These are the words spoken by I AM.

EXODUS 20:16 "DO NOT GIVE FALSE TESTIMONY AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR."

What does the Ninth Commandment mean? And just who is my neighbor that I should not give false testimony against? Perhaps I give false testimony against the poor who are "down and out" because they are just that-down and out and poor. Perhaps I give false testimony against those "other people" who are not of my culture or ethnicity because they are "not like me." Perhaps I give false testimony against my own family when I put down Uncle Jack and Aunt Harriet for their objectionable lifestyle. Certainly I am reminded in court with my hand on the Bible to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Perhaps I should go about each day in my life with a court attitude to tell the truth and not give false testimony against my neighbor. After all that is the oath that the I AM asks me to take and live my life in its light.

DEUTERONOMY 5:21 "DO NOT COVET..."

The reason my neighbor's boat is sinful is because I don't have one like it-perhaps even bigger. The reason my neighbor's summer home is sinful is that I don't have one-maybe somewhat larger in a better location. The Tenth Commandment tells us not to be covetous about our neighbor's wife or desire our neighbor's house, his field, his male or female slave, his ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to my neighbor. Right now I don't covet my neighbor's ox. I would not know what to do with it in my one bedroom apartment. However I really do covet his position in the upper echelon of my company. Covetousness is akin to idolatry! I cannot be a child of I AM and constantly and habitually keep a covetous heart and mind.

EXODUS 20:18 "WHEN THE PEOPLE SAW IT THEY TREMBLED..."

There is not much if any trembling in the presence of God today. There is simply no awe regarding the God of Heaven. The conclusion to the Decalogue or the Ten Commandments is contained in these verses. It was the God of all, and who is over all, who spoke His words. The people stood trembling at His total awesomeness. Dear reader, we too should tremble in the presence of our Father. For we are called to be His people, His children. Our behavior regulated by these Ten Words comes from a heart of gratefulness to Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. It is out of gratitude not rigid falseness of religiosity that we form our behavior on the pattern of words that are applicable to all spoken by the I AM.

Tony Cleaver is the director of distance learning and a professor of Biblical studies at Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Tex. He is an author and writer of the popular newspaper column, Leave It to Cleaver. He may be contacted at tony.cleaver@bmats.edu.



BMA Texas Missions cont.

amazing to know that God has a heart to do something not just in rural west Texas but in rural AMERICA! So pray for us that we will not limit what God can do and wants to do. We just want to continue to follow the One who is able to do far more than we could possibly think or imagine!

JOHN HARRIS— FOUNDATION COMMUNITY MISSION, BENBROOK

Thank you for your prayers this past month, especially as we traveled for my uncle's funeral. Pray for us as we meet with a group this month that is interested in joining us in our efforts to plant Foundations!



▲ John Harris

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

God is moving in some amazing ways down here on the coast. The church is growing - we are up to about 120 people between the two services. We have started a micro-church in an outlying community called Demi Jon Island and they are up about 14 people. We have also been blessed through the work of Brother Maldonado in bringing a Spanish Bible Study to our church with the goal of it becoming a mission and ultimately its own church. Pray for us - pray that God will bless us, expand out



▲ Cliff Robertson

territory, keep His hand on us and keep us from all evil and harm (1 Chron.4:10) Amen

WORK OPPORTUNITY: Carpenter's House has possession of their new (old) building and can use help with demo and remodel work. They welcome individuals and teams that want to help. Contact Cliff at drcliffrobertsonjr@gmail.com.

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE FIELD

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

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

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

-Pray for each of your mission points as they shift into summer ministry mode.

-Pray for your missionary's spouses Amanda Durham, Gloria Garcia, Manuela Molina, and Jaime Driver as they face health issues.

PRAISE REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

-The brand new mission led by Bro Santos alongside Bethel Baptist Church of Port Arthur saw their first salvation this week! It was a father visiting along with his family.

-Crossroads Church of Rowlett, Redeemer's Love Mission in Houston, The Church at Valley Ranch in New Caney, and Antioch Mission in Georgetown are all hosting new resident interns!

-I know of 10 saved on your mission field this month!

-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.



BMA Seminary's Sixty-First Commencement

The Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary of Jacksonville, Texas will hold its 2018 commencement exercises on Saturday, May 19 at 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Baptist Church located at 210 Philip Street in Jacksonville.

The event is open to the public.

The 2018 graduating class will be the seminary's sixty-first. Graduates will receive Associate, Bachelor and Master's degrees during the ceremony.

Randy Veach of Manila, Arkansas will present the commencement address. Veach is a deacon at Little River Baptist Church in Manila and a BMA Seminary trustee. Veach, a third-generation farmer, and his wife Thelma farm on land cleared by his grandfather and father. They have one son and four grandchildren.

Veach is currently serving in his tenth term as Arkansas Farm Bureau president. He also serves as president and board chairman for the Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company. Other boards upon which he serves include those of the Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Company, Farm Bureau BanCorp, and the Arkansas World Trade Center.

In 2015, he was appointed to serve on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee for Tobacco, Cotton, and Peanuts.

In 1998, Mississippi County, Arkansas chose Veach's family as Farm Family of the Year. In 2012, Veach received the Honorary American Future Farmers of America degree for lifetime service to youth and agriculture education. In 2014, he was recognized as the Burlsworth Foundation's Legends Honoree.

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.



▲ Randy Veach



Mothers and others

"Good news Pat! Your baby has arrived!" I had hoped and prayed and longed to hear those words, but today I was surprised. Shocked might be more accurate. We had been told by the adoption agent to keep our regular schedule of activities and they would stay in touch. This was hardly a "stay in touch" conversation; it was the real deal! Only five months had passed since our general orientation and I felt totally unprepared.

Ready or not, I was excited! Overjoyed. Ecstatic. And I admit it—also a bit overwhelmed! We had just become parents and I wanted to share the news! But my husband was in a Beachcraft Muskateer flying to Bridge City, Texas on the gulf coast to begin a week-long revival meeting and it would be hours before he arrived (no cell phones). He needed to know he was a new dad. The real truth? I needed him to calm my heart, absorb the shock and make a plan! We lived in Amarillo, and our precious baby was in Baylor Hospital in downtown Dallas—360 miles away!

All of a sudden I was overcome with sadness, missing my mama who was taken from us in a car accident in 1959. And for just a few minutes a harsh reminder of all I had lost returned, leaving an empty loneliness I had not felt in a long time. As quickly as it had come, truth and reality followed. Mama had been gone since I was 18, but she had never seemed far away. During important milestones—happy times or challenging moments—her words and her presence loomed large in my head and made a difference. I knew without a doubt she would not miss out on this significant event either.

And neither would my two very special sisters, Arlene Patterson and Colene Linton. They had been part of everything important to me and this would be no exception. The first phone call went to Arlene because she lived close to where our baby was. After the celebration, she told me what to pack and helped plan our pick up and delivery from the airport to the hospital. Confidence surged within as I listened to my calm, quiet, normally indecisive sister, explain how their baby bassinet stored in the attic would get a fresh coat of paint along with a new liner and that we would have everything needed by the time we returned to their home from the hospital.

When Coy arrived in Bridge City and shared the good news, the church graciously gave him a night off and plans were set in motion. Time was short but magical and in those shared moments with our new son, a lifetime of love was begun. Four wonderful days followed as I received "on the job training" from my sister—an experienced mother of four boys!

Even when sisters were out of reach, God sent caring ladies from our church when I needed advice, a day off, or a shoulder to cry on. Not only the children, but our entire family got "adopted" by special folks who loved and cared for us just as if we were related. After moving from Amarillo, Dede Sanders and "Grandma Black" remained part of our family, loving on us long distance.

Women need each other. And it was true in Bible times. When the angel announced to Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus, she also learned that Elizabeth, well past child-bearing age, was also expecting a baby. Immediately Mary traveled to Judea to visit and help her cousin. In the process, both ladies were blessed and encouraged! (Read Luke 1:26-45 for the entire story.)

This month we honor our MOTHERS and the many OTHERS who never wait to be asked, but willingly step into our lives and share their love. Thank you for giving sacrificially and for making a difference!

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.



EVENTS

REVIVAL

DATE: Sunday, June 3, 11 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Monday, June 4-Wednesday, June 6, 7 p.m.

PLACE: Rocky Hill, Huntington

EVANGELIST: Bro. Malcom Ellis

105TH HOMECOMING

DATE: July 1, 2018

PLACE: Little Flock, Lufkin

TIME: 10 a.m.

SPECIAL GUESTS: Southern Plainsmen Quartet

SPEAKER: Bro. John McGuire

EAST TEXAS MISSIONS

DISTRICT MEETING

DATE: August 28, 2018

PLACE: Centro De Vida Mission,

1013 S. Robertson Avenue, Tyler, Texas

TIME: 6 p.m.

118TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

DATE: November 5-6, 2018

PLACE: Calvary Baptist Church, Fairfield, Texas

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

YOUTH/CHILDREN'S MINISTER—Red Springs, Tyler (located north of Tyler) is seeking a youth and children's minister. For more information, call Pastor Collin Jones at 903-363-8434.

YOUTH PASTOR—Anthony Drive, Ennis is seeking a bivocational youth pastor. Salary is \$18,000 per year plus home with utilities paid. Must love the Lord and live a godly lifestyle, be a self-starter and have some formal biblical education or plans to begin. Duties include training up our teens (6th-12th grade) in God's Word, arranging and executing all camps, missions and activities, planning Bible studies for Sunday morning and Wednesday evening and being accountable for all money received for youth activities. Send resume to Pastor Matt Walker at mattwalker@adbccennis.org. ^{7/18}

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

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

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

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

AVAILABLE MINISTER

SCOTT SCHULLE is available for to serve as an interim pastor or a bivocational pastor within 50 miles from Rusk. Contact him at 903-948-0058 (cell) or 903-795-3886 (home).

^{7/18}

Churches in review

April 15, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Omen	41	57	
First, Palmer	42	64	
Jackson, Joaquin	78	147	
Little Flock, Lufkin	55	100	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	38	52	
New Harmony, Tyler	279	330	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		41	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	41	62	
Rosewood, Gilmer	123	225	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	47	68	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	20	38	
Simmons Hill, Diana	10	23	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	13	27	

April 22, 2018

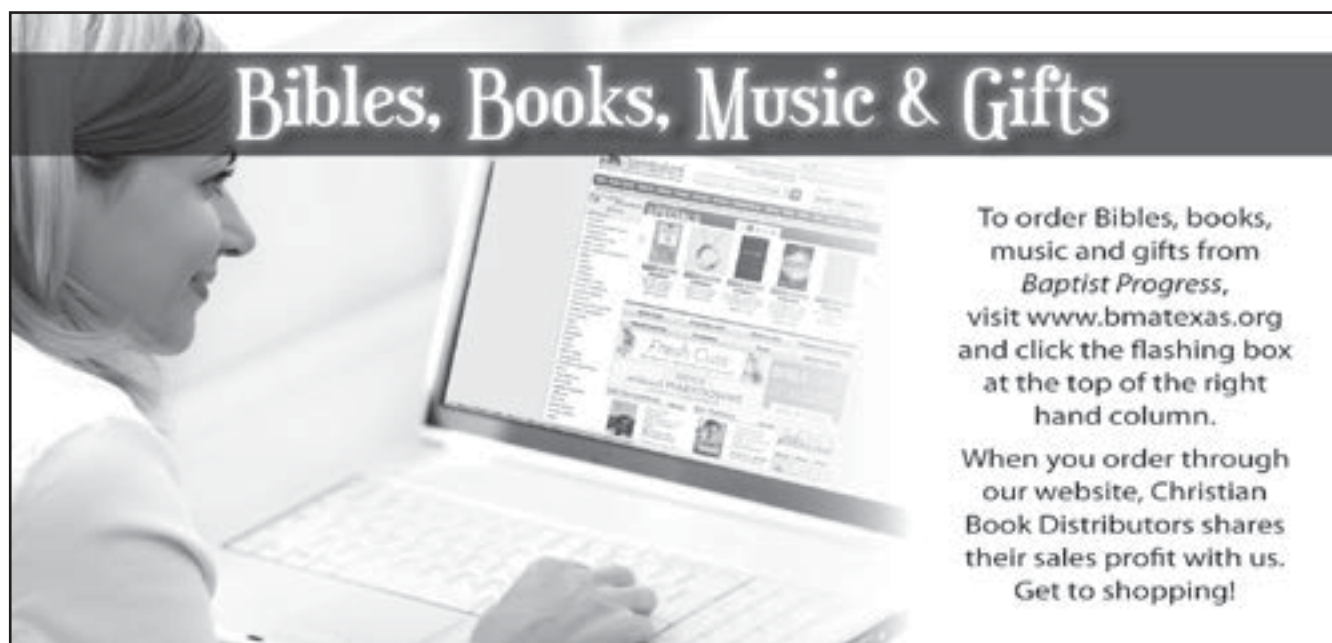
CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Antioch, Gilmer	40	101	
Anthony Drive, Ennis	48	110	
First, Palmer	40	71	1 by baptism
Glade Creek, Gilmer	19	36	
Jackson, Joaquin	65	120	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	32	46	
New Harmony, Tyler	302	353	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		42	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	38	55	
Pine Brook, Tyler	23	49	
Rosewood, Gilmer	122	232	1 profession of faith
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	51	80	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	22	33	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	13	22	

April 29, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis		131	
First, Palmer	43	70	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	23	40	
Jackson, Joaquin	67	117	
Little Flock, Lufkin	50	75	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	27	46	
New Harmony, Tyler	302	447	
New Hope, Mineola	76	152	1 by letter
Olde Tyme, White Oak		61	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	40	55	
Rosewood, Gilmer	137	232	1 by baptism
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	57	86	
Simmons Hill, Diana	35	45	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	14	24	

May 6, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	61	76	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	25	39	
Jackson, Joaquin	77	142	
Little Flock, Lufkin	113	213	1 by baptism
Little Mound, Big Sandy		60	
New Harmony, Tyler	290	362	1 by letter
New Hope, Mineola	65	143	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		43	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden		93	
Pine Brook, Tyler	33	70	
Rosewood, Gilmer	147	242	1 by baptism
Security Calvary, Cleveland	20	43	
Simmons Hill, Diana	22	35	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	18	29	



Bibles, Books, Music & Gifts

To order Bibles, books, music and gifts from *Baptist Progress*, visit www.bmatexas.org and click the flashing box at the top of the right hand column.

When you order through our website, Christian Book Distributors shares their sales profit with us. Get to shopping!

Sunday School Lessons

An introduction to the Psalms

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

DATE: June 3, 2018

Psalms is poetry. A vast number of them are lyrics which David put to music. They are songs of praise. Psalms has been described as the ancient hymnal of God's people. Psalms is totally inspired by God, Himself.

David wrote most of the book, but Moses Psalm 90; Asaph wrote 12 psalms; The descendants of Korah wrote 10, Solomon wrote some, and Ethan and Heman the Ezrahites, were responsible for others.

In the Psalms, we see David's penitent prayers and crying out to God, not only for deliverance from his enemies, but in

confession of his own sin (Psalm 51) Much of the Psalms are expressions of worship to Almighty God, or Psalms about God.

We find David addressing an age-old question which grips the minds of everyone: "Why do the wicked prosper?" (Psalm 73) He came to the conclusion that he had come to realize what the end of the wicked would be.

The anguish of the Tribe of Judah, in the aftermath of being taken captive of the Babylonian Army is well noted in Psalm 137. In being captured and taken to a far place, they had lost their "chief joy" which was Jerusalem. Why was Jerusalem hailed as their chief joy? Because it was the place where God dwelt in the

holy of holies in the Temple.

The Psalms have been described as (1) encouraging praise and worship; (2) Illuminating and affirming God's greatness; (3) God's willingness to protect His people in times of trouble; (4) God's willingness to lovingly guide His people; (5) and (6) demonstrations of individual repentance toward Him.

If you hurt, meditate on Psalm 13; If you rejoice, meditate on Psalm 30; The Psalms will help us to share our hearts with God. If you want a great templet to guide you in communing with God, the Psalms is the one.

Two ways to live

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

DATE: June 10, 2018

TEXT: Psalm 1

The process which leads to rebellion and sin

Verse one gives a description of the two different lifestyles. One who walks in the righteous path of God is described as joyful, prosperous, enviable. Those who live in this manner shun the advise and counsel of rebellious sinners.

The process begins when one (1) adopts the plans and purposes of the ungodly. (2) they become actively

submissive to them; and (3) they are content, relaxed and at home in the way of the scornful and mockers.

Verse two describes the life of one who follows laws of God. The precepts of God are embossed upon the heart, and it is received with delight. The follower of Christ meditates upon those precepts, night and day.

Verse three describes the strength and stability one receives when they are enjoined to God's precepts. The imagery is a tree, planted near a river or stream. Jeremiah 17:8. (1) bearing fruit; (2) leaves remain green and healthy

because of the depth of the root system. (3) Prosperous and mature. Such is the description of one firmly planted in the foundation of the Word of God.

Verse four describes the disobedient. They are blown away like the chaff from the wheat. They are worthless, dead, without substance.

Verse five notes that the wicked shall not stand justified in the judgement.

Verse six describes the end of the wicked — reduced to ruin, and will come to nought.

From the heavens to the heart the two-folded revelation of God

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

DATE: June 17, 2018

TEXT: Psalm 19

Verses 1-4 God reveals Himself in nature: His artistry is seen in the skies. His glory is seen in the sun and at night. There is no voice — no word, and yet, the message is clear throughout the world

Verses 5-6 describes the sun's proclamation of a Holy God. A radiant bridegroom, a great athlete, a proclaimer of God's goodness

which is all encompassing of the world — from one of the heavens to the other.

Verse 7-11 describe the instructions and commandments of God; They are perfect, and revive a downtrodden soul; They are trustworthy, transforming hearts. They bring joy, they are clear, they provide insights by which to live. His mandates are pure, true, fair, desirable, and sweet.

Verse 12-14 explain the protection which comes from God's law. They serve as a moral and spiritual compass in our hearts, warning us of wrong direction, and pinpointing sin which lurks within our hearts.

The Psalmist desires deliverance from willful sins and their control. He also asks that God is pleased when his words are representative of a heart of worship.

The Lord is my shepherd

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

DATE: June 24, 2018

TEXT: Psalm 23

In this possibly most famous of all Psalms, contain all the benefits of our Good Shepherd. (John 10:) Most scholars believe this was written by David in his twilight years. He had experienced the sanctifying work of God and has learned the meaning of contentment, and trust in God's mercy and grace. And he describes all the blessed benefits because of Who his Shepherd is. We, as believers in Christ, can say in unison with him:

Because the Lord is my Shepherd:

Verse 1 — All my needs are met in Him. (Ephesians 3:20)

Verse 2 — He gives me rest and tranquility even in storms (Hebrews 4:1-4)

Verse 3 — He refreshes me when I am weary and guides me along the right path.

Verse 4 — He keeps me secure, and accompanies me even in dark valleys (Hebrews 13:5-6

Deuteronomy 31:6

Verse 5 — He considers us an honored guest at a royal banquet, even in the face of enemies.

Verse 6 — He promises abiding grace, goodness and

unfailing love throughout life.

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.



Another semester

By **DR. MIKE SMITH**

President of Jacksonville College

At this time of the year since 1899, Jacksonville College administration, faculty, and students have breathed a collective sigh of relief and proclaimed, "Another semester."

As in previous semesters, God has blessed JC this semester. Our motto is "Challenging minds, Transforming lives." We have seen students' lives transformed this semester as a number have professed Jesus as Lord and Savior. We have been blessed with a large group of "preacher boys," and students called to ministry. One has been called to pastor a church this semester.

Three of our ministry students are serving as youth ministers in churches. One will serve as an intern this summer. Several are serving on church camp staff this summer. We at JC will miss them, but we rejoice in their spiritual growth and the transformation in their lives. With great expectations, we watch as they enter the next phase of academic life. We pray for their success.

On Tuesday, April 24, JC hosted Awards Night followed by a dessert reception under the stars. Our staff, led by Vice President for Executive Affairs Blanton Feaster, planned and executed a beautiful night. The weather was perfect, the décor was beautiful, and S'mores were delicious.

Many students received awards, including the following:

Mr. Jacksonville College: Judson Frazier

Miss Jacksonville College: Allyson Hinds

Curtis Carroll Award: Judson Frazier

C. R. Meadows Award: Brady Weaver

Kelly Rae Davis Award: Michaela Little Axe

NJCAA All-American: Ines Nezerwa

NJCAA All-American Honorable Mention: Christian Barrett

This semester closes on May 12 with commencement services at 10:00 a.m. in the Curtis Carroll Gym. According to the numbers, this graduating class could be one of the largest in Jacksonville College history.

Financially, summers are stressful times on campus. Numerous repairs must be made in preparation for the fall semester that begins August 15. Your prayers and charitable gifts this summer will help us prepare for "another semester."



▲ **Dr. Darrell Kirchner giving the Curtis Carroll Award to Judson Frazier**



▲ **President Mike Smith giving Brady Weaver the C. R. Meadows Award**



▲ **Michaela Little Ax Kelly accepting the Rae Davis Award from Randy Decker, director of the JC Music Program**



▲ **Congressman Louie Gohmert, a deacon and Sunday School teacher at Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, frequently speaks or preaches at churches throughout his district and around the country. On March 28, he spoke in Chapel and challenged guests to stand firm in their faith in Christ and the Word of God.**



▲ **Twenty-six Jacksonville College athletes were named to the NJCAA Region 14 All-Academic Team this year. Pictured are 20 of these students.**

Upcoming EVENTS

JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE SUMMER AND FALL TERMS 2018

Registration is ongoing for Maymester, Summer I and II, and Fall 2018. Visit www.jacksonville-college.edu for a list of course offerings.

2018 SUMMER SESSIONS (REDUCED TUITION RATES):

Maymester: May 16 – May 31

Summer I: June 5 – July 2

Summer II: July 9 – August 2

JOB OPENINGS AT JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

