

# Baptist Progress

Baptist Progress, P.O. Box 2055, Waco, Texas 76788  
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THE INFORMING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRY OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS | MAY 2021 | VOL. 108 | NO. 05

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ANNIVERSARY OFFERING

## Jacksonville College trustees elect Lightner as president



▲ The Joe Lightner Family

By **JERRY FULTON**

*Baptist Progress Director/Editor*

The Jacksonville College Board of Trustees voted unanimously to elect Dr. Joe Lightner as the next president of the college April 29. Dr. Lightner has been serving as the college's vice president for executive affairs. The current president, Dr. Mike Smith, who has served the college for the past 10 years, is excited about handing the mantel off to Dr. Lightner.

Smith said, "Dr. Lightner is highly qualified and experienced to lead Jacksonville College to the next level. The best days are ahead for Jacksonville College with Dr. Lightner as president."

Lightner and his wife, Rebekah, have two daughters Hannah (15) and Julia (12).

"The Lightners understand that they have been called to serve here for such a time as this. We

welcome them and look forward to watching how the Lord will guide them in leading our college into the future," said Donnie Page, chairman of the board of trustees.

The president-elect has a distinguished background in growing churches and serving as an executive leader in parachurch ministries. He holds a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, a Doctor of Ministry from Liberty University, and will complete a Doctor of Philosophy in Biblical Ministries from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas and business experience that has strengthened the ministries he has served.

Lightner will serve as president-elect under

Smith until July 15, 2021. At that time, Smith will hand over the responsibilities of president to him.

In speaking of his vision for the college, Lightner said, "God draws students from all over our region, state, nation and world to Jacksonville College for a quality education and spiritual transformation. The college has always had a vision to capture the minds and hearts of students for Christ, a vision that I will faithfully steward."

He added, "Jacksonville College is a special family of students, alumni and friends whose support we need to step into the big vision God has for our future. The immorality of today's culture is a reminder of the importance of Jacksonville College's vision to reach students who will engage the culture for Christ."



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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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Periodical postage paid  
at Waxahachie, Texas 75168  
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)

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Waxahachie, Texas 75168

# MAKING PROGRESS

## How to find a pastor

By **JERRY FULTON**

So, your pastor has resigned. What do you do now? I'm glad you asked!

Messengers at the 2020 Baptist Missionary Association of Texas Meeting gave *Baptist Progress* approval to offer workshops, training opportunities and other resources to pastors, church staff and churches. As a result of their decision, *Baptist Progress* has developed a *Pastor Search Team Manual* for pastor search teams and will also be providing training to potential interim pastors in August.

There is a common myth among our churches that there aren't any available BMA pastors. Again, that is a myth. It is not true! It is this editor's opinion that churches just get in too big of a hurry to find their next pastors and might not know where to turn for help when a vacancy occurs.

Some, including Larry Barker, who heads ACTIVATE for the BMA of America, have suggested that a church's best option is a smooth transition from one pastor to another. By all means, if the resigning/retiring pastor has time to stay and guide the church in seeking its next pastor, then he should. But what if that is not a possibility? What then?

The next best option would be to schedule different speakers to fill the pulpit for the period of about one month. BMA department directors are a great choice to fill a church's pulpit during the first month after the pastor leaves.

In the meantime, the church could contact *Baptist Progress* to request the name of a potential interim pastor. As stated above, sometimes churches get in too big of a hurry to find their next pastors. It is better first to elect a trained interim pastor to lead the church in addressing issues that need to be addressed before the next pastor arrives on the field.

Even when the interim pastor is elected, the church should still wait 30 to 90 days before it begins its search for a permanent pastor. The church's strengths and areas of challenge need to be identified, assessed and recommendations should be made by an assessment team to address those areas of challenge.

Finally, when it is time to find the next pastor, a church, under the direction of the interim pastor, should elect a pastor search team. The pastor search team may choose to follow the *Pastor Search Team Manual* provided by *Baptist Progress*. The manual provides a step-by-step plan for the pastor search team to follow. By all means, the interim pastor should serve as a consultant to advise the pastor search team throughout the process.

The pastor search team should then place advertisements for a pastor in all BMA state association newspapers, including *Baptist Progress*, *Baptist Trumpet* (Arkansas) and *Mississippi Baptist*. Churches may also place their advertisements on the website of the BMA of Texas, [bmatexas.org](http://bmatexas.org). The advertisement should be worded, "First, Anywhere, USA is seeking a pastor (specify full-time or bivocational). Send resume to (provide mailing address and email address)."

At that point, candidates will begin sending their resumes to the church. However, the pastor search team should keep in mind that the team is not just a "resume-collecting" committee and is

not limited to choosing the next pastor from resumes that have been submitted. The pastor search team is just that—a "search" team. Therefore, the search team should contact as many BMA department directors as possible to ask if they are aware of potential candidates as well as ask church members for the names of potential candidates. There might be a pastor currently serving in another BMA church who is being led of the Lord to move to a different church.

Another consideration for the pastor search team is to look within its own church. There might very well be a man, called of God to preach, who is serving as a faithful church member. John MacArthur has stressed in his writings that sometimes the best candidates for a pastor or a church staff member are those who are homegrown—already members of the church.

If *Baptist Progress* can help your church in finding its next pastor, do not hesitate to contact us. This editor, who has served as both a pastor and interim pastor, will be glad to schedule a meeting with your church leaders to assist you in any way he can.

Contact *Baptist Progress* at [editor@baptistprogress.org](mailto:editor@baptistprogress.org) or at 972-923-0756.

#### MINISTRY CONNECTION WORKSHOP CANCELED

Due to the fact that Dr. Mike Smith has a scheduling conflict, the *Baptist Progress* Ministry Connection Workshop scheduled for June 29, has been canceled. Please take advantage of the next workshop, *Reaching People Through Social Media and Websites*, scheduled for Sept. 16, 2021. Workshop details can be found at [baptistprogress.org](http://baptistprogress.org) on the Resources page.

#### INTERIM PASTOR TRAINING, AUG. 24

This editor will be leading the *Interim Pastor Training* at the BMA of Texas Office Building Aug. 24. During training, the following questions will be answered and discussed:

- What is an interim pastor?
- What should be expected of the interim pastor?
- How does the interim pastor make things ready for the next pastor?
- How can the interim pastor connect the church to the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas?
- How much should the interim pastor be paid?

Those who attend will be provided with an assessment survey to use in the church they serve as well as other helpful tools. All who complete the training will be certified as an interim pastor for the BMA of Texas. Potential interim pastors must have pastoral experience in order to attend the training. For details, or to register, visit the Resources page at [baptistprogress.org](http://baptistprogress.org).



▲ Jerry Fulton



## A word from your Missions Office

By HEITH MITCHELL

I want to turn your attention to the first three missionary reports in this article. Each of them represent something new that God is doing in your Texas Missions Movement. I truly believe we are witnessing a missional movement of disciples, leaders and churches among us. We are currently assessing the largest group of potential church planters we ever have at once! They are coming out of our BMA Family! Your planters reported 44 who accepted Christ this month! God is at work!

In case you haven't heard, the BMA of Texas Building in Waxahachie saw major flooding this last week. The building houses your Texas Missions along with the Baptist Missionary Loan Association and Baptist Progress. Texas Missions was affected, but very fortunate. We had an office and work room flooded. Also, we lost some electronics and supplies. The offices have the floor, ceiling and walls removed while they dry. We didn't lose any computers or important documents. We praise the Lord. The building is insured! Pray for us as we walk this process.

Will you join me in prayer? I am earnestly praying for revival in the BMA of Texas. I am praying that we return to the biblical idea that the proclamation of the gospel takes place primarily outside the church gathered. I am praying that we remember that the church isn't a Sunday gathering but the body of Christ active every moment. We are the instrument by which the mission of Jesus is carried out. I pray for souls saved, disciples made, leaders equipped and churches started. I pray for greater faith among us that expects God to do big things. BMA family, let's make ourselves available to our Lord. Let's repent and pull in close to Him. Let's enjoy Him and not this distracting, corrupting world. Family, please join me in prayer.

## A word from your missionaries

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

Five years ago, God burdened my heart for the small towns of west Texas, and for the past five years I have tried several approaches in an attempt to see God fulfill that burden. I have tried to do it while pastoring one of our existing churches, I have tried to do it by identifying and training men who have a similar burden for their towns and communities and I have tried to combine them both this last year through the pandemic.



▲ Chris Driver

While there has been some success that I praise God for, we haven't been able to make a big push into the towns of west Texas like we had hoped and prayed. But over the last six months of this pandemic, I believe God has clarified His

plan in my heart and mind. His plan begins with me joining in our BMA of Texas church planting movement as a church planter here in west Texas.

I have begun the journey to plant Oasis Church in Levelland. Our greatest desire is to plant a church with a heart to not only reach the people of Levelland, but the five small communities that "hub" out of Levelland. We have begun small group Bible studies and are moving toward a February 2022 public launch.

My family and I have never been more excited or certain about what God has called us to do! Every step just seems to confirm that the last 17 years of ministry have been preparing us for this time and this place and this opportunity. We have learned over the years that we serve a God who refused to waste 12 baskets full of broken pieces of fish and bread and He has proven once again that He refuses to waste the broken pieces of my life either! All the ups and all the downs, all the good times and all the bad, all the successes and all the failures have prepared us for this God given opportunity to reach our home and our people with the gospel of Jesus Christ through Oasis Church.

Please pray for us. Pray for Levelland, Whitharral, Whiteface, Sundown and Smyer. Pray that Oasis Church will truly bring the life giving hope of Jesus Christ to west Texas!

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray for the people of Levelland, Smyer, Whitharral, Whiteface, Sundown and Morton.

**BRAD HOLCOMBE—  
REDEMPTION HILL MISSION IN FORT WORTH  
BRAD@REDEMPTIONHILLFW.COM**

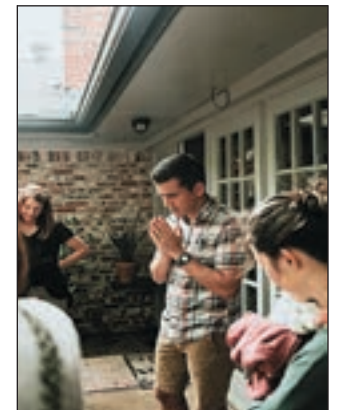
Jesus says, "if you abide in Me, you will bear much fruit..." The Spirit is teaching me that business doesn't equal productivity...don't neglect your own soul...rest daily in and with Jesus.

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray that God would give me wisdom, strength and discernment to love my family well. Please pray that Redemption Hill would be a place of rest, hope and healing for people in our community.



▲ Brad Holcombe



**GUADALUPE ROBLES—  
GOFOURTH MISSION, KILGORE  
ROBLESGUADALUPE51@GMAIL.COM**

It is a beautiful experience for us to be part of BMA Texas Missions because of its desire that our people know Christ.

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray that God gives us a van or a van to be able to deliver food and lift someone who needs help (we have a brother in faith who is disabled and does not have a foot).



▲ Guadalupe Robles

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

God continues to be good to us at Harmony! Although there are certainly difficulties in growth, I am excited to see the church working together, both those who have been here and those who are new to Harmony, with a desire to reach our community. We also had an opportunity recently to be a part of a crusade led by a number of area churches at the show barn here in Normangee. It was such a blessing to be able to be a part of that! Isn't it great that God's people can work together for His glory instead of our own?

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray that we would continue to find new avenues to connect with our community during the summer months, as some of our current opportunities will slow down during the summer months.



▲ Robert Lee



## Jacksonville College hosts reception for president and other faculty

By **JERRY FULTON**

*Baptist Progress Director/Editor*

Following spring graduation ceremonies, Jacksonville College hosted a reception for retiring president Dr. Mike Smith, retiring vice president for academic affairs/academic dean Marilyn Welch, former vice president for executive affairs Dr. Blanton Feaster, and President-elect Joe Lightner at Central, Jacksonville May 8.

In honoring Smith, who was elected president of Jacksonville College in 2011, Lightner listed a few of the outgoing president's accomplishments during his tenure including his successful oversight of infrastructure, expansion of the college's athletic program and the purchase of additional property. Lightner also noted that over 100 students have come to know Christ as their personal Savior and Lord during Smith's presidency.

Lightner presented Smith with a Bible from the college and Donnie Page, chairman of the board of trustees, presented other gifts to the president. An announcement was also made that the Dr. Mike and Susan Smith Servant Leader Scholarship has been established at the college. Fabiola Hernandez was named as the first recipient of the scholarship.

In presenting a gift to the Feasters, Smith spoke of the blessings God gave him in bringing Feaster to Jacksonville College as vice president for executive affairs in 2016. He shared how Feaster was used of the Lord to relieve him of a lot of stress and that he had a servant's heart, always willing to go above and beyond the duties of his office. Feaster resigned last year to accept a position with Dallas Baptist University. The college was not able to honor him upon his resignation due to the COVID pandemic.

The president also praised Welch for her excellence in handling the academic affairs of the college as she served as vice president for executive affairs/academic dean. He said that she was the person for the job when the college needed a new

dean. Jodye Jay, who is the registrar for the college, has been named as the new vice president for academic affairs/academic dean.

Lightner will become president upon Smith's official retirement date, July 15. See the front-page article of this issue concerning Lightner's election.

Smith has purchased a travel trailer and plans to serve as an interim pastor wherever he is needed. Welch will continue to teach at the college.



▲ **Jodye Jay**



▲ **President Mike Smith presents gift to Dr. and Mrs. Blanton Feaster**



▲ **President Smith presents gift to Marilyn Welch**



▲ **Dr. and Mrs. Joe Lightner**

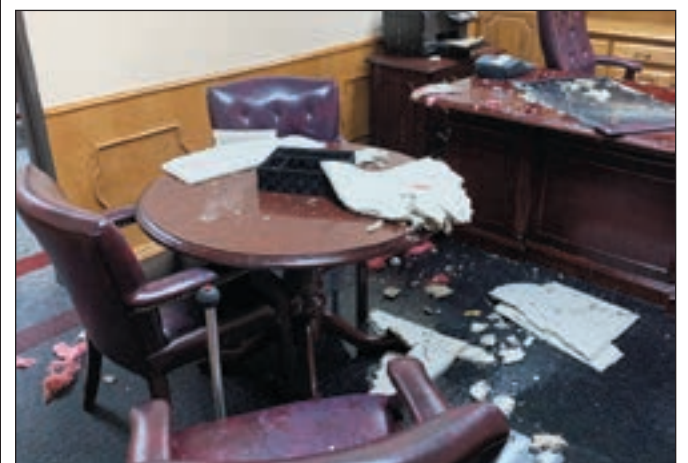
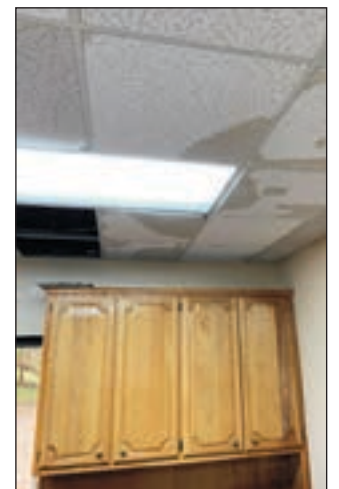
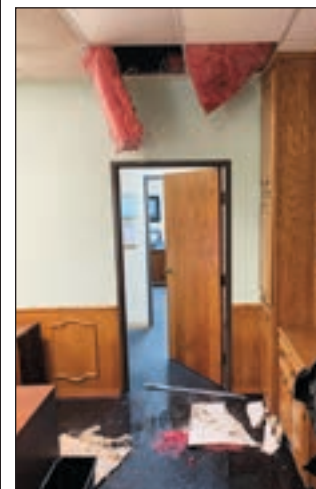
## BMA of Texas Office Building flooded

By **JERRY FULTON**

*Baptist Progress Director/Editor*

Directors and staff were surprised when they entered the BMA of Texas Office Building in Waxahachie May 4. Waxahachie experienced severe storms and pouring rain the night before. The downspouts from the flat roof failed and water fell through the ceiling into four offices.

There is extensive damage on one side of the building. At this time, the damage is being assessed. In the meantime, please pray that the situation can quickly be resolved. Should assistance be needed from BMA of Texas churches, that information will be passed on at a later date.



## 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 for Children, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from Apr. 1, 2021 to Apr. 30, 2021.

### ENDOWMENT:

**E. ANN PACE:** KARL AND MARTHA PACE

**MYRA STOKES:** BILL STOKES

### HONORARIUMS

**ROBERT CLINE:** JERRY NULL

**MARY DUNAVANT:** RACHEL MALDONADO

**NADINE GARY:** FREIDA SMITH

**OUR GRANDCHILDREN:** HAROLD AND JOCIE LEWIS

**JUNE KEY:** TINA MCKNIGHT

**RANDY ODOM:** DUANE AND CHARLOTTE TURNER

**KARL PACE:** KELLY PENICK

**MIKE STEPHENSON:** ROBERT JACKS, JR

### MEMORIALS:

**JAMES S BASS:** CHARLOTTE MORGAN

**MYRTLE BASS:** CHARLOTTE MORGAN

**WALTER BECKER:** DENNIS AND ILONA MYRICE

**TINA BEVERLY:** JESUS AND BRENDA GUTIERREZ

**NAOMA BIRKNER:** NORTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH DORCAS LIFE GROUP

**DORIS SWANNER BLACK:** BRENT AND TAMMY SWANNER

**W.G. BLAIR:** EMMA BURLESON

**LARRY AND ROSELEN BOBO:** JAMES BOBO

**CLAYDETTE BUNN:** JED AND GLENICE WHITAKER

**DELORES CHAMBERLAIN:** JEANETTE MORRIS

**MAVIS RUTH DACUS:** JED AND GLENICE WHITAKER

**GLENDA DAVIS:** CHARLES AND CHARLOTTE JOHNSON

**DELOIS ESTOLL:** JC AND ANITA LASSITER

**NADINE GRAY:** FREIDA SMITH

**JESSIE HAND:** CECIL AND JACKIE BLAIR

**DAVID HAMMOND:** JC AND ANITA LASSITER

**BARBARA PATRICIA HUMPHREY:** LINDA LEWIS

**LARRY HURT:** RON AND LOURITA COE

**DALE HUTCHISON:** WELSON AND LANA SPRAKS

**TONY JONES:** RED SPRINGS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**JUNE KEY:** TINA MCKNIGHT

**ROBERT LANEY:** WELDON AND LANA SPARKS

**JUDY LANGFORD:** CHARLES AND CHARLOTTE JOHNSON

**BRUCE MAINES:** EMMA BURLESON

**MY MOM VERA MARTIN:** EARLENE CRENSHAW

**DEAN MCLAUGHLIN:** MR AND MRS A.W. MCCUISTION

**JAN NALL:** MT PISGAH BAPTIST CHURCH

**LANCE ODOM:** JERRY AND CASSIE FULTON; DUB-

LAFAYETTE - GIVEN BY JACK AND JANET SCOTT FAMILY

LOVITA LOU OUIMET: JAMES OUIMET

**SUE PHILLIPS:** JOE AND BECKY SMITH

PHYLLS RAE POPE: KATY JENNINGS

MARY SCHMEDTHORST: JED AND GLENICE WHITAKER

**DALE SIMS:** CHARLES AND CHARLOTTE JOHNSON

**ANITA THOMPSON:** JED AND GLENICE WHITAKER

**CECIL WHITEHEAD:** LINWOOD AND JENNETTA WHITEHEAD, BETH VERSLAND, EDDY AND DORA WHITEHEAD

**DOROTHY WRIGHT:** THOMAS JETER

**WAYNE YOUNG:** CHARLES AND CHARLOTTE JOHNSON



## Changes in the way TBHC does ministry

By **JASON CURRY**

Many may know and understand what foster care looks like today. Child Protective Services (CPS) has played a large role in the past several decades and has shaped many of the child welfare improvements. Is it perfect? No. However, Texas legislation serves as the legal means to try to improve a social service that is broken at its best.

God has entrusted kids to the work of believers. That is why the state struggles to accomplish its goals.

James 1:27 reminds us that we are not only to do social work, but we are also “to keep ourselves clean from the world.”

Our relationship with CPS has changed a lot of the way we do ministry. This has not always resulted in the most positive outcome for TBHC. But, through the years, it has forced us to focus our attention on children, knowing there are needs all over our state. But God placed us here.

Due to the structure of our system and the intentionality of our heritage to be a place for children, we have focused on being a place for kids. You will notice that even our campus is not reflective of days gone by. Our cottages exist as homes for foster parents, no longer are they group homes, nor do they staff of our agency. Every family that serves as a foster parent also works another job in addition to the calling to care for kids.

As you come and visit us, know that just like anywhere else, we don't have the kids line up to be viewed. They are


in school, doing homework, playing and/or visiting their biological families. The confidentiality of photos and names of our kids prevent us from sharing the details of their life with you.

A previous resident of the Home, W.B. Carraway, tells a story about C.B. Stanley, “...the manager had carried several of the Home's ‘orphans’ for the people to see and hear. He was letting each ‘orphan’ get up and tell the folks a bit about himself.”

Why don't we bring them all over the state for you to see? It is because sometimes there are exceptional circumstances that put a child in danger. Sometimes their parents are in an active criminal investigation. Sometimes the state removes them because someone is threatening that child's life. Understand that we are not being suspicious of our donors. We are protecting our children.

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





## Every Sunday Bulletin Service

To order bulletins from *Baptist Progress*, contact us at 972-923-0756 or visit [www.baptistprogress.org](http://www.baptistprogress.org). You may also email [editor@baptistprogress.org](mailto:editor@baptistprogress.org) for more information.

*Baptist Progress*

# BMA Texas Missions cont.

## ISAIAS ROJAS OSECHAS— CHURCH PLANT IN SPRING ISAIAS.ROJA5299@GMAIL.COM

Thank you again for taking me into account and supporting me in the vision of 100 new churches by 2029.



▲ Isaias Rojas Osechas

## NEPTALY MOLINA— IGLESIA BAUTISTA MISSION, NACOGDOCHES NRMOLINA23@GMAIL.COM

A recent meeting at the BMA of Texas Office Building in Waxahachie with leaders of our association was a great blessing. It is a new experience for me to be coaching and mentoring other church planters.



▲ Neptaly Molina

## CHRIS MINDI/JESSE HALES— ANCHOR AUSTIN MISSION IN LEANDER CHRIS.MINDI@BMATS.EDU HALESJESSE@GMAIL.COM

We have been seeing God's hand at work in our ministry this past month. One of our Hindu friends we have been praying for and witnessing to for a while, has now started coming to one of our small group Bible studies. It has certainly livened up our discussions a bit. We met with another man in one of those "random, only God could have set this meeting up" kind of ways who has been praying for God to bring someone in his life that could help him reach his Indian neighbors and friends with the gospel. It has been obvious to us through these and other events that God is at work here and we know that your prayers are a huge part. Thank you for investing both your time in prayer and your resources in the lives God is reaching out to here.



▲ Jesse Hales



▲ Chris Mindi

### Prayer Needs:

Pray that God will break down the walls that keep the gospel out in our community and that He would stir the hearts of those who He leads us to.

## WESLEY BURKE— REDEMPTION BAPTIST MISSION, NACOGDOCHES WESLEYDAVIDBURKE@GMAIL.COM

Brothers and sisters, there are many we talk with who do not believe the gospel yet are affiliated in some way with churches that seem to affirm them as Christians. This is a serious error due to a lack of focus on meaningful church membership as scripture calls us to have in our local churches. We need discernment from God and his Word.



▲ Wesley Burke

### Prayer Needs:

Pray that God would convert those we witness to in a clear and authentic way.

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

Summer has a lot of potential. I want to leverage the kids free time the best we can for the gospel and mentor relationships. We will likely begin a weekly fitness and Bible study for connecting with kids through the summer. Pray as we make disciples with kids, adults and their families this summer.



▲ Mike Watt



▲ Trevor Cowan

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

The mission is going forward in spite of all the trials we are going through. I am trusting that the Lord will be glorified in all of this, and that we will come out stronger. Please continue to pray for our mission as we continue to work in his kingdom.

### Prayer Needs:

Pray that God will touch the souls and come to salvation in Jesus.



▲ Jamie Henriquez

## ROBERTO MARCELLETTI— ANTHONY DRIVE MISSION, ENNIS ROBBYYPATTY@HOTMAIL.COM

Thank you very much for the opportunity you give us to serve. We are very grateful to God for not only saving us, but also that He has called us to serve Him. Our intention is to plant a church passionate about God, His gospel and thus use us where the Lord allows us to extend His kingdom.



▲ Roberto Marcelletti

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

This month has been one of the most fruitful months in assistance to cults and in people saved. God is bringing in new people. On the other hand, in May, we are beginning the Creation in the BibleTraining Center For Pastors and Leaders (CCBPL) for the training of new leaders.



▲ Cesar Leal



## TIMOTHY ALBA— NEW MISSION IN SEAGOVILLE TIMALBA1986@GMAIL.COM

I learned this month that in order to maintain people you have to be the main person that encourages your people to stay on mission. Our value in our church is to encourage one another daily. I have our connect groups connected through Messenger so they can ask for prayer and support in whatever circumstances they are going through. We are all learning to do just that as each week passes by (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

### Prayer Needs:

Continue to pray for our growth and success in this new plant. Pray that people stay encouraged and on mission as we come near to an official launch date. Thanks!



▲ Timothy Alba

## RONNIE MILLS— KINGDOM CHAPEL MISSION, SAGINAW/NORTH FORT WORTH RONNIE@KCHAPEL.ORG

Greetings from Saginaw! This month has been so good here at Kingdom Chapel. We've finished up a series on miracles and are gearing up for a journey through 1 Peter. We're so grateful for all of your continued prayers for us as a church, and we can't wait to see all the Lord will do in May!

### Prayer Needs:

Please continue to pray over our mission and that Christ to be glorified through us.



▲ Ronnie Mills

# Attebery announces resignation as BMA Foundation executive director

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

*BMA Global Ministry Center*

Charles Attebery has announced his resignation from the role of BMA Foundation executive director effective Aug. 4, 2021. He assumed the role in 2014 after serving as Lifeword's development officer for three years. In 1985 he was named vice president for institutional advancement at Central Baptist College then president of the college, where he remained until 2004.

A native of Bearden, Arkansas, he surrendered to the ministry in 1969 then pastored churches in Arkansas and Texas, where he and his wife, Janice, currently reside near their son Scott, his wife Meredith, grandson Bryce, and two step-granddaughters, Emma and Maggie.

"It has been an honor to serve the Lord and BMAA churches as director of BMA Foundation, but after much prayer and consideration, I have determined that it is time for me to step aside. I believe the Foundation will prove to be a real blessing to our work in the future and I pledge my support to those who will lead this ministry."



▲ Charles and Janice Attebery

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[www.AmericanChurchGroup-Texas.com/Ministry-Resources/Blog](http://www.AmericanChurchGroup-Texas.com/Ministry-Resources/Blog)

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A promotional banner for the SOAR Student Conference. The background is a dark blue stage with spotlights. In the center, a band is performing, including a lead singer with a microphone, a guitarist, a keyboardist, and a bassist. The text "PAUSE" is written in large, stylized letters at the top, with "July 6-8 2021" below it. The registration information "REGISTER NOW AT SOARCONFERENCE.COM" is prominently displayed in the middle. The SOAR Student Conference logo is in the bottom left corner.

# Ministry—a family tradition



▲ Eugene and Alice Gauntt



▲ Paul Gauntt



▲ Paul's ordination in 1972 with father, Eugene, participating



▲ Derek Gauntt

By **JERRY FULTON**

*Baptist Progress Director/Editor*

God is well able to call men from out of godless surroundings and into the gospel ministry—while He also calls those who were born into a ministry environment, and taken to Sunday school every Sunday from infancy.

Eugene Gauntt was one such minister whose legacy continues to live on through his children and grandchildren. Gauntt, a World War II veteran, surrendered his life to the gospel ministry while attending the national encampment at Latham Springs in 1953. After attending Jacksonville College in 1954-55, he served the pastorates of Valley, Neches; Shady Grove, DeBerry; First, Gary; Anthony Drive, Ennis; Dellwood, Midland and his final pastorate, Union, Springtown. God called him home just seven months after he accepted Union. But his longest tenured ministry were the years from 1967-1980 when he served as the first full-time director of Daniel Springs Encampment, Gary.

His eldest son, Paul, followed in his footsteps, surrendering to the ministry in 1967 while directing music at Corinth, Jacksonville.

“I can honestly say it had to be God Who called me, because neither my folks, nor much of anybody else encouraged me,” Gauntt said.

“That night I made my call known at Corinth, and afterward, I drove home to Gary and found my folks taking a late night swim in the camp pool and I shared the ‘good news’ with them.”

But Gauntt said his parents were not encouraging, nor overjoyed over their son's surrender.

“Years earlier, my dad tried to encourage me to consider entering dentistry—I received absolutely no encouragement from them to enter the ministry. All my mom said was ‘well son, the pastorate just isn't what it once was’. But when they finally realized it was serious with me—they switched into the ‘encouragement’ mode, and became some of my most ardent ministerial cheerleaders. I often thought later that they might have been ‘playing the devil's advocate’ in order to test me.”

Gauntt added that his brother, Jack, and his family remained faithful to the Lord in His church and are active in the Grace Community Church in Tyler; and his sister, Lauri Cain, and her family are faithful in Farley Street, Waxahachie.

Paul served in music ministry in Gulfport, Mississippi; Fairfield and Dallas before entering the pastorate in 1975 at Enon, Iola. His other pastorates included Colonial, Lubbock; College Heights (now University), Nacogdoches; Eighth

Avenue, Teague (founding pastor, Gauntt's great grandfather, J.W. Hamilton) and First, Palmer. He also served the BMA of Texas as director of the Department of Church Ministries in Waxahachie for 16 years. From 1969-71, he served in the chaplain's office on a U.S. carrier and was given many opportunities to preach and direct music aboard ship.

Paul and his wife, Carolyn, had twins, Randi and Derek, in 1981 while in Nacogdoches. At almost exactly the same time, Doug and Lucinda Loafman, were about to complete their degrees at Stephen F. Austin in Nacogdoches. The two couples' paths never crossed at that time. The Loafmans had three sons, Matthew, Caleb and Micah. It was years later when the providential hand of God directed Matthew's and Randi's paths together at Austin Bank in Jacksonville where she was employed. Matthew was on the Jacksonville High School coaching staff. As a result of some shrewd logistical tactics by Deena Brand, they met, fell in love, married and from that union has come six boys and two girls—Lexi, Luci, Luke, Levi, Landry, Lane, Layton and Lincoln.

Today, Matthew and Randi are both teaching in public schools in Waxahachie. Matthew teaches history and economics and is soccer coach at Waxahachie High School. Matthews parents have worked in the public school, and Doug has not only coached, but served as minister of pastoral care at First, Moore, Oklahoma and also served Central, Livingston as associate pastor.

God the Father ordered Matthew's steps in ministry as well—and as such, Eugene Gauntt's granddaughter became a preacher's wife. Matthew has served as teaching pastor of Lakeside, Trinidad; First Missionary, Cleburne and for the past two years, has been pastor of Central, Lancaster. Loafman believes strongly that the call to the ministry of Jesus Christ is a call like no other.

“[The call] is most often not sought after by man, but by God who chooses the man,” Loafman said.

“Many times, one is going about his own life, pursuing his own dreams, when suddenly the Lord rips all that away, and leads him down a path never expected.”

Loafman says that he is fortunate to have come from a long line of coaches who were also bivocational pastors.

“My father and grandfather spent many a day in both the gym and the pulpit and always displayed the sermons they preached in the games they coached,” he said, noting that he personally had been more bent to the athletic pursuits of life.

“I was determined to be a head football coach, and by the spring of 2012, at the age of 29, I had nearly made it there, and was already being interviewed for head positions at the 5A level in Texas, but as the Lord continued to draw me to himself, and my family continued to grow, my views on what was important changed,” Loafman said.

He was asked to fill in for a preacher for two weeks while he recovered from knee surgery, and 10 years later he has pastored three churches.

“More importantly, I have pastored a wife and 8 children in my own home,” he added.

“It had become clear that, while we need good coaches, it is of the greatest importance to have men who are willing to stand for the gospel of Jesus Christ. I did not say we have a shortage of pastors—they are a dime a dozen, but actual preachers who will not muddy the glory of Christ for a cushioned life or for the sake of keeping deacons happy. I pray that I might be useful to His kingdom in some way, and may God give us courage and humility and continue to raise up uncompromising men.”

God has also blessed Derek with an incredible singing voice and gift for leading God's people in worship. In the years that he and Christine and their three children, Knox, Nixon and Naomi lived in Colorado, he was kept busy serving as worship leader and interim worship leader in various churches in the Denver area. Today, he is serving on the praise and worship team with the Avenue Church of Waxahachie and its' satellite congregation in Ennis.

“Growing up in a preacher's home, I learned a lot about ministry, about loving the Lord and what that looks like,” Derek said.

“I learned how to love people genuinely and how to worship in full spirit and truth. I'm blessed to have gone all over the state and other states with my dad to churches where he would fill the pulpit. I would sit there and listen to him and then go to the back of the church and shake hands with people.”

Today Derek says that ministry is all about showing the absolute love that Jesus has for us through his leading in worship each week.

With a total of 7 grandsons, Paul and Carolyn often entertain the idea of the possibilities of that ministry tradition continuing on through a fifth generation—and even further. Only the Father knows.



# BMA of Texas hosts prayer retreats for pastors

By PAUL GAUNTT

*Baptist Progress Correspondent*

The second of hopefully many prayer retreats was held May 4-6 at a retreat center near Tyler. Todd West, Pastor Connections Coordinator for the BMA of Texas (funded by BMA Texas Missions), led in the retreat, and says he has found that limiting the meetings to a few, seems to be more effective. For three days, attendees enjoyed each other's fellowship and connected while studying God's Word, cooking and participating in recreational activities.

West explains that participants need to find a place of total seclusion, and in a location that fits into his or her personal life. The objective is to encourage one to spend much time alone with Jesus. During their time together, participants are encouraged to focus on ministry, relationship with God, family and one's own personal health.

"One goal in these retreats is to encourage pastors in their relationships with God," West said. "Too often, we preachers just study to preach rather than to study to have a closer relationship with the Lord."

Participants met at Mercado's Mexican Restaurant in Tyler at noon for lunch, and afterward, drove to the retreat venue—Savannah's at the Flyin' H Ranch, north of Tyler near Red Springs. The attendees included Donny Sadler, church restart pastor of Impact @ Bethel, Dallas; Collin Jones, pastor of Red Springs, Tyler, and also a part-time employee for the Savannah Ranch; Tim Alba, church planter with The Bridge, Seagoville; Gary Southard, church planter, Church at Valley Ranch in Houston; Ronnie Mills, church planter Kingdom Chapel, Saginaw and Nick Bumgardener, pastor of Mount Olive, Scurry.

West explained some of the details which gave him a special burden for pastors.

"Pastors have been a big part of my ministry—Paige and I have traveled a lot in a seven-year period, and a lot of my ministry involved sitting with pastors in living rooms. One evening, the Lord just laid it on my heart to try to help pastors," he said. "I would rather be with you guys tonight than to preach to a crowd of 500 people. I value the time we are spending together, and for the remaining years that I may have, I want to spend much time encouraging, coaching and helping pastors."

West cited some alarming statistics of pastors dropping out of the ministry.

"Did you know that today, in our country, 50 guys left the ministry," West asked the group.

He also cited the need to follow Jesus' personal ministry as the example.

"Jesus felt the need to be alone with His Father," West said.

"Jesus also knew when to say 'no' to demands and requests. We pastors cannot be everything to everyone. If we follow that pattern, we are going to find ourselves running on empty."

West also wants to encourage men to build a strong prayer life, noting that they will find that God will do amazing things when they sit at the feet of Jesus in prayer.

Each participant had his own fully equipped, rustic log cabin, and enjoyed plenty of relaxation, interaction with brethren, fishing, shooting at the firing range and soaking up the beautiful east Texas scenery. The ladies from Red Springs, Tyler provided meals for the group.

West encouraged the group to choose accountability partners and interact by phone, or text concerning what the Lord is teaching them throughout the next 40 days.

The men who attended the retreat were highly complementary.

"I had never been to a pastor's retreat before, but it has been great getting around pastors and finding out we're all going through the same thing," said Gary Southard. "I have learned the importance of not only praying for everyone else, but for myself as well. I've also learned that if we must give attention to our own spiritual lives if we expect to minister to others."

Nick Bumgardener said that the retreat was a godsend because he was able to withdraw from some of the chaos of life.

"This will certainly help me make it through some of the dark times of life," he said. "We need to find time to cling to God and never give up on Him because He never gives up on us. I think ministry is going to look different now, but that's okay because I believe I'll be following God closer than ever before."

Collin Jones, said he had not realized what he had been missing all through the years by attending the conference.

"The fact is, I had been focusing on ministry more than on God," he said. "This retreat has really been a breakthrough for me."

For further information about upcoming prayer retreats, sponsored by BMA of Texas 501-658-1370, and contact BMA of Texas at 972-923-0757.



# BMA of america



## ChangeMakers and 2021 Jerry Kidd World Missions Offering



▲ Pastor Ivan (left-in red tie) with Bro. Regino in foreground

By **JOHN MERIWEATHER**

*BMA of America*

Sunday, May 2, was an exciting day for BMA Global Missions, as the first BMA church in Paraguay was commissioned. Divine Grace Baptist Church was born from the church planting ministries of two ChangeMaker missionaries, Brother Regino Acuña Cossio and Divine Grace Pastor Ivan Philippini.

As my former pastor Henry Horton would say, “GLORY! That’s shoutin’ news!”

Through your prayerful and generous support that prioritizes kingdom expansion, God is using BMA churches to fulfill the mission of God. This year our churches have once again demonstrated this commitment to His mission. To date, \$487,000 has been donated to the Jerry Kidd World Missions Offering! GLORY!

Dr. John David Smith says, “We have no higher calling and privilege than to be involved in God’s global mission by obeying the commands of Jesus to make disciples and plant churches. We are thankful for men like Bro. Regino and Pastor Ivan who invest their lives in the lives of others every day. This multiplication ministry is happening in almost 80 countries through BMA Global Missions. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel and for blessing others through your prayers and support on World Missions Day.”

With donations still coming in, we pray that our 2021 offering will exceed \$500,000. BMA Missions appreciates the churches, families, individuals and businesses that contributed. We are humbled by your support and more encouraged than ever that in these darkest days God is on the move and we want to go with Him. GLORY!

It’s not too late to send in your offering. DONATE ONLINE or mail checks to:

**BMA Missions – Jerry Kidd World Missions Offering**  
P.O. Box 878  
Conway AR 72033

## What are ChangeMakers?

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

*BMA Global Ministry Center*

BMA Global Missions values multiplication and considers what God is doing in the nations as its highest goal. The New Testament pattern of multiplication is encouraged and evidenced in the primary areas of disciples, leaders and churches. For those who have obeyed the command of Christ to practice Great Commission missions, there is no greater personal joy and no more accurate measure of ministry than when we pour our lives into others and they repeat the process! In missions lingo, this is called “indigenous missions.” The word *indigenous* simply means that something originates and belongs locally.

In BMA Global Missions we call these leaders ChangeMakers. A ChangeMaker is an indigenous believer who, most of the time, has been won and discipled by a BMA missionary or another ChangeMaker and now carries out the ministry of go, disciple, plant, and repeat in their own country. Currently we partner with over 400 ChangeMakers globally.

The biblical examples of “ChangeMaker missions” fill the pages of the New Testament and are especially visible with Jesus and his earthly ministry with the twelve and Paul in his church planting efforts. Some of the principles for ChangeMaker missions can be found from Paul’s words in Colossians 4:7-15:

<sup>7</sup> *Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. <sup>8</sup> I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, <sup>9</sup> with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.*

<sup>10</sup> *Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), <sup>11</sup> and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.*

<sup>12</sup> *Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. <sup>13</sup> For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis. <sup>14</sup> Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. <sup>15</sup> Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house.*

Paul is in prison and concluding his letter to the churches in and around Colossae. This passage is the ending of that letter, and he is greeting many in the Colossian churches in the name of some on his missionary team. It is in the names of these team members that we have a great opportunity to look into Paul’s multiplication ministry and see foundations for ChangeMaker missions.

ChangeMaker missions is based on outside partnerships that are the scaffolding, not the building. We certainly seek to enter partnerships with indigenous believers who are doing Great Commission ministry and especially those who are the fruit of our own missionary efforts. However, we do recognize that these outside partnerships are temporary, like scaffolding. They are

intended to give support and structure until the permanent building (ongoing local ministry) is ready, then we take our scaffolding and go build in another place. Paul was a great leader, not because he got things done, but because he got things done through others! He had no intention of building his own private empire in any place; it was all about building the kingdom of God through the multiplication of disciples, leaders, and churches.

ChangeMaker missions is based on passing the baton, not paternalism. Historically, many involved in global missions talked much about passing the baton of ministry to indigenous leaders but rarely followed through. Paternalistic actions where one “partner” dominates the other was more of the norm. In Colossians 4, Tychicus, Onesimus, Epaphras, Luke, and Demas were all Gentiles while Aristarchus, Mark, and Justus were Jews. These men were from a myriad of places and backgrounds, but Paul’s aim was always the same: win, disciple, equip, and release into ministry around the known world. Paul really did not have to “pass” the baton because he included them from the beginning.

ChangeMaker missions is about lives changed by the gospel who are now repeating the process. Tychicus was the missionary mailman who delivered many of Paul’s epistles. He did this in spite of great personal peril in travel and deep personal sacrifice. Onesimus was the thieving runaway slave from Colossae who, according to history, later became the pastor of the church at Colossae. Epaphras started the church in Colossae; Luke was the beloved physician who wrote the books of Luke and Acts; Aristarchus was with Paul in riots, imprisonments, and shipwrecks.

Their stories were altered by Jesus and now they were sharing the story to the known world. That is ChangeMaker missions.



◀ ChangeMaker  
Abraham Cheyee in  
Liberia



▲ ChangeMaker Angel de Jesus in Puerto Rico

# Bread of America



## Why Christians need the poor

Proverbs 21:13

By **JOHN M. ADAMS, D.Min.**

In spite of all our relief and help programs, the poor are still among us. The battle of poverty goes on and on. Most of us, the world would say, are among the winners. But what should Christians do about the poverty of others?

Recently, the country was told by the Census Bureau that more than one in every 10 Americans must be considered poor. Overseas, the conditions are even worse. “The World Food Council tells us that a third of the children in the world die of malnutrition and disease before they have five birthdays.”...Time Magazine.

“Each year 100,000 children go blind because of lack of vitamin A in their early diets”...Chicago Tribune report.

### WHY DO WE HAVE THE POOR?

Why are things like that still true today? The Bible seems to say that God allows the poor among us to test our compassion for our fellowmen. Do we really love the poor? Our response to poverty reveals our attitude.

Some have wrongly assumed that to be poor is a sign of God’s disfavor. That is not true. God loves the poor and hears their cry. He sees and judges those who wrong them in their weakness (Psalm 14:6, Psalms 107:41).

The Word teaches us that God will bless those who reach out to help the poor (Psalm 41:1). On the other hand, we invite God’s judgment if we ignore the needs of the poor (Proverbs 21:13). We, as Christians, cannot ignore the poor.

### HOW CAN WE HELP THE POOR?

The real question is “how”? Governments contend that we should find some way to redistribute wealth and thus wipe out all poverty. Christ taught that we should share. But nothing in Scripture suggests that Christians can or should change the world’s economic structure. In Mark 14, Jesus clearly taught that poverty goes with this present evil world, when He said, “Ye have the poor with you always.”

Christ’s principle of ministry to the poor is that it be done from a heart of genuine compassion. He would say (on the Sermon on the Mount), “When, not if.” And that it should be done without glory and fanfare. Such sharing demands awareness of need.

Anyone willing to work was assured of food to feed his or her family. The Old Testament story of Ruth and Naomi tells us that they obtained gleanings in the fields, where grain was deliberately left for that purpose. In New Testament times, the duty of giving alms was acknowledged and encouraged. Jesus often spoke of giving to the poor.

Widows without family support were cared for by the church, as seen in Acts 6:1 and I Timothy 5:9, 16. Paul mentions the poor in Galatians 2:10, “...that we should remember the poor.” Christian churches and God’s saints have always been His channel of mercy to the poor.



### WHY SHOULD WE HELP THE POOR?

First, the presence of the really poor prompts us to exercise compassion. How selfish and self-centered we become when we think just of ourselves and just of our own (1 John 3:17).

Second, the presence of the poor gives us opportunity to prove that Christ has touched our hearts and made them new. Our old sin nature prompts us to look the other way. Compassion is an evidence of an inner work of grace. James spoke of faith and works. Our Acts are proof of faith.

Third, the poor give Christians opportunity to lay up heavenly treasure (Proverbs 19:17).

Fourth, there is a practical side to helping the poor. The church is to be concerned for the poor among its members. Namely, those with inadequate food and housing, sickness which brings great financial crisis, children in need of clothing, someone who needs desperately to see a dentist or be fitted with glasses, etc.

It may be your opportunity to minister, perhaps your chance to win a blessing. Jesus said, “Freely ye have received freely give.”

Our first and great obligation is to share the Bread of Life—salvation. But we cannot withhold the bread of Material Aid to those who truly have a need.

God please let us be Good Samaritans!

Dr. John M. Adams is the executive director of BMAA Moral Action. Contact him at Moral Action - BMA of America . P.O. Box 305 . Mantachie, Mississippi 38855 or visit [www.macbma.net](http://www.macbma.net) for more information.



## Seventy-Second Annual Meeting of the BMA of America

By **JEFF SWART**

BMA of America President

We are pleased to announce that the 72<sup>nd</sup> annual session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America will be held Monday, Aug. 20 through Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021 at the Farley Street, Waxahachie. By now, all our older pastors and church members, who were most susceptible to the adverse effects of COVID, have had the opportunity to be vaccinated, and so we believe that we can host a national meeting that will be safe for those who attend.



▲ Jeff Swart

The theme of this year’s meeting will be, *Missions: Think Globally But Act Locally*. It seems both scriptural and logical to “think globally”—support missionaries around the globe and yet at the same time to “act locally”—share the gospel with our neighbors next door or across the street.

During the time we are together, we hope to share some ideas that will increase the effectiveness of missions in our local churches that will impact our mission’s footprint around the world.

The hotel information is the same as it was for the 2020 meeting and that information is republished in this issue of *Baptist Progress*.

Please pray for your officers and the national meeting production team as we plan a meeting that will glorify the Son and edify the messengers and guests of our churches. We look forward to seeing you in Waxahachie as we set a course for the coming year.

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

**BMA FOUNDATION**

# SOAR of america



## SOAR Hacks

By **CHRIS VINES**

SOAR Visionary Leader

We live in a world of hacks. If you are on Facebook, then you know exactly what I mean. If this is an unfamiliar term, then it probably means you have successfully guarded yourself from most social media platforms. Maybe you know someone who has faced the terrible reality that their bank account has been hacked. Inconvenience quickly turns to a major life disruption when hacking extends to this area of life.

In either case, “to be hacked” is never an enjoyable experience. The invasion on personal privacy is offensive, inconvenient and many times destructive. It’s not all bad in our world of hacks.

The term “life-hack” is relatively new and refers to any trick, shortcut or method that increases productivity or efficiency. All human beings do this on some level.

In order to save lives in World War II, a woman named Vesta Stoudt created duct tape. In order to stay hydrated without stopping their work, men created the guzzler helmet so they could drink two Dr. Peppers through the same straw!

Well, SOAR has some hacks too! The SOAR leadership team has come up with some great resources that will save our churches and youth leaders a lot of time as they prepare for SOAR21 in Dallas. You can find logos for smartphones, ready-to-go sign-up sheets and a shareable schedule. The leadership team has even included a student leader checklist and a detailed information packet for parents! They have made it easier than ever to get info about SOAR21 in front of your church.

You can find it all at [soarconference.com/mediakit](http://soarconference.com/mediakit). SOAR hacks are real, and we hope they are a blessing as you make plans to join us for SOAR2 July 5-8.



## Daniel Springs Summer Schedule Released

By **JASON PREWITT**

We are excited about the upcoming summer after very limited events for the past year due to the global pandemic. The summer schedule will feature nine different camp options, beginning with Pre-Teen Camp 1, followed by two split-week “combo camps” for both Pre-teen (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade) and Students (6<sup>th</sup> grade thru college), then Pre-teen Camp 2, followed by two Ark-La-Tex camps and finishing the summer with Student Camp. Here is the summer camp schedule:

- **Pre-Teen Camp 1 — June 23-26**
- **Combo Camp 1 — June 27-30**
- **Combo Camp 2 — June 30-July 3**
- **Pre-Teen Camp 2 — July 14-17**
- **Ark-La-Tex Camp 1 — July 18-21**
- **Ark-La-Tex Camp 2 — July 21-24**
- **Student Camp — July 25-28**

Daniel Springs is also available for retreats and private event rentals. We pride ourselves on providing beautiful, clean and spacious facilities that will make a lasting impression on all that attend. Contact us to reserve a time for family reunions, birthday parties, college groups, weddings, corporate events, community events, field trips, Bible

study groups, church groups, school events, crafting events, team building tournaments, recreational activities, such as archery tag and pool rentals, or anything else we can help make memorable!

For more information about any of our camps or making an event reservation, please visit our website at [www.danielspringscamp.com](http://www.danielspringscamp.com) or call us at (903) 685-2433. You can also email us at [info@danielspringscamp.com](mailto:info@danielspringscamp.com).



Jason Prewitt is the director of Daniel Springs Baptist Camp. Contact him at P.O. Box 310, Gary, Texas 75643, 903-685-2433 or [info@danielspringscamp.com](mailto:info@danielspringscamp.com). For mor information, visit [danielspringscamp.com](http://danielspringscamp.com).



## Hotels for 2021 BMA of America Meeting

Please make your reservations early. Call the local hotels directly to make your reservations. Local telephone numbers are included below. **You must identify that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of America.**

Also, when making your reservations, be sure to let them know you want rooms in the block for the BMAA.

The Fairfield Inn and Suites will serve as our headquarters hotel for the annual meeting in Waxahachie.

**Fairfield Inn & Suites, 2020 Civic Center Lane:** (Single/Double, \$135 per night, Rate Code: BMCQ; King, \$135, Rate Code: BMCK; King Suite, \$155, Rate Code: BMCX). Telephone reservations: 972-937-8886.

In addition to the headquarters hotel, additional facilities are available in the area. Following is a list of properties that have blocked rooms for the BMA meeting.

• **Best Western Plus, 1701 North Highway 77:** (Single/Double, \$119.99; Queen/King, \$129.99). Complimentary hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: 972-938-1600.

• **Comfort Suites, 131 RVG Plaza:** (Two queen suite, \$109; King suite, \$109; for more than two people in the room, not including children, there will be an additional \$15/person charge). Hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: 469-517-1600. Use Group Code: BMAA.

• **Hampton Inn, 2010 Civic Center Lane:** (Double Queen: \$139; King standard, \$129). Hot breakfast daily. Telephone reservations: 972-923-0666, EXT 0.

• **Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 984 North US 287 Bypass:** (Single King, \$139.99; Two Queen, \$139.99; King Suite, \$169.99). Use Group Code: BMAA 2020. Telephone reservations: 972-938-3300.

• **La Quinta Inns & Suites, 311 Stadium Drive:** (Standard room, \$104). Hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: 972-937-5525.

All room rates quoted above are subject to all local taxes.

**Note:** There are no RV hookups available at Farley Street Baptist Church. There should be ample parking space. Anyone interested in RV parking could contact the church directly or contact the Waxahachie Convention and Visitors Bureau at [www.waxahachiecvb.com](http://www.waxahachiecvb.com), 469-309-4040 or [info@waxahachiecvb.com](mailto:info@waxahachiecvb.com).

— Jerome Cooper, Bill Thornton and Daniel Williams  
BMA of America Arrangements Committee

# Church news

## Master's Builders work in Tenaha

By **NELDA MALONE**

*Master's Builders Reporter*

A few of The Master's Builders traveled to Tenaha to help with some repairs at the Old Center Baptist Church's parsonage May 3. They helped remove the dining room floor, replace all floor joists and install new plywood.



Old Center, Tenaha is the home church of Master's Builders Wayne and Leona Wimberly. James Grandberry is the pastor of the church.

Six of our builders worked on the short project alongside Tommy Spurlock, Doug Armstrong and Mike Worm. While working there, three of The Master's Builders bunked at Daniel Springs Camp in Gary. We appreciate Jason Prewitt, executive director of the camp for allowing access to the camp's facilities. Also, thank you to Virginia Spurlock, Martha Shelton and Leona Wimberly for feeding The Master's Builders while they were in Tenaha.

This was job #171 for The Master's Builders.

Remember, if your church has building needs or if you have questions about The Master's Builders ministry, you can contact Eddie Sikes at 470-462-1675, Mike Green at 972-935-3877 or David Axe at 903-918-0720.

Like us on Facebook at "The Master's Builders."

## Rosewood, Gilmer youth auxiliaries hold annual presentation



▲ Rosewood, Gilmer youth auxiliary members

By **CHARLES JOHNSON**

*Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer*

The Sunbeams, Girl's Missionary Auxiliary (GMA) and Galilean youth auxiliaries at Rosewood, Gilmer recently held their annual presentation. They recited memory verses, mottoes and sang their theme songs. A reception was held

after the service in the fellowship hall. After missing much of 2020, due to the pandemic, RBC's auxiliaries have been back on their regular Sunday evening schedule since January.

## South Park, Ft. Worth Celebrates Jacksonville College

By **PAT QUESENBURY**

*South Park, Fort Worth*

April 25 was a special day for South Park, Fort Worth as members and visitors gathered in our worship center during the Sunday school hour and remained there for the entire morning service. Dr. Mike Smith, president of Jacksonville College, shared a brief testimony of God's faithfulness during the long history of the college and the evangelistic outreach it has become today. Over the past 10 years, the college has averaged more than 100 students who came to faith in Christ each year.



▲ Dr. Joe Lightner

During the worship hour, Dr. Joe Lightner, vice president of executive affairs and president-elect of Jacksonville College, brought a challenging message from God's Word. Throughout the morning, the Jacksonville



▲ Jacksonville College Singers

College Singers, under the direction of Randy Decker, lifted the church to Heavenly places with beautiful music and personal testimonies. From start to finish, it was a

celebration of God and His strong hand on the leadership and students who are part of the ministry of the college.

May God continue to bless Jacksonville College!



## Shipwrecked—Women's Retreat in September

By **GLENDA CHAMBERLAIN**

Does everyday life have you feeling a little...shipwrecked at times? Make plans to attend the Texas WMA Women's Retreat Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021. You'll have an opportunity to recharge, refresh, be encouraged and spiritually fed.

This one-day retreat will be held at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp in Gary from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Kristi Key, Texas WMA 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president, is the event organizer. Kristi set the theme *Shipwrecked*, along with theme verse Psalm 46:10. Gloria Irving is slated to be the keynote speaker, plus, *Women of the Bible* breakout sessions are planned. Music will be by John Mendez and Makaye Key, such a talented duo. Coffee and doughnuts served at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided and a silent auction will be held to raise money for the project, Daniel Springs.

Registration is only \$30. You can mail your registration to Cherokee District WMA, P.O. Box 1633, Jacksonville, TX 75766. Make your check payable to Cherokee District WMA. Deadline for registration is September 1.

Women invest a lot of time and energy into their families, their church, community and work. Set aside a little time for yourself to renew and deepen your relationship with God and pull strength from a fellowship of Christian ladies. It's important that we quiet the chatter and noise around us and sit with Jesus. "Be still, and know that I am God", Psalm 46:10. Jesus is the source of our power. We cannot fight the enemy until we are quiet with the Lord. We lay down everything and just stop, because we know He is greater. Don't miss this wonderful retreat. You will be blessed.

### NATIONAL GMA RETREAT

*Spotlight* is the theme for the National Girl's Missionary Auxiliary summer retreat. Everything is back on track this year for the retreat June 15-18, 2021 at Daniel Springs. Bro. Eric Johnson will be the camp pastor. Early registration is open through May 28, \$150 per camper. There is help for new campers attending for the first time, contact Kristin Herring for more information, [krisherr12573@gmail.com](mailto:krisherr12573@gmail.com), and 501-425-4780.

The girls will have fun at AfterGlow, Shining Stars, Queens' Day, coronation, forward-step classes, silent auction, and a fun photo booth. Plus, swimming, crafts, activities and much more. Check out the GMA website for information, <https://nationalgma.org>.

### DISTRICT NEWS

CHEROKEE WMA met April 13, 2021 at Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary Chapel in Jacksonville. There were no meals served and the meeting started at 6:30 p.m. President Cindy Allen called the meeting to order, and the WMA Motto was recited. Shirley McAnally, assistant secretary/

treasurer, conducted the Roll Call of officers, churches, visitors and ministers.

The speaker for the evening was Dr. Ricky Williams. He spoke on *Teamwork in Missions*, based on 1 Corinthians 3:5-9. He stated that a missionary is never a *Lone Ranger*. He has someone to step in or go alongside when needed. He credited Brother H. L. Lee with having a heart for Mexican missions and stirring up the hearts of men, such as Buddy Johnson and himself to enter the mission field. He mentioned working as a team with Bro. Buddy Johnson and Dr. John Ladd in the Bible Institute, the Clinic, and while he was establishing a church in Aquismon, Mexico. He spoke of the teamwork it takes to translate and publish the Baptist Publishing House Literature into the Spanish language, which is the Spanish publications Ministry of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. In the process of translation to publication, many volunteers are called upon working in various phases of the process to produce a quarterly that can be printed and used. Their dream is to train Hispanics to perform this work. Dr. Williams is also a professor at the BMA Seminary.

The attendance banner was awarded to Mt. Selman Baptist Church WMA. The next district WMA meeting will be at Afton Grove on July 13, 2021.

Cindy Allen announced that there will be a meeting on a Sunday in June for officers, and a representative from each church is invited to attend. New officers and plans for the next year will be discussed. Alicia Johnson dismissed the meeting in prayer.

LIBERTY WMA met April 10, 2021 at Antioch, Gilmer. The meeting was opened by President Betty Stokes with scripture from Psalm 118:24 "This is the day the Lord has made; let us

rejoice and be glad in it." Ava Pool gave a warm welcome to all in attendance.

Antioch provided music for worship in song as the collection was taken for our project. The current project is Daniel Springs Camp swimming pool, goal set is \$2500. To date almost half of the goal has been raised. Thank you ladies for your generosity and faithfulness during these difficult times. Officer reports were given by Charlotte Johnson and Shirley Hoffpauir.

Antioch GMA Hannah Brister sang a beautiful rendition of *Chain Breaker* by Zach Williams. Chain Breaker is also the Liberty District WMA theme set by Sandra Kizer, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president, with Psalm 68:6 as theme verse. Charlotte Johnson introduced Bro. Jason Prewitt, guest speaker and director of Daniel Springs Baptist Camp at Gary. Prewitt spoke of 2020 and the difficulties endured due to COVID-19 including no campers, no groups, no rentals and not much income. But you can guarantee our God is faithful, and this year promises to be an exciting one with campers and groups returning. Praise the Lord. Prewitt talked about 1 Samuel, David slaying Goliath, a story familiar to us all. Following his presentation, the GMA young ladies presented him with a \$700 donation for the pool project.

Teresa Gipson and Ava Pool led *Called* the new WMA song. Bro. David Kizer offered the closing prayer. The next Liberty District WMA will meet July 10, 2021 at Latch, Gilmer.

Glenda Chamberlain is the Texas Women's Missionary Auxiliary (WMA) editor. Contact her at [gcham33@yahoo.com](mailto:gcham33@yahoo.com). For more information about the Texas WMA, visit [www.texaswma.com](http://www.texaswma.com).



## BMA Texas Missions cont.

**CESAR CANTU—  
CARPENTER'S HOUSE CHURCH IN OYSTER CREEK  
CESARHCANTU42@GMAIL.COM**

Peace, on the other hand, is not the absence of conflict. Contrary to what you might think, peace is the natural state of things, the introduction of violence in peaceful societies is not inherent to their structure but forced upon them.

Matthew 10:13 says, "If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you."

God's peace is present in the midst of conflict and trouble. It is not like this world that in order to have peace you must wage war. We have the ability to introduce peace in all situations. It is within us and as we walk into a room we have the option of introducing peace.

### Prayer Needs:

My desire is for our church to grow. It does not need to grow a lot just enough to support itself. God may have other plans. He has that option. This request is based on my limited view of the situation.

Heith Mitchell is the director of BMA of Texas Missions. Contact him at P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, Texas 75168, 972-923-0757 or [hmitchell@bmatexas.org](mailto:hmitchell@bmatexas.org). For more information, visit [www.bmatexasmissions.org](http://www.bmatexasmissions.org).



# EVENTS

## 2021 BMA OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING

**DATE:** Aug. 2-4, 2021

**PLACE:** Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas

## INTERIM PASTOR TRAINING

**DATE:** Aug. 24, 2021

**TIME:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch provided for \$10

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

## BAPTIST PROGRESS MINISTRY CONNECTION WORKSHOP: REACHING PEOPLE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES

**DATE:** Sept. 16, 2021

**TIME:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch provided for \$10

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

## 2021 BMA OF TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING

**DATE:** Nov. 4, 2021

**PLACE:** New Harmony, Tyler

## 2021 NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

**DATE:** Nov. 15-17, 2021

**PLACE:** Chateau on the Lakes, Branson, Missouri

# pastor & staff changes

**STEPHEN DAVENPORT** has resigned as pastor of Enterprise, Jacksonville to become the pastor of Freestone, Freestone (near Teague).

**VAUN HENRY** is the new pastor of Antioch, Carthage.

**RICHARD KOONS** is the new pastor of Calvary First, Mesquite.

**KEITH PRATHER** has resigned as pastor of Friendship, Mesquite.

**DAN REYNOLDS** is the new pastor of LakeRidge, Lubbock.

**CHRIS TAYLOR** is the new pastor of Keltys First, Lufkin.

*\* If you are aware of pastor and staff changes, please let us know at Baptist Progress by emailing us at editor@baptistprogress.org.*

# personnel & positions

## AVAILABLE POSITIONS

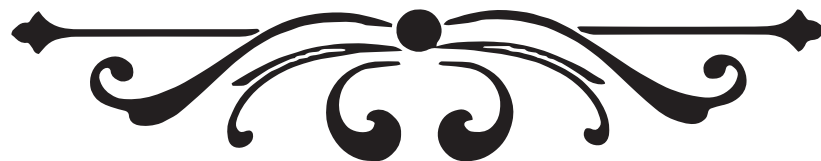
**YOUTH/STUDENT MINISTER**—Craft, Jacksonville is seeking a bivocational youth/student minister. Send resume to P.O. Box 1644, Jacksonville, Texas 75766 or james@craftjacksonville.com or call 903-752-6610. 7/21

**PASTOR**—First, Palmer is seeking a pastor. Send resume to pastorsearch@fbcpalmer.org or mail to P.O. Box 70, Palmer, Texas 75152. TFN

**PASTOR**—Dr. Ray Thompson has retired as pastor of Enon Missionary, Gilmer. A pulpit committee was formed and is seeking ordained ministers as well as licensed ministers for pulpit supply. Please contact steven.waller60@yahoo.com. TFN

**PASTOR**—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a pastor. Send resume to jimmysealy@aol.com or to FMBC Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346. TFN

## In Loving Memory



### LANCE ODOM

Lance Odom, 46, of Waxahachie, passed away April 22, 2021. He was a graduate of Waxahachie High School Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He went on to be an adoption/foster care specialist at the Texas Baptist Home for Children, then pastor of Sardis, Waxahachie. A graveside service was held at Waxahachie City Cemetery April 27.



### BOBBY JOE FISHER

Bobby Joe Fisher, 69, of Crandall, passed away April 16, 2021. For 30 years, he served as the pastor of churches in Nacogdoches, Houston, Paducah, Cockrell Hill and Arlington. Following his ministry, he worked at Deloitte Services in reprographics for about nine years. A funeral service was held at Victory Church in Scurry April 22.



### CALVIN PHILLIPS

Calvin Charlie Phillips, 92, of Dallas, passed away April 9, 2021. In 1948, he joined the Postal Credit Union, and retired in 1988 as their president. He also served from 1997-1999 as the administrative coordinator of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas. A funeral service was held at Impact @ Bethel, Dallas April 15.



## From no hope to new hope



▲ Larry and Tammy Wood

### By JACKIE RICKS

*National WMA Editor*

The people in Ukraine believe they have no future because they have a “God void.” Therefore, they have no hope. They just exist from day to day, going about life as if it’s a drudgery. Larry and Tammy Wood spend their days in Ukraine trying to offer the people hope—the hope that can only come through God’s Word and Jesus Christ.

The Woods have spent over the last two years in the country, learning the language and helping organize churches. They had a plan, but so did God. Needless to say, God showed them how much better His plan was. They had hoped to organize a church after many months. Instead, God worked things to get the Water of Life Baptist Church going by November of 2019, just after three months on the field. Within a year that group averaged 65. A second church plant, Grace Church is also moving along. God’s timeline is faster than the Wood’s.

You may wonder how the work is growing so fast. Well, besides the fact that God is obviously in it, the Woods use the concept of teaching the English language to gain the confidence of the people. At first, they were able to teach in person, as they had done many times before on mission trips. Now, however, due to the pandemic, they have to use the virtual teaching over the computer. They also gain help with learning the language there, spending two to three hours a day in a coffee shop studying and making friends with the ones who come in. They have learned a most important lesson to “wait on God.”

In Ukraine, “Christian” simply means being part of the Orthodox Church. Yet, many don’t even know who Jesus is. Sometimes the people ask Tammy or Larry for “help” and what they mean is “prayer.” They don’t understand all the concepts of Christianity that most of us grew up with. It usually takes about three years for a person to move from being interested in the gospel to being a follower of Christ in Ukraine.

The Wood family came home on furlough during the pandemic of 2020. In that time, they also got the corona virus. Besides causing health problems at the time, it also slowed them down some. They returned to find the work was continuing. Now they are back for a brief stay for family reasons. The Sunday before they left was Easter Sunday in Ukraine. That was May 2, 2021. Seven members were baptized into the Water of Life Baptist Church in Lutsk that day. Larry and Tammy are excited to see what happens while they are away as the new believers trust Jesus to give them new hope in Him.

# Anniversary Offering

**\$109** for **109 YEARS**  
of Ministry

*Baptist Progress* was established as the official publication of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas in 1912.

In 2020, messengers at the annual Baptist Missionary Association of Texas Meeting gave *Baptist Progress* approval to offer workshops, training opportunities and other resources to pastors, church staff and churches.

With that approval, *Baptist Progress* ceased to be just the official publication of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas and became **the informing and equipping ministry** of the state association.

In addition to offering workshops, training opportunities and resources to pastors, church staff and churches, the purpose of *Baptist Progress* is to promote interest in missions, evangelism, benevolence and Christian education among the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas.

Later this year, *Baptist Progress*, will celebrate 109 years of ministry. Each year, during the month of June, we humbly request a special anniversary offering from churches, classes, groups and individuals. This year, we are requesting an offering of **\$109 for 109 years of ministry** from all who wish to give.

Please keep in mind that because our ministry has expanded to provide equipping and resources, so have our budgetary needs. Therefore, we encourage those of you who can to give above the requested \$109, if possible.

The goal of our anniversary offering is to raise **\$12,000** to meet our budget for the year.

A list of those who give will be published in a future issue of *Baptist Progress*.

**Offerings may be mailed to:**  
***Baptist Progress***  
**P.O. Box 2085**  
**Waxahachie, Texas 75168**