

Baptist Progress

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One in Heart – theme for 65th annual BMAA meeting

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

Baptist Progress Correspondent

Hundreds of messengers from BMA churches converged on the Statehouse Convention Center in downtown Little Rock for the 65th annual session of the BMA of America, Monday, April 28.

The 7 p.m. session got underway with President Ed Stephenson, pastor of Springhill Baptist Church of Greenbriar, Ark. announcing the theme, “One in Heart,” taken from I Samuel 18:1 description of the closeness of David and Jonathan, and an admonition for churches to follow the example.



▲ Ed Stephenson

Stephenson called on James Schoenrock, pastor of Shepherd Drive, Euless, Texas, to lead the congregation in prayer on behalf of the families of several BMA pastors and leaders who went to be with the Lord recently; J. Harold Hodges, Oklahoma, Larry Rice, Arkansas, Gilford Vaughn, Texas, and Craig Branham, long-time BMA leader of interstate and foreign missions, who, at the time, was on life support, but passed away on the morning of April 29. Special prayer was offered for the granddaughter of Stephenson, who is a patient in Children’s Hospital in Houston.

Schoenrock further prayed for those who lost homes and loved ones during the violent storms which hit Conway, Mayflower and Vilonia, Ark. and which swept through portions of Mississippi.

Bro. Sonny Harvison and a group from Springhill Baptist Church presented several specials in music prior to the president’s message.



In his message, Stephenson challenged the body to adopt the spirit of David and Jonathan, who were described as their souls being knit together, and for God’s people to be “One in Heart.”

“The local church cannot be a light in the world if it is fussing and fighting and torn apart,” he said. “Jonathan was one of the heroes of the scripture because, with Jonathan, it was not about Jonathan, but about God.”

Stephenson noted that it wasn’t just in the local church setting that such unity was to prevail.

“As an association, we are to be one in heart – preacher

brethren are to be one in heart in proclaiming the Book,” Stephenson said. “You know, it’s very disappointing when brethren are divided.”

He further reminded preachers that they couldn’t preach the Book without preaching Jesus.

He noted that it was impossible to be one in heart without being one in heart with Jesus Christ.

“How do we become one with Jesus? We can’t do it by giving him our own robes – because our own robes are as filthy rags,” he said. “We become one with Jesus when He gives us His robe.”

Inside



Master's Builders
Page 6



WMA National Meeting
Page 7



Jacksonville College
Page 12

Letter from BMA of America Missions Executive Director to churches

By **DR. JOHN DAVID SMITH**
BMA Missions Executive Director

I offer greetings to the churches of the BMAA. It has been brought to our attention that an individual has mailed information to some of our churches with accusations concerning current North American church planter Brandon Cox. These accusations are derived from Brandon's relationship/connection to Rick Warren and Warren's approach to reaching Muslims.

I want to inform our churches that this matter has already been dealt with according to biblical patterns for conflict resolution. This individual was afforded multiple interviews with BMA Missions leadership, the leadership of the sponsoring church, officers of our national association, and the BMA Missions advisory committee.

The conclusion of this multitude of counselors was/is as follows:

The missions advisory committee, made up of 15 men chosen by our churches, made the following conclusion (taken directly from the minutes): **Motion and second, that after a thorough investigation, the committee affirms our support of Brandon Cox and that he is biblically sound and that the accusations made by ___ are without warrant. We partially base this conclusion on Brandon Cox's statement: "Jehovah is God alone, and His Son Jesus is Savior alone. There is no other god and no other redeemer. His righteous jealousy demands exclusive and absolute obedience from His followers." -Motion carried.**

The leadership of Garrett Memorial Baptist Church (sponsoring church) made this

declaration: **We believe Brandon Cox is faithful to our Lord Jesus, to the preaching of the gospel, and have seen no evidence whatsoever that gives us concern.**

Here is a statement from Brandon: **There is no other way to the Father but by Jesus, the one and only Way, Truth, and Life. All of us are sinners, deserving of hell, but God freely offers justification and salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, for the glory of God alone. No matter the cultural context, we must be ultra-clear about this gospel. The preaching of God's inerrant, infallible Word is the central aim and goal of my entire ministry. I'm thankful for the wise, godly men who have heard my mind and heart and have expressed their affirmation of my commitment to doctrinal soundness in all things.**

The leadership of BMA Missions unequivocally declares our support for Brandon Cox. We rejoice in the obvious anointing of God upon his life and ministry, and we pray that He will continue to pour out His richest blessings on Brandon, his family, and his ministry.



▲ Dr. John David Smith

How to download DiscipleKids files



By **THOMAS MOBLY**
DiscipleGuide Church Resources

Beginning this summer quarter, our DiscipleKids Activity Sheets & Leader Guides will be bundled together as a download-and-print product. Instead of paying \$2.30 per quarter for the Activity Sheets and \$5.95 per quarter for the Leader Guide, you will get both for only \$2 per child per quarter. The activity sheet/leader guide bundle is a download-only product. **However, the DiscipleKids visual packs, DVD, and enhanced CD are still physical products.**

Because the leader guide and activity sheets are now a download-only product, I wanted to take a moment to make sure everyone understands how to download, print and copy them. Here are a few simple steps:

Select a person in your church to download the files. If your church facility does not have internet access, consider asking for a volunteer to download the literature from home.

Order the Activity Sheets/Leader Guide bundle from discipleguide.org. Be sure to order the appropriate age group(s) for your needs. A quick-order form is available by hovering your mouse over the "shop" tab

at the top of the home page and clicking the upcoming quarter listed at the top of the shop menu. Once you have submitted the order, you will receive a confirmation email. Then, another email will come with the files or a download link in that email (could take up to 15 minutes for the link email). The files are time sensitive so you should go ahead and download the files. The files may be emailed or copied onto a disc or USB drive for anyone who needs access to them. Some churches may want to let each teacher have access to the files for preparation.

If you order download items over the phone, the download link email will be sent approximately one week before the beginning of the quarter.

Print and copy the literature. You may choose to print a lesson each week or the entire quarter at once. Either way, print and copy the files using the method that works best for your situation.

If you need help ordering, downloading, or printing, please call DiscipleGuide at 1-800-333-1442.

SOAR:lit Summer 2014 sets the bar high for students

By **THOMAS MOBLY**
DiscipleGuide Church Resources

Surrounding the excitement of the SOAR 2014 conference in July, students will embark on a 14-week trek through God's Word in SOAR:lit Summer 2014.

Author David Vandergriff starts the series at an evangelistic level playing field with a lesson about mankind's need for reconciliation with God. From there he uses a marathon metaphor — and a marathon approach — to take students on a sightseeing tour of many important points on their journey of discipleship. Obedience, repentance, drawing near to God, spending time in Bible study — all these concepts are introduced before students get halfway into Summer 2014.

Vandergriff then encourages and coaches students in the ways they can recognize discipleship in their lives and grow spiritually and, finally, explains how they must become disciple makers themselves. He leaves no doubt that

the first step in making a disciple is searching out the lost and bringing them to Jesus.

He says in Lesson 11, "Many times, we will use the excuse that we don't know what to say, or we don't want to offend (people) and cause them not to be saved. The problem with that mentality is that it will cause us to never share the gospel. You may offend some, and you may mess up what you are saying, but if you never say anything, you will never win anyone to the Lord.

"We need to place the value of a person's eternity above our own comforts and securities. If you don't know what to say, take actions that will help you learn what to say. There are plenty of programs out there that do just that.

"I've often told people that we should see people in two categories, the believers in Christ and the unbelievers.



If they are unbelievers, then we need to share with them what Jesus did for us. That's how we begin making disciples."

These powerful teachings are sure to make an impact on youth who study them and apply them to their lives.

National Brotherhood selects River of Blessings as project

By PAUL GAUNTT
Baptist Progress Correspondent

The National Brotherhood met at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 29 for its annual meeting.

The body selected, as its project for 2014-2015, the River of Blessing ministry – the Arrington River Boat in Bolivia, giving them 65 percent of brotherhood offerings, while 25 percent will be designated to the Galileans organization. Only 10 percent will be used in the general operation of the Brotherhood.

David Watkins, who was pastor of First, Magnolia, Ark. and was recently named as Church Relations Director for the BMA of America, was keynote speaker, selecting as his title, “A Little While,” taken from John 16.

“Problems have solutions, and the answer is in Jesus,” Watkins said noting that problems can be solved with time, prayer, and also the Second Coming of Christ”

Tyler Sellers, 12, of Conway, Ark who was chosen as National Mr. Junior Galilean, addressed the brotherhood briefly concerning the need to reach his generation for Christ.

Officers elected were: Mark Jones, president; Van Widger, 1st vice president; Josh Awtrey, 2nd vice president; Collin Jones, 3rd vice president; song leader, Matt Hudson; editor/promoter, Pat Spriggs; Galilean director, Kenneth Clovert; assistant Galilean director, Dan Williams; Secretary/treasurer, Robert Bynum; assistant secretary/treasurer, Ron Caldwell; and assistant song director, Bill Thornton.



▲ David Watkins

National Mr. Junior Galileans – burdened for his generation

By PAUL GAUNTT
Baptist Progress Correspondent

Tyler Sellers, 12, of Conway, who addressed the National Brotherhood, shared his burden for today’s adolescents and teenagers, says Galileans can help remedy the problem.

“Boys in my generation, need Christian men to lead and mentor them,” Sellers said. “A large number of them have no dad, or the presence of a male role model in their lives, and I believe sin seems to be more prevalent today than ever before. Most have their own phones and can easily access the internet and see pornography and other inappropriate activities.”

It’s not just internet, but video games also have a dismal effect on youngsters of today.

“There’s one game called Grand Theft Auto, which teaches boys to become involved in sinful acts and crime,” he said. “And with those games, they will hear language that will make a sailor blush.”

Born in Nacogdoches, Texas, Sellers and his family attend Antioch, Conway, where his dad, Travis Sellers, is worship leader. The younger Sellers is actively involved in ASM (Antioch Student Ministry) and leads in worship, and his voice has been featured on local radio. Musically inclined, Tyler plays guitar, piano and brass. He is also active on his school’s soccer team. He attends the Ruth Doyle Middle School in Conway.

But his passion is for his generation, and has one request.

“I want everyone to pray for the kids in our generation,” he said. “I believe it’s probably the most sinful generation ever, and we need Christian men to serve as our role models.



▲ Tyler Sellers



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FROM THE EDITOR

There is more to come

With our publishing deadline, it would have been an impossibility to include a complete report of the 65th Session of the BMA of America in this issue. Therefore, be sure to see the May 21, 2014 issue for much more from Little Rock, Ark. I appreciate Paul Gauntt and Teel Witt for their assistance in covering the annual meeting, as I was unable to attend this year.

Following are a few statistics and/or pieces of information, I can pass along to you:

1. There were a total of eight churches that petitioned the BMA of America for membership this year—four English speaking and four Spanish speaking.
2. Elected as officers for 2014-15 were: Jason Aultman, president; Paul White, 1st vice president; Jeff Swart, 2nd vice president. Aultman pastors Antioch, Conway; White is the BMA of Arkansas missions director; and Swart is pastor of First, Galena, Kansas.
3. The annual speaker for next year's meeting will be Mark Livingston, pastor of Keltys First, Lufkin. The alternate speaker elected is Glen Tropp, pastor of Unity, Hope, Ark.
4. A total of 247 churches were represented by messenger, 254 by letter, 517 messengers and 128 visitors.

June Anniversary Offering

Two years ago, you blessed *Baptist Progress* with a generous 100th Anniversary Offering. Churches, Sunday school classes, auxiliaries, other groups and individuals each gave *Baptist Progress* \$100 for 100 years of ministry. The funds you gave tremendously helped our department meet budgetary needs.

Well, *Baptist Progress* will turn 102 this year, and again we are asking for an anniversary offering. We ask that churches, groups and individuals please contribute \$102 for 102 years of service during the month of June. If 200 churches, groups or individuals give, *Baptist Progress* will receive \$20,400. The BMA of Texas approved for this campaign to take place during the month of June. We would appreciate what for most would be a very modest offering of \$102 each—\$102 for 102 years of ministry. Please mail your offerings to *Baptist Progress*, P.O. Box 2085, Waxahachie, Texas 75168.



▲ Jerry Fulton



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Better Together

By SCOTT ATTEBERY

I love the Baptist Missionary Association of America. I was born into a BMA family and have never known anything different.

Throughout my life, the BMA has invested in me. My pastors over the years preached God's word faithfully. My Sunday school teachers, children's ministry volunteers, and Galilean leaders invested in me week after week using BMA literature. My youth ministers poured into me through teaching, relationships, and special events. Some of my greatest memories stem from trips to Daniel Springs and the SOAR conference.

Likewise, my professors at Central Baptist College and the BMA seminary helped shape my understanding of ministry and the church.

As with many of you, God has used the BMA to transform my life. That's why my heart longs to give back to our association. Just as faithful leaders poured into me (2 Timothy 2:2), I want to be a channel of blessing to others.

DiscipleGuide's vision is to invest in BMA churches with resources that will help churches minister effectively. I want to make sure our BMA children have the same powerful Sunday school experience I had. I want to see our youth continue to be transformed by God's Word at Daniel Springs and SOAR. And as a former pastor, I long to see our hard-working ministers receive the attention and resources they need to help them shepherd their congregations.

As I look back on my BMA experience so far, there is one thing that keeps coming to my mind: "We are better together." That's one of the major ideas that our association was founded upon, and it still holds true today.

Every church has strengths and weaknesses. But when we covenant together as an association, we all become more effective.

Your continued support of DiscipleGuide helps us to continue investing in our churches. Thank you for continuing to invest in us as we are working hard to invest in you. We are truly "better together."



DiscipleGuide
CHURCH RESOURCES

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Picture of a servant's heart

By PAUL GAUNTT

I have been fascinated by the works of the man known as the world's greatest drummer.

Hal Blaine of Holyoke, Mass. started out drumming as an 8-year old boy by removing a couple of rods from one of his mother's chairs and using them for drum sticks. He often walked across the street in his neighborhood, to a Catholic church where he listened, attentively, to the boys' drum and bugle corps. Blaine, a little Jewish boy, found himself eventually playing in the corps of the church. Later, he attended school to learn the craft, and ended up in Capitol Recording studios in Hollywood, serving as a studio session drummer.

What I find amazing about Hal Blaine is, I heard his drum "licks" on radio long before I knew who he was. And those "licks" were featured on probably 80 percent of all pop hits recorded from the mid 1950's until today. His work has been featured on scores of number one hits in the United States and Europe including Petula Clark, Beach Boys, Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Herb Alpert, Jan and Dean, Del Shannon and hundreds of others. His work also became featured in movie themes.

A host of other drummers have publicly admitted they modeled their styles after what they heard on pop records, not realizing it was from Blaine.

In recent years, if an old group that became famous with Blaine's drums in the background, held a reunion concert, Hal was known to slip in, sit and listen to the group, and then in a flash, he was gone. He wanted no fanfare -- wasn't interested in the limelight, and seemed to function better behind the scenes.

The drummer earned the title, "World's greatest drummer" and basically never worked anywhere except within the confines of a studio -- as just a studio drummer -- basically a hired hand in the industry.

Now what does that have to do with anything in scripture? Jesus said in Mark 10:43, ". . .but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister." (servant)

Those words were uttered by the world's greatest Person, who created the Heavens and the Earth, healed the sick, raised the dead -- was God, incarnate in the flesh -- yet, He didn't come to Earth on a wave of fanfare, nor a desire to become famous. He came to

be a servant -- and to ultimately give His life for the remission of the sin of man.

Somehow, we've lost Jesus' definition of greatness. We equate it with a white-toothed smile flashing on TV screens across the world, or some self-elated personality draped in an animal-skin fur, who can't go anywhere without an entourage and great fanfare.

Do you want to be great? Then be a servant -- more importantly, a hidden servant, working behind the scenes to make others shine.

Paul Gauntt is the former BMA of Texas Department of Church Ministries director. He has served several churches as pastor, and is a correspondent and featured article writer for Baptist Progress. Contact him at paul.gauntt@att.net.



Don't you dare give up!!

By DR. TRAVIS PLUMLEE

Stop what you are doing right now. Derail that negative train of thoughts. Let's re-frame your thinking. You are going to make it. This is not going to get the best of you. You can do it. Fight!!!

Please, don't give up. Jesus will give you physical, mental, emotional and spiritual strength. God will give you abundant wisdom and direction if you just ask Him for it.

There are people who support and love you and do not want you to give up. You may not believe it right now. You may not even know who they all are. But you have others pulling for you. But even by the very remotest possibility that you don't think anyone cares whether you succeed or fail at this, God does. God loves you!

God is counting on you. He desires the best for you. He created you. He has a plan for you. You are one of His children and He never stops thinking and caring about you.

Romans 8:37 says that we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. Jesus loves you. He really does. I think sometimes we take that for granted, or fail to appreciate the depth of His love for us. This verse does not say we manage our stress. It does not say we cope with our conflicts. It says we not only will be conquerors, but we will be more than conquerors.

We will be victorious over all of our problems in life. We have, because of Christ, defeated death in this life. We live forever. Christ is in you. You have the power to conquer. You have the power to overcome. You have the power to take victory over everything that comes into your life.

With Jesus, you face all disasters and conflicts and troubles from a position of victory. You are not headed for victory. You received the victory the day you got saved. So now you are moving through this life from victory unto victory.

Jesus will take you around your problem, through it or remove it. It may not turn out like you thought or hoped. It may be a long desert march you go through. Sometimes

deliverance and victory does not come until we taste the victory in heaven. But you have to come to the realization of this truth: God always delivers His people.

He is not going to just leave you out there and say, "Good luck." Jesus will never say, "That's too big of a problem for me. I don't know what for you to do." Christ has all answers. God has all wisdom.

In Jeremiah 32:17 there is nothing too hard for God. In Luke 1:37 there is nothing impossible with God. And in Mark 9:23 Jesus tells us that all things are possible to him who believes.

I know you may know all of this in your head, but you have to take it to heart and receive it. Believe and receive. If you are about to give up, cry out "Abba-Father!"

If you want to throw the towel in and say it doesn't matter anymore; call out to Him. Call 333. Jeremiah 33:3. God says if you will call out to Him-- He will come to you. Try it right now where you are. He will come to you. When God is upon you, and you are under the shadow of the Almighty, you will gain new wisdom, insight and mount with wings like an eagle.

Isaiah 40:29-31 "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Maybe you are taking care of a loved one and feel unappreciated. Maybe you are in a family situation or a marriage where you think you have to do all the work and no one cares. But God cares. You are not helping others necessarily because they deserve it every day. You are serving others because God deserves it.

It is like I tell people in my marriage conferences. You don't love your spouse every single day because their

behavior is so wonderful and they deserve it every day. You do it because Jesus deserves it.

You show how much you love Him by loving others. You serve Him by serving others. So, carry on, because He deserves it. You will reap a reward in heaven. But we are not going through our trials with the right attitude just so we can get a star in our crown. We are doing it to "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Mathew 5:16.

I know I have used a lot of scripture references in this article. That is because the Word gives us hope. The Word is promises from God to us and He keeps His promises. If you are down, open the Word and find hope. It will dawn in your soul. Be honest in your prayers to God and tell him how you are feeling and what you need from Him. He loves you and will help you.

Then, take a little time each day and read something in the Bible and you will renew your strength. Don't you dare give up! We need you. People in the world need to see Christians who don't give up and who renew their strength with the Lord. It is a great testimony about our Lord when other people see us going through difficult times and not giving up. They then know, we live for something greater. Now get up, but don't you dare give up!

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



Master's Builders moving from one project to another



By **NELDA MALONE**
Master's Builders Reporter

The Master's Builders began work inside a new sanctuary at West Park, Ozark, Ark. on April 8, 2014. The 12,200 square foot building included a foyer and two bathrooms. The Master's Builders framed walls, put in sheetrock, did electrical work, set in a baptistery and built a 80x25 ft. stage.

Thank you to the men of the church who came and helped The Master's Builders, to Pastor Troy Vaughn and his wife, Rhonda, for all they did for us, and to Debbie Warden and the ladies of West Park for all the meals they prepared.

The Master's Builders will head to Daniel Springs, Gary, to begin work on May 12. We also plan to work a job in June. If you would like to join us on a job, we would love to have you. If your church has building needs, you can contact our office coordinator, John Mangum, at 318-202-5155 or cell 318-607-4100 or our field coordinator, Eddie Sikes, at 903-725-6549 or cell 479-462-1675.

Upon this Rock



By **NEIL DUMAS**
Cornerstone Baptist Church, Jacksonville

Cornerstone Baptist Church, Jacksonville, organized with 210 members on March 23, 2014. The church also voted to adopt the Doctrinal Statement of the BMAA and to associate with the churches of the BMAA upon petition the same day. The members had been meeting together since October 2013.

Beginning with 85 people, the group began meeting in the chapel of Jacksonville Christian School. It was during those first few weeks that some simple decisions were made. One of those decisions involved wanting to be more inclusive to the Jacksonville community. As a result, during the second week of December members built and presented, "Little Town Of Bethlehem," a walk-through interactive city. Another decision involved having a fellowship time each week between Sunday school and worship, providing a time for folks to visit with each other as well as guests.

As the weeks passed, more and more people began to attend Sunday school, worship and prayer services. Soon the number of attendees was almost more than the chapel could hold. Prayers and decisions about building a structure or even buying an abandoned store were considered. Then the most amazing thing happened.

The members of Sunset Baptist Church, a Southern Baptist Church in Jacksonville, reached out to Cornerstone. Sunset Baptist had been struggling somewhat for the past several years and they offered Cornerstone their buildings. The church voted to dissolve as a church with their 40 members joining Cornerstone.

Sunset's worship and education building was built in 1990, and a gym was constructed in 2007. There were 284 in attendance the first day Cornerstone occupied the former Sunset building to worship on April 13, 2014. Following the morning worship, a vote was taken by Cornerstone to name 1720 South Bolton Street as their permanent location.

Since organizing as a church, Cornerstone has baptized four and continues to make plans to reach Jacksonville. The church hosted "Megga Mania," a city-wide Easter Egg Hunt for children on their campus to reintroduce them to their location on Wednesday, April 16. Members are planning "Rock The Block," a neighborhood VBS in at least five locations in Jacksonville that will run for five days each, some simultaneously, for this summer.

A work day to make some needed repairs and paint as a "thank you" to Jacksonville Christian School for use of their facility was held on April 26.

Although Cornerstone's Leadership Team is still working on its core values with Church Planter Coordinator Larry Barker, they have organized Sunday school, children's church, Wednesday evening children's activities, youth group, choirs, ensembles, a facilities team, pulpit supply team and budget team.

Personalities are taking a back seat to focus on giving our Savior, Jesus Christ, all glory. God has certainly used each week's preaching from several associational leaders to give direction for Cornerstone.

God brought two separate groups of believers to an intersection of His will. For both, this is an answer to prayer, in some cases years of prayer. Excitement and energy fill these buildings because all realize that God has orchestrated each believer's heart in their search to act upon His will.

Faith has increased by seeing God's hand at work. Realizations about what truly is important in the worship and service of our Lord have come to light. Relationships have been strengthened in the struggle of overcoming barriers to reach more people for Christ.

While our country responds to the movie, "God's Not Dead," Cornerstone Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Texas is shouting, "God's At Work!"

In July and August 2014, Ricky and Priscilla Williams, BMA missionaries to Mexico for 34 years, will be on furlough. Any church or church group can contact him if they would like to hear about the work in the area of pastoral preparation in Mexico and Latin America. No church is too small or too far for them. Email: tenecmisionero@yahoo.com

National WMA meets in Little Rock, Arkansas



▲ 2014-15 National WMA Officers



▲ Presentation being made to President Carolyn Colvert for her service



▲ Carley Crisp, National Miss GMA

By TEEL WITT
Special for Baptist Progress

A total of 146 ladies, representing 94 churches, 10 states and one foreign country, gathered at the 2014 National WMA Meeting in Little Rock, Ark. on April 29. The theme of the meeting was *Flying Again, Soaring Beyond the Storms*, 2 Corinthians 1: 8-11.

National song leader, Lisa Hudson, led in singing “To God be the Glory.” Those in attendance were welcomed to Little Rock by the Arkansas WMA.

A BMAA missionary, whose name has been withheld for security reasons, spoke about how the 2013-14 project, *I Am Woman*, is a blessing to reaching out to women in Lebanon. Jerene Reddin, second vice president presented the program—a one-on-one talk with Shirley Ladd. Dr. John and Mrs. Shirley Ladd served as missionaries for over 40 years. Dr. Ladd is now the associate director of the Baptist Medical Missions International. He and Shirley now live in Tyler.

Carley Crisp, National Miss GMA, gave a devotional on Ephesians 3:20. Carley gave her testimony of learning how God provides exceeding, abundantly even in times when there is a lack of understanding. For several years she was looking at competing in different things simply because it was about her. Within the last year she has realized that it’s about Him.

A total of \$37,593.90 was raised for the 2013-14 National WMA project, *I Am Woman*. Elected as 2014-15 officers were the following: president, Janet Widger, Mo.; 1st vice president, Ruby Poteet, Ark.; 2nd vice president, Jodi Rhea, Okla.; 3rd vice president,

Charlotte Johnson, Texas (terms ending 2016); corresponding secretary, Pat Duncan, Ark.; assistant corresponding secretary, Glenda Tipton, Ark. (terms ending 2020); recording secretary, Ann Pugh, Texas (2018); assistant recording secretary, Linda Dertinger, Miss. (2019); editor, Jackie Ricks, Texas (2015); reporter, Norma Womble, Mo. (2016); historian, Bonnie Brown, Miss. (2015); director of youth auxiliaries, Mandi Townsend, Ark. (2019); assistant director, Laurie Hicks, Ark. (2019); GMA/YLA promoter, Jayna Williams, Texas (2016); assistant promoter, Beth Caldwell, Miss. (2016); Sunbeam promoter, Sherry Laminack, Ark. (2018); assistant promoter, Sandra Kizer, Texas (2019); song leader, Lisa Hudson, Miss. (2015); pianist, Sabrina Clayton, Miss. (2017); project promotion, Valarie Fish, Ark. (2015); Alice Smith, NM (2016); Carolyn Colvert, Ark. (2017); salary & expense, Bettye Wilson, Texas (2015); Bea Evans, Mo. (2016); Ladonna Baker, Mo. (2017); Study book committee, Val Blackmore, Ark. (2015); Linda Norvell, Ark. (2016); Connie Reifsteck, Mo. (2017); Advisory Council, Bro. Claude Evans, Mo.; Bro. Don Brown, Miss.; Bro. David Kizer, Texas. Appointed by president: web master, Alice Dixon, Ark.; media editor, Norma Womble, Mo. The 2014-15 project is 85 percent to Sticky Rice BMMI project to provide nutrition services in Nicaragua; 15 percent to youth auxiliaries; 5 percent to general fund.

Miss Elizabeth Ricks, National Jr. Miss GMA, led the closing prayer.

AUXILIARIES

Missions: The heart of the matter

By SHARON COLE

Our 2014 WMA theme this year is *Missions: The heart of the matter*. We will be turning our thoughts and hearts toward missions. The theme is taken from Romans 10:1, “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved.” The theme is also the emphasis of the annual Ladies Retreat. The date has been set for Oct. 4, 2014 at Rosewood, Gilmer.

The main speaker will be BMAA missionary Tamy Gaitan, from Nicaragua. Tamy was born in Nicaragua, but spent most of her childhood in Grand Prairie, where her father served as an Interstate Missionary leading a Spanish speaking congregation.

Many things are already being planned for the retreat. More details will be forthcoming. We are looking for anyone who might have access to frequent flier miles that would be willing to share. Please contact Charlotte Johnson 903-790-1385 (cell) or chj1054@etex.net, if you can help, or Lynda Marsh 469-285-1771 (cell) or marshlynda50@yahoo.com.

We need to fill our hearts with different areas of ministry. The saved group needs our love and encouragement. The lost need our deeds of kindness and human touch. Our homes need to be filled with ministry to others who need the extra touch. Those who live close to us need to feel and see the love of God flowing to them. Extra time needs to be spent in Bible reading and a stronger prayer life.

The Master’s Builders need a new tool truck to “Raise the Walls for Christ.” This dedicated group of men and women have spent 22 years serving the Lord helping churches and missions build or remodel worship facilities for the Lord. The Master’s Builders is the major portion of the Texas WMA Project this year. Our goal is \$15,000. Their present truck has become too small to carry their tools and materials and has become a safety hazard because of continual maintenance. Get your wheels turning and load up any great ideas for raising money to help make this possible for the glory of God. Send your offerings to Jo Strong, 149 NW Suzanne Terrace, Burleson, TX 76028. For more information contact her at 817-480-0888 or jokenstrong@juno.com.

Bible Study

Are you looking for something to increase your Bible knowledge and also about Missions? Look no further than DiscipleGuide. They have our WMA Study Book, “*People Are People*,” written by Jackie Ricks. This book recounts the lives of John and Shirley Ladd from their Texas roots throughout their career as medical missionaries in Mexico. The account will introduce you to many people who were important in the Ladd’s ministry, as well as showing the impact of their ministry upon people wherever they went.

Ultimately the book manifests the great principle that drove the Ladd’s ministry through the years—People are people. Wherever there are people, there are basic spiritual and physical needs that God’s servants can meet when they open their eyes to the opportunities and allow God to direct their lives. The book may be ordered through DiscipleGuide.org for \$12.94 plus tax and shipping or by calling or texting Jackie at 903-245-5715 (cell) or 903-569-5548 (home). Books ordered directly from Jackie are \$14.00 (this includes tax).

Also, Jackie has written a very good Bible Study book, “*Profiles of Virtue*.” This is a study of the virtuous woman passage from Proverbs 31:10-31. It is divided into various qualities and then identifies a different Bible woman who exemplified each of those. Along with examining the woman’s life in depth from the scriptures, Jackie discusses an anonymous woman whom she has known in her own lifetime who displayed the same quality in modern times. This book would make an excellent Bible study for a women’s or girl’s class. Not only does the author discuss from the scriptures, she also asks questions and makes suggestions about improving Christian living. The book may be ordered by calling or texting 903-245-5715 (cell), 903-569-5548 (home), or email-jdbricks@att.net. Book cost: 1-5 copies-\$9.99; six or more, \$9; reproducible worksheets, \$5. An important part of the Christian’s life and growth comes from our daily Bible study and devotional time. Make it a point each day to have a personal Bible study time. Make an effort to read completely through the Bible in a year.

Also, have regular Bible study time with your family. “*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*” 2 Timothy 2:15.

Happy Mother’s Day

Mother’s Day is fast approaching. God has given mothers a great responsibility: to nurture and teach His little ones. She has to be strong and decisive yet tender and gentle. She has to be fun and light-hearted yet serious and determined. She must be a teacher, a healer of hurts, counselor, referee, secretary, cheerleader, chauffeur, nurse, lawyer, and the list goes on. A godly mother will teach her children about Jesus and to pray. She will take them to worship at church, not just send them. Then, when her children are grown, a godly mother will be at peace knowing she has taught them godly principles that will carry them through life. A godly mother will learn to let go, and let God...Incorporate something special into your WMA or church programs to honor your mother’s memory or her presence. Mothers, a little note of wisdom for you: A positive attitude is an important tool in the business of raising children. It can be gleaned from reading God’s Word. Let them see you do it. Let them hear you pray for them. Take time to play with them; the dishes can wait. Your children and grandchildren will remember what you did with them more than what you say long after you’re gone. Last of all accept the fact that your children are not miniature adults with adult reasoning or perfect little robots that obey every command. They are precious gifts from God. So lighten up and enjoy them while you can. Leave a legacy that would please God.

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.



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Mission Life

All Members of One Church Get Sued at the Same Time

By PAULA RIVERA
Startchurch.com

Several years ago a church in Texas ran into some trouble when a man wanted to sue the church. The problem, however, was that the church was not incorporated, and so it could not be sued. Instead, he filed a class action lawsuit against every member of the church. Could he sue every member? Does the law allow members to be sued personally? The court that heard the case stated, "An unincorporated association is a voluntary group of persons, without a charter, formed by mutual consent for the purposes of promoting a common enterprise." The court also stated, "Members of an unincorporated association are individually liable for tortious acts of agents or employees of the association if the tort is committed within the scope of their authority" (Hutchins v. Grace Tabernacle United Pentecostal Church).

Unincorporated churches with voting members are most at risk

This court case brings up something that ought to make its members think twice about their legal status as a church. There are many churches that have voting members who vote on many issues such as salaries, purchase contracts, and other important things like real estate transactions and lease agreements. In essence, when members of the unincorporated church vote on a particular

item, they are taking upon themselves potential personal liability because they become a direct personal party to the contract or transaction. This could bring disastrous results.

In the case of the church in Texas, the court stated that the "... members of an unincorporated association are individually liable for tortious acts of agents or employees of the association if the tort is committed within the scope of their authority." However, the appeals court remanded the case back to the trial court because the plaintiff committed a procedural error in filing her paperwork and claim with the court seeking class action; one that could be easily fixed. The point we must not miss is that, the court made it very clear that the members of an unincorporated church could be sued personally for the tortious acts of its "... agents or employees of the association if the tort is committed within the scope of their authority."

One of the first acts of a church

Incorporating ought to be one of the first acts of any church. In 2010, approximately 1,000 churches per month were sued. That number is likely to keep rising because today, many churches are starting in homes, hotel conference rooms, and schools, which means they have to sign more contracts and enter into unusual contracts. It is important to ensure that your church forms a legal structure

to protect its members, board, and trustees. As mentioned before, incorporating should be done before conducting your first service.

What happens when you incorporate your church?

The legal concept of an artificial person exists where state law has created laws recognizing a corporation. The laws of all fifty states allow churches to create a corporation that exists separate from that of its members, officers, and board. The church uses the corporation to conduct its business and manage its assets.

What is indemnification?

When a church forms a corporation, it receives special power to indemnify its pastors, board members, and employees from liability for the action they take in behalf of the church. This allows one to serve on the board with the confidence of knowing that the acts he/she performs in behalf of the church will not come back to haunt him/her.

Where is your church?

Right now, there are many churches operating on a deficient legal foundation. Most pastors I have met state that from the first day they started their church, they had always intended on doing things the right way, but then ministry, preaching, and life got in the way. That does not have to be you. Today is the best day to start getting right.



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EVENTS

MAY 15, 2014

BMMI Rally
@ Willow Oak, Gilmer

JUNE 17-20, 2014

National GMA Retreat
@Daniel Springs Camp
Gary, Texas

JULY 22, 2014

Smith County District
Brotherhood & WMA Meeting
@ Omen, Arp
Jerry Fulton, editor of Baptist
Progress, guest singer & speaker
Meal @ 6 p.m. Meeting @ 7 p.m.

AUGUST 14, 2014

Lifeword Media Ministries Rally
@ Woodland, Gilmer

APRIL 27, 2014

100 Year Anniversary
@ First, Maydelle
11 a.m.

OCTOBER 13-14, 2014

Annual Liberty Baptist Association
@ Little Mound, Big Sandy

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2014

Annual Meeting
of the BMA of Texas
@ Keltys First, Lufkin

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

Youth—Farley, Waxahachie is receiving resumes for the position of full-time student ministry pastor. Send resume to resume@farleystreet.com.

Youth—Calvary, Jacksonville is seeking a bivocational youth pastor. Contact Pastor Michael Mathis at mathi1314@gmail.com or 903-625-0776.

Music—Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden is seeking a bivocational music minister. Send resume to Attn: Pastor Craig Kearby, P.O. Box 99, Golden, Texas 75444 or pilgrimresttwo@gmail.com or call 903-768-2653.

Music or Music & Youth—First, New Caney is seeking a bivocational music or music & youth minister. Send resume to Pastor Jonathan Fitzgerald, P.O. Box 1027, New Caney, Texas 77357 or to fbcnwcaney@att.net, or call 281-399-9930.

Pastor—Piney Creek, Kennard, located at 7015 Farm Market Road 2781 in Kennard is seeking a bivocational pastor. Contact Billy Don Davis at 936-655-2938 or send resume to Billy Don Davis at 822 County Road 4615 Kennard, Texas 75847.

Youth—Soda, Livingston is seeking a full time youth pastor. Send resume to the church at 8135 US Highway 190 East, Livingston, Texas 77351 or to youthguywayne@yahoo.com.

Pastor—First, Beckville is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to Mike Johnson, P.O. Box 329, Beckville,

DEATHS

(Complete obituaries may be viewed at www.bmatexas.org)

FREDA JOLLY

Funeral services for Freda (Sweetpea) Jolly, 72, of Jonesboro, Ark., were held at Temple, Jonesboro, Ark. on April 26, 2014. Among survivors is her loving husband of 54 years and longtime BMA pastor, Jerry Jolly, of Jonesboro, Ark.

HOWARD W. CONWAY

Funeral services for Howard W. Conway, 89, of Dallas, were held at Fellowship, Forney on April 19, 2014. Conway was an ordained Baptist minister, who served Arcadia Park, Dallas as pastor from 1966-1971. He was also in the used car business for 55 years, and was very active in the BMA, serving on numerous trustee boards. Among survivors are his wife of 64 years, Mattie.

GILFORD HARRIS VAUGHN

Funeral services for Rev. Gilford Harris Vaughn, 97, of Palestine, were held at Herrington/Land of Memory Funeral Home Chapel in Palestine on April 21, 2014. During his 70 years of ministry, Vaughn 25 churches in Texas and Oklahoma. Some of the churches he pastored include: Beacon Hill, Waco; Stone Heights, Henderson; Highland Park, Midwest City, Oklahoma; Leggett, Leggett; Damascus, Corrigan; Crossroads, Normangee; Ebenezer, Huntsville; and Mt. Cove, Atoy. In 1998, Bro. Vaughn was honored as the oldest serving pastor in the BMA of Texas. After 15 years as pastor of Antioch, Fairfield, he retired at the young age of 92. Among survivors is his wife of 70 years, Hazel Lee Vaughn, of Palestine. Memorials may be made to Jacksonville College at www.jacksonville-college.edu.

JAMES "HAROLD" HODGES

Funeral services for James "Harold" Hodges, 82, of Moore, Okla., were held Southgate, Moore, Okla., on April 19, 2014. Hodges was the first pastor of Southgate from 1962-1997. From 1997 until the time of his death, he was pastor emeritus. He was a well-respected and recognized leader in the BMA. Among survivors is his wife of 61 years, Louise. Memorials may be made to the building fund at Southgate Baptist Church, 740 SW 4th Street, Moore, OK 73160.

CHURCHES IN REVIEW

APRIL 20, 2014

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	79	186	
Cedar Creek, Teague		30	
Farley Street, Waxahachie		925	
First, Blooming Grove	200		3 By Baptism
First, New Summerfield	41	65	
First, Palmer	44	108	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	22	80	
Harvest, Lufkin	22	24	
Jackson, Joaquin	79	167	
Lake Highlands, Sulphur Springs	89	143	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	35	76	1 By Baptism
Long Creek, Sunnyvale	66	89	
New Hope, Mineola	84	182	
Oak Hill, Gilmer	22	61	1 By Letter
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	43	70	
Pine Brook, Tyler		135	
Rosewood, Gilmer	134	394	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	78	155	2 By Baptism
Security Calvary, Cleveland		69	
Temple, Mexia	43	103	
Tundra, Canton	111	165	
Woodland, Splendora	34	92	

APRIL 27, 2014

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	80	117	
Bethel, Groesbeck	32	40	
First, Blooming Grove	206		2 By Letter, 1 By Baptism
First, New Summerfield	40	49	
First, Palmer	34	55	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	17	35	
Harvest, Lufkin	25	30	
Jackson, Joaquin	59	93	
Lighthouse, Rowlett	23	55	
Little Flock, Lufkin		22	1 By Baptism
Little Mound, Big Sandy	41	54	1 By Baptism
Long Creek, Sunnyvale	60	69	
New Haven, Dallas	26	42	
New Hope, Mineola	75	110	
Oak Hill, Gilmer	20	59	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	43	70	
Pine Brook, Tyler	30	79	
Rosewood, Gilmer	106	153	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	70	115	3 By Letter, 5 By Baptism
Security Calvary, Cleveland	12	35	

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

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

When Opportunity Knocks

By GARY HOUSE

DATE: May 11, 2014

TEXT: Ecclesiastes 10:16-11:6

LESSON IN BRIEF: Seize every opportunity to make a difference for God (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

CSI is a popular television series. CSI stands for Crime Scene Investigation. In Ecclesiastes 10-11, Solomon offers some common sense instructions about the meaning of life."

Be mature, not foolish (10:16-17). "Stupid is as stupid does." Solomon cites the example of a king who acts like a child. What's inside will eventually show up on the outside. We can identify a fool by his "walk," that is his/her directions or pursuits in life. Our inclination shows up in our demonstration which produces our reputation. A little wrong can cast suspicion on your whole life. "Folly" means a lack of good sense or foresight;

not looking at the consequences. Believers are to take the high road. Allow God to develop within you a gentle, quiet spirit that you might help this person.

Work diligently (10:18). Verse 15 has to do with productivity and verse 18 with procrastination. Don't let things go—get things done. The reason we are to work hard is not to accumulate a bunch of stuff for ourselves, but so that we might have something to share with those in need.

Speak truthfully (10:20). Be careful what you speak. Be careful how you speak (verse 13). Be careful where you speak.

Make an investment (11:1-2). "Cast your bread upon the waters." This refers to sewing and reaping. Our natural tendency in the light of uncertainty is to hoard our resources in order to

protect our own interests. But the Bible instructs us to do just the opposite—to be generous with others. "Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth." (See Luke 6:38, Proverbs 11:24-25)

Just because we are generous does not immune us from problems or disasters. Bad things, misfortune, pitfalls and hardships may come but give yourself anyway and trust the results with God. He has promised to repay.

Three practical truths arise from this verse:

1. Don't expect your ship to come in if you've sent none out.
2. You cannot reap what you do not sow (generally speaking).
3. Why should God be generous with us if we are stingy with him?

Be trusting (11:3-5). Live by faith.

There is so much of life that is out of our control. We can't keep the clouds from producing rain when they become saturated of disaster or misfortune as an excuse for inactivity. If you magnify every difficulty or hardship, you won't ever work. If we sit around and wait for the ideal circumstance trying to avoid adverse conditions, we won't ever get anything done. Solomon also reminds his readers once again that there is no way they are going to figure out God. Don't try to out-guess God and His works. Life is indeed uncertain and uncontrollable. If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done.

Be persistent (11:6). Do you're best and let God take care of the rest.

Live Joyfully (11:7-8.) We need to make decisions based on the "eternal" view of things.

A Life Well Invested

By GARY HOUSE

DATE: May 18, 2014

TEXT: Ecclesiastes 11:9 12:7

LESSON IN BRIEF: You will not waste your life if you spend it in devotion to God. "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth."

The following essay is based on John Piper's excellent book, *Don't Waste Your Life* [Crossway]. It's about how to lose your life for Christ's sake, and thereby not waste it. I wish that I had read it when I was 20. Whether you are young or old, you will find reading it to be a profitable use of your time!

Pastor Rick Warren observes, "There is not a single verse in the Bible, not one, that says you can be a Christian and live your life any old way you want to. It's just not there. God wants all of you. He doesn't want 10 percent of you, He doesn't want 50 percent of you, He doesn't want 99 percent of you—He wants all of you."

Life is short and uncertain. I am 68 years old, and the older I get, the more I think about the question, "Am I spending my life in such a way that when I stand before the Lord, I will hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant?" How do you know whether you are **wasting** your life

or **investing** it in the things that really matter?

In America we have several yardsticks by which we measure a life.

One is **usefulness**. We feel that if a person does something useful for society, whether it is a profession or a trade, he or she spends his or her life well.

Another yardstick we use is **busyness** or sheer activity. Our lifestyles reflect our values here—we're all busy people. Our weekly calendars are full to the brim. We have the notion that if you just sit around and do nothing, you're wasting your life.

We also gauge our lives by adventure and excitement. The national mantra has become "Go for the gusto!"—whatever that means. **Live it up.**

Often the world recognizes that having warm **personal relationships** is at the heart of a life well spent. If you read the obituaries, usually they mention a person's work and hobbies. But obituaries also mention the people whose lives were affected by the departed one.

Behind all of these yardsticks is that of **personal happiness**. Even if a person dies poor and unknown, if he or she was happy or content, that is what matters.

Against these yardsticks of a life well spent, **devotion to God is all that matters**. I once read of a man who thought he knew how to live to be 120. I thought, "Okay, what if he succeeds? Then what?" Even if we could figure out how to live to 900, like the early patriarchs, we would still have to die and face eternity. In light of that, devotion to God is really all that matters in this life! With it, we can enjoy earthly blessings if God grants them. Without it, we've really wasted our lives.

The fact is, not everyone can attain the things that the world labels as success. But, devotion to God is available to everyone. No matter what your station in life, you can devote yourself to the Lord, and that makes whoever you are and whatever you do count in light of eternity.

No matter what your station in life—male or female, young or old, rich or poor—you can devote yourself to God and He will be pleased with your devotion. The world may ignore or despise you, but God always has had such a godly remnant. They are the salt of the earth; they preserve the whole mass from corruption. You can be counted among

them.

Thus, **devotion to God is all that matters**; it is available to all. Devotion to God takes many outward forms, but it always Devotion to God takes many outward forms, but it always involves worship, witness, and waiting.

A life devoted to God is not wasted. It is a life well spent. A life devoted to anything else, no matter how noble, or how highly praised is wasted.

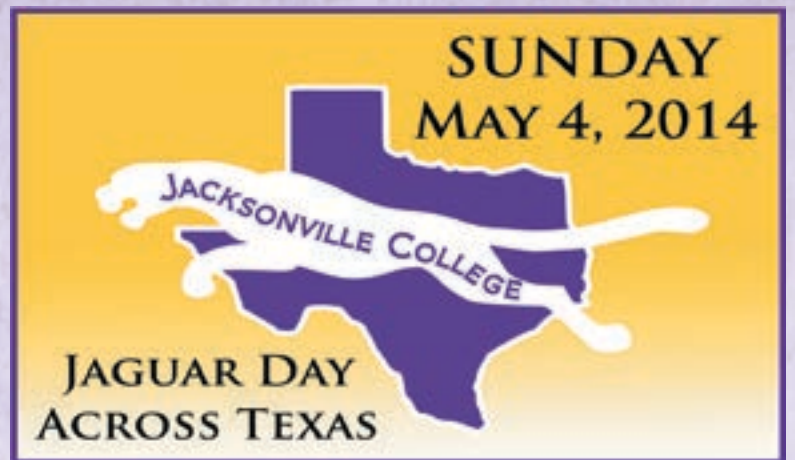
Whatever you do for a living, make sure that devotion for Jesus Christ is at the heart of why you are living. To live for anything else is to waste your life.

How can I invest my life? It starts with realizing that God has a purpose for your life. Remember that God can use you despite your failures. Rely on God's power. Respond to God's timing.

Gary House is the writer of the Sunday school lessons for Baptist Progress. He serves as pastor of Tundra Baptist Church in Canton. Contact him at Tundraparson@aol.com.



JAGUAR DAY ACROSS TEXAS



By **DR. MIKE SMITH**

The second week in April, Jacksonville College President Mike Smith mailed a letter and poster to all our BMA of Texas churches, as well as to alumni and friends of the College. The focus of the mail-out was the Jaguar Day Across Texas offering, the College's annual effort to raise money for the needs of the College. Although Jaguar Day Sunday was May 4, it is not too late to send your offering. Please consider giving a financial gift to help us build the new dorm, to remodel the Joe Wright property, or to help with other projects, ministries, or needs. We ask that you pray and give sacrificially.

Send your Jaguar Day offering to:
Jacksonville College
105 B. J. Albritton Dr.
Jacksonville, TX 75766
Conflict: Causes and Cures

Every eight hours a pastor is terminated. Every year over a thousand churches disband; often because of conflict. To address the critical problem of conflict in our churches today, President Smith has written a book called Conflict: Causes and Cures. Supported by over thirty years of academic research and based on real-life experiences in the ministry, the book presents practical perspectives, solutions, and resources for dealing with conflicted churches. Dr. Smith highlights the top ten causes of conflict in a lively case study format and discusses three necessary approaches to conflict—education, mediation, and restoration.



In his endorsement of the book, Baptist Progress Editor Jerry Fulton explains, "Dr. Smith has provided a manual for recognizing and resolving conflict. His biblical, yet practical solutions will help leaders and followers alike to better deal with contentious people and problematic situations."

Individuals who give \$30 and churches that give \$100 or more to the Jaguar Day offering will receive a free copy of Conflict: Causes and Cures. When you send your gift to the College, please indicate that you would like a copy of the book as well. All proceeds from the sale of the book will go to Jacksonville College.

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



Share Your Story

Dr. Smith is presently working on a collection of favorite memories and recipes submitted by alumni and friends of Jacksonville College, and he asks you to contribute some of your own stories. Please send Dr. Smith your humorous, embarrassing, or inspirational church stories. Include stories about baptisms, weddings, and funerals, as well as bulletin bloopers. Dr. Smith also asks that you share the story of your salvation experience, your call to the ministry, the story of how you met your spouse, your favorite memories of Jacksonville College, and/or even your favorite food recipe. You can mail your stories and recipes to Dr. Smith at the College, or you can email them to msmith@jacksonville-college.edu.

God's Not Dead

On Monday, April 14, Jacksonville College took a large group of students, faculty, staff, and guests to a late night showing of God's Not Dead for free, courtesy of President Mike Smith and the school. The film centers on an atheistic college professor and a student who successfully defends his position that God is not dead in a series of debates with the professor. Kayley Dean, Dean of Students at the College, understood that students were eager to take a break from their hectic schedules, and going to the local theater would be a unique opportunity. Dr. Smith saw the movie as a powerful evangelistic tool that would also encourage Christian students to stand up for their faith. He explained, "Jacksonville College certainly wants to challenge students academically, but we also want to challenge them spiritually. This movie did both, and I believe lives were transformed, and will continue to be transformed as a result."



UPCOMING EVENTS

Ongoing Registration for Maymester, Summer, and Fall 2014

Online registration is available

2014 Class Sessions

Maymester: May 14 - May 30

Summer I: June 2 - July 3

Summer II: July 7 - August 7

Fall: August 20 - December 11

Full course schedules are available on our website at www.jacksonville-college.edu.

Commencement

May 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Curtis Carroll Field House/Gymnasium
Speaker: Richard Smith, member of the JC Board of Trustees and pastor of Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie, TX
Reception following in the cafeteria