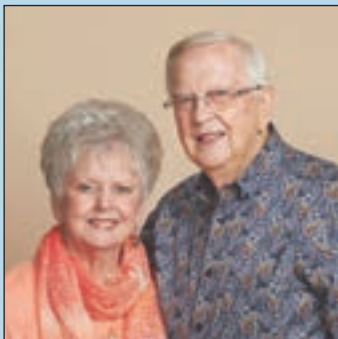


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Baptist Progress, P.O. Box 2055, Waxahachie, Texas 75168
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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS | NOVEMBER 2020 | VOL. 107 | NO. 11

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WELCOMES NEW VICE PRESIDENT

BMA of Texas meets for 120th Annual Session in Waxahachie



▲ BMA Texas Missions Commissioning Service

By BAPTIST PROGRESS STAFF

The BMA of Texas met for the 120th Annual Session at Farley Street, Waxahachie Nov. 5. The meeting this year was one day only due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In spite of the pandemic, attendance at the 2020 meeting was higher than it was in 2019. However, there were 19 less churches represented by messengers. There were 133 messengers and 110 visitors totaling 243 present. Last year's attendance was 228. The total number of churches represented by messenger was 78 and churches represented by letter only was 35.

Following worship led by Nathan D'Avila, worship pastor of Farley Street, Waxahachie, and the church's praise team, BMA of Texas President Leon Ross preached a message from



▲ BMA of Texas President Leon Ross delivers president's message

Philippians 1:3-11 titled, *Stronger Together*. He noted that the current pandemic has had an effect on relationships within local churches and the BMA of Texas. Ross expressed the needs to partner together in the ministry of Jesus Christ and to pray for one another. He concluded, "Until the Lord returns, we are stronger together."

A highlight of the meeting is that seven



▲ Representatives of seven new churches welcomed into the BMA of Texas

new churches petitioned the state association for membership. Messengers welcomed the following churches into the BMA of Texas:

- Redemption, Nacogdoches—Wesley Burke, pastor
 - The Carpenter's House—Cesar Cantu, pastor
 - Fuente de Vida Eterna, Houston—Jaime Henriquez, pastor
 - Kingdom Chapel, Fort Worth (Saginaw)—Ronnie Mills, pastor
 - IMPACT at Bethel, Dallas—Donny Sadler, pastor
 - Redeemer's Love, Houston—Spencer Simpson, pastor
 - Cross-Work, Tahoka—Mike Watt, pastor
- Constitutional changes presented by the BMA of Texas Administrative Committee, the Baptist Missionary Loan Association and *Baptist Progress* were approved. The Administrative Committee was renamed the Coordinating Committee, to better describe its function. The committee has no administrative authority but instead helps to coordinate the efforts of the departments of the BMA of Texas. The title of business manager of the Baptist Missionary Loan

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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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editor@baptistprogress.org
P.O. Box 2085 • Waxahachie, Texas 75168
972-923-0756 (office) • 972-923-3534 (fax)

www.baptistprogress.org

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATE:

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

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



MAKING PROGRESS

The equipping and resource ministry of the BMA of Texas

By **JERRY FULTON**

Thank you to everyone who attended the 120th Annual Meeting of the BMA of Texas at Farley Street, Waxahachie. I thought it was a great meeting, and I'm looking forward to next year's meeting at New Harmony, Tyler Nov. 1-2. Please make plans now to attend. We need all BMA of Texas churches to be informed about and become involved in the work of our association.

Since the BMA of Texas Department of Church Ministries was disbanded years ago, we have had a void in our state association of churches. The BMA of America has done an outstanding job in providing first class national conferences, and the BMA of America ministry, Activate, now stands ready to offer help in various ways to local churches. Still, it is my belief that we need a department or ministry on the state association level to also provide equipping opportunities and other resources in Texas.

During this year's meeting, I shared with messengers my vision to lead *Baptist Progress* to become the equipping and resource ministry of the BMA of Texas. In return, messengers approved a constitutional amendment to include in our department's purpose that we offer workshops, training opportunities and other resources to pastors, church staff and churches.

We are debuting our ministry efforts with what we are calling a Ministry Connection Workshop at the BMA of Texas Building in Waxahachie, Dec. 1. The initial workshop will be called *Healthy Church Solutions*, and will be led by Larry Barker, BMA of America Missions director of church solutions and church planting.

COVID-19 has leveled the playing field for every church and every pastor. Most pastors and churches could use some tools and encouragement to keep pressing on where God has placed them. Since March, BMA of America Missions has identified areas where pastors and churches are struggling. The aim of BMA of America Missions and Larry is to come alongside pastors and churches to help resource them in areas that matter right now.

Over the course of the workshop, the following will be covered:

Session 1: Pandemic Soul Care: How to stay energized in a de-energized world.

Session 2: Dealing with Difficult People: Having an edge instead of being on edge.

Session 3: Navigating Uncharted Waters:

Lessons learned during church shut-downs and re-openings.

Session 4: Building A Culture of Prayer: Relying on the presence of God in the absence of control.

Closing: Free Church and Pastor Resourcing: How can we help you where you need it most? Those attending will be informed of changes that have been made at BMA of America Missions to reach and resource more pastors, leaders and churches. Participants will find out what's available for free and decide if there's anything they would like to utilize in the coming weeks. The prayer of BMA of America Missions and *Baptist Progress* is to help you where you need it, when you need it most.

Other Ministry Connection Workshops have also been scheduled for 2021. For a list of all workshops and to pre-register to attend them, visit www.baptistprogress.org and click on the appropriate link under "Ministry Connection Workshops," on the right side of our home page.

OTHER RESOURCES TO BE OFFERED

Every Sunday Bulletin Service. For years, *Baptist Progress*, has offered the *Every Sunday Bulletin Service* to BMA of Texas churches. Bulletins can be viewed and ordered through our website. If your church uses weekly bulletins with another provider, please consider switching to our service.

Insurance for Churches. We have entered into an advertising agreement with American Church Group Texas to promote their insurance to our churches and ministries that need affordable insurance. The insurance they offer is through Brotherhood Mutual. You can find out more about what they offer on our website.

Intentional Interim Pastor Training. We are currently putting together curriculum for intentional interim pastor training and hope to offer such training at some point in 2021.

Website Design & Hosting and Social Media Marketing for Church and Ministries. As you know, it is important these days that churches have a website and a strong social media presence. *Baptist Progress* wants to help churches in these areas, and we have entered into a partnership with Matthew Prather to offer website design and hosting and social media marketing to churches. You can find out more about this by visiting our website.

If there are other ministry resources you

believe *Baptist Progress* could perhaps provide to pastors, church staff and churches in the future, please let us know by sending an email to editor@baptistprogress.org or calling us at 972-923-0756.



▲ Jerry Fulton

GREAT DAY WITH NORTHSIDE, CONROE

What a great time I had worshipping with and preaching to the congregation of Northside, Conroe. They have beautiful facilities and the people there are incredibly friendly. It was my pleasure to fill the pulpit for their good pastor and my friend, Bro. Wes Pratt. Jason Wofford and the praise team do a fantastic job in leading worship. My spirit was truly uplifted. If you live in or ever visit the Conroe area, be sure to worship with them when you have the opportunity.

THANK YOU

I am humbled by and grateful to the churches of the BMA of Texas for electing me as the new director of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association. Like our Board of Trustees and staff, I am incredibly saddened at the sudden passing of Bro. Jerry Burnaman. He was a great friend to me. My hope is to do my very best to lead the ministry of the BMLA as well as he did, and hopefully lead it to the next level.

Currently, we have provided loans for 18 projects and are working on eight more potential new church loans. If your church is planning a building or remodeling project or need to purchase property, please contact us and give us the opportunity to help you with a loan.

Soon, I will be mailing letters to each of our churches in order to provide information concerning the services we offer. Also, we have a brand-new website up and running for the BMLA. Please visit www.bmla.org to find out more about what we do.

Again, thank you! I look forward to the years ahead serving in the positions of director of the BMLA as well as editor of *Baptist Progress*.

Singleness—Biblical Instruction

By JOHN M. ADAMS, D.Min.

“Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful” (1 Corinthians 7:25)

There is Biblical advice on staying single and living life without a marriage partner. Sometimes our cruel society makes the widowed person, the divorced person or the individual who has never married feel like an “odddity.” It may surprise some of the marrieds to know that it is God’s will for some not to be married. It is time for all to realize there is nothing wrong with singleness.

There are some benefits of remaining single. I have in mind those who have never married or those who have been married but are no longer.

I. Less of Present-Day Distress. 1 Cor. 7:27, “Art thou bound unto a wife? Seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? Seek not a wife.”

In remaining single, you are certain to have less stress and distress. In our day, there are certain hostilities and distresses that you simply encounter because you are a Christian and married. Children and marriage add a beautiful, but great responsibility. When Paul said, “Are you released from a wife?,” he is saying, don’t seek to get married to solve your problems. A single person does not have to live a lifestyle of seeking a mate. They should seek the Lord and if they desire to marry, let the Lord seek their mate. So many go to parties, bars, college, single clubs, etc. under the presumption, “we are supposed to pursue a marriage partner.” Verse 27 simply says, “Put the Lord Jesus Christ in control of your singleness. Seek Him—not some available mate.”

II. Less Difficulty. 1 Cor. 7:28, “But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh, but I spare you.”

This verse adds a dimension that single persons readily ignore in being alone. It is saying that people who remain single may have fewer difficulties in their personal lives. Success in life consists not so much in marrying the person who will make you happy, as escaping the person who will make you miserable. Don’t marry just for companionship, sexual relations or financial security.

III. More Time for Spiritual Matters. 1 Cor. 7:29-31, “But ‘this I say, brethren, the time is short, it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; and they that weep, as though they wept not: and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; and they that use this world, as not abusing it for the fashion of this world passeth away.”

Marriage is not sinful, but Paul is simply teaching that there is an alternate lifestyle—different from marriage. In the single stage of life, there are no reservations or resistance and the person is completely available to Christ’s call. If you are living alone, ask yourself, “Is God allowing me to be single, so that He can greater use me?” He may wish to use you in some area of His work that you could not take on if you were married. We are often short-sighted in that we think only of what we are not enjoying, rather, than what God may have for His glory, and for our spiritual enrichment. The ultimate in



God’s plan is that you, who are unmarried, seek the Lord and listen to what He is saying to you. Verse 32 says, “But I want you to be free from concern.”

IV. More Time for a Vertical Relationship. 1 Cor. 7:32-35, “But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord. But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife. There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit, but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband. And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction.”

Those of us who are married, cannot apply verse 35, as those who are single. It is good to be married, if God is in the marriage. But the single person, undoubtedly, has more time.

THREE ADMONITIONS:

1. Be happy. Since God has allowed you to be single, you are to capitalize on the scriptural benefits that are yours to enjoy. Whether single, divorced, or widowed, God is sovereignly in control.

2. Look up. Turn all of your energies to the vertical, instead of the horizontal panic and worry. God is good at finding you a mate or giving you great satisfaction being single.

3. Calm down. Relax and give all the control of your life over to the Saviour. Watch Him direct your life toward others who could really use some things you have to offer.

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 for more information.



It’s the most wonderful time of the year

Or is it? Does it seem the events of 2020 have hung a dark, depressing cloud over our world and we are rushing ahead to catch up with the peace, love and joy we hope will come with Christmas? If that’s how it works, I can’t wait for Dec. 25. But the truth is, we can’t hang enough tinsel, cook enough food, or buy enough perfect gifts to make that happen.

Brenda Bateman’s challenging blog dated Aug. 21 highlights what really matters and is included here with her permission:

The Creator, Giver and Illustrator of love is an unhurried Person who created us to mimic His love by caring for others. He has chosen to touch and care for mankind through us.

I have loved and been loved. I have discovered that there is cost to caring. It costs time, energy, and emotional investments. It may cost us the pain of rejection. We may love deeply and yet that love may be spurned.

Sometimes loss and grief are the price tag for loving. Love is sure to cost us both comfort and convenience at times. Am I willing to slow down enough to pay the cost of caring? Am I willing to slow down enough to even SEE and SENSE the opportunities to care?

I am ashamed to confess that for most of my life I missed those chances to love others. The reasons are many: I was too concerned with my own needs to even be aware of the needs of others around me.

Or I was rushing through life to answer the call of the urgent instead of the call of what was most important. Sometimes, frankly, I missed a chance to care because I wanted to rush and push past the hard places.

At other times, it was so much easier for me to REACT instead of RESPOND.

We are told that love is patient. I, however, am not. So, here I am as an old woman trying to change my ways. Only Love Himself can help that happen. He is teaching me to slow down. To Listen. To Respond.

To Love with my behavior AND my emotions. Love sees people who are ignored, rejected, bullied and beaten up by life. And when love sees, love does.

Love empathizes. Love will feed the hungry, clothe the poor and defend the powerless. Love will sacrifice and sweat. Love will endure and wait. Love will embrace the untouchable and show compassion even to the unlovable.

This is the cost of caring. And Someone has loved us enough to pay the price. And for that I am very, very, very grateful.

Thank you, Brenda, for these words of wisdom. Let’s use November to cultivate and activate a grateful heart. Then, when December comes, shopping will be easy. Sincere acts of kindness may not be wrapped in shiny paper with a big bow, but every gift will be loved and cherished. When that happens . . . it truly will be the most wonderful time of the year. May your heart be blessed and encouraged today! (Romans 12:9, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; 1 John 4:7-11)

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



Lifeword history, vision, changed lives

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

BMA of America

In a day when hate and anger are raging and all that has been nailed down in our world seems to be coming undone, where can the world look for peace? Who can bring this tumult and turbulence to an end? What is the ultimate answer to the world's problems?

Jesus is the answer.

Since 1965, Lifeword has been inviting people to come close and look at the Savior. Beginning with one media format (radio), in one language (English), and to one country (America) Lifeword broadcasted the gospel of Jesus to a broken world.

But 55 years later technology has grown that number to more than 100 unique programs in 85 languages and to 123 countries. Over 2 billion people can now hear, watch, and understand a Lifeword broadcast every day. Cloud technology has recently caused an explosion in the number of new broadcasts, new languages, and new lives changed by the gospel message.

Lifeword's more than 300 global partners are sharing that message to their people groups, many of whom are unreached with the gospel.

In the Buddhist-controlled country of Myanmar Lifeword partner Rama Bochung must obey "rules" imposed by local officials restricting unapproved buildings. He doesn't even bother applying for a church permit, so members meet in homes that change location occasionally so they're not accused of unlawful gatherings.

But Rama's gospel content and online video presence spreads the word about these meetings, which is where they hear about the unconditional love of Jesus, a concept that is foreign to Burmese. Lifeword technology also helps Rama produce content about spiritual growth and discipleship for new believers in this creative access country.

Rama's story is one that is repeated all around the world every day through the ministry of Lifeword.

Once people take a close look at Jesus, their lives will never be the same. Lifeword is making the name of Jesus famous to every nation of the world! Jesus changes lives!

To invest in the ministry of Lifeword is to invest in eternity for those who will hear. Text lifeword20 to make your \$20 investment or visit our website at lifeword.org

At Lifeword, We Tell the Story!



▲ Evangelistic Bible study in Myanmar

Daniel Springs Camp update

By **JASON PREWITT**

As you know, Daniel Springs Camp was unable to host our normal summer camp season due to the coronavirus. We were so disappointed not having our summer staff family of young adults who invest their summer into camp and missing church groups being on camps each week of the summer. We so missed seeing the longtime friends and the new relationships with church leaders that come as sponsors and the students that come with their church groups. Needless to say, it was too quiet at Daniel Springs during the months of May, June, July and August.

On an exciting and upbeat note, we were able to host a few small groups this summer thanks to the Daniel Retreat Center that was remodeled with your help. The remodeled building has turned into a huge blessing. It was great seeing groups together, being in God's Word, worshipping, involved in recreation games and building lasting friendships with fellow students and adults.

What does no summer mean for Daniel Springs Camp? We started the summer very concerned as to what would happen to the camps financial stability we have worked so hard to build over the last few years. As many of us have done, we cut back on non-essential expenses. Through all of this God has been amazing. Contributions have dipped but nothing like we expected. Praise the Lord. We are still watching all the expenses closely because we know this is not over yet but the monthly

contributions through associations, churches, individuals and special offerings from different groups have been a huge blessing. A few years ago, our goal was to be strong. Daniel Springs Camp is holding its healthy status, which would not happen without the monthly support and special offerings, as of now but please join us in prayer as we strive to be financially stronger and stronger each day.

Moving forward, we are still, like many of you, taking this day by day. We are working on a calendar of events but until the states lift some of the requirements, we are struggling with hosting big events. That does not stop us from hosting church retreats, men's or women's groups, family reunions, pool parties or small group activities. We have options of day events or overnight stays. There are plenty of activities such as Archery Tag, gaga pit, volleyball, basketball, human foosball, swimming in the pool, fishing or just the peace and quiet of east Texas. Let us know how we may be of service to you, your church or your family.

An excitement is already building about the 2021 summer camp season. We are already working on recruiting our summer staff so if you are or know of a high school junior or senior, a college student or a young adult that would like to invest their summer investing in students and adults, send

them our way. Dates for summer camps will be coming out soon, so keep watching for more details.

If we can be of help or you would like me to come share about Daniel Springs Camp, your camp ministry, please let me know. I would love to come and share about the exciting things going on with your camp ministry. My contact information is Jason@DanielSpringsCamp.com or 903-685-2433.



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. For more information, visit danielspringscamp.com.



Liberty association holds annual meeting

By **CHARLES JOHNSON**

Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer

The 141st Annual Meeting of Liberty Baptist Missionary Association was held at Oak Hill, Gilmer Oct. 11, 2020. Liberty Association is composed of BMA churches in Bowie, Camp, Gregg, Harrison, and Upshur Counties.

Officers elected for church year 2020-21 are as follows: Michael Pool, moderator; Billy Byrd, vice moderator; Charlotte Johnson, clerk; Jeanette McKay, assistant clerk; Leon Ross, treasurer and Wayne McKay, assistant treasurer.

During the business session, the messengers voted to increase giving to \$400 per month to five mission projects including: Tracy Miller, BMA church planter in Cumming, Georgia; Jacksonville College; Baptist Medical Missions International; Editorial Bautista (Spanish publication) and BMA Texas Missions. It was also decided to assist seven widows of former pastors in the association with a supplementary \$150 per month stipend.

Rallies for the coming year were set as follows:

- Dec. 17: Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary at Olde Tyme. White Oak
- Jan. 12: BMA Texas Missions at Pine Acres, Gilmer
- Mar. 18: TBHC at Pritchett, Gilmer
- May 13: Baptist Medical Missions International at Rosewood, Gilmer
- Aug. 12: Lifeword at Simmons Hill, Diana.
- Oct. 10: The 142nd Annual Meeting of Liberty Association at Latch, Gilmer

Reports on the departments of the BMA of Texas were given by Heith Mitchell, executive director of the BMA Texas Missions and by Jason Curry, president of TBHC. Charlotte Johnson, trustee for Daniel Springs Baptist Camp in Panola County, showed a video and reported on the camp ministry.

The annual sermon was brought by Pastor John Gradberg of Stone Ridge, Kilgore. His message was titled, "We Must Get Them to Jesus," from Mark 2:1-7. He paralleled ways we may reach the lost with the ways the four friends of a paralytic brought him to the Lord.

Jed Whitaker of Antioch, Gilmer brought the evening message. He gave a timely sermon on "Encouragement" using several Old and New Testament Scriptures including Deuteronomy 31:6, "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you." He challenged the congregations to exhort, edify, and encourage one another.

A delicious catered meal of meatloaf, smothered pork chops, green beans, scalloped potatoes, salad and cobbler dessert was provided by the host church for the messengers and guests in attendance.

Liberty Association was organized in 1880 at Liberty Baptist Church near Hawkins in Wood County.



Does your church financially support Baptist Publishing House?

By **JORDAN TEW**

Baptist Publishing House Assistant to the Director

While Baptist Publishing House does sell curriculum, we do so at a deeply-discounted rate. To better serve our churches, we absorb a lot of the cost. Many things go into printing and distributing our books each quarter, some of which may come as a surprise.

Some of the costs most people do not know about are paper, ink, shipping to each church (we cover a lot of that cost), the editorial team, writers, one full-time employee, and a part-time employee, plus many other day-to-day expenses from paperclips to travel expenses.

We run on a tight budget and have been able to maintain our work because of good financial stewardship. However, we would like to do more ministry and to be more financially secure.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER HELPING US?

The books we produce each quarter not only go to U.S. churches, but also to church plants, and are distributed to foreign fields through BMA of America Missions. We have begun working on the second edition of our Associational Baptist Church Manual which will help pastors and local churches. We have also been able to get the first edition of the Church Manual translated into Swahili and it will soon be printed. We also have plans to start printing the Baptist Expositor there for use in African churches. In addition to all this, we want to continue expanding our ministry footprint by providing more resources for churches.

We can do this, but we will need some help. We are an association of local churches that cooperate for ministry. This is one of those ministries that is only possible when we all come together.

You may be wondering how you can help. The good news is that helping us is not a difficult process.

- First, and most importantly, please pray for us.
- Second, make the Baptist Publishing House part of your church's monthly giving. If 50 churches gave just \$50 per month, then that would be a huge boost to our finances (\$30,000/year). Smaller churches may choose to give \$25 per month or another amount. As you can see, if we all work together, we can accomplish much.

If you have any questions about these things, please contact me at: 1-800-333-1442 or e-mail me at baptistpublishing@gmail.com.

I'll be happy to do all I can to answer your questions.

World Missions Offering renamed in honor of Jerry Kidd

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

BMA of America

Jerry Kidd has been serving the BMA for 62 years, first as a pastor, then as missionary, church planter, assistant director of international missions, director of international missions, and director of missionary care.

Known as "Pastor of Missionaries," his pioneering spirit and faithfulness to share the gospel to indigenous people has created a legacy of multiplying disciples and churches worldwide. With Sue, his wife and ministry partner, by his side, he continues working to change lives and point people to Jesus.

With this legacy of humble service in mind, BMA Missions Executive Director John David Smith announced on Oct. 28 that the annual World Missions Day offering is now the Jerry D. Kidd Missions Offering.

Smith presented a combat helmet to Kidd, explaining that, "This combat helmet, to countless men and women serving in world missions who have found life-saving protection in a raging battle and encouragement to fight on in a foxhole with Jerry Kidd, symbolizes his faithful life-long ministry of sharing the sufferings of fellow soldiers."

World Missions Day 2021 is February 28, and



▲ **Jerry and Sue Kidd**

BMA of America Missions invites BMA churches and their congregations to celebrate this emphasis day by showing the World Missions Day video, praying for global missions, and giving to the Jerry D. Kidd Missions Offering.

BMA TEXAS

MISSIONS

Your Church's Mission Movement in Texas



A word from your Missions Office

By HEITH MITCHELL

I really had an enjoyable and uplifting time at the BMA of Texas State Meeting. The Word was preached faithfully and the reports from our ministries were encouraging. The music was so uplifting. The Farley Street Family welcomed us warmly and took care of us across a long busy day. I love that we are hosted by church families. It changes our meetings for the better. Thank you Farley Street, Ellis-Hill Association, officers, departments, Justin Owens, Cassie Fulton, speakers, musicians and breakout teachers for a good annual BMAT Meeting.

I hope you were able to get to know your missionaries at the meeting. They enjoyed your fellowship and encouragement. The commissioning service was a time that meant so much to each missionary, especially the four new works that were introduced at the service.

BMAT family, we love you. It is a joy to serve you and serve beside you. If we can assist you we want to. We have trainings you can come to or we can bring your way. We can partner with you or share with you. Let's partner for the Kingdom and pursue:

PROJECT 2029 100 New Churches/10 years

- That we see an aggressive multiplication movement of churches who make disciples, equip and release leaders and start churches for the glory of God and the advancement of his Kingdom mission
- That each new mission begins with a plan to begin three new churches in their first 10 years
- That pastors and churches of the association be encouraged and equipped to start new churches
- That we connect, evaluate, identify and train new prospective church planters

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

A word from your missionaries

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

I praise God for this month of October where I was able to share more of the Word of God and feel the support of 12 missionary brothers who visited me to hold workshops and evangelize in the streets. We saw God glorified.

Prayer Needs:



▲ Cesar Leal

Pray for my family in Colombia. Pray also for my wife as she will be having an operation.

**JAIME HENRIQUEZ—
FUENTE DE VIDA ETERNA MISSION, HOUSTON**

Greetings from our mission to all the churches of the BMA of Texas. We thank you for all the support you have given us. We are advancing the Kingdom of the Lord reaching the lost for Christ. God is moving in a special way here in Houston saving souls and transforming the families in our communities.

Prayer Needs:

Pray that God will provide our own place for the worship services for our mission.



▲ Jaime Henriquez



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

Back to basics! That's been my focus this month. It's so easy to get lost in a big vision and focus on all the things that need to happen down the road and neglect the things that need to happen right now. So, I have been focusing on keeping the main thing the main thing; that is,



▲ Chris Driver

making disciples who will make disciples and let Christ build His church! Training with my six leaders is back on track and going great! I know they are going to be starting a new generation soon.

Prayer Needs:

Nick Brockway family
More potential leaders

Towns of Morton, Whitharral, Aspermont, Haskell, Meadow, Lamesa, Sundown, Tahoka, Loop and Levelland

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

I want my life to be a motivation to all the people around me, starting with my family. I want to motivate my wife, my son, my church, the leaders and pastors of my association. We made a great impact in our missionary and evangelistic activity that we carried out in San Antonio Oct. 16-18. Pastors and leaders were impressed with the multiplication workshop that I shared there, and they want to continue learning about the missionary material and strategy to refocus on the Great Commission and grow as a work of God. Soon, I will be giving this workshop again at Suburban Wood, Humble, to pastors and leaders of our Hispanic work, and I hope it will be a great blessing.

Prayer Needs:

I ask for your prayers that God will help me to continue doing the work, that this pandemic will end. Pray that God will open more for us to preach the gospel and achieve our goals.



▲ Neptaly Molina

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

Thank you for the moral, economic and prayer support for us in achieving our goals as we minister in Spring, Katy and Conroe. We praise God for people we are leading through doctrinal studies who will be baptized at the end of November.



▲ Isaias Rojas Osechas

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

This month has been exciting! Although the threat of COVID-19 still puts a damper on a lot of things, we were able to begin reaching out



▲ Robert Lee

BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p. 7

BMA Texas Missions cont.

to some of the young children and their families in our community this month. We opened our doors to our local Cub Scouts, who are forming a pack and using our facility to meet. We also held an outreach event at the end of this month and gave out free candy and hot dogs to children and their families in our community. There are even more good things on the horizon. We serve such a wonderful Savior!

Prayer Needs:

Pray for continued blessing in reaching out to families with children in our community.

WESLEY BURKE—

REDEMPTION BAPTIST MISSION, NACOGDOCHES
WESLEYDAVIDBURKE@GMAIL.COM

Our new church studied the precious words of assurance spoken by Jesus in John 10 this month. I will remind you readers of it as well. We shall not be taken out of Jesus' hands if we believe in him. He and the Father are one, and we shall not be taken out of the hands of Father either. Those eternal hands are the blessed assurance of our hope, and to think they were spread wide and pierced for you and me. (John 10:28-30)

Prayer Needs:

Petition God with us that he would grow our church through authentic conversion!



▲ Wesley Burke

MIKE WATT—

CROSS-WORK MISSION, TAHOKA
MIKE.WATT@CROSSWORKCHURCH.ORG

This has been a good month for Cross-Work Church. Our outreach efforts have landed us back in the elementary, middle school and high school. Those Bible studies are up and running. They are very exciting to be a part of each week. At the elementary school, we have around 20 kids attending, and the high school and middle school have six. Each week, we answer difficult questions and help kids understand and follow Jesus.

Prayer Needs:

Please be in prayer for us as we move forward. Our disciple making process is being refined and we are trying to balance that with our outreach efforts. Please pray that God would bless our efforts to seek and save the lost and make disciples in our town.



▲ Mike Watt



TIMOTHY ALBA—

RESIDENT INTERN IN SEAGOVILLE
TIMALBA1986@GMAIL.COM

We are looking for more leader's to help us plant. Please pray with us for more leaders.



▲ Timothy Alba

CHRIS MINDI/JESSE HALES—

ANCHOR AUSTIN MISSION IN LEANDER
CHRIS.MINDI@BMATS.EDU |
HALESJESSE@GMAIL.COM

We at Anchor, Austin thank you for praying for us and supporting us as we go into the holiday season. Pray for us to have more opportunities to be more effective in spreading the gospel in this part of the state of Texas. Our vision is to be a multi-ethnic congregation of believers anchored and maturing in Christ with discipleship as our heartbeat.

Prayer Needs:

Continue to pray for Anchor, Austin, especially for those we are already ministering to, that they would mature in their faith. Pray also for our ongoing outreach ministry specifically to unbelievers.



▲ Chris Mindi



▲ Jesse Hales

KINGSLEY NDUKA—

LIGHT HOUSE MISSION IN HOUSTON
KINGEDU700@GMAIL.COM

Let's give God praise for his faithfulness over us this season.

Prayer Needs:

Please pray for a meeting location for us to be able to gather groups together in one place.



▲ Kingsley Nduka

CESAR CANTU—

CARPENTER'S HOUSE CHURCH
IN OYSTER CREEK
CESARHCANTU42@GMAIL.COM

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Do not let it be all about following rules. We cannot take the stance that



▲ Cesar Cantu

I have gotten my life together and I am making good choices and in doing so see the errors of others are magnified.

Prayer Needs:

Our prayer is that God would make us better disciples so that we can make more disciples.

MATTHEW PRATHER—

THE BRIDGE MISSION, MIDLOTHIAN/WAXAHACHIE
MATTHEW@DISCOVERTHEBRIDGE.COM
DUAL SUPPORT BMAA/BMAT

It is hard to believe that it is already October. This year is flying by. This year has been an interesting year for all of us. COVID-19 is not something that any of us expected to have to deal with when the year started. As with every other church, it has caused us to adjust in many different ways. We are continuing to reach our community in new and different ways. Social media and our website have played big roles in this as we continue to connect with people of all different kinds of needs and struggles. Almost daily, we are able to minister to someone who has found and reaches out in these ways. Please pray for us as we continue to impact our community in different ways. Pray for those to whom we are ministering who are hurting and struggling. Thank you for your continued support and prayers!



▲ Matthew Prather

SPENCER SIMPSON—

REDEEMER'S LOVE MISSION, HOUSTON
SPNCRSMPSN@GMAIL.COM

God has been moving greatly at Redeemer's Love! We are overjoyed to begin looking at planting more churches in southwest Houston as the Lord continues to bless us with a growing flock to shepherd. Thank you for your prayers and support. God is blessing your faithfulness and kindness greatly.

Prayer Needs:

As we grow and begin to look at planting more churches, we ask that you would pray that the Lord will continue to supply or raise up men in our congregation that will be faithful shepherds of these future churches.



▲ Spencer Simpson

RONNIE MILLS—

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

Things are going well here in Saginaw. The Lord continues to provide for us, and is keeping the doors open for His gospel to be proclaimed. We're truly grateful for all your prayers and support for us as a church. We have remained committed to the call upon our lives and relying upon the power of our God, to help push us through this difficult season. We're praying for the BMA of Texas, as well, and are so grateful to be a part of this great association of churches.



▲ Ronnie Mills



United Thanksgiving Offering to be received Nov. 22

As you are aware, each year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, the departments of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas request that your church contribute to the United Thanksgiving Offering. The United Thanksgiving Offering benefits BMA Texas Missions, Baptist Missionary Loan Association, *Baptist Progress*, Jacksonville College and Texas Baptist Home for Children.

This year, your department directors have chosen to receive the United Thanksgiving Offering in memory of Bro. Jerry Burnaman, who served as a BMA pastor for 38 years before being elected as the director of BMA Texas Missions and the business manager of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association in 1998. He served as the director of BMA Texas Missions until he retired in 2015, but continued serving part-time as the business manager of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association until his death Aug. 13, 2020.

Will you help us honor Bro. Burnaman's memory and ministry by leading your church to contribute to the *2020 Jerry Burnaman United Thanksgiving Offering*? The United Thanksgiving Offering is shared by each of your departments and helps each to meet annual budgets. We have set a goal to raise \$125,000 this year. Each church is asked to set a goal to raise at least \$1,500. If just 84 churches give \$1,500, we will surpass our goal!



BMA Texas Missions has a passion and a vision to assist you in reaching over 28 million Texans who need to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. You are currently supporting 31 mission churches around the state! They are making disciples! Your offering is critical to the budget of BMA Texas Missions which covers the salaries and training of all of your missionaries.



TBHC stands on the front line defending and caring for children, restoring homes, providing homes and filling homes through adoptions. TBHC counts on the offering to help them fulfill their God given role.

Jacksonville College continually equips a new generation of servant leaders that serve

BMA churches. Each of our churches are impacted by the ministry of Jacksonville College. The college relies on the offering to meet annual budgeted needs.



Baptist Progress promotes interest in missions, evangelism, benevolence and Christian education among the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas, and serves as the equipping and resource ministry of the BMA of Texas. The offering is critical to funding this ministry.



Baptist Missionary Loan Association stands ready to assist churches or missions in funding building projects that will help them achieve the vision God has given them to make disciples in their community. BMLA assists churches in making disciples. The offering is necessary for operating expenses.

Enclosed in this issue, is a United Thanksgiving Offering envelope. We encourage you to place your check made paid to the order of BMA of Texas and marked "UTO" in the envelope. Then, place your envelope in the offering at your church Sunday, Nov. 22. If you are unable to attend church Nov. 22, you may also mail the envelope to BMA of Texas, P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, Texas 75168. You can also give your offering online at BMATexas.org.

Please ask your pastor to announce the United Thanksgiving Offering to your church and receive the special offering on Sunday, Nov. 22.

We, the BMA of Texas department directors, thank you for your prayerful support, your generous contributions to the United Thanksgiving Offering, and for your continuous financial support throughout the year.

- God Bless You,
- Heith Mitchell
BMAT Missions Director
- Jerry Fulton
Baptist Progress Editor
- Jason Curry
TBHC President
- Dr. Mike Smith
JC President

Mitch Friedman addresses the issue of post-COVID ministry

By **PAUL GAUNTT**
Pastor of First, Palmer

During the 120th Annual Baptist Missionary Association of Texas, held at Farley Street, Waxahachie, Tuesday, Nov. 5, Mitch Friedman, lead pastor of the Journey Bible Fellowship of Austin, addressed the complexities of reaching the unchurched especially in the aftermath of COVID-19.

Friedman, who called himself a "cultural observer," citing the possibility that the church may not return to pre-COVID type of ministry. The church would need to break from what he called "historical pride" and concentrate on adapting to the new normal in order to win the world to Christ.

Friedman explained that COVID has been like a pressure cooker to the church by causing it to come to terms with other avenues of ministry.

"The year 2020 has been an amazing blessing in that it has helped us to understand our historical pride in comparison with our Christian faith," he said.

He drew a comparison to the yearning of Israel to return to the old ways in Egypt to the attitude of most churches today wishing

we could return to pre-COVID days.

"We must get a handle on the beautiful opportunities today to minister rather than to return to what we were before," he said, noting that it is time for the western church to awaken.

He reminded the group of one transforming factor in the church's outreach in 2020 is live-streaming services, and how the gospel message is becoming more widespread than anyone ever dreamed possible.


"Rather than waiting until this (pandemic) is over so we can get back to the way things were, we need to understand that God has ordained every single moment



▲ Mitch Friedman

2020

Jerry Burnaman Memorial United Thanksgiving Offering



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020
OVERALL GOAL: \$125,000
GOAL PER CHURCH: \$1,500

The offering benefits BMA Texas Missions, Baptist Missionary Loan Association, Baptist Progress, Jacksonville College, and Texas Baptist Home for Children.
Mail offerings to BMA of Texas, P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, Texas 75168

BMA of Texas meets for 120th Annual Session in Waxahachie cont.

Association was changed to director and other items were updated in the department's by-laws. The purpose of *Baptist Progress* was extended to cover the fact that the department, in addition to publishing a newspaper, also will now be responsible to offer workshops, training opportunities and other resources to pastors, church staff and churches.

Breakout sessions offered at the meeting included BMA of Texas 101 (orientation for new pastors), Hispanic Ministries, Leadership Pipeline and swap meets for worship and youth ministers. Breakout sessions were followed by lunch, provided by the Ellis-Hill Association, and the BMA Texas Missions Leadership Conference, presented by Mitch Friedman, pastor of Journey Bible Fellowship, Leander. (See article in this issue about the conference on page 8.)

Department, committee and auxiliary reports were given in the afternoon session of the meeting. Jason Curry, president of TBHC informed messengers that four children received Christ as their personal Savior during the past year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, offerings were low at the end of the year. Curry encouraged churches to be faithful in their giving and to remember the foster care and adoption services offered by TBHC. A total of \$560,000 was requested of BMA of Texas churches to help TBHC meet their budget of \$3,615,090. Curry will begin a new podcast beginning in January. See future issues of *Baptist Progress* for more details.

Dr. Mike Smith, president of Jacksonville College, said that things are well at the college. Current enrollment is 542, and the college is expecting its largest enrollment ever in the spring. Smith introduced the new vice president of executive affairs, Dr. Joe Lightner, and gave him the opportunity to address messengers. Lightner has pastored churches and served as a church planter with the Southern Baptist Convention, as well as been involved in other ministries. Messengers approved recommendations that churches consider giving the college an "End of the Year" gift, and set May 2, 2021 as Jaguar Across Texas Day for an offering to be received by churches for the college.



▲ Nancy Burnaman presented with flowers from BMLA chairman and director

The report from the Baptist Missionary Loan Association (BMLA) was given by Wayne Speir, chairman of the BMLA Board of Trustees. He noted that the department has \$16.5 million in assets and urged churches considering building projects or property purchases to get their loan from the BMLA. Speir spoke of Bro. Jerry Burnaman and his years leading the BMLA. During his tenure, from 1998 until the Lord called him home in August of this year, BMLA assets more than doubled. During his report, Speir invited Nancy Burnaman, the widow of Jerry Burnaman, to the stage, thanked her for Bro. Burnaman's leadership and Fulton presented her with a bouquet of roses. Speir also spoke of the trustees'

selection of Jerry Fulton as nominee to become the new director of the BMLA. Fulton was elected to the position.

Fulton, who also serves as editor of *Baptist Progress*, gave that department's report. He spoke of his vision to lead *Baptist Progress* to be the equipping and resource ministry of the BMA of Texas. Workshops are planned for the 2020-2021 associational year and Fulton mentioned other resources that will be provided by *Baptist Progress*. (See editorial on page 2 of this issue for more information.)

BMA Texas Missions Director Heith Mitchell informed messengers that there are currently 31 new church plants across the state of Texas. Four new state missionaries were elected at the meeting. Those missionaries are Timothy Alba, who will be planting a new church in Seagoville; Robert Lee, who is leading a restart project at Harmony, Normangee; Brad Holcomb who will lead church planting efforts in south Fort Worth and Cesar Leal who is planting a new church in San Antonio.

Elected to the Coordinating Committee (formerly Administrative Committee) with a term ending in 2024 were Richard Smith, pastor of Farley Street, Waxahachie; James Schoenrock, pastor of Sheppard Drive, Euless; and David Skinner, minister of youth at Calvary, Fairfield.

The Nominating Committee report was approved. Philip Waddell was elected to serve on the committee with his term ending in 2023. Jack Cook was elected to fill an unexpired term ending in 2022.

Johnnie Ross, president of the Texas Women's Missionary Auxiliary (WMA) shared that the theme for the WMA during the 2020-2021 associational year will be *Shipwrecked*. The theme is based on Acts 27. She said that the Texas WMA committed their support to the Martha Johnson School in Huejutla, Mexico, for the enlargement of their school building during the 2019-2020 associational year, and raised \$10,151.78. Ross also said the auxiliary was blessed to add a new WMA group at the meeting, the ladies of Iglesia Bautista Nueva Renacer, Nacogdoches. (See article about the annual WMA meeting in this issue on page 10.)

The afternoon session of the meeting concluded with the election of the annual speaker and BMA of Texas officers for the 2020-2021. Elected to preach the annual message in 2021 is Ronnie Mills, pastor of Kingdom Chapel, Fort Worth. Spencer Simpson, pastor of Redeemer's Love, Houston, was elected as the alternate to bring the annual message.

Reelected to serve as president of the BMA of Texas during the 2020-2021 associational years is Leon Ross, pastor of Latch, Gilmer. First Vice President Ryan Burchett, pastor of Northside, Garland, was also reelected. Michael Pool, pastor of Antioch, Gilmer, was elected to serve as second vice president. Eddie Ballard, pastor of First, Bardwell, and Wayne McKay, pastor of congregational care at Sovereign Life, Longview, were reelected to serve as recording clerks.

The final session of the meeting included a concert by the Jacksonville College Singers. The singers sounded incredible and sang several uplifting songs. The choir is led by Randy Decker. Following the concert, the annual message was delivered by Charles Johnson, pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer. He titled his message, "This Same Jesus," preaching from Acts 1:4-11. Johnson spoke of how Jesus is the same from Genesis to Revelation, encouraging those in attendance to trust the Lord in all things.

Following the meeting, the BMA Texas Missions Commissioning Service was led by Director Heith Mitchell in which new state missionaries were presented.

The 121st Annual Meeting of the BMA of Texas will take place at New Harmony, Tyler Nov. 1-2, 2021.



▲ Jacksonville College Singers



▲ Pastor Charles Johnson preaches annual message

New State Missionaries



▲ Brad Holcomb, Fort Worth



▲ Robert Lee, Normangee



▲ Cesar Leal, San Antonio



▲ Timothy Alba, Seagoville



State Meeting—Reflecting On a Blessed Year

By **GLENDA CHAMBERLAIN**

Texas WMA met at Farley Street, Waxahachie in conjunction with the 120th Annual Meeting of the BMA of Texas Nov. 5, 2020.

The Jacksonville College Singers, directed by Randy Decker, delighted the ladies with a wonderful selection of songs. President Johnnie Ross called the meeting to order, Dian Pope, extended a warm welcome on behalf of the host church. It was encouraging to see several ladies attending our state meeting for the first time.

Jackie Ricks, National WMA editor, led the ladies reciting the WMA motto. She also offered the opening prayer for the meeting. D’Andra Smith and Lynda Marsh drew names for door prizes.

Hayley Rasco, GMA promoter, gave a report on Texas GMA. Miss GMA is Mary Key from Old Bethel, Canton and Junior Miss GMA is Madalie Gardner from First, Palmer. Hayley introduced the new assistant promoter, Katie Allen. Together they have a new, refreshed zeal for the GMA program and are looking forward to an exciting new year.

Vera Koonce, Sunbeams promoter, spoke of the virtual meetings they have held this year. She is looking forward to the Houseparty in 2021, which will be an awesome space themed adventure.

Project Promoter Diana Morris presented certificates to several churches for their donations to the project. She also mentioned all donations through the month of November will go toward the Martha Johnson School in Mexico. Cindy Allen, song leader, led the group in singing “Sweet Hour of Prayer,” which has been the theme this past year. Cindy also prayed a blessing on the meal. The Ellis-Hill Association provided delicious barbecue brisket and baked potatoes.

The meeting resumed and petitionary letters were called for. Ladies from Iglesia Bautista Nueva Renaces, Nacogdoches announced their wish to join Texas WMA, and of course were resoundly welcomed by all. What a blessing!

Bro. Grady Johnson, missionary to Mexico, spoke to the ladies about the Martha Johnson School and how WMA has been a part of their ministry from the beginning. He spoke of his gratitude with the school being selected as the 2020 project, the difficulties they have faced and the strong opportunities they have to promote God’s Word.

Daniel Springs Baptist Camp in Gary, was selected as the 2021 project. Lynda Marsh, project selection committee, introduced Camp Director Jason Prewitt. He spoke of their need for a new swimming pool. The pool is a mission point for the hundreds of youth who attend camp each year. Plans are to have the pool ready for summer 2021.

Ann Pugh, nominations committee member, read the

proposed list of officers for the new year, they were recognized and elected. Also, from the floor, Candance Jordan was elected to the Nominating Committee. Bro. Charles Johnson, Bro. Leon Ross and Bro. Ray Thompson were elected to the Advisory Committee. Dian Pope gave a report of 47 registered WMA messengers and visitors with 38 churches represented. Jo Strong, treasurer, reported \$11,102.20 has been collected to date, with \$10,151.78 to be awarded to the Martha Johnson School.

Kristi Key, second vice president, announced the theme for the coming year as *Shipwrecked*, theme verse is taken from Psalm 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God.”

The state meeting ended with Cindy Allen leading the new WMA song, “Called.” Glenda Chamberlain closed the meeting in prayer.

DISTRICT NEWS

Cherokee District WMA met at First, Maydelle with 20 in attendance Oct. 13. President Cindy Allen called the meeting to order. The motto was recited by the group, and Gale Owens welcomed everyone. Second Vice President Nancy Washburn presented the Bible verse for the new year, “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7). They sang the new WMA song, “Called,” accompanied by recorded music. Karan Bingham and Gale Owens led a congregational song accompanied by Norma Greenlee. Bro.

Rusty Sherman, pastor of First, Maydelle sang, “Days of Elijah.” Karan Bingham introduced the guest speaker, Linda Lesniewski from Tyler. She spoke on casting our cares on Jesus, referring to 1 Peter 5:7, 10-11.

New business consisted of providing cookies for Jacksonville College students during their November finals week. A tentative date is set for Nov. 16. Plans for providing a meal for the BMA Seminary’s “Oxford Tuesday” on Nov. 10 were discussed with several ladies providing the meat and sides. President Cindy Allen distributed the names of the BMA of Texas missionaries, asking the group to show our support by sending them encouraging cards.

Nancy Washburn gave words of appreciation to the host church. Alicia Johnson read the prayer requests, Rosemary Hallum prayed for the requests and dismissed the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 12, 2021 at Mt. Selman Baptist Church. The host church provided goodies bags and bottled water to the ladies as they left.

Glenda Chamberlain is the Texas Women’s Missionary Auxiliary (WMA) editor. Contact her at gcham33@yahoo.com. For more information about the Texas WMA, visit www.texaswma.com.



Mitch Friedman addresses the issue of post-COVID ministry cont.

for every single Christian,” he said, citing Paul’s message on Mars Hill where he preached about the “unknown God” as inscribed on one of the altars. Acts 17:24-26. “*God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is worshipped with men’s hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;*”

Friedman then posed the question as to how the New Testament Church would respond to the present world’s situation.

He mentioned the four world views that are common today, and what the church’s response should be to them:

1. How did I get here?
2. What’s wrong?
3. What can be done?
4. What is my purpose here?

One issue facing the church today, according to Friedman, is discipleship—the church must be disciplined, and then he had a word to pastors.

“Not only does the church need a strong program of discipleship, but as pastors, we also need constant discipleship.”

The Bible and Debt

By **STEVE CRAWLEY, Ph.D.**

Debt has become a normal part of our American economic system. Perhaps too normal. As such, we Christians may be prone to gravitate to a worldly view of its use versus a biblical one. While debt has been normalized in our society, it is not necessarily normal from a biblical perspective.

There are many views and perspectives among Christians as to the use of debt. This article evaluates a few of the guiding principles of Scripture regarding the topic.

BIBLICAL WARNINGS ABOUT DEBT

Debt creates a form of bondage. If you have listened to *The Dave Ramsey Show*, you've no doubt heard him quote Proverbs 22:7 where Solomon writes, "...the borrower is slave to the lender." *Slave* is a word that evokes much emotion today, yet that is the picture Scripture paints regarding our use of debt.

Even though the context of Solomon's day was obviously much different, it is hard to deny that debt creates a form of bondage. Furthermore, debt has been known to cause anxiety, high blood pressure, headaches, back pain, ulcers, depression, and a host of relational problems.

Debt creates a potentially dangerous situation. Is it a sin to play around with a rattlesnake? No, it is not a sin; however, you better know what you're doing when you play with one. You better not get careless, become flippant, fail to respect it, or not pay attention to it, else it will be disastrous. So, it is with debt. While borrowing is permitted in Scripture, there are many warnings about its dangers.

Debt creates a serious obligation. Believers taking on debt have a biblical and moral obligation to do everything in their power to repay it (Psalm 37:21). Moreover, Solomon warns that co-signing a loan creates an obligation that is considered unwise (Proverbs 11:15).

Debt creates a conundrum. While the Bible does not say it is wrong to borrow, it does warn against presuming upon the future (James 4:13-15). Hasty use of debt also may deny God an opportunity to provide (Philippians 4:19).

After reading these warnings, you may be led to think Christians should never use debt. Yet the Bible does not forbid its practice or consider it a sin. When evaluating its use, perhaps a good question to consider is not whether it is right or wrong, but is it wise or unwise?

CRITERIA WHEN USING DEBT

Ron Blue shares four criteria to consider when using debt that will aid us in evaluating whether its use is wise or not:



Economic Criteria – Is the economic return greater than the economic cost? If the item purchased will likely increase in value in the future, it meets the criteria. Real estate, for example, will likely increase while a car will decrease in value. Thus, purchasing a house meets the criteria, as it will likely appreciate after purchase. A car on the other hand does not meet the criteria as it will depreciate after purchase.

Is there a guaranteed way of repayment? If you purchase a house with a 20 percent down payment, you should be in a position to guarantee its repayment. In a worst-case scenario where the asset had to be sold, you would likely be able to sell the property at 80 percent of its value. This principle is why highly leveraged debt is unwise. It would not meet the criteria.

Psychological Criteria – You and your spouse are free from anxiety and unified about the decision.

Spiritual Criteria – There is a spiritual peace of mind and the decision does not violate biblical principles. Any use of debt should be preceded with prayer, and you

should only take action as you feel the Holy Spirit guiding and granting peace in the decision.

Emergency Criteria – The debt provides a solution for goals and objectives that can't be met any other way. Even if your use of debt meets all of these criteria, wise stewardship demands you handle debt with extreme care and maintain sufficient financial margin. While the Bible does not prohibit its use, you must ensure that taking on debt does not restrict your service to God or facilitate the inherent hedonistic tendencies of the flesh.

Dr. Steve Crawley is the executive director of Ministers Resource Services. Contact him at P.O. Box 995, Conway, Arkansas 72033, 844-262-8637 or MRS@bmaamerica.org.



BMA Texas Missions cont.

Prayer Needs:

Please be in prayer for us to continue strong in the Lord, that He would continue to open doors for us here in Saginaw for the gospel to go forward. Pray for the unity of our body, and also that we would be of sound mind and doctrine. We believe your sincere prayers for us make a big difference in the work of our ministry, and we just ask that you would press forward with us in spirit. If you would like to help us financially with any needs our mission may have, you may contact me at ronnie@kchapel.org Blessings to each one of you in Christ!

**DONNY SADLER—
IMPACT BETHEL CHURCH IN DALLAS
CESARLEAL2002@YAHOO.COM**

Thank you for your support. Continue to pray for our launch.

Prayer Needs:

Pray that the fear of COVID-19 will ease in Dallas.



▲ Donny Sadler

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. For more information, visit www.bmatexasmissions.org.



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

Begin with the end in mind

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: December 6, 2020

TEXT: Matthew 4:23-5:2; 7:24-29

THE HOOK

Today's lesson brings to mind the four types of hearers of the gospel of Jesus Christ mentioned in Matthew 13. Some were portrayed as seed that fell by the wayside and the fowls devoured them. Some were cast upon "stony ground" making them unable to develop a deep root system and were destroyed by the scorching sun. Yet others were cast among thorns and were choked. But others fell into good, rich soil and brought forth fruit. The implication is, sometimes the gospel falls upon ears that are shallow, and in search of sensationalism. But the fervor is short lived, and the seed of the gospel does not take root.

THE BOOK

1. A beginning that results in a good end (Matthew 4:22). The verse says the disciples, in answer to Jesus' invitation to drop what they were doing and follow Him

demonstrates the good soil in which the seed of the gospel was planted. They demonstrated genuine repentance—they "left their nets, and followed him" (Matthew 4:20). James and John "immediately" left their ship, and their father and followed Jesus. It was a glorious, instantaneous change that resulted in a fruitful life for Christ. Was that profession of faith you made years ago a genuine expression of a repentant life? With the exception of one "disciple" that was lost (Judas) all the rest remained faithful to Christ to the death. To live for Christ is to be gladly ready to die for Him. Polycarp, pastor of the Smyrna Church, as he was being led to be burned at the stake, after refusing to recant his faith in Christ to the Roman soldier, the great pastor was burned to death, singing praises to Christ. A genuine faith in Christ produces that kind of commitment. That genuine faith also produces what Paul called in Romans 12 as "a living sacrifice."

2. A beginning that results in spiritual death. Such a beginning is actually no beginning, but rather, a false

profession (Matthew 7:24-29). For some, the "beginning" is nothing more than a feigned religious life. There was no "good seed of the gospel of Christ" planted. They heard, and perhaps even became exhilarated with the excitement surrounding it. Many even became religious leaders—claiming to have cast out devils, and doing so called wonderful works. But they will be tragically disappointed at the Great White Throne Judgement of God (7:23). This spiritual death is illustrated by the fool who built his house on unsubstantial ground. But the wise man built his house upon the rock.

THE LOOK

If you are building your spiritual house upon the Rock of Jesus Christ, you are considered among the wise (Matthew 7:24). A life with Christ living in one's heart does not mean floods and storms won't come. But when they do, the genuine believer has substance—stability—and they are "anchored firm and deep, in the Savior's love."

Blessed are they

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: December 13, 2020

TEXT: Matthew 5:3-10

THE HOOK

In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, especially in the beatitudes, the spiritual lessons are astounding. The beatitudes describe Christ's people who are blessed in suffering, comforted in mourning, poor in spirit and recipients of the Kingdom of heaven. The "god of this world," (Satan) has sold earth's inhabitants a bill of goods by emphasizing that the rich, the successful, the famous, the prestigious, the powerful, are the blessed ones—not the lowly—not the meek, not the mercy-extenders. Jesus sets the record straight in His blessed beatitudes.

THE BOOK

1. The great Teacher was always powerful each time He opened His mouth to impart God's eternal truths. The secret was found in Matthew 5:1, "He went up into a mountain..." why was His favorite place up in the mountains, or in a desert place? Because that's where He communed with His Father. To commune with the Father is to open one's mouth and teach eternal truths. May we pastors heed the example.

2. The poor in spirit. To be poor in spirit is to have a genuine understanding of one's own spiritual poverty. The Pharisees could only see their perceived "spiritual riches." Laodicea could only bask in their bank account, but Jesus told them they were "poor, miserable, wretched, blind and naked." Only a person who is broken over spiritual poverty has a heart to run to Christ.

3. The mourners. Again, those who mourn over sin (their own) is well on their way to receiving comfort and forgiveness of the Father. King David was more at his spiritual zenith in Psalm 51 when he acknowledged "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned..." God is compassionate over those who mourn over sin, but rejects those who are absorbed in their own self-made spirituality.

4. The meek. Meek means "power under control." Humility is that Godly attribute one possesses when he or she has a knowledge of being undone. To be humble and meek means one does not have any focus on or regard toward self. Self-centeredness is manifest in self elation, and self-dejection. But a genuinely meek, humble child of God is focused on Christ and others.

5. Those hungering and thirsting after righteousness. Jesus is saying that to hunger and thirst

after righteousness, justice and purity in life is foremost in a believer's life. When a believer stumbles and fails the Lord God in his or her personal life, there is a yearning—a longing to be in a right relationship with God. When one has the Spirit of God's Son, that same Spirit cries out to God—Abba Father. A non-believer does not have that Spirit and will not run to God in times of sin and weakness.

6. The peace makers are not "peace keepers." They do not sweep sin and corruption under the rug in order to not offend—a peace maker stands for the truth—but does it in love.

7. Those persecuted for righteousness's sake. If you are persecuted for breaking the law of the land, there's no blessing—but when you are persecuted for righteousness' sake, you are blessed—the Kingdom of Heaven is yours. Stephen is a glorious example of this (Acts 7:54-60).

THE LOOK

Know the contrast in the successful, famous and powerful people of the world and those who mourn and suffer for Christ's sake. Be sure which of the two are pleasing to God the Father.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

Persecution, salt, light

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: December 20, 2020

TEXT: Matthew 5:11-16

THE HOOK

The scripture is filled with irony. In fact, this seems to be one of God's most profound tools of the gospel—for example, the foolishness of preaching brings one to repentance; the first shall be last; God uses a man with a speech impediment to lead Israel out of bondage; God uses a small boy with a sling shot to bring down Goliath, etc. And the irony of the ages—in the end, the church that suffers, is most blessed. (i.e. Smyrna in Revelation 3). Today, to the world, the giant, world-renowned mega church that has a Hollywood style show for “worship,” and a flashy preacher who preaches feel good sermons, pop-psychology and prosperity, is the “blessed church.” But God says “No, it's the church that preaches the pure, unadulterated gospel of Christ, and as a result, faces the iron fist of a radical, evil city council, and a health agency, and is threatened with law suits if she continues to assemble. This is truly happening in America today. But which church is pleasing to God? Matthew 5:11 tells us.

THE BOOK

1. Take courage church. Are men reviling you? Is evil being spoken against you because you dare to follow Jesus? The reality of Matthew 5:11 is now commonplace in America today. We do not rejoice in a lavish existence—but in the reviling of man. That is the litmus test of a faithful, scriptural New Testament church.

2. Remember, your reward is not here, but in glory (verse 12).

3. Rejoice in the fact you are in good company (verse 12). You are partakers in the same persecution as God's prophets of old. What a privilege!

4. Remember that you are salt and light (verses 13-15). Salt is a purifier. When you are as salt, (an effective, “disinfecting” witness), your presence in the world, although it may sting, adds flavor to a degenerate, lost, corrupt, evil world. The light of the presence of Christ through your witness, will flush

out and expose man's evil—and they hate it—hence, persecution. Cockroaches hate it when their nest is inundated with light, and saturated with insecticide.

5. Remember the mandate (verse 16). Let your witness for, and love of Jesus Christ shine. “Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine.”

THE LOOK

Understand what the true litmus test is that reveals the effectiveness of the gospel of Christ presented by the true New Testament Church in the world today. It's not how well you are received in the community for being a participant and leader of “social gospel” or your fight for so-called “social justice.” It is how your genuine witness of the saving life of Christ is proclaimed, and the persecution it brings on you. Was it not Missionary Jim Elliot who once said, “The problem with Christians these days is, nobody wants to kill them.”

Unless

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: December 27, 2020

TEXT: MATTHEW 5:17-20

THE HOOK

“Unless!” Unless what? Very simply, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not go to heaven (Matthew 5:20). Sound harsh? Not when the reality of Isaiah 6:4-6 sets in; “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.” That describes the “righteousness” of the scribes and Pharisees. And it will not get us to heaven.

THE BOOK

1. Fulfillment of the law (verse 17). It was not Jesus' purpose to abolish the Law of Moses and the Prophets. Christ was (and is) the fulfillment of the Old Testament Law. Not one jot or tittle—in other words not the smallest letter of the Greek alphabet, nor the smallest punctuation mark shall disappear until all the law be fulfilled. Redemption from the consequences of the Law in the Old Testament involved animal sacrifices being made yearly by the high priest as he entered the Holy of Holies—and this was in lieu of the coming Lamb of God. The keeping of Old Testament Law yielded to the new era of God's grace through the

sacrificial death of His Only Begotten Son on the cross of Calvary.

2. The keeping of the principles of grace (verse 19). Verse 19 is in reference to good works. Living in obedience to Christ and teaching others to obey means great rewards in the Kingdom of God. But refusal to live in obedience and lead others to do likewise will be less reward in God's Kingdom. This is determined at the Judgement of the Saved—the Bema Seat (1 Corinthians 3). Works that glorify self will be burned—works that denied self and glorified Christ will receive a “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

3. The condemnation of self-righteousness (verse 20). Verse 20 does not speak of genuinely saved individuals who neglected to obey Christ in all things. A genuine believer eventually is broken over his or her sin. It is talking about the self-righteous, who are banking on making it to heaven by their so-called good works and pride. Scripture is plain about the plight of the self-righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees.

THE LOOK

Upon what do you base your hope of eternity in Heaven? Is it your self-made righteousness, or is it your being clothed in the righteousness of Christ by trusting in Him for salvation?

Paul Gauntt served for 16 years as the BMA of Texas Department of Church Ministries director. He has served several churches as pastor, and is a correspondent and featured article writer for Baptist Progress. Contact him at pop.gauntt@gmail.com.



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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 Sept. 1-30, 2020.

ENDOWMENTS

MYRA STOKES: Bill Stokes

E ANN PACE: Karl & Martha Pace

HONORARIUMS

ALL TBHC: Earlene Crenshaw

KARL PACE: Kelly Penick

MEMORIALS

LAHOMA ADAMS: Weldon & Lana Sparks

WALTER BECKER: Dennis & Ilona Myrice

CEFUS & BARBARA BENNER: Tony & Lisa Sinclair

LARRY & ROSELEN BOBO: James Bobo

BRO. CARROLL & SAMMIE BROOKS: Euel & Barbara Faulkner

EULA BULLARD: Mr. & Mrs. Donald Traywick

MACIE & LESTER COLLINS: David & Dianne Wisener

JANICE DACUS: Jed & Glenice Whitaker; Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Gilmer;

MITZI DAVIS: Andy & Nell McCuiston

CHARLES EDWARDS: Ineta Archer

GLEN FRAZIER: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

MRS. VERDA HASLEY: David & Dianne Wisener

BETTY HUDSON: Carol Cline

TIM MABE: Janet Bedford; Sam & Nia Rader; TVCC English/Language Arts Department

MELISSA ANN MILLER: Daniel & Gina Wilson; Harol & Jean Jacobs

DAVID ALLEN MUIRHEAD: Frieda Smith

ROSIE NAIZER: Carol Cline

LOU OUIMET: James Ouimet

GLYNN DELL 'BUCK' RAY: Pat Ferguson; Caleb & Jami Davidson; Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Jed & Glenice Whitaker; Brenda Ray

EDDIE RICKS: Macedonia Baptist Church

KENNETH SANDIFER: Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church

J.L. SHAWN: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

PAT SMITH: Friendship Sunday School Class @ First Baptist Church, Carthage

MICHAEL TARPLEY: Andrew Dill

DANNY TARWATER: Caleb & Jami Davidson

CAROLYN TAYLOR: Larry & Lillia Benefield

J.R. VEST: Temple Baptist Church, Mexia

MERCEDES WAITS: Roger & Annette Drinning; Joanna Noggle; Jerry & Cassie Fulton; BMA Office

GLEN & ERNA WILLIAMS: Brenda Ray

JON WILSON: Deborah Pool

KATHERYN 'BETH' YAGER: Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church



I'm just sayin'



▲ Bro. and Mrs. L.H. Raney

By JASON CURRY

I began reading *Born to Serve* recently. It is the autobiography of L.H. Raney, a previous pastor of Farley Street, Waxahachie. I am looking forward to his testimony of life and work. It has many inspiring points. He stated, very pointedly, that it was his desire to live, preach and write so people might follow Jesus. His impact on the lost in Waxahachie is truly heartwarming.

I hope his friendship with C.B. Stanley and the work of TBHC reminds us all of the joy we have in our friendships. It reminds me of the pastors, churches and donors of today, caring for the kids that we serve and praying for their eternal destination.

When was the last time you lifted up our children's salvation to the Lord? Let me ask you to lift up the 100 plus children in our care today. Four children came to faith in Jesus this last year. Though it is small, I hope you will join me in celebrating that number. Four children know Jesus today because of coming into care at TBHC.

L.H. Raney said in his book's introduction something I hope we can all say about ourselves. This "simple 'project.'" It has been done, chapter by chapter, after a prayer that God will lead me in its production, and that it will result in the salvation of souls..."

I know the work we do seems like we can never do enough to make a difference, but I want to always remind us that the work we all do for God's glory is worth all our efforts. In Matthew 9:36-38 Jesus spoke His heart for people "But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.'"

Oh the people of this world today also seem weary and scattered. Having no shepherd to give them direction in life. Let us all let God be in the production of our life's works, joys, and tragedies so it would result in the salvation of souls.

I'm just sayin'!

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. For more information, visit www.tbhc.org.



EVENTS

2021 BMA OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: April 19-21, 2021

PLACE: Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas

2021 BMA OF TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: Nov. 1-2, 2021

PLACE: New Harmony Baptist Church, Tyler

2021 NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

DATE: Nov. 15-17, 2021

PLACE: Chateau on the Lakes, Branson, Missouri

PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

MIKE FERUS is the new pastor of Beacon Hill, Waco.

CHRIS WEBB is the new pastor of New Harmony, Tyler.

JORDAN TEW is the new interim pastor of Ebenezer, Huntsville.

** 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

PASTOR—Keltys First, Lufkin is seeking a full-time lead teaching pastor. Send resume, ministry philosophy, and any sermon links to jobs@keltys.org or to P.O. Box 3043, Lufkin, Texas, 75903 Attn: Pastor Search. Visit keltys.org/pastorsearch for more information and a job description.

PASTOR—Antioch, Carthage is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Pulpit Committee, Scott Dyer, 442 County Road 1081, Carthage, Texas 75633, sedyer57@gmail.com or call 903-690-4819.

ABS DIRECTOR—Columbia Baptist Association in Magnolia is seeking a missionary to fill the position of ABS director at Southern Arkansas University. Resumes should be mailed to ABS Search Committee, care of First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 456, Magnolia, Arkansas 71754-0456 or emailed to cindy@firstmagnolia.org. The deadline is Nov. 30.

PASTOR—Walnut Street, Winnsboro is seeking a senior pastor. Submit resumes to P.O. Box 587 Winnsboro, Texas 75494. Website: walnutstreetbaptiststreet.org Email: wsbc75494@gmail.com. TFN

PASTOR—Keltys First, Lufkin is seeking a senior pastor.

PASTOR—Center Hill, Oakhurst, located off of Highway 190 in Oakhurst, is prayerfully seeking a experienced bi-vocational pastor. Send resume to chdcpastorsearch@gmail.com or call 936-662-7831. 11/20

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

PASTOR—First, Jacksonville is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 210 Philip Street, Jacksonville, Texas 75766 or email to reception@firstjax.org. TFN

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 Oct. 1-31, 2020.

ENDOWMENTS

MYRA STOKES: Bill Stokes

HONORARIUMS

MELINDA ARMITAGE: Freda Haak

CHARLES & CHARLOTTE JOHNSON: Larry & Rolanda Barton; Richard & Lesia McNeel

MR. & MRS. J.T. JONES ANNIVERSARY: Leon & Johnnie Ross

MR. & MRS. JAMES JONES ANNIVERSARY: Leon & Johnnie Ross

BRIAN & MARY MAUK: Larry & Rolanda Barton; Richard & Lesia McNeel

WALTER & ANNETTE MCCOWN: Leon & Johnnie Ross

DEBI POWERS: Donna Johnson

JUDY SINCLAIR: Tony & Lisa Sinclair

PRESIDENT TRUMP & FIRST LADY MELANIA: Earlene Crenshaw

JOHNITTA WINTTERS: Jerry Null

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DANIEL BAKER: Fay Baker

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WALTER BECKER: Dennis & Ilona Myrice

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SONNY & JANIE DUNAVANT: James & Margaret Wolf

MARVIN EFURD: Sue Efurd

EVELYN JOHNSON ELLISON: Jed & Glenice Whitaker; Charles & Charlotte Johnson

BETTY JEANIE FERGUSON: Jed & Nona Dockery

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ROBIN HOFFMAN: Weldon & Lana Sparks

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YVONNE JOHNSON: Temple Baptist Church, Mexia

BOB KERLICK: Jed & Glenice Whitaker; Charles & Charlotte Johnson

SHIRLEY MINTER: Linda Lee

JOHN J MOORE: Pam Moore

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WALTER SINCLAIR: Tony & Lisa Sinclair

LULA STOUT: Jed & Glenice Whitaker

CHARLES SVOBODA: Glee Hutson

ODELL TERRELL: Jean Terrell

MARY ANN VAUGHN: Wesley & Kelly Allen; Mt Pisgah Baptist Church, Mineola

E.T. WILLIAMS: Minnie Williams

OBITUARIES

MRS. ROY (ALICE) BRASHEAR

Alice Brashear, 80, of Waxahachie, passed away Oct. 30, 2020. Mrs. Brashear was born Nov. 25, 1939 in Cooper to Edwin and Hazel Smith Clements. She was a homemaker and a pastor's wife for over 60 years.

She is survived by her husband, Roy H. Brashear; daughter and son-in-law, Crystal and Garrett Schann; granddaughters, Kara Barnett and husband, Blake, and Chelsea Siegel and husband, Brad, of McKinney; grandson, Nicolas R. Burton; great grandchildren, Natalie, Brooklyn and Aurora Siegel and John Ryker and Raylan James Barnett; and brother, Ronnie Clements.

A service to celebrate Mrs. Brashear's life was held at Farley Street, Waxahachie, Nov. 2, 2020.

DAVID MERLE PARKER

A memorial service for Bro. David Merle Parker, 86, of Mineola, was held at Sand Springs, Mineola, Nov. 8, 2020. Bro. Merle was born Sept. 14, 1934

in Munday to J.P. and Ruth Parker. He passed away in Golden, surrounded by his family, Oct. 28, 2020. He was preceded in death by his wife of 52 years, Janie Mae Parker.

He is survived by his son, Rocky and Sheila Parker; his daughter, Rose Parker; and his son, Roger and Michelle Parker. He is also survived by six grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Bro. Merle attended and graduated from Jacksonville College, attended Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches and attended and graduated Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary, Jacksonville. He was in the first graduating class at the seminary in 1958. He surrendered to preach at the age of 14 at Bethel, Anton. He pastored several churches in Texas, including Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden (1958-1966); Central, Mineola Tx (1970-1975, 2007-2020) and Mt. Lebanon, Grand Saline (1977-2006).

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary, 1530 E. Pine Street, Jacksonville, Texas 75766.



memorials-honorariums



Jacksonville College welcomes new vice president of executive affairs

By MIKE SMITH, Ph.D.

Dr. Joe Lightner has a distinguished background of pastoring growing churches and serving as an executive leader in parachurch ministries. Dr. Lightner holds a Master's of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, a Doctor of Ministry degree from Liberty University and will complete a doctorate degree in biblical ministries from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also has a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas, and business experience that has strengthened the ministries that he has served.

Joe's training and experience as an administrator, communicator, preacher and evangelist will be of immeasurable value to Jacksonville College. He officially starts with the college on Jan. 4, 2021, but will be making visits in November and December to orient himself with the Jacksonville College family. Please be in prayer for Joe, his beautiful wife, Rebekah, and their two daughters, Hanna (15) and Julia (12) as they make this transition.

I'm excited and thankful that God has led us to Dr. Joe Lightner. He has the credentials, business experience, ministerial experience and godly leadership that we need.

Dr. Mike Smith is the president of Jacksonville College. Contact him at 105 B.J. Albritton Drive, Jacksonville, TX 75766, 903-586-2518 or msmith@jacksonville-college.edu.



▲ The Joe Lightner Family

Please join us for an introduction to

The Multiplication Workshop

January 19, 2021

Tuesday 9am-4pm (lunch provided)
BMAT Missions Office
(632 Farley Street, Waxahachie, Texas)

