

# Baptist Progress

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## PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY

By **JERRY FULTON**

*Baptist Progress Editor*

In 2007, a few people began praying about a new church in the Allen area. Although some people feel like too many churches exist in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, the population continues to grow and not everyone will fit into an existing church. Leaders of Journey Community Church discovered that less than 17 percent of their immediate community attended a local gathering on any given Sunday morning.

As they began praying and serving together, looking for ways to make our faith visible to those around them, Journey Community Church first met in two different homes, then a private gym, then a local daycare building before finally moving into Evans Elementary School on Sept. 17, 2010.

A friend, my wife and I were privileged to worship with Journey Community Church on Oct. 25, 2015. Members of the church are genuinely welcoming. From the moment we entered, we felt right at home. Pastor Cecil Linke preached from his current sermon series, *The Story*, encouraging those in attendance to take joy in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and not be bogged down by circumstances and surroundings.

While members of the church have some dreams about the future, their aim is to live in the moment as a group of Christians. Their desire is to walk with people through our relationship with Jesus Christ in order to see lives changed and influence the world. Instead of just telling people what to do or how to think, the church challenges people to ask themselves the following questions:

- What is my next step with Christ?

- What needs to happen or what do I need to change in order to grow closer to Jesus Christ?
- Who do I need to involve myself with to challenge my own growth and whom can I challenge in their personal journey with Jesus Christ?
- How can I unleash compassion in the broken world both where I live and in the places that need outside help?

Journey Community Church believes the best expression of the local church happens when character is influenced by faith in Christ, community is influenced by the truth expressed in love, and culture is influenced by the hope of compassion.

Children are also a priority at the church. Preschool and children's environments offer interactive learning for children to build relationships and love Jesus. While the church believes parents are the primary nurturers of their child's spiritual development, church members take believe it is their responsibility to partner with families on a journey of teaching children how to find and follow Jesus Christ. Because the church meets in a school, children have access to a full-size gym. Journey's children's ministry is called Journey Kids.

The church also has a youth group that is active in ministering to the community, weekly ladies Bible study, community groups and numerous volunteer opportunities. See photos on this page of some of Journey's community outreach projects.

Journey Community Church is a church plant of BMA of Texas Missions. For more information about the church, visit [peopleonajourney.com](http://peopleonajourney.com)



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▲ Christmas shopping for needy families



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# From the Editor

## Time to make some changes

By **JERRY FULTON**

*Baptist Progress Editor*

It has been said before, "Change is inevitable." If any industry has experienced change, it is the newspaper industry. After the Internet became popular in 1999, it has placed hardships on newspapers across America, including *Baptist Progress*.

By 2001, the newspaper industry had shed a fifth of its journalists, then the recession that followed a few years later, would stop the presses of some well-known publications forever.

Even the newspapers for the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention have made drastic changes. The BGCT's *Baptist Standard* no longer publishes a print newspaper, but offers their publication in a digital format. The SBTC's *Southern Baptist Texan* has begun publishing once monthly in print and only digitally at other times. *The United Methodist Reporter* closed the doors on their print business a few years ago.

Statistics show that 78 percent of those who read a print version newspaper are over 50 years of age. So, change has occurred. Now, what do we do about it?

If our readers want to continue receiving *Baptist Progress* in print on the same schedule as it is published now, then we have no choice but to increase our subscription and advertising rates. The cost of paper and postage increases each year, and with a smaller readership, we have to find the money somewhere to pay for what we do.

Therefore, the *Baptist Progress* Trustees are recommending to the BMA of Texas the following:

That *Baptist Progress* publish 24 issues during the 2015-2016 associational year

1. That the cost of Church Plan mail subscriptions be increased from \$1.50 per month (\$18 per year) to \$1.75 per month (\$21 per year)
2. That the cost of individual mail subscriptions be increased from \$21 per year to \$24 per year
3. That the cost of Church Plan email subscriptions be increased from \$1 per month (\$12 per year) to \$1.25 per month (\$15 per year)
4. That individual email subscriptions be increased from \$15 per year to \$18 per year
5. That advertisement rates be as follows:
  - Full page (10.5 x 11.75 w/border) No longer available, we want to save the space for news
  - Half page (10.5 x 5.75 w/border) Color \$250.00  
Grayscale \$225.00
  - Fourth page (5.25 x 5.75 w/border) Color \$125.00  
Grayscale \$100.00
  - Classified (Up to 7 lines w/o border) \$15.00

It has been a long time since we have increased our subscription costs, but again, we are left with no other option if we wish to continue publishing on our current schedule.

And before anyone suggests that perhaps I should give a portion of my salary back to *Baptist Progress*, he or she should know that I already do. I enjoy this ministry and will do whatever I can to keep it going and growing as long as I am editor.

We welcome your suggestions concerning how we can make *Baptist Progress* better. Email me at [editor@baptistprogress.org](mailto:editor@baptistprogress.org).



▲ Jerry Fulton

#### Ministry Connection

For some time, it has been on my heart to start a weekly connection with those of you who serve in ministry leadership positions.

I believe the e-Connect sent by then Church Ministries Coordinator David Pittman was a valuable tool that provided encouragement, ministry resources and information. It was also a good way to stay in touch with those of you on the front line of ministry.

Building on the idea of the e-Connect, *Baptist Progress* will introduce the Ministry Connection on Monday, Nov. 15, 2015. The Ministry Connection will be an email newsletter that includes helpful articles on church leadership, leadership coaching videos, outreach ideas and ministry resources.

I look forward to our Monday mornings together!

Another idea that has come to mind is to for *Baptist Progress* to host Ministry Connection workshops for ministry leaders in various parts of our state. Since the closing of the BMA of Texas Department of Church Ministries, I believe a void has been created that needs to be filled. Other Baptist newspapers host conferences and workshops, so why shouldn't *Baptist Progress*? Stay tuned for more details.

#### Website Changes

*Baptist Progress* will debut a newly designed website for the BMA of Texas somewhere around the time of our state meeting. A church directory, church locator and more will be incorporated into the new website.

We are ramping up our efforts to help the churches of the BMA of Texas make "progress" in building the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ!



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# Church Health

## 12 Practical steps to a prayer retreat

By **LARRY BARKER**

Mac Lake says, “Too often I wake hurried to do things for God when what I really need is to slow down and hear from God!” Dynamic Church Planting International teaches the Power Principle which says, “Prayer is the indispensable source of God’s power and wisdom in each phase of church planting.” DCPI gives 12 practical steps to having a prayer retreat:

**Step 1:** Go to your Retreat Site and Rest. The location of your retreat is a matter of personal preference. The real issue is to go away to be with the Lord. “The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him... Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, ‘Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.’ So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place” (Mk 6:30-32).

**Step 2:** Pray for your retreat. James 1:5 is one of our most precious Bible promises. “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”

**Step 3:** Plan your retreat. Proverbs 14:22 promises that those who plan what is good find love and faithfulness. So lay out, step by step, what you need to be in prayerful planning about during your retreat time. The numbers of issues that you have to resolve will affect how much time you have for other steps.

**Step 4:** Repent of your sins. We believe it isn’t possible to receive guidance from God or to enjoy His fellowship, unless you first repent of your sins and receive His cleansing. Jesus said, “Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:19, 20).

**Step 5:** Thankfully review how God has been working. You’ll want to think back, and take an inventory of the many ways God has been blessing your life. When you look back over the last few months of your life, it is then more possible to see how God is working. Giving thanks for what He is doing can lead to insight about what the next steps might be, as He leads you in the future.

**Step 6:** Submit to God’s plans for you. As we prepare to write down our issues and questions and problems, we may already be thinking about how we would like them to turn out. Proverbs 19:21 counsels us, “Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the LORD’S purpose that prevails.” To realize God’s best for our lives and ministries, we must want and be willing to submit to His plans.

**Step 7:** Devour the Word of God and take notes. “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path,”

promises Ps. 119:105. Ask God to guide you into the right books of the Bible to read for your retreat. Then read and read and read some more. Jot down notes about specific verses or thoughts that you have while reading the Bible. Often God will bring verses back to you during your listening time.

**Step 8:** Write down your specific issues and questions. What are the specific issues and questions that you really need to hear from God about? When King David was confronted by a Philistine threat, he inquired of God using two specific questions: “Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?” The LORD answered him, “Go, I will hand them over to you.” What a great example! King David asked the Lord two specific questions, and the Lord answered each one specifically.

**Step 9:** Meet with God in a quiet place. Listen and take notes. Consider Elijah, who was discouraged, and needed guidance from God. He found his quiet place in a cave (1 Kings 19:9-13). The Lord instructed him to stand outside the cave, and wait for the Lord to pass by. First came a great wind, followed by an earthquake, and then a fire. But the Lord was not in any of these earth-shattering forces of nature. Finally the Lord spoke in a gentle whisper.

**Step 10:** Prayerfully respond in writing to your questions and issues. Look to match the thoughts from meeting with God in a quiet place with the issues and questions you have recorded. There will probably be many issues and questions for which there is no specific guidance. Take time to specifically think about these issues and questions, and record your thoughts as before. If you have been prepared by God through this process for consecrated thinking, you should be able to think and plan clearly during your prayer retreats.

**Step 11:** Receive Counsel from wise, godly people. There are pitfalls when you try to listen to God. You could be wrong. Even after repentance and submission, your motives



could be wrong. You could be hearing what you want to hear. You could have had a bad dinner the night before. Counsel from wise godly people is a solution to this pitfall. “Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.” (Proverbs 15:22).

**Step 12:** Plan to communicate your thoughts and delegate Tasks. As you consider your thoughts and decisions, ask yourself, who needs to know? To whom do I need to communicate these thoughts? Family members? Church leaders? Friends? How do you need to communicate these thoughts and decisions? And as a Christian leader, to whom do you need to delegate the tasks that emerged from your retreat?

When will you plan your prayer retreat?

Larry Barker is the operations director for North American Missions. For more information or to contact him, visit [www.bmamissions.org](http://www.bmamissions.org).



# BMA of America News

## Share your story



By **JASON PREWITT**

*Daniel Springs Camp Director*

Daniel Springs has impacted thousands of lives over the years. Recently I received the following letter from Caitlin Dalrymple, 2015 summer camp staffer, expressing her appreciation for Daniel Springs and how Daniel Springs impacted her life. Caitlin's letter gets me excited to see who God is going to bring along to partner with us in spreading the gospel. I pray that after you read it, you too will be excited about what God is doing at Daniel Springs.

"What can I say about Daniel Springs? Daniel Springs is a place where lifelong friends are made and people come to Christ. My name is Caitlin Dalrymple, and I had the opportunity to work here during the summer of 2015; and I can easily say this was the best decision I could have made. I am from Perkinston, Mississippi, which is about seven hours from Gary, Texas, so many people wonder how I ended up at Daniel Springs. Well, I can honestly say it's all a part of God's amazing plan.

Over the summer I had unlimited opportunities to share Christ's love with others. Many of the staffers taught Bible studies, which was a major blessing. This allowed us to really connect to the campers and get to know them and hopefully lead them to Christ. Between morning celebration, recreation, and evening worship, we had a summer that was packed with many laughs, many tears, and a whole lot of love. Jason and Jessica Prewitt could not have picked a better staff for the summer. We all came from different backgrounds, states, and ages, but you would have thought that we had been friends forever. I am so thankful for my time at Daniel Springs. It will always have a special place in my heart."

If Daniel Springs impacted your life, I want to hear your story. E-mail me at [jason@danielspringscamp.com](mailto:jason@danielspringscamp.com) or post it to our Facebook page (Daniel Springs Baptist Camp).

## East Texas BMA Town Hall Meeting December 3

The final BMA America Town Hall Lunch and Meeting for 2015 will be held at First, Jacksonville on Dec. 3. Pastors, staff members and their spouses are invited to attend the event which will begin with a catered luncheon at noon followed by an hour-long meeting at 1 p.m.

The meeting is a time for BMA directors to build relationships with area pastors and to listen to their concerns and suggestions. In addition to the meeting, the following directors will be available to speak at area churches (morning and evening services): Scott Attebery, Larry Barker, Steve Crawley, Charley Holmes, Phil Knott and John David Smith. BMA Field Representative, Pastor David Watkins, will lead the discussion.

To register and/or schedule a director in your church, please contact Holly Meriweather ([holly@bmaamerica.org](mailto:holly@bmaamerica.org)/501-205-1127) at the BMA Global Ministry Center.



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## Liberty Association meets for 136th annual session

By **CHARLES JOHNSON**

*Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer*

The 136<sup>th</sup> annual session of Liberty Baptist Missionary Association was held on Oct. 11, at First, Judson, near Longview, where Tim Smith is pastor. The meeting was directed by association moderator Greg Miller, pastor of Cross Roads, Pittsburg.

Newly elected officers for 2015-2016 include the following: Leon Ross, pastor of Latch, Gilmer, moderator; Wayne McKay, senior adult pastor of Liberty, Longview, vice-moderator; Larry Lansdale, treasurer; Joe Caudle, assistant treasurer; Charlotte Johnson, clerk; and Jeanette McKay, assistant clerk.

Charles Johnson, pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer, brought the annual sermon from Genesis 50:22-26 entitled "Famous Last Words." Randy Stracener, pastor of Macedonia, Pittsburg, delivered the evening session sermon concerning "The Gospel of Jesus Christ" from 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. Altar calls were given at the conclusion of each sermon, and many filled the altar to make commitments to the Lord. One person remarked, "It seemed more like a revival meeting than a business session."

Several representatives from state and national departments gave reports at the meeting including Eddie Marsh, departments of the BMA of Texas; Joseph Allen, Jacksonville College; Stephen Davenport, BMAA Theological Seminary; and Keith Brown, director of Association of Baptist Students at Tyler Junior College.

The association adopted several mission projects for the coming year. Projects adopted include monthly support of Jacksonville College, Baptist Medical Missions International, Spanish literature publication, and the Spanish mission in Tyler. Liberty Association also gives monthly supplemental support to eight widows of former association pastors.

The group also planned several rallies for the new year, including International and North American Missions on Dec. 17 at Ebenezer Friendship, Pittsburg; Jacksonville College on Jan. 14 at Enon, Gilmer; Texas Baptist Home on March 17 at Fellowship, Pittsburg; Baptist Medical Missions on May 12 at Fellowship, White Oak; Lifeword Media Ministries on Aug. 18 at First, Judson; and the 137<sup>th</sup> annual session on Sunday, Oct. 9, 2016, at Antioch, Gilmer. Michael Pool, pastor of Antioch, was elected to bring the 2016 annual message.

Liberty Association is composed of some 30 churches in Camp, Gregg, Harrison, Upshur, Marion, and Bowie Counties. A new church, Richmond Road, Texarkana, was added this year. The association was founded in 1880 in its inaugural meeting at Liberty Baptist Church near Hawkins.

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# Church News



**First, Palmer** is renovating their former church facilities and will move home to their historic church building on Dec. 6, 2015. A new roof was installed the week of Oct. 25, 2015. Paul Gauntt was recently called as pastor of the church.



**The Refuge, Terrell** received 10 new families into their membership following a membership class on Sunday, Oct. 25. The church has also launched a new website, [www.gototherefuge.com](http://www.gototherefuge.com). The Refuge is a church plant of BMA of America Missions and is supported by BMA of Texas Missions. Darren Lemons is the pastor.



**New Harmony, Tyler** witnessed over 50 professions of faith in a recent revival. The sanctuary was overflowing and lives were changed. Ken Freeman served as the evangelist for the revival meetings. Robbie Caldwell is the pastor.



**Rosewood, Gilmer** has added 24 chairs to their sanctuary as they are experiencing well-attended worship services. The church has also installed a new sound system. During the local Yamboree Festival, an annual event in Gilmer, the church handed out 1,600 bottles of ice water with the gospel message, as well as numerous New Testaments and tracts. Charles Johnson is the pastor.

**Editor's Note: We want to know how God is blessing your church family. Send church news to [editor@baptistprogress.org](mailto:editor@baptistprogress.org).**

## An Expression of Everlasting Love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from Sept. 1-30, 2015.

### ENDOWMENTS

**E ANN PACE:** Karl & Martha Pace

**MYRA STOKES:** Mr. Bill Stokes

### HONORARIUMS

**BRO. STEVE COWART:** William & Dorothy McAdams

**FOSTER FAMILIES EVERYWHERE:** Roy & Elizabeth Talbot

**JERRY FULTON:** Nathan & Carolyn Andrews

**BRO. VERNON LEE:** Barbara Riley

**MY GREAT GRAND CHILDREN:** Mr. & Mrs. James Hill

**BOBBY PHILLIPS' BIRTHDAY:** Michael & Lisa Phillips

**TOMMY SIMPSON:** Marilyn Simpson

### MEMORIALS

**CAROLYN AINSWORTH:** Patricia Chappell

**MORRIS ARRINGTON:** Charles & Beverly Ray

**IOTA BATES:** Brent & Tammy Swanner; Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

**WALTER BECKER:** Dennis & Ilona Myrice

**CHARLIE BENNETT:** Marilyn McClintock

**LLOYD BIGHAM:** Leon & Linda Lee

**DOROTHY SIMPSON BURROW:** Barbara Woolsey

**MR HARROL DICKER'S SISTER:** Rose Moore

**EVERETT DUNAHOE:** Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

**BETTY FERGUSON:** Wayne & Barbara Turner; Mr. & Mrs. Joe Chambliss; Tavis Chambliss; Debbie Drake

**GERALD FULTON:** Nathan & Carolyn Andrews

**HEATH:** Jimmy Ray; Cynthia Gree

**SYBIL HENDRICK:** First Baptist Church, Carthage Friendship Sunday School Class

**JC & VERDINE HENDERSON:** Guy Needham

**WANDA HICKINGBOTHAM:** Bob Hickingbotham

**ROBERT LEE HYDEN:** Pine Acres Baptist Church

**J. R. KENMORE:** Joy Linton

**MURLIN KINGMON:** Lucille Walker

**LOVED ONES:** Mrs. Billy King

**MARSHA LUSK:** Gilly Lusk

**MRS. ANN MAXWELL:** Marilyn Simpson

**DORIS MCCUISTION:** Chad & Alison Johnson; Mr. & Mrs. A W McCuistion

**LAVERNE MCGILBERRY:** Calvary Baptist Church

**MELISSA ANN MILLER:** Daniel & Gina Wilson; Harold & Jean Jacobs

**EDITH RAIFORD:** Donald & Nelda Muirhead

**MILDRED ROACH:** Kenneth & Carol Cline

**MR JESSE ROSS:** Johnny & Patti Spencer; Clyde & Debra Wilson

**JOHN RUSO:** Clyde & Debra Wilson

**DORIS SCOTT:** Shiloh Road Baptist Church; Mary McBay

**HUBERT SKINNER:** New Hope Baptist Church

**DONNA STANLEY:** Raymond & Claynell Dennis

**FRED SWEETMAN:** Bobby & Catherine Eatherton; Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

**WAYNE THOMPSON:** Brent & Tammy Swanner; Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

**LINDA T VANDERGURG:** Jerry & Martha Bell

**MELVIN WADE:** Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

# Not a museum, not a monument, but an instrument



By **TIM BREWER**

*Pastor of Harmony, Nacogdoches*

As you drive from Nacogdoches along state Highway 7 West toward Crockett there is something brilliant that catches ones attention. It is a light shining in the darkness that literally grabs your attention when you arrive at the six mile mark from the Nacogdoches loop. This brilliant light announces a more brilliant light that is beginning to take shape down the lane that is County Road 726. In this place something is happening that cannot be overlooked; it is bringing joy unspeakable and glory to full capacity. In this article I am immensely blessed to introduce you to a body of believers, an honored place, and a dream that could only be fulfilled by the provision of God, by unity from the Holy Spirit, and a body of believers committed to seeing the Kingdom of God advanced in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the world. As you drive you will see a new sign, brightly shining on the road that, in the darkness of the rural setting, is a beacon that cannot be missed. This sign is a great addition to inform people of the work happening for Christ but in reality is a smaller piece of a larger puzzle. Over the past two years God has allowed us to purchase six acres that adjoined the present location, begin the construction of a twenty thousand eight hundred square foot facility, see the exterior completed, and repave the old parking areas. The interior construction is underway at the writing of this article, and we will utilize the fellowship/gym area by the end of October.

This body of believers, who have in faith taken on the building of this facility, have asked the Lord to lead in every phase of this work. We have complete faith that He will be faithful to see us to the threshold of completion. What must not be overlooked are the countless faithful members who served this church over the years as well as wonderful men of God who led this body. Barnwell Anderson pastored for 24 years, Bro. Curtis Carroll for eight years until illness took him home, and Bro. Marshall Ratliff for eleven years, which takes us back to 1960. I give great honor to these men of God for I, as the present pastor, grew up under each of these men and have much gratitude for their faithful service. Having never been a member of another church and now pastor for almost ten years of my home church, I am humbled to serve

in the line of men who served with great integrity. My prayer is to continue this service and do for the Lord what He blesses this body to accomplish. Of course, the members who attend faithfully support the work financially and with their abilities serve in the many capacities that allow the church to operate in an effective manner are also true blessings. Scripture names many who facilitated the work of the Lord in their local area. Lydia, Pricilla and Aquila, and Dorcas are just some that come to mind from the Word. The sweet names of those who serve at Harmony Church at present are too numerous to name but may God bless them. Let me offer you a special invitation to come, visit, and meet these endearing Christian people.

This facility was prayed over, planned for, prayed over, planned on some more, and finally was born with the anticipation that it will allow any ministry that the Lord leads us to engage in to be enhanced by the instrument of this great place. Let us never be guilty of forgetting that it is only a tool to allow people to worship and facilitate the making of disciples in order to multiply the kingdom of God.

The building will house a new sanctuary with large foyer, library, Pastor's office, classrooms, nursery area, children's church area, conference room, as well as a spacious kitchen that will open into a fellowship hall/gym multipurpose room. The building has a capacity for expansion around the outer perimeter of the sanctuary with second story capability that has been floored but will be completed as needs arise in the future.

God placed on the heart of the members that we as a church would avoid debt if at all possible for this building project. Through the good grace of God, blessing of saving prior to starting, and the cheerful giving of many inside and out of the church, we have been able to complete approximately three quarters of the building and surrounding infrastructure without incurring debt. This has not happened without the sacrificial giving of many to this project. Not only in funds but expertise, sweat equity, continued prayer, and patience. The hard work of our building committee and its leader cannot be given enough appreciation, yet it is God's blessing and not the accolades of men

they desire. "Well done thou good and faithful servant" will be one of the crowns laid at the feet of Christ when we all see him face to face. Our hearts continue to be filled with His faithfulness and we are continuing to wait upon the Lord for His provision as we work and use what has been provided already. There may be those churches or individuals whom the Holy Spirit would lead to join in this work in many ways and we know that God has resources at His disposal and can use them as He desires. We do ask that you would go before God in prayer and lift up this work that has been undertaken for His honor and Glory.

I heard and believe that "sorrows shared are halved and joys shared are doubled." We hear of so many churches struggling and our hearts are burdened by this news. Many people need to hear the gospel and have a place that will disciple, encourage, teach, and love them. When God's people hear of one in decline it should bring sorrow to the heart of every Christian. I do think that we often concentrate on the negative news and miss the wonderful blessings that God is bestowing in many places. Let us be aware that Christ is in control, and his hand is still upon the church that He instituted. This is exactly the reason I desire to share this article with each of you. I invite you to join us in celebrating through worship and praise a great God who still has a host of people who are called by His name, who are praying and working on behalf of His kingdom. We want you to know about and thus double the joy born from the faithfulness of a gracious and loving God. Please enjoy a few photos that reveal more than I could ever express.

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# J Trends in Education

By **DR. MIKE SMITH**

*Jacksonville College President*

I do not claim to be a prophet or the son of a prophet, but by watching, reading, and listening as I attend numerous college seminars and conferences, I see the following trends in education:

1. Increase in online courses. Traditional classrooms will still exist, but online education will no longer be a subcultural fascination but a growing phenomenon.
2. Increase in market place education. Today's colleges must be more than academic institutions. A liberal arts education still has value, but an ongoing need in society now demands that colleges also provide students with technical skills. Today, a Ph.D. graduate has a harder time finding a job than a student who has a certificate in automobile body repair.
3. Increase in methods of teaching. Teachers used to stand in front of a class and lecture for an hour. Today, teachers must be more personal, innovative, and diverse in teaching. Today's students have access to more information and more instruction at their fingertips through the Internet than ever before. What they need are teachers as facilitators to help them apply that knowledge.

Jacksonville College's mission is the same today as it was in 1899: to provide a quality education from a biblical worldview. We are going to stay true to that mission but continually be open to change in methodology in order to meet the needs of today's students.

We now offer a fully-accredited, two-year, Texas core degree completely online. We plan to add more technical, market-driven courses in the days ahead. If you started college but didn't finish or never had a chance to attend college, now you can attend without leaving your home.

In the fall of 2016 we will begin offering classes in the growing fields of criminal justice, teacher education, and agriculture. These expanded class offerings will lead to an Associate of Science or Associate of Arts degree and completion of the Texas Common Core requirements. Jacksonville College, based on information obtained from the JC Institutional Research Department and student surveys, believes offering these classes will help boost enrollment by attracting students who know they are called to or have an interest in any of these major professions.

JCAcademic Dean Lynn Nabi said, "I am excited that we are offering these new classes face to face and online, and I am equally excited about the prospective growth we could see. As a result of adding these classes, Jacksonville College is in the process of obtaining the best, credentialed instructors for these positions. We have a wonderful, dynamic, qualified faculty, and finding more instructors to fill our expanded class offerings will be a priority. I am all about what is best for students and their futures. I am quite positive these new offerings, along with qualified instructors who adhere to our Mission Statement, are going to assist our students in setting a great foundation for their college education."

Expanded class offerings for Fall 2016 will include Introduction to Criminal Justice (CRIJ 1301), Court Systems and Practices (CRIJ 1306), Fundamentals of Criminal Law (CRIJ 1310), Introduction to the Teaching Profession (EDUC 1301), Introduction to Special Populations (EDUC 2301), Application in Agriculture (AGRI 1309), Agronomy (AGRI 1307), and Marketing in Agriculture (AGRI 1325).

Jacksonville College is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. All classes are transferable and part of the Texas Common Core. State and federal aid and numerous JC scholarships are available to all qualifying students. Contact the Academic Dean's Office at [lnabi@jacksonville-college.edu](mailto:lnabi@jacksonville-college.edu) or (903) 589-7137 for more information about new class offerings at Jacksonville College.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Registration for Winter and Spring 2016 is ongoing

**Winter Term:** Begins December 14 (online and face-to-face classes)

**Spring Term:** Begins January 19 (online and face-to-face classes)

### Christmas Show by JC Theater and Music Programs

*Scrooge* (a reader's theater production)

November 20-21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary S. Lewis Theater

Tickets: \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for students



◀ Jacksonville mayor Dick Stone cuts the ribbon at the dedication ceremony of Jacksonville College's Mary S. Lewis Theater. To the right of Stone are JC president Dr. Mike Smith; Mary Lewis, Chair of the Department of Fine Arts at the College; and JC Academic Dean Lynn Nabi. Members of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce are also pictured.



▲ The Jacksonville College Ministerial Alliance place the second of three crosses on campus. The students raised the funds for the crosses from the sale of Easter devotional books.



◀ The newly renovated Jacksonville College Mary S. Lewis Theater was named after the JC Chair of the Department of Fine Arts, Mary Lewis. Lewis, who began the College's theater program in 2000, is pictured here with the new theater sign. The theater is located on JC's East Campus (formerly the Joe Wright Elementary School.)

## Celebrating 125 years

By **JACK CLEVELAND**

*Baptist Progress Correspondent*

Established in 1890, Mount Selman, Bullard celebrated their 125th anniversary on Oct. 7, 2015. Mount Selman Baptist Church started as a homestead church with S.R. Gore as the pastor. The church was founded with 22 members. The original building was torn down in 1927 and in its place a newer building was erected and served the church's needs until 1977 when the church built an addition for the purpose of more Sunday school classrooms. In 1986, the church was growing and had to build a new sanctuary where they still have services today.

Despite the weather, the sanctuary was full of members past and present joined together for worship and celebration. Before the services there were sounds of old friends meeting together once more and families getting their pictures taken to mark the occasion. After the services, there was a meal provided by the church. Much joy was shared, and at any given moment, there would be a new story told either for the joy of the memory or for posterities sake. After the meal, there was a time where any member past or present could either present a testimony or a song.

For the celebration Dr. Ricky Williams was the guest speaker and Hal Small was the guest song director. Dr. Williams was elected youth pastor in July of 1971. In March 1975 Dr. Williams was ordained as associate pastor, where he served until 1978. Hal Small is the son of former pastor Harold Small. He was elected song director in January 1977 and served until 1980. The current pastor is Michael Bowman. He was elected associate pastor in 1987, and in 2011 was elected as senior pastor.

Pastor Bowman describes the church as "A small country church that is focused on the building up of the family and reaching out into community." Pastor Bowman says that the past 25 years have had ups and downs, but a lot of great memories and times. However, they are looking forward to the next 25 years. Things they are specifically looking forward to is the search for a new youth pastor and a new music director.



▲ Pastor Michael Bowen



# Mission Life

## Is there a difference between leadership and being a leader?

By **JERRY BURNAMAN**

*State Missions Executive Director*

I always look for ideas about leadership and being leaders. When we start a new church, it's essential to discover and develop leaders, and so it is when churches expand ministries to reach people in their communities.

It's easy to teach people a few skills that allow them to inspire and organize a group of people to move toward a common goal. It's very difficult to develop leaders. The difference is that leaders embody leadership mindsets and actions. It's who you are as a person that makes you a leader.

### Leadership and being a leader

Take a look at these examples of leadership versus being a leader and you'll get the idea.

- To cast vision is leadership. To be visionary is to be a leader.
- To organize people toward an objective is leadership. To be influential is to be a leader.
- To observe trends is leadership. To anticipate change is to be a leader.
- To step on stage and inspire others is leadership. To be inspirational is to be a leader.
- To teach others the right things is leadership. To model how to determine right things is to be a leader.
- To solve problems is leadership. To recognize opportunities is to be a leader.

• To make decisions is leadership. To be a wise decision-maker is to be a leader.

• To have an organizational role is leadership. To have spiritual authority is to be a leader.

Notice the lack of reference to position. Where you land in the organizational chart has little to do with being a leader.

It would be great if only those who are leaders were placed in leadership positions, but that's not what happens. You can lead without a position. Be a leader and work toward the desired result, and people will join you.

### “So,” you ask, “How do I become a leader?”

Leaders are developed through learning and practicing leadership behaviors. But behaviors alone are not enough. We need to connect those leadership practices to our mindset, attitudes, and values.

By reflecting on our leadership behaviors, we can spot the inconsistencies in our mindset that keeps us from being a leader. Usually this requires feedback from others, because we are blind to our own contradictions. Here is where it's wise to seek counsel, ask for the services of a coach or mentor to help us see the blind spots in our thinking. This will help us to discover how to be change-agents in our ministries.

### Three questions to assist you in developing yourself and others as a leader

- In what area do you want to grow as a leader? (Where your mindset and actions are misaligned.)
- How could you practice this and receive feedback?
- Who could help you in your development in this area?

Leadership skills can and should be taught. But don't mistake leadership for being a leader.

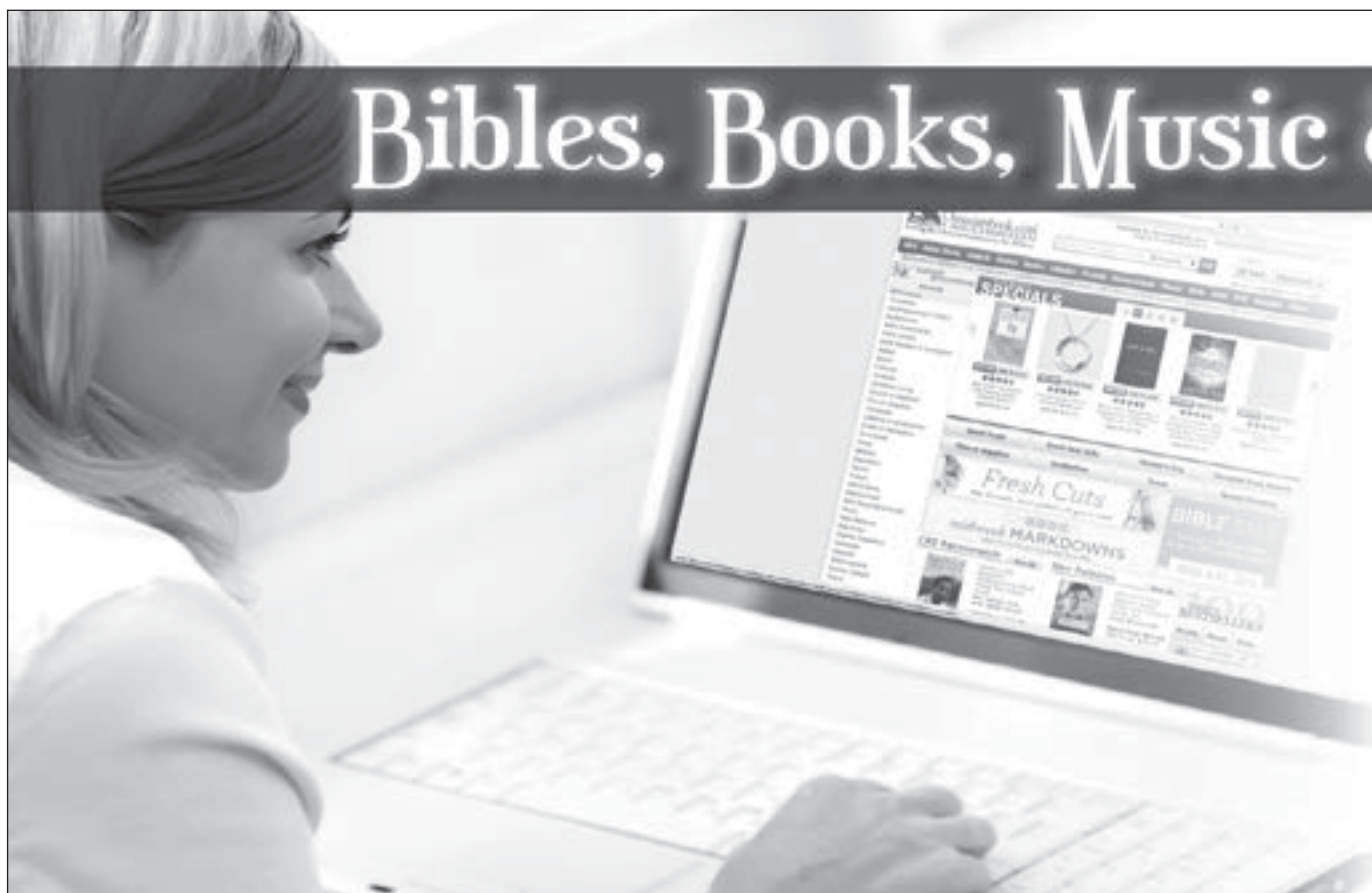
You are a leader as leadership flows out of who you are as a person. Work on aligning your mindset with the actions you want to live.

Adapted from Dr. Keith Webb  
Professional Certified Coach

*Jerry Burnaman is the executive director of State Missions and the Baptist Missionary Loan Association. Contact him at [jerryburnaman@yahoo.com](mailto:jerryburnaman@yahoo.com) or 972-923-0757.*



## Bibles, Books, Music & Gifts



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# Auxiliaries

## Yes, I am

By SHARON COLE

Have you ever been told that you can't do something that you felt you could do? Have you been told, that's impossible or it's never been done before? Some people might be offended. Have you ever been told that you can do something that you did not feel you could do?

Do you know people who try to pull you out of your comfort zone and give you jobs that you don't feel is your calling? But you will never know unless you try.

Ladies, we need to quit trying to do it by ourselves and let go and let God use us! You must recognize the gifts that God has given you and use them. Perhaps you are doing a job that you know someone else is just as good or better at that you. They need a blessing too, so ask them if they would like to try. You will receive a blessing by being a blessing to someone else and making them feel useful and productive.

There are so many examples in the Bible of people who tried new things because God pulled them out of their comfort zone and said, "I want you to do this." Moses couldn't speak clearly and didn't think he had the skills to lead millions of people across the Red Sea, but he did. Noah didn't have modern power tools to build the Ark, but he did it with God's instructions and provision. Esther didn't feel worthy to be a queen, but God put her in a place where she needed to be so she could save the Jewish race from extinction.

God has a plan for all of us, but we have to be willing to do whatever God is leading us to do. 1 Peter 4:10 says, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

What if Mary had said no to God about giving birth to His Son, Jesus? God has a plan for each of us. If we have preconceived ideas about what we can and cannot do, we limit what God can do through us and for us. He wants us to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit in leading us to work out those plans. He wants fellowship with us. He wants us to serve others, and in so doing, we serve Him.

Jeremiah 29:11 says: "For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." 1 Corinthians 13 tells us that ministry gifts must be exercised with love. Without it we are nothing. Love magnifies the person; volunteers itself; makes commitments; and creates a basis for starting over. The bottom line is that God knows us better than we know ourselves. So, when God calls you to do something, don't try to analyze it, just say, "Yes, Lord!"

### DISTRICT NEWS

**CHEROKEE WMA** welcomed Bro. Eddie Marsh, president of the Texas Baptist Home for Children to our recent meeting with Friendship, Jacksonville. The evening began with a wonderful meal. After everyone had eaten their fill, activities were moved to the auditorium for the meeting and program. Brother Eddie shared about the Texas Baptist Home and told about two ladies who were blessed through the ministry. The District collected school supplies for the Texas Baptist Home. As you can see the bags filled a pew. A special word of thanks goes to each one who helped with this project. We are grateful to Mrs. Linda Simmons and each one who contributed to make this evening a success.



**LIBERTY WMA** met at Enon, Gilmer on Oct. 10, 2015 with 54 present. President Glenda Chamberlain called the meeting to order and asked all the ladies to join her at the altar in prayer. The final project offering received for Camp Christa was \$5,617.

Mrs. Shirley Hoffpauir took us on a very interesting and entertaining mountain expedition to introduce the Sunbeam 2015-2016 theme where we ended up finding Moses and the burning bush.

Next year's project will be supplying funds to help purchase of a much needed front-end load tractor for Jacksonville College. The tractor has a projected cost of \$15,000. Let's see how much of this amount we can raise for the glory of God.

Mrs. Johnnie Ross presented the 2015-2016 program title: "Let Living Waters Flow" based on John 7:38. Mrs. Bettye Wilson spoke on this quarter's portion of the program, "Samaria" and referenced her Master's Builders experiences enlightening us with some of the

interesting situations she encountered. She advised each of us find your place, then pray, give and go.

A challenge was issued by Mrs. Elizabeth Midkiff to use the gift bag given to each church to raise funds for the new project. She encouraged us with, "Let's jump-start this tractor." The Jan. 9 Mission/Retreat will be at Fellowship, Pittsburg.

**WOOD COUNTY WMA** met with Hubbard Chapel, Quitman on Oct. 9, 2015 with 31 present. An offering of \$145.20 was received for the project, BMA Theological Seminary. Central, Mineola received the attendance banner. Loretta Stephens blessed us with singing, "If That Isn't Love." Jackie Ricks presented our program portraying Mary, mother of Jesus. Our next meeting will be Jan. 9, 2016 with Mt. Pisgah, Mineola. The Wood County GMA and Sunbeams will present the program.

### WHY ARE WE BLIND?

Bartimaeus lived in a beautiful city  
Whose glories he had never seen.  
Depending on begging, what a pity  
Searching for a life serene.  
Excitement came to the city one day  
Everyone was ignoring his plea  
"What's going on here," as he made his way,  
He thought, "No one listens to me."  
Finally someone turned to him and said,  
"Jesus of Nazareth is passing this way."  
He stumbled to his feet, forward he fled  
Reached in the dark and began to say,  
"Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me."  
"Go thy way, thy faith hath made thee whole."  
Bartimaeus, after all these years could see.  
The miracle for his eyes also healed his soul.  
He went rejoicing and praising God,  
Following Jesus all the way.  
Reborn harlots and thieves began to trod  
Worshipping, singing, and beginning to pray.  
Does it take an obvious miracle for you to believe?  
Jesus is the only one who gives peace within.  
Trust Him and He promises you He will receive,  
You can have that sweet fellowship, if you let Him

Sharon Cole is the editor for the Texas WMA. Contact her at [S9Co@aol.com](mailto:S9Co@aol.com). For more information on the Texas WMA, visit [www.texaswma.com](http://www.texaswma.com).



# GOD'S GIFT

## HEAVEN IS A FREE GIFT!

It is not earned or deserved. No amount of effort or good works can earn a place for you in heaven. Why? Because . . .

## MAN IS A SINNER.

"For all have sinned . . ." (Rom. 3:23)

Because of this, man cannot save himself.

## GOD.

On the one hand, God is merciful and does not want to punish us. Yet God is just and must punish sin. God solved this problem for us in the Person of . . .

## JESUS CHRIST.

He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and rose from the grave to purchase a place for us in heaven—"the Lord has laid on Him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:6).

## THE GIFT IS RECEIVED BY FAITH.

Saving faith is trusting in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life. It means resting on Christ alone and what He has done, rather than what you or I have done to get us into heaven. "Believe on (or trust in) the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

## SO MAY WE ASK . . .

Have you received God's free gift of eternal life? The Bible assures us in 1 John 5:13 that we can know we have eternal life.

Do you know for sure that you are going to heaven when you die?

The Bible says, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." If you are willing to repent (turn away from your sin and to the Lord Jesus) you can receive the free gift of eternal life by simply praying:

*Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner and do not deserve eternal life. But I believe You died and rose from the grave to purchase a place in heaven for me. Jesus, come into my life, take control of my life, forgive my sins, and save me. I am now placing my trust in You alone for my salvation, and I accept your free gift of eternal life.*

## PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

### AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**PASTOR**—Nat, Nacogdoches is searching for a pastor. Send resume to Nat Baptist Church, Attn: David Rideout, P.O. Box 630884, Nacogdoches, Texas 75963. <sup>1xmo</sup>

**WORSHIP/STUDENTS**—Calvary, Fayetteville, Arkansas is seeking a fulltime worship/student pastor. Send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, Attn: Kirk Shelton, 1410 N. Porter Rd., Fayetteville, Arkansas 72703. <sup>11/18</sup>

**PASTOR**—Eighth Avenue, Teague is seeking a fulltime pastor. Send resume to 201 S. 8th Avenue, Teague, Texas 75860 or eabccw@sbcglobal.net.

**PASTOR**—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a fulltime pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346 or to jimmysealy@aol.com. <sup>TFN</sup>

**MUSIC**—First, Crandall is seeking a bivocational music leader. Salary negotiable. Mix of contemporary and traditional. Call Bro. Mike Waits for more details: 214-697-7998 or mbwaitssr@att.net. Visit church website at firstbaptistcrandall.org. <sup>TFN</sup>

**YOUTH**—Soda, Livingston is seeking a fulltime youth pastor. Send resume to Pastor Wayne Bickley, 8105 Us Hwy 190 East, Livingston, Texas 77351 or youthguywayne@yahoo.com, or for more information, call 936-433-9526. <sup>11/4</sup>

**YOUTH**—Antioch, Gilmer is seeking a bivocational youth/student minister. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 688 Gilmer, Texas 75644; Contact person—Michael Pool, pool-michael@hotmail.com. 903-315-6822. <sup>TFN</sup>

**YOUTH/MUSIC**—First, Cross Roads is seeking a fulltime Minister of Youth and Music Programs. Send resume to 14232 FM 59, Athens, Texas 75751 or lindaupchurch15@gmail.com. Call Bro. Frank Upchurch at 903-489-3643 or 903-681-3309 for more information.

### SPEAKER FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

**STACIE BOSTIC** is available to speak at women's luncheons, youth retreats, adult conferences, seminars, Bible studies and other events. She has a powerful testimony that focuses on the art of surrender, walking by faith and rising above circumstances. Her message resonates with a wide range of listeners. She has the ability to tailor her message to fit a group's unique event theme. Stacie is a member of Liberty, Gun Barrel City. Contact her at Stacie@claypotworks.com or 903-603-8597. Also, visit [www.claypotworks.com](http://www.claypotworks.com) or connect with Stacie on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/claypotworks>. <sup>12/15</sup>

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## EVENTS

### NOVEMBER 10-11, 2015

115th Annual Session of the BMA of Texas  
@ Champion Forest Baptist Church  
15555 Stuebner Airline Road, Houston

### APRIL 25-27, 2016

67th Annual Session of the BMA of America  
@ Gatlinburg Convention Center  
Gatlinburg, Tennessee  
Headquarters Hotel: Glenstone Hotel

## CHURCHES IN REVIEW

### OCTOBER 18, 2015

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Antioch, Gilmer	42	92	
Cedar Creek, Teague	8	19	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	462	548	2 By Statement, 1 By Profession
First, Blooming Grove	213		
First, Crandall	72	113	
First, Omen	40	65	
First, Palmer	47	85	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	18	38	
Little Flock, Lufkin	7	11	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	43	54	2 By letter
Pine Brook, Tyler	39	77	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	44	51	2 By letter
Pine Forest, Huntington	42	47	
Piney Creek, Kennard	14	30	
Rosewood, Gilmer	109	190	
Round Prairie, Fairfield	67	112	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	26	110	
Temple, Mexia	32	40	

### OCTOBER 25, 2015

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	55	83	
Cedar Creek, Teague	8	19	
Farley Street, Waxahachie			2 By Statement
First, Blooming Grove	193		2 By Baptism
First, Omen	32	58	
Jackson, Joaquin	70	110	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	34	43	
New Harmony, Tyler	295	365	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	42	45	
Pine Brook, Tyler	34	61	
Piney Creek, Kennard	15	31	
Rosewood, Gilmer	127	194	1 By Baptism
Security Calvary, Cleveland	16	24	
Temple, Mexia	36	45	

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

# Sunday School Lessons

## Kings—Rulers

By PAUL GAUNTT

**DATE:** November 15, 2015

**TEXT:** I Kings 1:20; 2:1, 2; 12:1, 16; 17:1; 18:1, 17, 18; 19:4, 18

### STUDY:

1. Contention between the brothers: Chapter 1

Chapter one of 1 Kings deals with a power play by one of David's sons by Haggith, Adonijah, who, filled with pride, in a subversive way, sought to set himself up as king. But Bathsheba, mother of Solomon, approached David, reminding him that he had promised that her son would succeed him. Later, Adonijah asked Bathsheba to ask the king for Abishag, the Shunammite woman, to be his wife. This was the woman who was summoned to lie with David during his dying days to keep him warm. Solomon was angry with his brother for the request feeling it was a ploy to gain the throne. Solomon had him put to death.

2. Solomon begins his reign with an humble heart. Chapter 2

Solomon's early reign was earmarked by a sincere heart for God, and a desire to reign over Israel with wisdom from above. 1 Kings 3: 9; James 3:17 Solomon asked God for an understanding heart, for a discernment between good and evil. He also acknowledged his own inadequacy of ruling and judging such a great nation.

3. Solomon prospers and excels in wisdom and power. God gives him great insight and understanding, the likes of which no other person on earth possessed. Chapter 4:29-31

His wisdom came from God (verse 29) was wiser than all men (verse 31) and had the listening ear of all the earth. (verse 34)

4. Solomon declares his intention to build the temple (chapter 5) Hiram, King of Tyre, who loved David, rejoiced over Solomon's resolve, and wisdom. and gives great gifts to him and help for the building of the temple. (verse 7)

5. In chapters 6 and 7, we see the dimensions of the temple, and the length of time it took Solomon to build it. (7:38) the furnishings for worship were set up (8:4) and Solomon gave God the glory (8:23)

6. The Lord's promise to

bless Solomon as he walks with Him (9:4-5) but issues a warning to Solomon if he serves other gods. (9:6-9)

7. Solomon's meeting with the queen of Sheba, who became convinced of his vast wealth and power. (10:6)

8. The beginning of Solomon's fall: Chapter 10. (acquired pagan wives, his heart turned away from the Lord -- (11:6-9)

9. In Chapter 12, we see the dividing of the kingdoms, which was in God's plan. Rehoboam, son of Solomon, takes Judah, while Jeroboam rules over Israel -- and since Rehoboam has Jerusalem, Jeroboam institutes idol worship, placing golden calves in Bethel and Dan, leading the people to believe these were the gods which led them out of Egypt.

10. Chapter 13, we find the man of God sent to prophesy concerning Judah's idol worship. But because the man of God disobeyed God and took bread with an old prophet in Bethel, he was destroyed by a lion. None of this changed the mind of Jeroboam, who continued in his evil ways, which brought the wrath of God to his kingdom.

11. Chapter 14 -- Jeroboam reigns over Israel for 22 years, and then dies. His son, Nadab succeeds him. Shishak of Egypt plunders Jerusalem, contention continues between Jeroboam and Rehoboam. Finally Rehoboam dies, and his son Abijam succeeds him. Both kingdoms continue to spiral downward into evil.

12. Enter Elijah, the Tishbite. (Chapter 17) who proves to a widow that he is a man of God, who speaks the truth, by praying to God to restore her son who died. The widow, through Elijah, discovers the unlimited provisions of God.

13. Chapter 18 covers the famous conquest on mount Carmel between the prophets of Baal and God. Elijah proves to them that their false god is no match for the true and living God.

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



## 2 Kings—Tragedy

By PAUL GAUNTT

**DATE:** November 22, 2015

**TEXT:** 2 Kings 2:12-14; 17:6,7; 18; 25:1-3, 10, 11

### STUDY:

The general theme of both books of Kings, concerns the rebellion of both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms toward God's law (2 Kings 17:7-23) From the time they were in Egypt, until the dividing of the kingdoms, they turned their hearts toward other gods (17:7) sought to elevate themselves (17:9) and worshiped as the heathen (17:9-10)

God warned them to turn from their evil ways and keep His commandments, (17:13)

The Israelites unfaithfulness was furthered by corrupt kings who led them into idolatry; (17:21, 22; 21:11)

God is always faithful to keep His promises -- one promise was to bring judgement on His people who rebel against him. Jehoahaz, son of Jehu, began to reign over Israel (13:1) following in the footsteps of Jeroboam who made Israel to sin. "The anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he delivered them into the hand of Hazael king of Syria, and into the hand of Benhadad, the son of Hazael, all their days." (2 Kings, 13:2,3)

Even in Israel's disobedience, God never forgot his promise to David, to provide a lineage which would result in the Savior being born into the world.

God the Father is always faithful to His children, even when they are unfaithful to Him. And His word is trustworthy.

# Round Up 5K

for Their Lives

Supporting Texas Baptist Home for Children Adoptions

**Date:** Saturday January 23rd, 2016  
**Place:** Getzandaner Park  
400 South Grand Avenue  
Waxahachie, TX  
**Cost:** \$30 per person  
**Group of 4 or more:** \$25 per person  
**Registration Time:** 8:00 a.m.  
**Race Start:** 9:00 a.m.

Bounce houses and fun activities for kids of all ages.  
**Register at [www.tbhc.org](http://www.tbhc.org)**  
Questions and Sponsorship opportunities contact  
Christin Barber at [cbarber@tbhc.org](mailto:cbarber@tbhc.org)

**HOME**  
TEXAS BAPTIST FOR CHILDREN  
Funds raised will go to support the adoption department and the post adoption services at Texas Baptist Home for Children.

# 2015 UNITED THANKSGIVING OFFERING

**Sunday, November 22, 2015**

**Overall Goal: \$125,000**

**Goal Per Church: \$1,500**

The offering benefits Baptist Missionary Loan Association, Baptist Progress, Jacksonville College, State Missions and Texas Baptist Home for Children.

Mail offerings to BMA of Texas,  
P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, Texas 75168

