

Baptist Progress

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A great year for missions movement in

By HEITH MITCHELL

It has been a great year in your BMA of Texas Missions Movement. You have been faithful in your prayers and financial support of your missionaries and to the support staff that takes care of them. God is blessing your faithfulness and exceeding our expectations like only He can do. We thank you so much and we thank Him.

Your Mission Movement to reach Hispanics in Texas continues to expand and bear fruit rapidly!

Arnulfo Maldonado – Your Texas Hispanic Missions Coordinator is doing a great job leading this effort. There are currently nine new missions underway, a Hispanic training institute in place, and a large number of prospective missionaries being equipped. Arnulfo is burdened to pour into four regional coordinators who can help share the load and expand the work. He would love to assist your church in reaching Hispanic people with the gospel in your community.



▲ Arnulfo Maldonado

You have three Texas Missionaries who will be coming off of Mission Support this year!



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Next workshop

By **JERRY FULTON**

The next Ministry Connection Workshop will be *Understanding Generations*. It will be led by Jerry Burnaman, manager of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association, at the BMA of Texas Building from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Oct. 20. The workshop will provide you with information concerning the likes and dislikes of each generation and why they operate the way they do. Such a topic is beneficial for the saints of God to understand each other as we do life together. To register, go to baptistprogress.org.

MINISTRY CONNECTION CONFERENCE

Excitement is building for the first ever Ministry Connection Conference to be held during the Annual Session of the BMA

of Texas Nov. 14. National recording group, Brain Free & Assurance, will sing during the conference and great biblical preaching will be enjoyed. Speakers include Jonathan Falwell, pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia; Dr. John Bisagno, retired pastor of First Baptist Church, Houston; and Jerry Jolly, pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Jonesboro, Arkansas. There is no cost for the conference. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

▲ **Jerry Fulton**



Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications) - Form 3526, July 2014

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Church Health

Creating buy-in

By LARRY BARKER

Allow me to say it again. For the dream to work the team must work. The emphasis is not about team effort as much as it is about chemistry and cooperation. It is hard work to build a team that can work as one unit and it requires even more effort to keep it that way. You must communicate where you are going, why you are going there, and how you will make the trip.

In *The Disciple Making Pastor* Bill Hull says, “Any system for church organization that allows the unspiritual and disobedient to dictate is wrong.” Strong words but this truth cannot be ignored. How will you handle conflict, especially, if it is in a leadership position? What will you do when there is a vision clash that challenges team harmony and threatens to derail the mission of your church? Expect there to be opposition and know that you will never be able to make everyone happy.

One of the first steps in understanding team dynamics is to realize that everyone has a primary voice they speak from. In *5 Voices: How to Communicate Effectively with Everyone you Lead* Jeremie Kubick and Steve Cockram cover in depth what these 5 different voice look like. We will look at them briefly asking, “What is my primary and secondary voice?” All 5 voices are valuable and contribute to the team.

First, are the nurturers! They are always concerned about other people’s feelings and work hard at making everyone know they are valued. They are very compassionate and often have a very large dose of mercy. They are great listeners and will fight for the highest possible good in others. Their temptation is to be very slow about getting on board with an idea because they want to make sure everyone on the team is in agreement before they will commit.

Second, are the guardians! These individuals are always watching the core values of the church very closely. They are protectors and stewards of the church’s traditions, resources, and what they believe to be the established paths already determined by the church. They ask the hard questions that need to be asked. Their temptation can be to allow traditions to become traditionalism where legalism can place the traditions over the word of God. Remember, their voice is needed!

Third, are the creatives! They have great ideas and love to think outside of the box. They give perspective from a unique angle that many will never think of. They love to challenge the status quo and often ask, “why not?” They really do not understand why others may struggle with their concepts believing from their heart that their idea is a great idea. Their temptation is to “always” have a better idea. They believe so strongly in their ideas that they may struggle listening to others.

Fourth, are the connectors! They enjoy networking and



getting everyone in the right seat on the bus. With a good understanding of the team concept they busy themselves in helping everyone to see their role on the team. They move quickly and easily in a group but will sometimes struggle in slowing down enough to get to know the people on their team well. Their temptation is to overly focus on the group and not focus enough on individual’s relationships.

Fifth, are the pioneers! They are forward thinkers and blaze new trails. The pioneer is very comfortable with problem solving and making tough decisions. They are risk takers and if it has never been done before they believe that is exactly why it should be attempted. They have the courage to make difficult decisions and communicate an attractive vision of the future. Their temptation is to not give everyone’s view a fair listening because their mind is already made up.

Creating buy-in comes from listening to everyone on the team and how you communicate to different team members. There are basically five responses that are common to your leadership and vision. There are the innovators, the early adopters, the middle adopters, the late adopters and unfortunately, the never adopters. How you speak to each one of these groups is crucial and you must have realistic expectations for each group.

First, the innovators are looking for involvement! They want to know how they can help and are ready to get started right away. You should immediately look for ways they can be directly involved.

Second, the early adopters are looking for support! They may not be directly involved but they love to champion the cause. Their support is an active endorsement and you

know they are on board with the direction God is leading you.

Third, the middle adopters will give their acceptance. Their support is more of a passive endorsement but remember they are not against you. When your team has agreed upon the direction of the ministry and the next steps required they are ok with it.

Fourth, the late adopters will hopefully tolerate your decision. You are not expecting their buy-in but you are asking their commitment to withhold negative comments until there has been adequate time to give it a try.

Lastly, there is not much you can do with the never adopters! Listen to Bill Hull again from *The Disciple Making Pastor*, “Sadly, many church problems find their origin in the immature and selfish agendas of church leaders. Commonly, the hardest group to get along with in the entire church is the leaders. They often are argumentative, close-minded, power hungry, and dedicated to keeping a firm hold on their territory. Once the church’s core becomes corrupt, you have almost no chance of renewal.”

Healthy churches seek a team leadership approach where everyone’s voice is valued and heard. They move forward with those who are ready to get on board while understanding some need more time before they are ready!

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



BMA of America News

Lifeword's Spanish Broadcast Changes Lives

El Contacto Cristiano is one of Lifeword's fifty broadcasts on the air in more than 300 radio stations in the United States, Mexico, Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and Spain. It can also be heard all over the world via www.oneplace.com, www.elsitiocristiano.com and soon via Trans World's Radio Portal www.twr360.org.

Lifeword doesn't always get to hear the stories and testimonials of transformed lives from God's redemptive work, and some may never be known on this side of eternity. Lifeword recently received a letter originally sent to Jazmina Robinson, wife of Lifeword's *El Contacto Cristiano* speaker Ricky Robinson, from Dollie Martin, director of Radio Amistad, a network of radio stations in Houston where the program is broadcast. The following is a translated excerpt from the letter:

"In June 1993, Perfecta started to listen to the radio and she felt attracted to the message of hope and peace, something she felt was lacking in her life. In fact, she felt that she was the worst sinner in the world! One day while listening to *El Contacto Cristiano* she heard Pastor Ricardo Robinson say that nobody is too much of a sinner to disqualify them from accepting Christ, then he invited the listeners to put their full trust in Jesus for salvation. She prayed to God confessing her sins and put her trust in Jesus. Immediately she felt the change that began in her heart and called the radio station to share the joy of having received the gift of salvation. I visited Perfecta, took her some Bible study material (*El Contacto Cristiano* offers free discipleship material), and I encouraged her in the Lord before she had to depart back to Mexico.



On July 20, 2016, Perfecta called our radio network to thank Radio Amistad and for the discipleship material she received. When she returned to Mexico she went through many trials with her family. Her father pressured her to renounce her new faith in Christ and made life practically impossible for Perfecta, almost to the point of renouncing her faith in Jesus Christ, but she did not give Satan the joy of doing so. Finally, almost twenty-three years later, Perfecta is reporting that members of her family have come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, beginning with her mom and then her brothers. After many years her dad, too, came to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and made a profession of faith. Perfecta is now married to a man of God and along with her three children, they are active in their church. For the glory of God, all twelve immediate family members have now declared Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior."

Contributions to Lifeword help people like Perfecta and her family hear the gospel via the airwaves and be redeemed by God. Partnering with this unique media ministry enables lives like these around the world come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Please join BMA churches in a celebration of Lifeword on Lifeword Sunday, October 23, a day to learn about, pray for and give to our unique media ministry that takes the gospel all over the world. Go to lifeword.org/lifewordsunday/ for more information.

J.D. Hudson celebrates his 98th birthday

Retired BMA pastor, J.D. Hudson, was 98 on Sept. 22. His family celebrated with him on Saturday, Sept. 24 at Willow Bend Nursing Home and Rehab Center in Mesquite. If you would like to send a card of congratulations please do so by sending it to J.D. Hudson, 4610 Vineyard Trail, Mesquite, Texas 75150. He loves

and appreciates the many friends that he has made through all of these years. Your prayers for him are always appreciated.



Sunbeam Project 2015-2016

The Sunbeams of the BMAA collected \$4,142.67 for our national project, the Shepherd Bag Ministry. Trophies were given to groups who raised \$500.00 or more.



1st place – Denver Street Baptist Church, Greenwood, AR - \$1,055.00



2nd place – North View Baptist Church, North Little Rock, AR - \$701.69

Picture N/A
Third place – Myrtle Springs Baptist Church, Quitman, TX - \$508.61

The following groups received certificates for contributing \$100.00 or more.

Liberty Baptist Church – Stamps, AR	\$410.00
Grace Baptist Church – Russellville, AR	300.00
Pleasant Springs Baptist Church – McCaskill, AR	300.00
Bethlehem Baptist Church – Greenbrier, AR	262.37
Red Springs Baptist Church – Tyler, TX	200.00
Shiloh Baptist Church – Mt. Olive, MS	100.00

God bless you Sunbeams for your giving to the Lord's work. Your contributions have had a part in the salvation of souls. Praise the Lord.

Sherry Laminack
National Sunbeam Promoter

Caldwell honored for two milestones in ministry

By JERRY FULTON
Baptist Progress Editor

Sunday, Sept. 18, 2016 was a special day for Bro. Robbie Caldwell, pastor of New Harmony, Tyler. A standing room only crowd gathered in the church's sanctuary to celebrate Caldwell's 50 years in the Gospel ministry and 25 years as pastor of New Harmony. Members of churches Caldwell served as pastor, family members and representatives from the Baptist Missionary Association spoke, congratulating the pastor and his wife, Janice. He was presented with plaques, gifts, and flag that flew over the Texas

Capitol Building and his favorite, a homemade chocolate pie. Lunch was served following the service, and those in attendance received a special treat as Mrs. Caldwell played familiar hymns on the piano, following lunch.



▲ Bro. Robbie Caldwell



Community radio offers alternative to occult practices

Diriomo, Nicaragua is known to locals and foreigners as the seat of occult practices, supernatural activity and witchcraft tourism. Some even believe it is the gate of hell itself because of its proximity to volcanoes. Its reputation has increased the number of witches, witch doctors, healers, and seers in the area. Some believe it's just black magic at work and a chance for charlatans to profit from tourists.

The truth, of course, is that the people are in bondage and in darkness and the spirit of fear tends to prevail in Diriomo and its neighboring municipalities. Unfortunately, many people flock to Diriomo seeking the help of the spirit world in their quest for love, yet often do not find it. What they need is an encounter with the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. The Bible says, "there is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear:

because fear has torment. He who fears is not made perfect in love" (1John 4:18).

In the nearby town of Diria, Primera Iglesia Bautista Los Obreros de Cristo dedicated the first Lifeword Community Radio station in early 2016. The church's broadcasts of their services and other gospel programming now offer an alternative to the spirit of fear pervading the Diriomo area.

Denis Flores and Luis Gonzalez traveled there to install the transmitter and train the church's media team to run the station. In October the associate pastor of Primera Iglesia, Javier Muñoz Ruiz, will conduct media training at Nicaragua's Bible colleges. With the training, more young men and women can have the technical skills to involve them in even more Lifeword Community Radio stations.

For seven months, the new radio station

has been transmitting the truth and serving as a tool for First Baptist Church of Diria as they proclaim and show the love of Christ. Pray that the church's efforts will continue to be

a beacon of light to a dark world, casting out the spirit of fear through the love of Christ.



▲ Lifeword's Luis Ortega (green shirt), Denis Flores (in the glasses), Luis Gonzalez (next to Bro. Denis) and David Dickson attend a conference in Nicaragua.



▲ A Lifeword Community Radio transmitter is installed in Diria, Nicaragua by a media trainee.

BMA bible college in Philippines

BMA Bible College in the Philippines hosted their second annual Bible Conference this past week with "Together in Unity" as their theme. One of the guest speakers was Tony Cleaver from BMA Seminary in Jacksonville.

Fifty pastors registered for the event. Morning and evening sessions were well attended at the school with an overflow crowd attending the last evening service Thursday night to honor the pastors at a closing banquet... traditional Philippine food along with a whole roast pig!

Dr. Cleaver representing the BMA Seminary said:

"The students welcomed me with great warmth. The city of Bacalod is known as the city of smiles. I believe those smiles start right here on this campus. The host missionaries treated me most royally. It was a pleasure to be a part of this good institution's effort to carry on the mission of Christ and His Church in this country."

Some of the pics show Dr. Cleaver with some of the students; some of the pastors at the banquet; the theme poster.



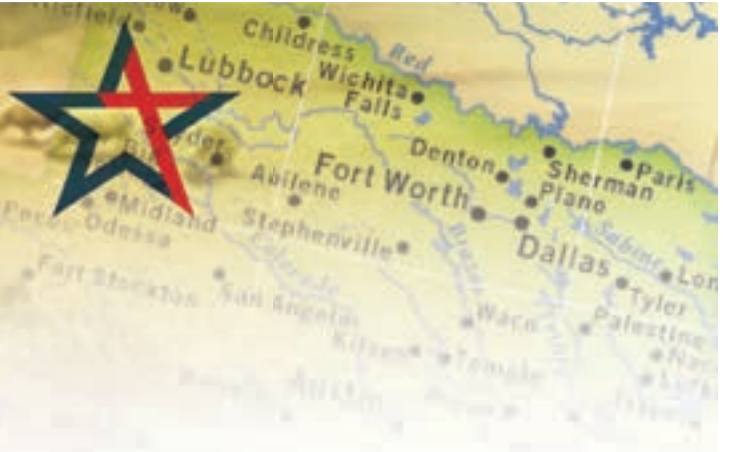
notice

All recommendations and proposed budgets to be presented at the Annual Session of the BMA of Texas will be published in our next issue. Recommendations and budgets are due Oct. 10 and may be emailed to editor@baptistprogress.org.

BMA TEXAS

MISSIONS

Your Church's Mission Movement in Texas



A great year for missions movement in Texas cont.

By HEITH MITCHELL

COMMUNITY LIFE MISSION—LEWISVILLE (GEORGE MARTINEZ)

This Mission has been under support since July of 2009. They have been working all this year towards the goal of self-support by December. They are both evangelistic and discipleship focused and have a bright future ahead. They currently meeting in the former Fox Avenue Building in Lewisville.



▲ George Martinez

JOURNEY COMMUNITY MISSION – ALLEN (CECIL LINKE)

This Mission has been under support since January of 2008. They also have worked all this year towards the goal of self-sustainability by December. They have already assumed much of their own support and are doing very well. They currently meet for worship at Green Elementary School in Allen.



▲ Cecil Linke

THE REFUGE MISSION – TERRELL (DARREN LEMONS)

This mission has been under Mission Support with the BMA of Texas since January of 2013 and with the BMA of America for five years. They are preparing to come off of support in December. They are in their own leased space and doing very well. They are impacting their community by making disciples.



▲ Darren Lemons

We celebrate and pray for all three of these new churches! You have Four Missionaries who are continuing to receive support this year!

LIFE CHANGE MISSION – LINDALE (RICK SYDNOR)

This mission has been under support since January of 2015. They have been through some hardship with a first year location change and most recently, the loss of their lead missionary, Dewey Davidson. Rick Sydnor, who has been with the mission from the beginning, is leading the mission and is off to a good start. They have seen many salvations and are meeting regularly.



▲ Rick Sydnor

RESONATE COMMUNITY MISSION – HUTTO (WILL HUTCHINSON)

This Mission has been under support since March of 2014. They launched public worship services back in February and have good small groups under way. They are having real impact on their community. Pray for their discipleship efforts and their search for a worship associate.



▲ Will Hutchinson

THE BRIDGE MISSION – MIDLOTHIAN (MATTHEW PRATHER)

This mission started receiving dual State and National support in July. (Matthew previously served in Celina.) It has been a season of transition for Matthew and the Bridge. They had some attacks and challenges in Celina, last of which was losing the opportunity to meet in the school district there. They are off to a great start in Midlothian and are working towards a January launch.



▲ Matthew Prather

THE CHURCH AT VALLEY RANCH MISSION – NEW CANEY (GARY SOUTHARD)

This mission has been under support since January of 2013. They have a good core of disciple workers and leaders. They are planning a public launch campaign in October. They recently lost their worship associate. Pray that God will send someone to fill this gap. They meet at Valley Ranch Elementary.



▲ Gary Southard

You have two new Missionaries that we can't wait to introduce to you at the State Meeting!

REDEEMER'S LOVE MISSION – HOUSTON (BRANDON DURHAM)

This mission came under support in June of this year. They have strong outreach underway and are seeing salvations. They are meeting for weekly worship and training. They have started small group ministries for men and ladies. This group is focused on first generation internationals and their community is full of internationals from all over the world.



▲ Brandon Durham

COMING SOON – BENBROOK (JOHN HARRIS)

This mission begins in October. The Harris family are currently moving to Benbrook from Lindale where John has been serving as student minister at New Harmony Baptist. John has a heart for making disciples and a track record of doing it. They have already made strong connections in Benbrook.

You have two Missionaries in Training who are working along side churches currently!

Cliff Robertson is our first BMA of Texas Intern preparing to be your Missionary in the Lake Jackson Area. His heart is to make disciples among the blue collar refinery workers who populate that area. We are exposing him to healthy churches and missions, providing him with training, and helping him to refine his vision for this new work.

Toby Goodman is at your seminary and is working an internship alongside Cornerstone Baptist Church in Jacksonville. He has a heart to plant but lacks experience. He is really getting good exposure alongside Cornerstone's pastor, Bro. Larry Barker, and the staff there. We are assessing potential locations for a new church.

Your mission staff has tried hard to be good stewards of the resources that you have provided us. We have trimmed over \$50,000.00 from our office expenses while aggressively seeking to expand church planting and planting success. We strive to provide support and accountability. We strive to see our vision a reality.

BMA of Texas Missions is

"Your church's mission movement in Texas"

Our Vision: Equipping Missionaries who follow Christ in building Missional Churches with the support and intimate involvement of local BMA Churches.

Our Goal: 16 new Texas missions underway at a time and a Hispanic work alongside every BMA church that is willing.

Our Prayer: Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. Matthew 9:37-38

Thank you for your partnership, prayers, and giving!

Heith Mitchell is the director of BMA of Texas Missions. Contact him at hmitchell@bmatexas.org or 972-923-0757. Visit www.bmatexasmissions.org.



How can I discover *God's* will?

By CHARLES R. SWINDOLL

"I'm totally confused. How in the world do I find the will of God for my life?" I cannot number how many times through the years I have heard that question.

I could probably list at least ten ways that God leads His children today, but I will limit myself to the four that I think are the most significant methods of God's leading.

1. GOD LEADS US THROUGH HIS WRITTEN WORD.

As the psalmist said:

Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)

Whenever you see the phrase "This is the will of God" in Scripture, you can count on it: that's God's will. You also know that to disobey is to reject His Word. Other clear indications of His leading are the precepts and principles in Scripture.

Precepts are clearly marked statements, such as "Abstain from sexual immorality." That's like saying, "Speed Limit 35." What is speeding? Anything over 35 miles an hour. That's a precept.

Then there are principles in Scripture, and these are general guidelines that require discernment and maturity if we are to grasp them. Paul writes of "the peace of God" guarding and guiding our hearts and our minds (Philippians 4:7). That's like the sign that says, "Drive Carefully." This may mean 40 miles an hour on a clear, uncongested road, or it may mean less than 10 miles an hour on an ice-covered curve. But it always means that we must be alert and aware of conditions . . . we have to be discerning. There is no sign large enough to list all the options you have when you're behind the wheel. So you must know the rules of the road, follow the signs that are there, and use all your best judgment combined with discernment.

You will never, ever go wrong in consulting Scripture. Just be sure you pay close attention to the context. Don't use the "open-window method," letting the wind blow across the pages of your Bible and then closing your eyes and pointing to a verse and saying, "This is God's leading on that." If you do that, you could end up with "Judas went away and hanged himself" as your verse for the day! Don't go there.

2. GOD LEADS US THROUGH THE INNER PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Read the following statement carefully:

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both

to will and to work for His good pleasure. (Philippians 2:12-13)

The inner prompting of the Holy Spirit gives us a sense of God's leading, although that leading is not always what we might call a "feel-good" experience. In my own life, my decision to accept the presidency of Dallas Theological Seminary was not an easy one. Ultimately, it was an "at-peace" decision, but it was not what I would have wanted or chosen. I found all kinds of ways to resist when the position was first offered to me. I wrote the president and the chairman a two-page letter, well thought through, carefully stated, and full of Scripture. It should have convinced anybody that I was the wrong person for the job. Except that God was busy convincing them—and, later, me—that I was the right person. Although it went against my own wishes at the time, I could not resist the compelling, all-powerful prompting of the Holy Spirit.

So I can testify from personal experience that you can believe you really know God's will, and you may be dead wrong. But if you are, the prompting of the Holy Spirit will be nudging you within.

The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps. (Proverbs 16:9)

It's easier to steer a moving car—just get the car rolling and you can push it into the filling station to get the gas. But it's hard to get it moving from a dead stop. So you're on your way, you're making your plans, you're thinking it through. In the process, stay open. By doing so, you may well sense inner promptings from the Holy Spirit steering you.

That inner prompting is crucial, because much of the time we just can't figure it out.

Man's steps are ordained by the LORD, How then can man understand his way? (Proverbs 20:24)

(I love that!) When all is said and done, you'll say, "Honestly, I didn't figure this thing out. It must have been God." Talk about mysterious! The longer I live the Christian life, the less I know about why He leads as He does. But I am absolutely confident that He leads.

3. GOD LEADS US THROUGH THE COUNSEL OF WISE, QUALIFIED, TRUSTWORTHY PEOPLE.

This does not mean some guru in Tibet or a serious-looking stranger at the bus stop. This refers to an individual who has proven himself or herself wise and trustworthy and, therefore, qualified to counsel on a given matter. Usually, such individuals are older and more mature than we are. Furthermore, they have nothing to gain or lose. This also means that they are often not in our immediate family. (Immediate family members usually don't want us to do

something that will take us away from them or cause us or them discomfort or worry.)

At critical moments in my own life, I have sought the counsel of seasoned individuals—and they've seldom been wrong. That's been my experience. However, you must choose your counselors very carefully. And just as the best counselors are usually not your family, often they are not your best friends either. Wise and trustworthy counselors are persons who want for you only what God wants. Such persons will stay objective, listen carefully, and answer slowly. Often they won't give you an answer at the time you ask for it. They want to sleep on it; they want to think and pray about it.

4. GOD LEADS US INTO HIS WILL BY GIVING US AN INNER ASSURANCE OF PEACE.

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts," Paul wrote to the Colossians, "to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful" (Colossians 3:15). God's inner assurance of peace will act as an umpire in your heart.

Although peace is an emotion, I have found it wonderfully reassuring as I've wrestled with the Lord's will. This deep-seated, God-given peace comes in spite of the obstacles or the odds, regardless the risk or danger. It's almost



like God's way of saying, "I'm in this decision . . . press on . . . trust Me through it."

The will of God for our lives is not some high-sounding theory; it is reality. We have looked at some of the ways God leads us into His will. Now comes the bottom line: we have to live out His will in the real world.

Doing God's will demands a decision. And that decision requires faith and action. You can't see the end, so you have to trust Him in faith and then step out. You have to act. Faith and obedience are like twins; they go together.

Hebrews 11:6 tells us that «without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.»

Adapted from Charles R. Swindoll, *The Mystery of God's Will* (Nashville: Word Publishing, 1999), 44-50. Used by permission. All rights are reserved worldwide.

Homecoming
Union Baptist Church
Springtown, Texas
Oct. 29 @ 6 p.m.
Oct. 30 @ 11 a.m.
T.C. Melton, guest speaker
Lunch and afternoon singing, following service
All past pastors and members invited



116th Annual Session Schedule

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2016

FARLEY STREET BAPTIST CHURCH • WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

- 1:00 p.m. – General Session
 - » Welcome
 - » Enroll/ Finance
 - » Celebration Video
 - » President's Message, Following Jesus, Focusing on Others
- 2:00 p.m. – Worship
- 2:15 p.m. – Message, Jerry Jolly
- 3:00 p.m. – Brian Free & Assurance
- 3:15 p.m. – Message, John Bisagno
- 4:00 p.m. – Ministry Question & Answer Session
- 4:50 p.m. – Southern Baptists of Texas representative
- 5:00 p.m. – Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. – Brian Free & Assurance Concert
- 8:00 p.m. – Message, Jonathan Falwell

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

- 8:30 a.m. – Department and Missionary Meet and Greet
- 9:00 a.m. – WMA
- 10:00 a.m. – Leadership Conference, Hispanic Ministries
- 12:00 p.m. – Lunch Sessions
 - » Web/ Social Media w/Jason Collins
 - » Pastoral Health w/Henry Horton
- General Session
 - » 2:00 p.m. Worship
 - » 2:10 p.m. Texas Baptist Home
 - » 2:20 p.m. Jacksonville College
 - » 2:30 p.m. Baptist Progress
 - » 2:40 p.m. Mission Department
 - » 2:50 p.m. Baptist Missionary Loan Association
 - » 3:00 p.m. Elections
 - » 3:10 p.m. WMA Report
 - » 3:20 p.m. Master's Builders Report
 - » 3:30 p.m. Miscellaneous Business
- 3:30 p.m. – Break Out Sessions
 - » Activate – Todd West
 - » Missional Church – Larry Barker w/vision from Heith Mitchell for State Missions
- 4:30 p.m. – Dinner
- 6:30 p.m. – Worship/Jacksonville College Choir/Annual Message
- 8:00 p.m. – Missionary Commissioning Service

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

- 9:00 a.m. – Open House at BMA Building, 632 Farley Street, Waxahachie and Texas Baptist Home for Children, 629 Farley Street, Waxahachie

State Meeting HOTEL INFORMATION

The following hotels have rooms blocked for the 116th Annual Session of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas Nov. 14 and 15, and have guaranteed room rates as specified below. However, it is the decision of the church as to which hotel in Waxahachie that you choose to use.

When making reservations, please specify that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas in order to receive the group rate. You must bring a copy of your Texas hotel tax exempt certificate with you. The hotels will not be able to provide one.

LaQuinta Inn & Suites (\$69.00 per night)

311 Stadium Drive
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Comfort Suites (\$86.99 per night)

131 RVC Plaza
Waxahachie, TX 75165
469-517-1600
Continental Breakfast Included

Holiday Inn Express & Suites (89.99 per night)

984 US Hwy 287 Bypass West
Waxahachie, TX 75165
(972) 938-3300
Continental Breakfast Included



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Auxiliaries

Open homes-Open hearts-Sweet times

By SHARON COLE

Marolyn Welch and Tamra Bolton were the featured speakers for the Annual Texas Ladies' \

Retreat this year at Cornerstone, Jacksonville. Marolyn's topic was "Conversation Hearts: Conversations With God." The main focus was on "Hospitality, What It Is and How Do We Practice It?" She impressed upon us that hospitality is a way to make someone feel at home in your presence. It needs to be an atmosphere that offers encouragement, comfort and confirms the value that God has in every person.

Hospitality doesn't always come easy and is different for everyone. God places a high value on hospitality because he created it in the garden of Eden with Adam and Eve with whom He wanted to have fellowship. Tamra spoke on "How To Improve Your Hospitality Score."

She reminded us that throughout scripture we find examples of hospitality: "Mary and Martha," (Lk.10:38-39) "The Shunamite Woman," (2 Kings 4:8-10). Social media has changed how we show hospitality and communicate. To improve our hospitality score we must constantly improve ourselves to have an affect on people. Our attitude also plays a big part. People remember how you act and treat them more than anything else. We must make the best of our situation in whatever season we are in life to be a witness that God can use.

Much fun, food and fellowship was enjoyed by approximately 150 ladies from all over the state. Cherokee District WMA and the ladies of Cornerstone, Jacksonville went overboard in their hospitality in providing the comfort, enjoyment and providing food for everyone.

In promotion for the Texas WMA Project, "The Tractor Shed" was full of items to purchase with the proceeds going to the project: "Funds for purchasing a front-end loader

tractor/mower for Jacksonville College." Over \$3,500 was raised for the project bringing the total for the project to date: \$11,409.

Much fun was enjoyed in choosing from the many items such as beautiful handmade aprons and other craft items, candles, wreaths, books, and many other things. "Candy Crush Sessions" were enjoyable and informative as we moved from one table to another about every 10 minutes. Each one in charge had to talk fast to present her topic which was represented by a specific candy. Topics were varied such as: Depend on the Savior (DOTS); Fruit of the Spirit (FRUIT SLICES); Sharing the Gospel When You Feel Inadequate (GOOBERS); Four for Fellowship (JAW BREAKERS); When Life Gives You Lemons, Praise Him! (LEMON DROPS); These are just a few that space will not allow naming all. But you can get a glimpse of the program and how much fun it was. Much candy was available throughout the day for those who forgot about their diets and just enjoyed themselves. Make plans to attend next year which the time and place will be announced later. You will receive a blessing and come away with ideas to make your life better.

PASTOR AND DEACON APPRECIATION

It is time once again to emphasize the importance of our pastors and deacons. October has been chosen as a special time do this although you can show your pastor or deacons appreciation any time because they deserve it year round.

In the annual WMA meeting, Nov. 8, 1983, the officers recommended that we sponsor Pastor Appreciation Week beginning March 4-10, 1984. At that time, Mrs. W.A. (Ruby) Corley of Joaquin, first vice president, was in charge of promotion. We believed that recognizing and honoring

our pastors would be a wonderful opportunity for us to show our love to him for his service in the Lord's work.

Several years later, pastor appreciation was changed to October to be in conjunction with the National Clergy Appreciation Month. Deacon Appreciation Sunday was first recognized Oct. 12, 1986 and thereafter observed on the second week of the month.

If your church has deacons you are blessed. The office of deacon was created and designed to be a help to the pastor. Often the work of the deacons goes unnoticed because they work behind the scenes to make the worship service run smoothly, or do last minute things that were left undone. They are to do a lot of the physical things around the church for which the pastor does not have the time. They are to visit the widows and orphans and those who are sick and needy so that the pastor can devote his time to prayer, Bible study and preaching the Word.

When you ask a Pastor what you can do for him to show appreciation, he will always say, "Pray for me." How can you pray? Pray for his health, that God would give him wisdom and leadership skills and for his soul winning efforts. During the Sunday morning service's invitation, as the Lord leads, go to him and express your love with a hug and/or handshake promising your total support. Just as it is his responsibility to shepherd us, it is our responsibility to lift him up before the Lord and honor him as a servant of God.

Other things you can do are: a gift card for gas or books at the Christian bookstore or clothing stores or restaurants. Surprise the pastor's family with an old fashioned pounding. Do lawn work at his house. Wash and detail his vehicle. Send an offering to the Texas WMA Project in his name. Plan a special church dinner in his honor.

There are so many more ideas that can be done. Most of the things suggested for honoring your pastor can also be done for the deacons. Set aside one Sunday to honor the deacons and their families. Have the pastor recognize each one and present him with a special gift, then lunch fellowship after morning service.

If your church has never participated in honoring these men of God, begin this year. The point is to let them know how much they are appreciated. "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. (Luke 6:38).



Bibles, Books, Music & Gifts

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

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Sharon Cole is the editor for the Texas WMA. Contact her at S9Co@aol.com. For more information on the Texas WMA, visit www.texaswma.com.



EVENTS

OCTOBER 9, 2016

Pastor & Deacon Appreciation
WHERE: First, Omen
Lunch following service

OCTOBER 16, 2016

Homecoming
WHERE: Security Calvary Baptist Church, Cleveland
WHAT: Celebrating 67 years of faithful worship, fellowship, food and Gospel music, featuring the Ducette Family.

OCTOBER 20, 2016

Baptist Progress
Ministry Connection Workshop: Understanding Generations
WHEN: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
WHERE: BMA of Texas Building, Waxahachie
WHO: Jerry Burnaman, manager, Baptist Missionary Loan Association

OCTOBER 29, 2016

October Festival & Chili Cook-off
WHEN: 4 to 6 p.m.
WHERE: First, Omen

OCTOBER 29-30, 2016

Homecoming
WHEN: Oct. 29 @ 6 p.m.,
Oct. 30 @ 11 a.m.
WHERE: Union Baptist Church, Springtown
WHO: T.C. Melton, guest speaker
Lunch following, afternoon singing
Past pastors and members welcome

OCTOBER 31, 2016

BMA of Smith County
WHEN: Supper at 6 p.m.,
Meeting at 7 p.m.
WHERE: First Baptist Church, Omen

NOVEMBER 14, 2016

Baptist Progress & Ellis-Hill Baptist Association Ministry Connection Conference
WHEN: 2 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
WHERE: Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie
WHO: Pastor Jonathan Falwell, Dr. John Bisagno, Pastor Jerry Jolly, Brian Free & Assurance

NOVEMBER 15-16, 2016

Baptist Missionary Association
116th Annual Session
WHERE: Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE MINISTER

EDDIE BALLARD is available for pulpit supply. Contact him in Waxahachie at 936-635-4195.

DR. BLANTON FEASTER is available for pulpit/worship supply, as well as educational training. Contact him at 972-935-2986 or blantonfeaster@yahoo.com.

ROGER MANNING is available for service as pulpit supply, interim, or permanent pastoral duties. His injuries suffered in a motorcycle accident on Dec. 7 are healed and he is now anxious to serve and preach God's Word. Roger was ordained in the Southern Baptist denomination and has over seven years preaching experience. He lives in Waxahachie and can be reached at roger@rogermanning.com or by calling 402-510-3019.

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

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

PASTOR—O'Quinn, Pollok is seeking a full time pastor. Email resume to MLArnold1860@yahoo.com or mail to Marilyn Arnold 6630 FM 843, Pollok, Texas 75969.

PASTOR—Blackjack, Troup is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to the church at blackjackbaptistchurch@gmail.com or PO Box 605, Troup, Texas 75789. (Posted 9/15/16 3 mo.)

YOUTH—New Harmony, Tyler is seeking a full time youth minister. Talents or abilities desired. Education and experience in Theology and Counseling. Bilingual plus, but not required. Remit resume to New Harmony Baptist Church, 10251 FM 724, Tyler, Texas 75704, fax 903-593-2500, email nhbc@nhbc.us. For questions or information, call our office 903-593-5811.

10/19

YOUTH/STUDENTS—Farley Street, Waxahachie is seeking a student pastor. Send resume to resume@farleystreet.com. TFN

PASTOR—Lost Prairie, Groesbeck is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to 514 FM 3371, Groesbeck, Texas 76642. TFN

PASTOR—Bauman Road, Houston is seeking a pastor. Contact Danny Koonce at 281-652-7821 or dannykoonce@gmail.com. TFN

PASTOR—Opelika Missionary, Brownsboro is seeking a pastor. For more information, call 903-469-3692 or 903-515-2288. TFN

PASTOR—Enon, Iola is seeking a bivocational pastor. Parsonage available. For information, call 281-731-7850. TFN

PASTOR—Myrtle Springs, Quitman is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Myrtle Springs Baptist Church, 2185 FM 2225, Quitman, Texas 75783. TFN

COOKBOOK AVAILABLE

First, Omen WMA have cookbooks available for purchase for \$10 each to support the continuing work. The cookbook was put together by church members. To order, send your contact information and \$10 to First Baptist Church Omen, 17912 CR 285, Arp, Texas 75750.

CHURCHES IN REVIEW

SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	63	104	
First, Blooming Grove	200		
Glade Creek, Gilmer	17	41	
Harvest, Lufkin	55	65	
Jackson, Joaquin	72	128	
Little Flock, Lufkin	12	12	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	40	53	
Nat, Cushing	14	23	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		48	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	41	45	
Piney Creek, Kennard	15	26	
Rosewood, Gilmer	133	250	2 by letter

SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	58	96	
First, Blooming Grove	205		
First, Crandall	79	111	
First, Omen	39	69	
First, Palmer	64	108	1 by baptism
Glade Creek, Gilmer	19	40	
Harvest, Lufkin	50	65	
Jackson, Joaquin	79	124	
Little Flock, Lufkin	7	10	
Nat, Cushing	17	21	
New Hope, Mineola	52	122	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		48	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	37	45	
Pine Brook, Tyler	37	49	
Piney Creek, Kennard	13	26	
Rosewood, Gilmer	116	206	1 by baptism, 1 by letter
Round Prairie, Fairfield	97	213	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	26	42	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	14	18	

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

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Sunday School Lessons

2 Peter—Caution

By PAUL GAUNTT

TEXT: 2 Peter 1:16, 17; 2:1, 2; 3:10-14
THE WRITER

Peter introduces himself in his epistles, like Paul, declaring himself to be a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and wrote to “them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:1. He obviously was the author of the second letter (3:1)

He wrote this letter from Rome in probably 64-66 AD warning them of false doctrine being spread among them (2 Peter 2:1) which he affirms is one of the signs of the last days. (3:3)

THE WRITER'S EMPHASIS

Peter's purpose was to not only address the strife and dissension in the church, but to become grounded in doctrine and to walk in the knowledge of the Word in order to stand against false teachers. “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that brought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.” 2 Peter 2:1

He also emphasized the need to cease upon the

resource of God's divine power which enables them to live a mature, godly life. 1:3 It is available the moment one comes to know Jesus as Savior.

Peter admonished them to turn to God's Word for the means of spiritual growth (1:4; 19-21; 3:1-2, 14-16)

THE APPLICATION

Struggles are a very real fact of life, and it is imperative that each child of God. “Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the worked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Toi him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Paul issued a similar warning in Ephesians 5:15-16; “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

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.



1 John—Knowledge

By PAUL GAUNTT

TEXT: 1 John 2:3-5; 3:14, 19, 24; 4:2, 3; 5:13, 20

The book of 1 John, written by the Apostle John (the disciple whom Jesus loved) especially deals with the evidence of genuine saving faith and the God-given ability of his children to know that they have passed from death unto life. Paul re-affirms this “know so” salvation when he exclaimed, in 1 Corinthians 15:19, “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.”

Both the Apostle Paul and the Apostle John knew that the assurance of salvation was a great part of the overflowing joy a believer has while living in this moral body on earth.

John lists several factors which gives the believer in Christ that assurance.

1. Desire to keep His commandments: 1 John 2:3-5 The Amplified Bible paraphrases these verses saying that if we (habitually) keep his commandments - (obedience by being focused on His precepts) it is indication that we have passed from death unto life. It is a lifestyle. It is not to say we are immune to “slipping” occasionally, but when we do, that innate Force within us (the presence of the Holy Spirit) eventually drives us to confession and repentance.

2. Growing into maturity: Verse

5 says the genuine believer gradually advances into maturity and become more perfected in the love of God. Can you look back at your actions and habits of, say, 30 years ago and compare them with your walk today and see evidence of growth in the Lord? Paul admonishes us to “examine ourselves” continually. (1 Corinthians 11:28)

3. Love for the brethren: 1 John 3:14. A genuine believer has much in common with others who have been redeemed. To drawer into activities of lawless insolence by people of the world goes against the nature of the Spirit of God within. A true believer may lapse into such activities with unregenerate friends, but will be likely be overcome with conviction and shame.

4. Spirit of sacrifice: 1 John 3:16-18: A true believer is not content to just exercise mere lip service, but with compassionate, joyful action, seek to meet the needs of others. (James 2:16)

5. Acceptance of the Incarnation of Christ: 1 John 4:2 A genuine believer knows beyond a doubt, that Jesus Christ is God in the flesh — that God came to earth bodily in the form of the Son, Jesus Christ. To deny that blessed doctrine is to possess “the spirit of antichrist.” 1 John 4:3, Matthew 1:23;

OBITUARY

BERNICE DORA AYRES

Bernice Dora Ayres of Elmore City, Oklahoma was born to Thomas Oyama and Dorietta (Bratcher) Horn on March 20, 1938 in Vera, Texas and passed from this life on Sept. 21, 2016 at her home at the age of 78 years. Mrs. Ayres was the wife of Bro. Bobby Ayres, pastor of First, Alex, Oklahoma and mother of Bro. Thomas Ayres, pastor of Camille Acres, Longview. Memorial services will be Sunday, Oct. 9, 2016 at the Satterwhite Missionary Baptist Church and 10:00 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, 2016 at the First Baptist Church in Alex, Oklahoma. Arrangements are under the direction of Wooster Funeral Home. You may send a condolence to the family at www.woosterfuneralhomes.com.

WILLIAM L. “BILL” MIMS

William L. “Bill” Mims, 85, passed from this life Sept. 27, 2016. A celebration of life was Sept. 30, 2016, at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Jasper. Born in Jacksonville, and a former longtime resident of Navasota, he had lived the past 26 years in Jasper. A U.S. Air Force Veteran, Bill was a Baptist minister since April 4, 1964. Bill loved to preach and serve the Lord. He was also a longtime building contractor, building numerous church facilities in Texas. Bill was dedicated and devoted to his wife of 46 years, Grace, who predeceased him in 2015. Memorials may be made to the American Alzheimer Association at P.O. Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011.



What Happens To Your Gift to the BMA Foundation?

All gifts to the Foundation, except those designated for operating expenses, are placed in an endowment fund and invested for one or more of the BMA departments or agencies as specified by the donor. Income from the investments provides supplemental funding for those ministries until the Lord returns. Gifts of cash should be mailed to P.O. Box 1188, Conway, Arkansas 72033. Call the Foundation office at 501-329-6891 for more information on other ways to give.



Ministry is a mandate

By DR. MIKE SMITH

Jacksonville College President

God's call is foremost to Himself for salvation. That call for salvation came to me in 1961 at First Baptist Church Bellville. After salvation the call is for service. My basic call for service was to preach. I tried to refuse, offer excuses, and bargain with God, but in the end, I was like Jeremiah. Jeremiah 20:9 says, "Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay."

Like Peter and John when they were commanded to speak in Jesus's name, they said, "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:19-20).

At the age of 19, I started pastoring my first church at King Baptist church in Gatesville, Texas, while a student at Baylor University. That call of ministry has led me to 17 years as pastor of local Baptist churches in Texas, a church planter with the North American Mission Board in Illinois, 21 years as Director of Missions working with multiple Baptist churches in Baptist associations (two in West Texas and three in East Texas), 4 years as Director of the Minister/Church Relations Department of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, 8 years as a trustee on the International Mission Board serving as Vice President for 2 years, and finally, 5 years as President at Jacksonville College.

Today as President of Jacksonville College, I still preach and minister in local churches every week. I welcome every opportunity that a pastor of a local church gives me to preach the gospel and share the Jacksonville College story. Let me share some ways I would love to come and minister in your church and/or association:

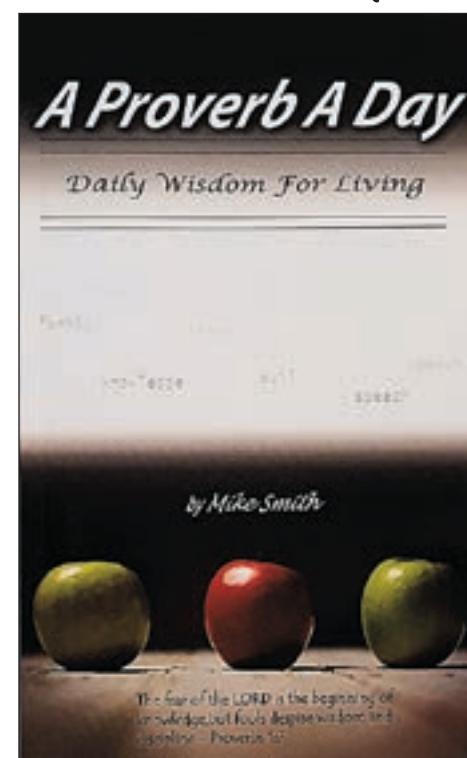
1. Preach on Sundays
2. Preach revivals
3. Teach Bible (This year I have prepared lessons on 2 Corinthians to be taught in a Sunday-Wednesday format.)
4. Conflict management training (1-hour, 2-hour, or 5-hour training)
5. Deacon training (1-hour overview or 3-hour training)
6. Church growth assessment and consultation
7. Jacksonville College Rally: I travel with the Jacksonville College Choir or ensemble who sing for twenty-five minutes, and I share about Jacksonville College for five minutes and preach for twenty minutes.
8. Train pastor search committees when a church is without a pastor
9. Speak at senior adult meetings
10. Speak to community organizations like Rotary or Lions Club

I have no set fees, and all honorariums that I receive go to Jacksonville College. For scheduling, you may contact me at 903.721.0279 or msmith@jacksonville-college.edu. Inviting me to speak in your church/association is a way to help Jacksonville College and allows me to fulfill my mandate to minister.

A Proverb a day

I was challenged as a youth to read one Proverb every day, and this is still an important part of my quiet time because I believe that a Proverb a day will keep the devil away. The Proverb I read each day corresponds with the day of the month, so I begin each month with Proverbs 1.

This summer I published "A Proverb a Day," a book of 31 devotions that offer practical advice based on biblical principles found in Proverbs. The book also includes personal stories and corny jokes. "A Proverb a Day" can be purchased for \$7.00 from the JC bookstore. Phone orders can also be taken. For more information, contact JC bookstore director Will Cumbee at (903) 589-7115 or wcumbee@jacksonville-college.edu. All proceeds go to Jacksonville College.



upcoming events

MANLEY DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

Wednesday, October 12 at 11:00 a.m. in Buckner Chapel

Speaker: Dr. Rick Rigsby, former Chaplain
for the Texas A&M football team

FALL THEATER PRODUCTION

Dear Liar

October 21-22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary S. Lewis Theater

Tickets: \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for students

REGISTRATION

October 17: Early registration for Winter 2016 begins

November 16: Early registration for Spring 2017 begins