

Baptist Progress

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Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames Brings Thousands to See Drama

By **BILLY R. PATTERSON**

There's an old saying, "Set a church on fire and people will come to see it burn." This proved to be true in Fairfield as the Christian drama 'Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames' was presented twelve times over the past three weeks by a local church's congregation.

"I'm a 60 year old pastor and I've never seen anything like this as long as I've been preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ," said Fairfield's Calvary Baptist Church pastor Terry Skinner.

What was originally planned to be only a three night presentation would end up encompassing three weeks of four performances each week. Members of the Calvary congregation played the different roles in the drama with Reality Outreach Ministries' Ty and Cindy Fisher, a husband and wife evangelist team from Cayuga, Texas, directing the thought-provoking and decision-prompting drama. The incredible gold and silver decorated stage included the gates to Heaven and a downward staircase to the pits of Hell. Angels and 'The Book of Life' were part of the set in every scene.

It is estimated that more than 5000 people watched the drama unfold as viewers were asked to consider the question 'If you were to die today, where would you spend eternity?' It's a question that is played out in numerous scenes on stage, all real-life dramatizations that people in the

audience might relate to: a mother who is begged by her young daughter to attend church with her, teenage drinking and driving, co-workers having lunch, a husband and wife on an airplane traveling home from vacation, teenagers taking drugs at a party, a two-vehicle accident. Each scene ends with the actors losing their lives. Some walk through the Gates of Heaven, but those not saved are dragged to Hell by Satan and his demons. Both are extremely emotional and powerful scenes.

The drama has been presented in more than 100 countries around the world and Reality Outreach Ministries has evangelist teams constantly in more than 40 countries. The powerful message drew people from as far away as two hundred miles from Fairfield. Many churches brought vans and even buses full of people. Freestone, Limestone, Leon, Anderson and Navarro counties were represented each of the twelve nights. Many other counties were represented as well.

Members of other local churches came to Calvary to assist in child care several nights. Many people came multiple nights and each night brought either family members or friends. One lady from Teague brought a total of 60 youth from her community during the three weeks of performances.

Each person who received Christ as their



savior or rededicated their life to Christ was given a Bible and other documents to explain 'what just happened and what happens now.' Calvary purchased 1,100 Bibles and printed more than 10,000 documents to give to those responding to the call. Less than 100 Bibles remained following the final presentation. When all twelve performances were concluded, Calvary recorded 549 people receiving Christ and 460 rededications. These numbers do not reflect those who perhaps didn't make a decision during one of the presentations, but did later as a result of seeing this life-changing drama unfold before their eyes at Calvary Baptist Church.

"Calvary has seen revival," said Skinner to his congregation Sunday morning. "Fairfield has been revived. Freestone County has been revived. Churches all around us have been revived and have either baptized or are planning to baptize the many who came forward during this event."

The local Calvary pastor encouraged his

congregation and other churches to "continue the revival" that began as a result of the drama 'Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames.' Calvary generally sees 100-150 hits on their web page. One week during the performance that number jumped to over 18,000.

Evangelist Ty Fisher stated to the audience after each performance "This isn't about growing Calvary Baptist Church. This is about growing the Kingdom of God!"

Mickey Worley commented on Calvary's web page "My youngest grandson and I attended the Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames drama on Monday night, August 3rd. The performance was great and best of all, Darrel Worley accepted Christ. Praise God! I am so happy he made this decision because he just signed up for active duty in the Navy. I was so proud to see him accept Christ. I love Calvary and I pray that this revival will continue and spread more and more. We as a nation need God very much right now."

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From the Editor

14 things NOT to say to your pastor

On his website, Dr. Thom Rainer listed 14 things one should never say to his or her pastor. After reading it, I took the liberty of providing some commentary to the items he listed. Dr. Rainer's listed items are in bold. The remaining comments are mine.

1. I wish I had a job like yours, where I would work only one day a week. Some people just want to be funny, and everyone should have a sense of humor. It has even been said that a pastor must develop a thick skin. I get that! However, some people really mean it when they make such a comment. Chances are no one in a pastor's congregation is responsible for preparing two to four speeches (sermons) each week. Few in the congregation are burdened by the sins they see committed by those of which they have oversight. Only a small number of church members have to make last minute changes to plans they have made with their family because they are needed. No pastor worth of his salt works only one day a week. Come to think of it, such a comment mentioned even in jest is not that funny, but rather insulting.

2. What do you do with all the free time you have? This comment is similar in nature to the one above.

3. Can I have a couple of minutes before you preach? Don't ever approach your pastor with a problem, complaint, last minute announcement, prayer request or any other matter just before he preaches. His mind is focused on preaching the Word of God to persons who need to be discipled and some who need to be saved. Don't break the pastor's concentration with trivial matters. If you have an announcement or a prayer request, write it down and hand it to the pastor. Don't expect him to remember it when he is about to take the pulpit.

4. I love you pastor, but _____ (fill in the blank). Forget everything after the word "but." If you either love your pastor or you don't. And, if you don't love your pastor, the problem lies within you, as the Lord has instructed us to love. Period!

5. I like your preaching, pastor, but I really like _____ (fill in the blank with television or podcast preacher). Why would such a statement even be necessary? Think before you speak!

6. Can your wife play piano? We laugh, but how many times has a pulpit committee asked a pastor candidate if his wife can play the piano? I actually know of a church that chose a candidate as pastor because the church desperately needed a pianist, and the candidate's wife happened to be one.

7. Your kids shouldn't behave that way. After all, they are pastor's kids. If you are not the pastor, then God has not assigned you with the task of monitoring the behavior of your pastor's children. That's his job.

8. Your low salary is good for you. It keeps you humble and dependent on the Lord. All that I can say to one who would make such a comment as this one is that he or she should really read God's Word more often. Here are a few suggested passages: Galatians 6:6, 1 Timothy 5:17-18, 1 Corinthians 9:9-14, 1 Corinthians 9:14, 2 Thessalonians 3:7-10, Acts 20:33-35, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, Philippians 4:16-19, Luke 10:7, 1 Corinthians 9:18-19, 2 Corinthians 11:7-9, Romans 4:4, Acts 4:32-35, Matthew 10:8-10, Acts 6:2, 1

Timothy 3:3. Wow! You didn't know there were so many passages in the New Testament about paying the pastor well, did you? Shame on the churches that make such comments as, "I believe we could get by with paying the preacher this amount." Such a comment is derived from an attitude of disobedience to God's Word. Do what God says and He will take care of the matter.

9. I bet you don't spend any time preparing your sermons. Why would anyone say such a thing?

10. Pastor _____ (predecessor pastor) didn't do it that way.

I once heard of a church member who approached his pastor and said, "When Bro. Jones was pastor, he always mowed the church lawn." The wise new pastor replied, "Yes, I've spoken with Bro. Jones, and he said that he doesn't want to that anymore." Church member, if the Lord expected your pastor to do things the exact same way as your former pastor, then your former pastor would probably still be your pastor. A pastor who arrives on the field in 2015 should not be expected to do things the way a pastor did them in 1975 or 1985 or even 2014. It's a new day. You have a new pastor. Follow his leadership as he follows the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

11. You don't have a real degree. You went to seminary. Are there people who have actually made such a comment?

12. How long do you think you'll be at our church? No pastor can promise you how long he will remain at your church? There are life circumstances and new assignments given by the Lord that are beyond a pastor's control. I personally do not believe that the Lord wants every man He calls as pastor to remain at the same church for the rest of his life. I find no evidence of this being God's will anywhere in scripture. Granted, it might very well be the Lord's will for some to stay at one church throughout their entire ministry. Some have, and in so doing they have been blessed and were a blessing. However, no such expectation should be placed on every pastor.

13. Did I wake you up pastor? It's only 1:00 a.m. Really??? While this comment may be listed in jest, I will say that I always told my church members to feel free to call me at any time, day or night, and I meant it. It was my pleasure to be called upon for spiritual guidance or comfort.

14. Did you hear what they are saying about you? Now this is one that gets to me. Some well-meaning church members love their pastor so much that they think they should run to him and tell him everything they've heard people say. Doing such a thing is seldom helpful, and most often hurtful to a pastor. Your pastor doesn't need to hear about negative comments. It is discouraging for your pastor to be told, "I heard John Doe say this or that." Rest assured that the Lord also heard John make that negative comment, and He will deal with ole John in due time.

In the next issue of *Baptist Progress*, I'm going to list some other dos and don'ts for church members. I pray that you will take them to heart.



▲ Jerry Fulton



Family Matters

Someone in your family is doing drugs, Part 1

By DR. TRAVIS PLUMLEE

Talk about a shock! When you first find out that someone in your family is doing drugs, you feel a whole range of emotions. You are stunned, overwhelmed, hurt, heartbroken, ashamed, guilt-laden, angry and depressed. It is like getting kicked in the gut. It is one of those “Oh no” days.

You may want to shout or you may just be stunned into silence. You may burst into tears. But when you discover a loved one is using or abusing drugs, it opens up a new chapter in the family life book for you. Almost every week, I have one to three families among what I would call my friends or acquaintances call me about finding out someone in their family is using drugs. They are in crisis mode, and do not know what to do. Here are some things to help you cope when this happens to you.

• **Move quickly away from guilt** — People are responsible for their own choices in life. I always tell parents who can't believe their child is using drugs, “Welcome to the typical Christian home of today!” About half of all Christian homes will experience someone in their home using drugs. All families will have someone during their lifetime in their extended family use drugs. It may be a cousin, or an in-law, but everyone has them.

You may not be aware of who it is in your family because sometimes people keep it a secret from other family members. But drugs are so pervasive that all families will have this problem. If you include alcohol, the most common drug in

America, about 90 percent of all homes will have someone who engages in this drug use.

Don't feel guilty. I know you do, and it isn't wrong to feel it. It is a natural, normal thing to occur. But you must move quickly beyond it to a more productive emotion. People make their own choices.

If you are an older adult and your adult child starts using drugs, you bear no responsibility. You raised them to know better, and they have made their own choice that goes against what you taught them. That is totally their responsibility.

If you have a child still living at home then, although it is a hard thing to come to grips with, yes, you as a parent do bear responsibility along with your child for the drug use. But even in this case, you have to move ahead on solving the problem rather than scraping your guts Part I Someone In Your Family Is Doing Drugs out forever over what you could have done differently.

You now have to get help, set boundaries etc. There are probably many things you could have done that might have helped, but none of this reflection will do one bit of good in moving your loved one toward healing. Let's get on with the answer.

• **Call Jesus first** — Before you call a therapist, a friend, a lawyer or whomever; you should follow Scripture as a Christian; and Matt. 6:33 tells us to seek God first, then He will take care of all of our needs. Don't worry or be anxious, but seek the Lord in prayer and He will give you peace (Phil. 4:6-7).

Jeremiah 33:3 reads, “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” If you call out to God, He will come to you. He doesn't consider or think about it, He just comes to you! And that is what you need right now — the presence of God. He will do great things for you. “For with God nothing shall be impossible” (Luke 1:37). “Nay in all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (Rom. 8:37).

This is not an irreversible, impossible problem for God; and with Christ, even a drug problem

can be conquered. There may be some hardships and some troubled days ahead, but we are more than conquerors through Christ.

• **Attitude is critical right now** — You are either going to fall apart or your family is going to hold together and grow stronger. This isn't your dream for this family member. If it is a spouse, you didn't think about this when you got married. If it is a child, you never dreamed of this when you held them as a newborn.

While this is not the life you wanted, it is the life you have. You have to live life on life's terms right now. You are not going to be victims to drug abuse, but victorious. You are not going to walk around at church seeking pity, but living in the power of Christ. That power is what will deliver your loved one from addictions.

Romans 8:28 tells us that “all things work together for good.” Satan wants this to destroy your family, but it can work so that God can get glory, your family be strengthened and you can all be closer than ever before.

So, let's have an attitude adjustment. I am not minimizing the seriousness of this problem, but you must believe, see and hope that from this crisis will emerge a new perspective on life. There will be a restructuring of the family, and you will all focus more on what truly are the priorities of life. Perhaps you have pursued the wrong things in your family in the past, and now God is going to give you a second chance to find redemption, healing and grace.

This is a growth opportunity and a grace event for the whole family. God's grace is getting ready to slosh out all over you because He has said His grace is sufficient to get you through the hard times of life. Sufficiency means nothing else is needed. We will look at treatment options in next week's column.

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



OBITUARY

Emily LaTrell Bateman, 84, who served with her husband, Bro. Jack Bateman, as a missionary to Taiwan for over 30 years, passed away Aug. 24, 2015 in Arlington. Her funeral was at 2 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 29, 2015 at Calvary, Arlington. A book about Mrs. Bateman's life, *The girl with the missionary heart: LaTrell Bateman of Taiwan* was written by Dr. John Duggar in 1975. A fund has been established by Calvary, Arlington to help with the Bateman family's expenses. Donations may be mailed to Calvary Baptist Church, 2101 S. Davis, Arlington 76013. Note “Bateman Aid Fund” on your check.



Church Health

Fake it till you make it

By LARRY BARKER

Once again, this all too familiar statement was made to me, “I’ll just fake it till I make it!” The transparency was refreshing but the reality of how often I have lived by the same motto convicted me. All too often we proceed ahead without knowing what we are doing, where we are going, how we will get there, and refusing to admit we need help. All we need is a little more time and we will figure it out? Maybe we will know where we are after two more right turns? If I act like I know what I’m doing maybe nobody will notice I don’t have a clue?

One of my favorite commercials is when an emergency occurs that requires the expertise of a doctor. Then the man helping is asked, “Are you a doctor?” To which he replies, “No, but I did stay at a Holiday Inn Express last night.” Unfortunately, not knowing what I am doing has never held me back. The temptation can be to never admit that we do not have all the answers and we have not figured everything out. That is why I am committed to being a lifelong learner. Somebody out there knows what I need to know and we should always be on the outlook for them.

Why do we “Fake it till we make it?” Could it be that we are afraid of what people might discover about us? Could we also be afraid that we are no longer the authority on the subject? Maybe we are people pleasers and so we are more focused on impressing them? Here are some attitudes and things that might be indicators that you are trying to fake it till you make it:

First, you think you must always have the answer! This is why I do not like playing Bible trivia games. It is a no-win situation for a preacher. If you win, “Well of course you did, you’re a preacher!” If you lose, “And you call yourself a preacher?” We do not have to always have the answer and we need to admit it when we don’t. If we are not careful we can be tempted to make up an answer instead of finding the real answer. One of the best things you can say is, “You know, I’m not sure on that but I will do my best to find out!”

Second, I know what I am doing! Sometimes we are afraid to admit that we do not have it all together and that we are in way over our heads. We may not know how to handle certain situations but there are people around us who do. Who is it that knows what you need to know? Who do you need to talk to that can help you to figure it out? First, ask the Lord! Ed Stetzer says it this way, “Wise planning is not what I decide and then ask God to bless it, but I ask God what He desires of me, and then I pursue it!”

Third, I don’t need anybody else. I can do this! Maybe you can, but that is never the best way because two are always



better than one. Tony Morgan has said, “A solo leader might draw a weekend crowd, but it takes a team to create healthy systems that foster sustained growth and opportunities for life change.” Should we be willing to do it alone if we have to? Definitely! Is that the best plan? Never! Be careful to not fall into the thinking that if you want it done right you have to do it yourself! If you do not have help now then begin training others so they can help.

Fourth, I’m tired of trusting people and getting burned! No doubt about it, people will let you down and disappoint you but it is worth the risk. Teamwork is messy and it takes.....work! It doesn’t just happen but you have to be willing to pour into other people’s lives without any guarantee it will ever be beneficial for you or your ministry. Paul said this, “Demas has forsaken me having loved this present world!” The very people with whom you spend a lot of time and invest the most in may walk away but it is still worth it!

Fifth, shouldn’t they know what we are doing by now! Maybe so, but remember, vision leaks. Communicate what the need is and what the job requires up front. Make it clear! D.A. Horton said, “Disappointment takes place when you

expect too much from someone you barely communicate with.” All too often we are guilty of placing people in positions without properly preparing them. Could it be that we are faking it till we make it because we were never trained either? In *Teams That Thrive* Ryan Hartwig and Warrin Bird say, “Less than 20 percent of leadership team leaders have received special training in how to lead teams.”

People appreciate transparency and authenticity. No one likes a fake even if they have the best intentions. They do love it when a leader says, “I need your help!” They want to know that it is not only their information and effort that matters but their opinions matter as well. Refuse to fake it till you make it!

Healthy leaders are real, authentic, and genuine!!!

Larry Barker is the operations director for North American Missions. For more information or to contact him, visit www.bmamissions.org.





Auxiliaries

Message from corresponding secretary, news from the districts

By SHARON COLE

A message from Texas WMA corresponding secretary, Jo Strong

Thanks to each WMA for sending in your offerings and reports so faithfully. The report forms are designed to send in quarterly along with your offerings. If you have received the Texas WMA mail-out packet by regular mail, please consider changing to e-mail to save money. You can mark that on your next report or just e-mail me and ask to be changed to e-mail. If your WMA did not receive a packet, contact me: Jo Strong; 149 Suzanne Terrace, Burlison, Texas 76028; 817-480-0888. Report forms are also available on our Texas WMA website and there is a lot of other valuable information on our website: www.texaswma.com.

Alicia Johnson, Texas WMA Historian is also our webmaster and you can contact her at: saliciajohnson@yahoo.com or phone-903-589-0086 if you have any questions about the website. She has all of our Texas WMA officers listed there along with district information, project information, as well as for GMA and Sunbeams. Please check it out.

Another source of information for Texas WMA is Baptist Progress. It is published on the first and third Wednesday of each month. We have a page in each issue that keeps you up to date on what is going on all over the state in our auxiliaries. Sharon Cole is the Editor of that page and you can contact her at: s9co@aol.com or 903-315-8919.

If you have local or district events to announce, WMA programs, GMA coronation/presentation programs, Sunbeam Star Award programs, retreats, missions fair programs, etc., please contact Sharon. This page belongs to the Texas WMA and is how we share what is happening around the state to encourage each of our Auxiliaries to continue in serving the Lord.

A word about reporting: There are several churches that send in their money with no report. Please include a report so that we can keep up to date information on your auxiliary and know if the money you send is for General Fund or the Project. If no instructions are written on the check, the money is applied to the General Fund. I also receive money for other causes, like the Texas Baptist Home for Children, State Missions, Jacksonville College and National WMA. Please send me only money for Texas WMA, either General Fund or Project.

With the multi-split checks I must write a check to whatever department it is designated. This delays your money getting to these other great causes. We do not keep records of those donations. Only Texas WMA offerings are recorded.

We are behind in what we had received for our project last year so please keep sending offerings so that we can reach our goal of \$15,000. The total given so far to the Project is \$5,722. The general fund pays for all of our postage and printing of periodic mail-outs, our page in Baptist Progress, officer expenses, supplies and salaries, speakers for our Ladies' Retreat and State meetings, and any other expense deemed necessary by the officers. None of our project money goes into the General Fund. It comes by donation only. When you send money for the project, please send money for the general fund also to help with the various expenses. Please contact any of the officers if we can be of any help to your auxiliary.

DISTRICT NEWS

Liberty District WMA met at Coffeerville, Ore City, July 11, 2015. Sixty two people were present. President Glenda Chamberlain called the meeting to order and presented a

devotional. We praised the Lord that our year-to-date total for the project has reached \$5,000, far exceeding our goal of \$1,800. Next year's meetings will be at Enon, Gilmer in October; Fellowship, Pittsburg in January; Little Mound, Big Sandy in April; Rosewood, Gilmer in July. Annual award presentations were made to Sunbeams by Shirley Hoffpaur. Their theme this year was Super Heroes. GMA presentations were made by Roxanne O'Connor. Al Walker, a 30-year sponsor, spoke about Galileans. The new officers were installed and everyone enjoyed a pasta, salad and dessert luncheon served by the host church.

PROFILES OF VIRTUE

"Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies." The most important thing we can do as a Christian is study God's Word. Bookstore shelves are packed with Bible study books that are very good, but are you looking for a study book that is different, unique and full of the core values that a Christian needs to be all that you can be for Christ? Profiles of Virtue is the book for you. Written by Mrs. Jackie Blackerby Ricks, the book is based on the study of Proverbs 31:10-31. Several Bible women are highlighted throughout the book with parts of their life compared to the virtuous woman's characteristics. As you read the verses that describe the virtuous woman you may think, how can I measure up to even half of what she did? Because we are all human and the women of the Bible were too, we all have sin in our lives and we can't possibly do all of those things. But, we should all strive to be like this woman that is illustrated in Proverbs in our attitude, actions and what we say. When we fail to measure up to even our own expectations, we shouldn't give up trying. We should seek God's guidance and continue to follow Christ to the best of our knowledge and ability. Prayerfully consider studying this book individually or as a group. To order this book contact Jackie at jdricks@att.net or call 903-245-5715, or check out her web page at amazon.com/author/jackiericks or her Facebook page under Jackie Ricks. Purchase directly from her for \$10. Shipping for 1 or 2 is \$5. Digital books can be purchased from Amazon.com for \$2.99. Also Mrs. Ricks is working on a new book "Add To Your Faith," based on the WMA Motto. Plans are to have it ready by November. Contact her by e-mail, by phone, or text to discover all the available books that she has written for your enjoyment and inspiration.



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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.



East Texas Missions District breaks ground

By NICK KERRY

What is the East Texas Missions District? We are glad you asked. The East Texas Missions District (ETMD) is currently composed of BMA churches in Cherokee, Smith, Wood, and Van Zandt counties. The ETMD focuses on local missions in East Texas. Right now, they have two main missions projects: the Association of Baptist Students (ABS) at Tyler Junior College and the Centro De Vida (Spanish Mission) in Tyler.

The ABS is a student ministry led by director Keith Brown. Students come to the student center for study, fellowship, free lunches (High Noon Lunch on Mondays) and Bible studies. This is a great ministry reaching the students at Tyler Junior College.

The Spanish Mission is a mission church for Spanish speaking people in the Tyler Area. The Spanish mission has outgrown their old building and have been in need of new facilities. They set out to raise money for a new building and raised over a \$100,000 for the project. With the support of the ETMD and a State Missions donation of \$200,000, the Spanish Mission is excited to begin construction on their new facilities. The groundbreaking was Aug. 15, 2015. Forty six people were present for the special occasion. The project is possible due to the help of many people.

Bro. Kenneth Cline, member of Red Springs, Tyler and a civil engineer, has spent countless hours working on plans and designing the 120 x 60 building that will house the sanctuary, fellowship hall, nursery, office and classrooms. The facility will much better meet the need of the mission and give them an opportunity to grow. We are praying for the Kingdom of God to advance because of the effort of this new project.

If you can help in any way with donations of money or construction needs please contact Nick Kerry at 903-714-5921.



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Chapman Park
Brown St
Farley Street Baptist Church

Cleaver 50th Anniversary



▲ 1965

On August 29, Tony and Jerrie Sue Cleaver celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The Cleavers were married August 29, 1965, in Jacksonville, Texas. The Cleavers have called Killeen home since the Army brought them here in 1983. Chaplain (LTC Ret) Cleaver served as an Army chaplain, a public school teacher and counselor, a community college counselor, and is currently Director of Distance Education and Professor of Biblical Literature for the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. Mrs. Cleaver is a credentialed health information management administrator and has been affiliated with Central Texas College since 1983. Until last year she served as the Chair of the Office Technology Department and now is a professor in that department. The Cleavers have two children,



▲ 2015

Amelia Hartman and husband Michael of Dallas and son Max and wife Brandie of Richmond, Texas. They have four grandchildren, Elliot and Silas Hartman of Dallas and Eli and Ava Cleaver of Richmond. To celebrate this anniversary, the Cleavers took a family cruise to Alaska in June and were honored with a reception in Killeen in July. On their actual anniversary, they attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for their oldest grandson Elliot Hartman.

Please let me know if any other detail is needed. Thank you for your consideration.

Tony Cleaver
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Little Story, Big Truth Launch Kit Focuses on Parables

DiscipleGuide
CHURCH RESOURCES

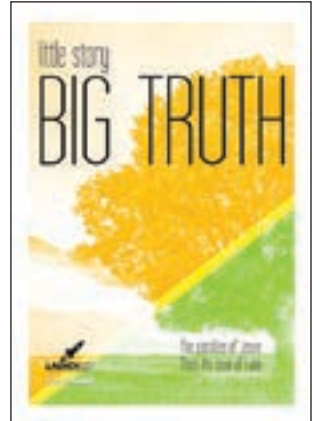
One of the main focuses of Jesus' life on earth was teaching. He taught his main twelve disciples, his extended group of followers, and the mass crowds who flocked to hear him speak and perform miracles. On several occasions, Jesus used short, fictional stories, called parables, to communicate huge, foundational truths. Why did Jesus teach through parables? Because we relate to stories.

In this five-week Launch Kit called Little Story, Big Truth, students will discuss God's forgiveness, what God really thinks of us, how to truly love others, what to do with what God has given us, and how to pray by focusing in on five parables found in the book of Luke.

Launch Kits are lesson plans for student pastors, small group leaders, volunteers, and parents that are easy to use.

Lessons are designed to ignite a conversation around Scripture as students discuss their faith in a life-changing way. Each Launch Kit is crafted for use with middle-school through high-school age youth. Since Launch Kits are conversation-based, the lessons do not have student handouts

or worksheets. Instead, they contain a leader discussion guide that steers conversation toward living out genuine faith and a life centered on Scripture.



Launch Kits are sold per series and the cost is based on the number of weeks in the series. Once churches or individuals buy a series, they own it and may reproduce as many copies as they wish.

Each series has been written and developed by Stephen Castleberry, a student pastor at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas, where the lessons have been used with great success.

Find the growing Launch Kit series and an introductory video at DiscipleGuide.org under "shop," then "students," then "Launch Kit."

NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

Hilton Convention Center, Branson, Missouri
October 28-30, 2015
Details & Registration - discipleguide.org/nsa - 501-205-8753

Richard Smith Speaker
Antioch Vocal Band Concert
Gordon Mote Concert
SIX Branson Show
Triumphant Quartet Concert
Shelby Race Worship

Sponsored by CENTRAL

PASTORS OASIS

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OCTOBER 5-7, 2015

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BMA of America News

DiscipleGuide

CHURCH RESOURCES

Lifeway's Dance to be keynote speaker for Great Escape 2015

By **TRICIA KIMBROW**

DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry

DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry, along with sponsor Central Baptist College, is pleased to announce the details of Great Escape 2016. Planned as a “getaway” cruise experience for youth/children’s leaders and spouses, Great Escape also offers inspirational and instructional training for both paid and volunteer staff.

Great Escape 2016 keynote speaker will be Dr. Mark Dance. Mark served as senior pastor of Second Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas, from 2001 to 2014. Under his leadership, the church completed a relocation to a fifty-acre campus and repurposing of the former church location into the Ministry Center, an evangelical non-profit designed to serve those with material needs while also providing for their spiritual needs.

During his ministry in Conway, Mark served as trustee for Lifeway Christian Resources, chaplain of the Conway Police Department, and mission team leader to more than two dozen countries. Mark has earned Bachelor of Business Administration, Master of Divinity, and Doctor of Ministry degrees.

In 2014, Dance was named Lifeway’s Pastor Advocate, and in 2015 he and his wife Janet relocated to Nashville, Tennessee. The focus of his new role is helping pastors lead healthy lives and ministries, in season and out of season.

During the cruise, Mark will lead multiple sessions on the theme “Homework.” According to Terry Kimbrow, President of Central Baptist College and host of Great Escape 2016, “Mark is one of the most dynamic young pastors I have ever met. He is a dedicated man of God, and he is given to transparency and integrity.” In addition to scheduled teaching times, informal roundtable discussions will complement the instructive sessions. “The focus is to help student leaders build a healthy life in and away from ministry,” said Kimbrow.

The Great Escape cruise will depart from Galveston, Texas, aboard Carnival Freedom on Saturday afternoon, January 16 at 4 p.m. and return to the same port on Thursday, January 21 at 8:30 a.m. and include ports of call in Progreso, Yucatan and Cozumel, Mexico.

DiscipleGuide has secured rates starting at \$279 plus \$54 tax and fees per person for an inside cabin. In addition, DiscipleGuide’s early registration fee is only \$60 per person if paid by November 16, 2015.

Don’t miss this one of a kind event! For complete details or to register online, go to www.DiscipleGuide.org/thegreatescape. Visit Carnival website at www.Carnival.com to view all the details of the cruise itinerary and amenities of the Carnival Freedom. For general questions about Great Escape, call Tricia at DiscipleGuide at 501.205.8753 or contact her via e-mail at pkimbrow@discipleguide.org.

Lifeworld

MEDIA MINISTRIES

A twenty year legacy

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

Lifeworld

Almost twenty years ago, Peruvian Paul Tinoco heard a Lifeworld Spanish broadcast, El Contacto Cristiano and was so “moved by the preaching, the type that makes you feel a fire burning inside,” that he wrote a letter to Lifeworld. After receiving Tinoco’s letter, Ricky Robinson reached out to the late James (Jimmy) Swindoll, who at that time was the nearest BMA missionary serving in Bolivia, and asked him to visit Tinoco, who was touched by Swindoll’s personal, follow-up visit.

Later, Swindoll and missionary Jerry Kidd returned to Peru to meet Tinoco. In the following years, American missionaries Marvin Lloyd and Thom South and Bolivian missionary David Flores took part in the ordination of Paul Tinoco as pastor and missionary. At some point during the two decades that followed, David Dickson (Puerto Rico) continued to oversee and encourage the growing Peruvian work.

Two decades later in July of this year, Luis Ortega was able to witness God’s work in Peru through Paul Tinoco when they served alongside a Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) team in several villages, including the community of Picoy. The mayor of Picoy was among those who made professions of faith. An enthusiastic new convert, his salvation put him in a particularly difficult position in his largely syncretistic (merging of several religions) tribe, because every year one of his major duties is to fundraise for and plan a large pagan worship celebration for the community, a celebration that now goes against his Christian faith.

Following his conversion, a dialogue began with the mayor as a result of this collaborative team effort, and he offered a piece of land to Lifeworld for the installation of a Community Radio (LPFM) station. The granting of permits and licenses is necessary for this small radio station, which will complement the ministry of local BMA missions that is reaching out to the community of Picoy with evangelism and discipleship.

Lifeworld’s involvement in Peru is continuing to expand beyond Picoy. During Luis’ travels in Peru with Paul Tinoco, the Asháninkas, a native tribal group, requested the installation of Lifeworld radio stations for their villages. Tribal leaders of the Asháninkas indicated that there are more than 100 communities (of people in that tribe) up and down the river and throughout the Peruvian jungles and mountains. Lifeworld and BMA Peru are in dialogue about further partnerships to reach out to this people group, which is perhaps the second largest (after the Quechua) in Peru.

God has blessed the work in Peru, which began with Bro. Paul Tinoco’s letter to Lifeworld and continues through the efforts of BMA Missions and Lifeworld. It is a twenty-year legacy of faith, collaboration and prayer.

Please join Lifeworld in prayer for the following: partnerships with the Ashaninkas, the newly-converted mayor of Picoy, permits and licenses that need to be granted, and plans for Community Radio to come to fruition within a year. As always, Lifeworld’s desire is that more people will profess Jesus as Lord, become disciples, then disciple-makers.



BMA of America News



BMA of America Missions seeks to honor former missionaries to Taiwan

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

Lifeword National Walk for the World Coordinator

Note: We regret to inform you of the passing of Mrs. Latrell. This article was written prior to her passing and still wanted to publish it to honor her and her family.

Jack and LaTrell Bateman are iconic in BMA Missions history. This faithful and loving couple served for 37 years in and around Taipei, Taiwan. Another longtime BMA missionary, special friend and colleague of the Batemans, Dale Thornton, offered us the following sketch of their life and ministry:

“Jack and LaTrell Bateman were pioneer BMAA missionaries. They were among the first group of missionaries sent out by the association after it was organized in 1950. First, there was Bro. and Mrs. Harold Morris to Brazil, followed by Bro. and Mrs. Z. T. Rankin to Japan and then in November of 1953 Jack and LaTrell left for faraway Taiwan (then called Formosa).

Jack and LaTrell going as a team to Taiwan was in itself a miracle. Jack was born in Tientsin, North China to an American father and a Chinese mother. His father died there and Jack and his brother and sister were caught up in the war with Japan. They were taken by a single American missionary, John Blalock, first to the Philippines. They were captured there by the Japanese and spent three years in a Japanese POW camp. After the war Jack went on to California, where he was saved, and then on to Texas to study at Jacksonville College.

LaTrell was saved when she was nine and surrendered to foreign missions when she was thirteen. She had a burning desire to go to China as a missionary and studied everything she could about China and the Chinese in Lubbock, where her family were members of Central Baptist Church. Then the pastor's son went to Jacksonville College and he reported that he had found LaTrell a “real live Chinaman” who could teach her Chinese. And the rest is history: After a yearlong courtship, they were married in 1950 and then sent out as BMAA missionaries in 1953.

Dr. John W. Duggar wrote two short books about the Batemans. The first, *Two for God*, was written about the early years of their ministry in Taiwan. The second, *The Girl with the Missionary Heart*, was published in 1975 as LaTrell's testimony of her call to missions. Even though the Batemans have been retired as missionaries to Taiwan since 1990, their ministry lives on through the souls they won and the churches they planted. They have continued to actively serve the Lord. Bro. Jack at 86 still drives to a small Chinese church in Plano and preaches there once a month. LaTrell, because of failing health, has been limited in what she can do. She is looking forward to going to her eternal, heavenly home.

Dr. Duggar, in the last paragraph of *Two for God* wrote these words: “The influence of these two lives for God will live on and on. Their work in far-off Formosa will never be finished. Not only did they give their hearts to the cause of foreign missions, but they gave their very lives on the field itself. They have been the means of reaching many for Christ, and only time will tell and eternity will reveal how many people will eventually be saved as a result of their witnessing to the few who in turn witnessed to others. Jack and LaTrell Bateman, we count you as two of the greatest missionaries that God ever willed to preach and teach the unsearchable riches of Christ Jesus in a land where millions had never heard of Him. Because Christ lived in you.”

The BMAA Missions office would like to honor the Batemans for their years of faithful service by encouraging churches and individuals to send a love offering in their honor. You may send your gift to Calvary Baptist Church at 2101 South Davis, Arlington, Texas 76013. Please mark your funds with “Jack and LaTrell Bateman.” If you have any questions, you may contact the BMAA Missions Department or Pastor Jerry Phillips at 469-964-4600. We praise the Lord for the legacy of Jack and LaTrell Bateman.

BMA Missions announces change in MLM

By **PAIGE WEST**

BMA of America Missions

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—BMA Missions announces a change in the international literature ministry. Over the past few years, a new vision for international print ministry has taken shape. Under the present system, the donation of used literature has benefited primarily one country (Ghana) out of the 82 nations where BMA Missions is present. The ever-increasing cost of shipping, in connection with distribution difficulties, demanded a new approach. The BMA Ghana National Council, pastoral leadership in the three key regions of Ghana, and BMA America missionaries in the country were all involved in this decision.



Yes, this does mean that BMA Missions is no longer accepting used literature. We encourage you to seek other ministries that could use the literature. If nothing else, we encourage you to recycle the paper.

MLM (Missionary Literature Ministry) director Phil Knott elaborated on the new approach to missionary print ministry, “As with Missionary Literature Ministry projects in Latin America and Asia, a major shift is underway in how Christian literature, Gospel tracts, and other materials are published and distributed in Africa. One of the most important changes is “on demand printing” which more effectively meets local needs and fosters more ownership and sustainability. There are several options available and BMA Missions personnel are working diligently with local leadership to develop the most effective means.”

The new approach emphasizes partnerships with national associations to help produce and print literature in their respective countries. This will allow for much greater stewardship as much more literature can be produced with available funds instead of spending large amounts to ship used literature. It also fosters the participation of the national associations in the process.

Knott added, “Missionary Literature Ministry is still very much at work editing, producing and publishing materials in Mexico, Central and South America, Southeast Asia, Brazil, Portugal, Ghana, and the U.S. A Spanish language resource site is available online at www.bmamissions.org/americalatina.”

This new vision for MLM is bolstered by the tireless work of Belinda Caudle in Latin America, a new initiative in Southeast Asia through the printing ministry of BMA Philippines, and your continued support to help produce needed literature in many more countries. Thank you for your support of MLM. Let's all pray that many additional countries will benefit from this needed ministry!



We proudly announce the
August 2015 graduation
of Blanton Feaster from
Dallas Baptist University
achieving his
Doctor of Philosophy
in Leadership Studies

Dr. Feaster is the education pastor of Farley Street, Waxahachie.

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 12-16, 2015

Eternity: The Ultimate Experience
A Dramatic Production
About Life After Death
@ Farley Street, Waxahachie
7 p.m.
For more information,
call 972-935-0000.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2015

75th Anniversary
@ Central, Mineola

SEPTEMBER 20, 2015

79th Anniversary Homecoming
@ Woodland, Gilmer (6049 FM 3358)
Message by Jim Crump
9:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Dinner at noon in the Fellowship Hall
and Singing: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 11, 2015

Liberty Association Annual Meeting
@ First, Judson (3 p.m.)
First Session Speaker:
Charles Johnson
Dismiss for Supper (5 p.m.)
Begin second session (6 p.m.)
Second Session Speaker:
Randy Stracener

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

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

PASTOR—Anthony Drive, Ennis is seeking a fulltime pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 9, Ennis, Texas 75120 or adbc@sbcglobal.net.

PASTOR—New Beginnings Bible, Ferris is seeking a fulltime pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 558, Ferris, Texas 75125. 10/21

PASTOR—Lake Highlands, Sulphur Springs is seeking a fulltime pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 441, Sulphur Springs, Texas 75483-0441. TFN

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. TFN

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. TFN

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. 11/4

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. TFN

AVAILABLE MINISTERS

STEVEN MARSH is available to serve as a bivocational pastor. He is a member of Farley Street, Waxahachie. Contact him at 972-935-0009, sportsfan8019@yahoo.com or 315 Choctaw Trail, Waxahachie, Texas 75165. 9/16

DR. BOBBY ADAMS is available for pulpit supply or to serve as interim pastor. Contact him at 972-342-3085.

SPECIAL PROGRAM

DR. COY QUESENBURY has prepared a one hour program about the amazing work of God through the life of Dr. Harold Voelkel. While in the Army in Korea, Dr. Quesenbury met Dr. Voelkel, a missionary, who won thousands to the Lord, and influenced history. Voelkel ministered for over 30 years to North Korean prisoners of war. When Quesenbury met him, more than 100 of the former POWs had become pastors of South Korean churches. In his presentation, Quesenbury talks about Voelkel's ministry, some interesting views of the Korea of 55 years ago, and how the work of this missionary helped influence the peace talks that ended the war. If interested, contact Dr. Coy Quesenbury at 817-480-9681.

PASTOR'S LIBRARY FOR SALE

APPROXIMATELY 600 VOLUMES FOR SALE—Dr. Bobby Adams has an approximate 600 volume pastor's library for sale. If interested, contact him at 972-342-3085.

CHURCHES IN REVIEW

SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	63	101	
Cedar Creek, Teague	16	26	2 By letter
Farley Street, Waxahachie	467	607	5 By letter
First, Omen	41	42	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	18	48	
Jackson, Joaquin	82	144	
Little Flock, Lufkin	10	15	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	43	53	
New Harmony, Tyler	330	436	
New Hope, Mineola	64	133	3 By Baptism, 3 By letter
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	41	41	
Pine Brook, Tyler	37	75	
Pine Forest, Huntington	32	35	
Rosewood, Gilmer	123	206	1 Profession
Security Calvary, Cleveland	17	39	
Temple, Mexia	32	44	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	14	18	

SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Cedar Creek, Teague	13	24	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	544	612	1 Profession
First, Blooming Grove	232		
First, Crandall	63	97	2 By Statement
First, Omen	40	75	1 Profession
First, Palmer	37	62	
Lake Highlands, Sulphur Springs	107	169	4 By letter
Little Flock, Lufkin	12	20	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	46	59	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	14	15	
New Harmony, Tyler	325	424	2 By Baptism
Pine Brook, Tyler	44	82	
Pine Forest, Huntington	40	53	
Rosewood, Gilmer	128	238	2 By Letter, 1 By Baptism, 1 Profession
Temple, Mexia	35	54	
Tundra, Canton	81	100	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	12	21	

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

CHURCH CHANGES

FREEDOM, WEATHERFORD has voted to disband as a local church.

PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

DR. BOBBY ADAMS has resigned as pastor of New Beginnings Bible, Ferris.

ANDY COMER has resigned as pastor of Davis Street, Sulphur Springs.

KEITH PRATHER is the new pastor of Forest Hill, Quitman.

BILL STRICKLAND has resigned as pastor of Freedom, Weatherford.

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Sunday School Lessons

Genesis beginnings

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: September 6, 2015

TEXT: Genesis 1:1, 2, 26, 27; 3:1, 7, 15, 12:1-3; 49:1, 2

THOUGHT PRIMER

Mortal beings, all wild life, plant life, and inventions of man have had a beginning—a starting point. But Genesis talks about not just any old beginning, but THE beginning—the starting point of the heavens, the earth and all contained therein. Genesis is the beginning of time—of all substance—all life. And it all began with just a word from the Creator.

This lesson and the 65 lessons to follow, shall be a survey of each book of the Bible. Beginnings is a great to begin.

STUDY

Genesis 1:1: Two major truths come from the first verse of Genesis—(1) The Creator has no beginning, and (2) the beginning of time and “existence” was spoken by the Creator. It is difficult to fathom the idea of a Being having no beginning, but it is confirmed throughout scripture. “But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children’s children.” Psalm 103:17.

Genesis 1:2: The earth was without form and void—it is described by one writer as “an empty waste.” Matthew Henry describes it as confusion, disorder and emptiness. The spirit of God “hovered” and “brooded” over the waters. This condition ended when God’s Spirit engulfed it and caused light.

Genesis 1:26-7: After God spoke wildlife into existence, He created, in His own image, man by taking a lump of clay and breathing His own divine breath into it, making man a living soul. He created them, as with all wildlife, male and female. Man has a marked distinction above every other living creature on earth, in that he is (1) a living soul - he has that component which is designed to commune with his Creator. (2) earthly authority—he controls over every other

living thing, as prescribed by his Creator.

Genesis 3:1: Satan appears in the perfect place, Eden, created by God, for the enjoyment of Adam and Eve. Satan is subtle, he poses questions which raise suspicion; he accuses the integrity of the Creator; and he lies to Adam and Eve.

Genesis 3:7: After partaking of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, expressly forbidden of God, Adam’s and Eve’s eyes were opened—they became cognizant of the marked contrast between good and evil; no longer did they live in a perfect state of innocence as God had so ordered. They sought, by fleshly means, to cover their nakedness.

Genesis 3:15: God pronounced a curse upon Satan. This verse reveals that the crucifixion of Christ is the beginning of the undoing of the wicked one. Satan uses the agents of the unbelieving Jews, Romans, and reprobates, including Judas, to “bruise the heel” of Christ on the cross—but that momentous event crushed the head of the evil one.

Genesis 12:1-3: God commends Abraham: He singled him out from everyone in Haran to be the leader of His chosen people: He commands Abraham: “Get thee out of thy country (Haran) He makes a promise to Abraham—to make him a great nation—to give him a great land, and to protect his people from their enemies.

APPLICATION

The earth was formless, dark and full of disorder—that is until the Spirit of God touched it with light and His presence—A life, void of Christ is formless, dark, chaotic, until Jesus speaks life into it. There would be absolutely no creation separate and apart from the power and presence of the great Creator, God, our Heavenly Father.

CHALLENGE

Always embrace and believe God’s word about creation. All creation could not have come into being unless an eternal Being spoke it into existence.

Exodus—Liberation

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: September 13, 2015

TEXT: Exodus 1:13, 14; 2:10; 3:7, 8; 6:6; 12:26, 27; 20: 1-3

THOUGHT PRIMER

This lesson concerning the experiences of the Israelites from bondage in Egypt, to wilderness wanderings, to ultimately inhabiting the land God promised them, reminds me of the song by Babbie Mason:

- God is too wise to be mistaken
- God is too good to be unkind
- So when you don’t understand
- When you don’t see His plan
- When you can’t trace His hand
- Trust His heart.

The Israelites, much like we believers today, who sometimes waiver in our faith, needed to heed the message of this song.

STUDY

Exodus 1:13, 14—The Egyptians were threatened by the growth of the Israelite population. So they forced them into slavery, and for 430 years, the Israelites suffered unmercifully at the hand of the Egyptians, making them work to build Egyptian cities. The more the Israelites suffered, the more they flourished.

Exodus 2:10—God miraculously protected the newborn Moses from being executed by Pharaoh, whose mission was to kill all first-born males. Moses’ mother, Jochebed, exercised great faith by turning him loose in the edge of the Nile River to protect him from the king. Ironically, God allowed Pharaoh’s daughter, to find the baby—who in turn, chose Jochebed to raise her own son for her. Spending his boyhood years in Pharaoh’s court, he acquired great knowledge of the Egyptian political system and culture, better preparing him to serve God in a very strategic way—to ultimately lead the Israelites out of

bondage.

Exodus 3:7, 8—God reveals Himself to Moses through a dried up, burning bush, which would not burn out. It was a Holy place—a place so Holy, Moses was summoned to take off his sandals. Any place where God meets with His children is Holy Ground.

God told Moses of His plan for him to lead His oppressed people out of Egypt. Moses protested, “Who am I?” God’s answer was, “. . . I will be with thee.”

Exodus 6:6—Moses was merely in God’s hand—God is the One Who devises the plan and brings the plan to pass. “. . . I will bring you in unto the land, . . . I am the Lord.”

Exodus 12:26, 27—This passage is a beautiful type Christ’s shed blood for the remission of sin. The Lord sent the death angel over Egypt to smite the first-born of every household, and cattle. But Israelites were spared this tragedy by striking the lintel and two sides of the doorposts of their houses. When the death angel saw the blood, he passed by. Hence, the initiation of The Passover.

Exodus 20:1-3—“The Lord delivered His people—and gave them the the Law.

APPLICATION

God’s plan to liberate His people is perfect. He is faithful to carry His plan through—all His people are required to do is revere the Lord, trust Him, and walk in obedience to Him.

CHALLENGE

Whenever God the Father requires an impossible task from you, remember, the task is not impossible with Him.

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





The Beginning

By DR. MIKE SMITH

The idea for Jacksonville College was launched in January 1899 in a pastor's home after prayers and a collection of \$23.00 was taken. Later in the spring, The East Texas Educational Society was formed. In June 1899, they applied for a charter for Jacksonville College and in July 1899, eighteen acres were bought for the construction of the College. The purpose of founding the College was to provide an education for the Youth of East Texas. Ever since 1899, Jacksonville College has ministered for Christ under "One Name, One Location, and One Purpose." While the College has experienced many difficult years, JC has also received many blessings.

Jacksonville College is the only two year, faith based college left in the state of Texas. Other such colleges have closed their doors as community colleges have opened up throughout Texas. These community colleges receive local tax support as well as state and federal financial assistance. Jacksonville College does not receive any local tax dollars. JC is dependent upon God and His people, churches, and Associations for support. This financial base has decreased in recent years as churches have closed and/or decreased in size and giving ability. Jacksonville College also depends upon student enrollment and upon each student paying for his or her education.

We have had to make some changes to meet the demands of providing a quality education that challenges minds and transforms lives. We need your prayers, we need your financial gifts, and we need you to help us recruit students for Jacksonville College.

We are the only Christian junior college in Texas, and even as the culture around us rejects God's authority, we remain dedicated to promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Word of God in all that we do and teach. As the new semester begins, please pray for the faculty, staff, and students of Jacksonville College.

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



▲ Jag Jam 2015: Students in dark blue are some of the freshman who attended JC Freshman Orientation, and students kneeling on the front are JC student volunteers.



▲ After JC faculty and staff were introduced during the first Chapel service of Fall 2015, attendees joined in prayer for the new semester.



▲ Students enjoying singing during the first Chapel service of the semester.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 6

- 9:30 a.m. JC Choir sings at Humble Area's First Baptist Church
- JC Choir sings the national anthem at the 1:10 Houston Astros game at Minute Made Park
- 6:00 p.m. JC Choir sings at First Baptist Church New Caney