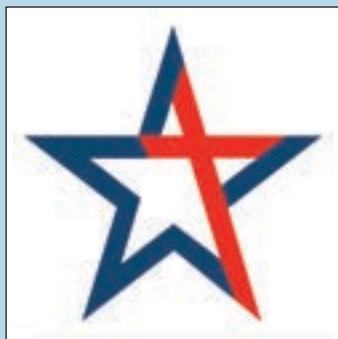


# Baptist Progress

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## INSIDE



PAGE 6  
BMA TEXAS MISSIONS



PAGE 7  
CHANGEMAKER 100



PAGE 12  
JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

# EXCITING NEWS from BMA Seminary

By **DR. PHILIP ATTEBERY**  
*BMA Seminary Dean*

We are pleased to announce that BMA Seminary has been ranked the **#1 most affordable online Christian college**. In addition to being named the #1 Most Affordable Online Christian College, the BMA Seminary is ranked the **#1 Most Affordable Online Colleges for a Master's in Theology**, and the **#2 Most Affordable Online Colleges for a Master's in Religious Studies**.

The purpose of the Seminary is to provide accredited undergraduate and graduate theological education for equipping individuals for Christ-Centered service and leadership roles; to support the educational needs of the churches and agencies of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and other groups who share a like commitment to the authority of Scripture; and to serve as a resource center for critical thought and research in a context which nurtures the historical, doctrinal character of the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

The BMA Seminary is dedicated to providing a quality religious education at an affordable cost. We would like to thank all of the BMAA churches and individual donors for their support and prayers. The Lord has used them to enable us to fulfill our mission to train disciple makers. The rankings come from SR Education Group's OnlineU whose mission is to promote affordable, accessible, and quality in education. Each year OnlineU researches tuition, accreditation, acceptance rate, and other metrics. Compiling the data they then publish three sets of rankings: Top Online Colleges, Best Value Online Colleges, and Most Affordable Online Degrees.

Visit us online at [bmats.edu](http://bmats.edu) for more information about the BMA Seminary.

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**MOST AFFORDABLE  
ONLINE COLLEGES**  
★ ★ ★  
**Christian Schools**  
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★ 2018 ★  
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★ ★ ★  
**Master's - Theology**  
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ONLINE COLLEGES**  
★ ★ ★  
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# MAKING PROGRESS

## Celebrate the past, but don't live there

By **JERRY FULTON**

We all have experienced things in the past that are worth celebrating, but one can never make progress in life by living in the past. Elijah would probably have loved nothing more than to live in the past in light of his great victory over the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, but where would he have been had he not reached out to claim new victories in life? Churches, denominations, associations of churches and individuals must be careful not to long for the "glory days." After all, hindsight is not really 20/20. We often remember things of the past in a better light than they really were. It's important to move forward and live for today.

In addition to seeing things as better than they really were, some live in the past because it is comfortable. After all, if we live in the past we don't have to take on new challenges of the present. It is uncomfortable to stretch ourselves by opening our minds to new ways of doing things. But if we are to make progress in life and grow, it is imperative that we learn new things and embrace them.

Another reason some live in the past is because they can't forgive themselves for things they did in the past. Imagine what might have happened in the early development of the church if the apostle Peter had decided to give up and not move forward in light of his past sins. After all, to deny the Lord three times in a row is pretty bad. Still, God had forgiveness and a future planned for Peter. He had to move forward!

Some live in the past because they have been overcome with traditionalism. There is nothing wrong with some traditions, but when those traditions become our focus instead of the Lord and His Kingdom

work, there is a problem. As we have all heard it said, the message must remain the same, but methods must change if we are to make disciples of Christ.

Finally, some live in the past because they have more past than future left in this life. As we grow older in life, we wonder what on earth there is left for us to do. However, if you have breath, God still has a purpose for you being here.

When we live in the past, we get stale, grumpy and are of no use for the Kingdom's sake. But when we celebrate our past victories with the attitude of claiming new victories each day God gives us, we remain relevant, grow and make progress in life.

May I challenge you today to celebrate the past, but refuse to live there!



▲ Jerry Fulton

**MORE GIVE TO BAPTIST PROGRESS ANNIVERSARY OFFERING**

Thanks to all who have given to the *Baptist Progress* Anniversary Offering. In addition to those listed in our last issue, Rosewood, Gilmer gave \$106 and Farley Street, Waxahachie gave \$500. This brings the total given to \$7,127.

## 2018 LOCAL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

ASSOCIATION	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Tarrant County	Sept. 15	9:30 a.m.	Oasis, Arlington
East Fork	Sept. 16	6 p.m.	First, Crandall
Ellis-Hill	Sept. 20	11:30 a.m.	Farley Street, Waxahachie
Tryon	Sept. 23	5 p.m.	First, New Caney
Dallas County	Sept. 24	6 p.m.	Crossroads, Rowlett
Mount Olive	Oct. 6	9:30 a.m.	Bethel, Clayton
Original Bethlehem	Oct. 6	9 a.m.	Fellowship, Magnolia Springs
Trinity River	Oct. 6	10 a.m.	Victory, Centerville
Gulf Coast	Oct. 7	5 p.m.	Circle Drive, Bridge City
Harris County	Oct. 8	7 p.m.	Suburban Wood, Humble
Navarro County	Oct. 9	7 p.m.	First, Eureka
Central West Texas	Oct. 13	9:30 a.m.	Pecan, Robert Lee
Harmony	Oct. 13	12 p.m.	Mountain Home, Jacksboro
Landmark Montague	Oct. 14	N/A	Northside, Nacona
Liberty	Oct. 14	3 p.m.	Fellowship, Pittsburg
Van Zandt	Oct. 14	4 p.m.	Elwood, Wills Point
Cherokee	Oct. 15	7 p.m.	First, Jacksonville
Wood County	Oct. 16	7 p.m.	Rose Hill, Mineola
Angelina	Oct. 18	N/A	Salem, Huntington
Plains	Oct. 20	9:30 a.m.	LakeRidge, Lubbock
Houston-Anderson	N/A		
Central Texas	Oct. 20	9 a.m.	Temple, Mexia
Navasota River	Oct. 21	4 p.m.	Harmony, Normangee
Landmark Nacogdoches	Oct. 25	7 p.m.	Mahl, Nacogdoches
Polk County	Oct. 28	3 p.m.	East Temple, Livingston
Smith County	Oct. 30	N/A	New Harmony, Tyler

## HOTELS FOR BMA OF TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING

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# MONEY WISE

## Some thoughts about the Baptist Missionary Loan Association



By **JERRY BURNAMAN**

Here are some thoughts about The Baptist Missionary Loan Association. This department began at the BMA of Texas meeting in November, 1952, by a vote of the messengers in the annual session. According to our charter, the purpose of the BMLA is “to assist churches by making loans for the purpose of purchasing property, erecting and equipping buildings” for effective ministry.

All funds are received through voluntary contributions as gifts or by loans to the corporation at rates of interest set by the trustees. Currently, we have 272 individuals, churches, associations and auxiliaries investing funds with the BMLA. Currently, we pay 2 percent on share accounts (similar to passbook savings), and 2.5 percent on investment certificates (similar to CD's). We are carefully watching rising interest rates with New York prime and other financial institutions to

determine the time we may have to adjust our rates.

Our total assets are about \$14.2 million. We have funds to loan to churches and it would be a great joy to talk with any church that is planning to remodel or enlarge their facilities, build a new structure or purchase property.

I'm thankful for the BMA of Texas giving me the opportunity of managing the BMLA. It's a joy to work with a very talented group of trustees. The majority of our trustees are business men and women who have knowledge and experience with financial matters.

It's also a joy to work with churches providing loans to assist them with financial needs. I enjoy very much observing churches when they build buildings allowing more space for growth. It's also a joy when they fill those buildings with people. Presently, we provide loans for 24 projects.

If you, your church, or auxiliary would like to invest in the BMLA, just give me a call. Also, if your church has a vision for expanding and you are considering a loan, it would be our privilege to talk with you. The office phone number is 972-923-0758. Or you may contact me by email: [jerryburnaman@yahoo.com](mailto:jerryburnaman@yahoo.com).

*Jerry Burnaman is the manager of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association. Contact him at 972-923-0758 or [jerryburnaman@yahoo.com](mailto:jerryburnaman@yahoo.com).*



## Avoiding the church comparison trap

By **DR. THOM RAINER**

Comparing your church to another church can be one of the worst things you do as a church leader.

To be clear, I am not referring to learning from other churches. We can always learn from our peers and our sister congregations.

But comparison for the sake of comparison is bad. Let me share a few thoughts about this issue to expand upon the concern.

**We should focus on what God is blessing in our churches.** Do you remember the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 4:8? “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable – if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy – dwell on these things.” We are not dwelling on the things of God when we compare our church to others. We are dwelling on what we *don't* have. The Word of God mandates to focus on the blessings God gives us, including the blessings of our congregation.

**Comparisons only make matters worse.** There is little good that can come from comparing our church to others. When we do so, we are taking one of two postures. The first is one of jealousy; we wish we had what someone else has. The second posture is one of ingratitude, which leads to my next point.

**Our continuous disposition should be one of joy.** Just a few verses preceding the text in Philippians 4:8 I noted above is a double command to rejoice. Indeed, it is a command to

be in a constant mode of joy: “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4). We should take great joy in the calling God has given us right now. He has you in the exact place He wants you to serve. Rejoice instead of comparing.

**Comparisons give us a short-term perspective.** When we compare, we long for something we do not have. Our focus shifts to a place and a calling that is not for us. As a consequence we often desire to be somewhere else. We develop a short-term perspective for our current calling. Our congregations need leaders who are willing to serve for the long haul. The green grass of the other church is often brown once we get there.

**We are not showing love for the bride when we compare.** Marriages begin to deteriorate when a husband or wife compares his or her spouse to someone else. “If only my spouse was like that person,” we may think. Such thoughts show dishonor to our spouse. The church is the bride of Christ. We are not showing love or honor to His bride when we compare her to others.

Learn from other churches. It is always healthy to be in a learning disposition.

But don't compare your church with others in a negative sense. Nothing good can come from it.

Rejoice in your present calling. Such an attitude will transform your leadership and, as a consequence, transform the church to which God has called you.

*Thom S. Rainer serves as president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources. Among his greatest joys are his family: his wife Nellie Jo; three sons, Sam, Art, and Jess; and seven grandchildren. Dr. Rainer can be found on Twitter @ThomRainer and at [facebook.com/Thom.S.Rainer](https://www.facebook.com/Thom.S.Rainer).*





Contact BMA Foundation Executive Director Charles Attebery for more information, [charles@bmaamerica.org](mailto:charles@bmaamerica.org) or call 501-472-2183

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Gifts to the BMA Foundation are never spent. They are invested and the earnings benefit BMA departments annually until the Lord returns.

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- Stocks and bonds
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- Bequests



# CHURCH HEALTH

## Are you an aircraft carrier?

By LARRY BARKER

Jesus clearly told us that He would establish His church and that “the gates of hell would not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:16). Gates are a defensive protection from those who are attacking. It seems today that the opposite is true of so many churches and Christians. We appear to be “holding the fort” and protecting our territory instead of invading, attacking and reclaiming territory that the enemy has taken. C.T. Studd said, “Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop, within a yard of hell.”

Unfortunately, many have adopted the opposite mentality of the comfort and security of staying within the walls of the fortresses we have built whether they are real brick and mortar or self-imposed boundaries. Paul was passionate to make the gospel known to all who so desperately needed to hear its truth. Paul makes this very clear in Romans 1:14, “I am obligated both to Greeks and barbarians, both to the wise and the foolish.” The word there for obligated literally means we are debtors and our life no longer belongs to us but to Him!

Paul’s message is that the completely unmerited favor of God placed him under severe obligation to the grace of God. Acts 20:24 states Paul’s obligation this way, “But I count my life of no value to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God’s grace.” That obligation meant he willingly and joyfully took the gospel wherever the Lord led him and allowed him to go. David Platt has said, “Every saved person this side of heaven owes the gospel to every unsaved person this side of hell.”

In his book *Gaining by Losing*, J.D. Greear describes churches as three types of ships. These images help us to see what the focus and vision of our church might be. First there is the **Cruise Liner**. This church is focused on meeting the needs of those who have decided to go along for the trip. The focus is on programs for everyone and making sure that you offer everything people are looking for. Someone has said they will come because you make a better hamburger than everyone else.

The question that must be asked is...what will happen to the members if someone starts making a

better hamburger? We must fight the temptation not to be overly judgmental about churches that seem to have it all. There are many that are using the best of everything and are reaching people for Christ but we must also fight the temptation to build a ministry of consumers focused on comfort and competition more than on the advancement of the Kingdom!

The second church Greear describes is the **Battleship**. This church is more focused on the task at hand of representing the cause of Christ well but everything functions from the deck of the ship. The battle is real but it is waged from a distance. We do our work on the ship and we make plans of how to defeat the enemy but we launch our attacks from our battleship/fortress and we never really get to know those we need to reach with the gospel. We must go to them, get to know them, and then demonstrate the love of Christ.

The third example is that of the **Aircraft Carrier**. The goal of this ship is to make sure there is never a battle on its deck. They resource, train, fuel and equip the planes and pilots to go where the real battle is taking place. The church is the training center and the sending agency. If our churches are not going where the action is then we are not doing our jobs properly. Jesus never said, “Come and grow with us!” but He did say, “Go and tell!” It is easy to forsake His mission because we settle for becoming a nice, comfortable, ordinary cruise liner.

How do we go about the training, resourcing and equipping? **First**, train your people in building networks through the relationships they already have. Begin by intentionally helping them to see the lost people they already have in their lives in their families, at work, at school, neighbors, hobbies and other networks. Help them to think through how they can begin building bridges to them through loving and caring relationships. We must move away from a temple mindset (gathering) back to a network (relational) mindset.

**Second**, give them a pathway to intentionally build relationships. Dave Ferguson talks about how to B.L.E.S.S. others. You begin by praying for them. Think of 2-3 people in each one of your circles of influence and begin praying for them daily. Then be



ready to listen to them as you get to know them. Ask them questions about the things that interest them and allow to feel free to share their heart. Then you can fellowship with them through a meal, learn how you can better serve them, and then you can share the love of Christ with them.

**Third**, train them how to share the gospel. Yes, listen to their story, share your story, but then share His story. I was trained as a teenager to use the Romans Road by putting tabs on a small New Testament so you could find the verses quickly. There are phone apps that will lead you through a presentation of the gospel. One method that our church uses is from the Navigators on how to share the gospel using one verse, Romans 6:23. You can find that on their web page, [navigators.org](http://navigators.org) and click on the Evangelism tab. There you can see the presentation entitled *One-Verse Evangelism: How to Share Christ’s Love Conversationally and Visually*.

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](http://www.bmamissions.org).





# INSIGHTS *for* PASTORS

## Preach tithing

By DR. ALLEN TILLEY

“Pastor, all you do is preach on money!” Like all exaggerations, that is not true. However, I never apologize when I do. Pastors are often hesitant to preach on finances because of statements like the one above. If you don’t preach on tithing, let me share four reasons why you should start.

**It’s biblical.** From reading Malachi 3:8-10, we learn God certainly didn’t have a problem with preaching about tithing, and neither did Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:13-14. During his earthly ministry, Jesus expected and commended tithing (Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42). As preachers of God’s Word, we must preach the entire counsel of His Word, not just the parts that people like. Don’t let the doubters distract you from delivering God’s truth.

**It builds spiritual growth.** The goal of every pastor is to build growing, developing, and maturing believers (Ephesians 4:11-13). One part of that growth is learning to

trust God with the tithe. God has designed us not as hoarders but as conduits through which His generosity flows (Luke 6:38). When people give, they live life with an eternal perspective, not a selfish perspective (Mark 12:17).

**It promotes ministry.** When church members tithe, the church has a greater ability to be generous for the Kingdom. More can be done to reach the lost, disciple the saved, comfort the afflicted, and evangelize the world. More can be given to associational departments, extending the reach of the church. Free from the worry of finances, greater things can be accomplished in the name of Jesus Christ.

**It honors God.** Whenever people and churches tithe regularly and systematically, they obey God’s Word, bringing Him honor and glory (John 13:17). Words are cheap; actions always speak louder than words (Mark 7:6). Part of the evidence that the believer’s life is being transformed is when

he cheerfully gives to the Lord (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Pastor, before preaching on tithing, you first must be a tither. You cannot expect your people to go where you are not willing to go. By modeling the principle of tithing before your church, you will inspire them to tithe, making your church a generous giving church.

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*Dr. Allen Tilley is pastor of First Baptist Church of Carthage, Texas. He has over 30 years of pastoral experience, and God has continually blessed his ministry with dynamic spiritual and numerical growth. Contact him at [allen@firstbaptistcarthage.com](mailto:allen@firstbaptistcarthage.com).*



# OBITUARIES

## EVELYN LEA KENT

Evelyn Lea Kent passed away July 15, 2018 in Jacksonville, Texas at the age of 88. She was born November 25, 1929 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana to Elvyn M. And Mattie White Rogillio. Evelyn and Bro. Everett Kent were married in 1947 and had celebrated 64 years of marriage when Bro. Kent passed away in 2012. Bro. and Mrs. Kent moved from Baker, Louisiana in the 1960’s to Jacksonville for Bro. Kent to attend BMA Seminary. Bro. Kent pastored six Texas church in 35 years before his retirement in 2001. Mrs. Kent was a member of Corinth Baptist Church of Jacksonville.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, three brothers: Elvyn M. Rogillio, Jr., Otis R. Rogillio and Douglas Lenwood all of Louisiana. Her pastor James Blaylock conducted the funeral service at Autry Funeral Home in Jacksonville, and burial was at Still Waters Cemetery in Jacksonville July 18, 2018.

## MAE BALDREE

Fannie “Mae” Baldree entered her heavenly home on August 5, 2018 at the age of 79. Funeral services were August 8, 2018 at Temple, Mexia, with Bro. James Hooper and Bro. Michael Vestal officiating. Mae was born March 5, 1939 in the New Hope Community (Limestone County), Texas to Rufus and Gertrude McCoslin Wright. She began her working career as a telephone operator for Southwestern Bell and Gulf States, then worked for several years at J. C. Penney’s, First National Bank and retired from the Mexia State School.

Mae married longtime BMA pastor Bobby D. Baldree on June 20, 1958 in Groesbeck, Texas and they were blessed with four daughters, Rhonda, Connie, Sandra and Kelli. She was devoted to serving the Lord, taking care of her family and helping others. Mae loved being surrounded



by her family, especially, her grandchildren.

Mae, although a very gracious lady, had a great sense of humor and enjoyed nothing more than sharing a good story or joke with family and friends. She also loved to sing (alto) and sang on KBUS Radio Station, back in the days, when there was a radio station in Mexia. She served as a Prayer Warrior for many years. Mae was always up for their next adventure, wherever the Lord lead Bobby in his ministry, she was ready. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Hearne.

Mae is survived by her loving husband of 60 years, Bobby Baldree of Hearne; daughters, Connie Macal and husband, Mark of Temple, Sandra Easterling of Hearne and Kelli Holt and husband, Walton of College Station; grandchildren, Shane Melton, Leah Melton, Kallie Hubnik, Lawson Macal, Annie Macal, Trey Holt and Mitch Holt.



# A word from your mission office

By HEITH MITCHELL

I am sorry to have to announce that Foundations Community Mission of Benbrook is ending this month. I commend John Harris and his family on their faithfulness to God as they have served in this community. They have sent a man on to ministry out of state whom John disciplined. They have impacted their community and planted seed in the life of so many. No one who faithfully serves ever fails. We do have a real adversary though. He is not a big fan of evangelism or discipleship and certainly he doesn't like a church planting movement. Please pray for John, his family, and the 22 other church plants you are resourcing.

We continue to pray and work towards an 80 percent survival rate. More than that is naive and less is, to us, unacceptable. We continue to evaluate progress towards church health and self sustainability. We strive to be good stewards of the funds you provide.

We could use some folding chairs or stacking chairs to help some of our mission points. Let us know if you can help.

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

## A WORD FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES

**JAIME GARCIA—  
IGLESIA BAUTISTA NUEVA VIDA MISSION, GILMER/MESQUITE**

The missionaries who travel to different points or places, according to the Lord, suffer an attack from the enemy that strives to create doubts in their hearts, doubts as you do here, or is it really this place where I have to serve the Lord? And in my personal experience this time I was suffering with these things, but with fervent prayer, God has given me peace and confirmation, and we must also believe his faithful promise, which tells us: do not fear I am with you. And, if God is with us who can be against us? All demonic force moves away when the light comes, the light of Jesus (Matthew 4:16). Blessings for all of you and fight the good fight of faith because our reward is great in heaven, Amen.



▲ Jaime Garcia

**JOSHUA PICKARD—  
ASSOCIATE AT CARPENTER'S HOUSE, LAKE JACKSON/CLUTE**

We are excited to be working with Cliff and The Carpenter's House in Oyster Creek. It was good to see a baptism at the beach again. I'm glad to see this church making a difference in people's lives.



▲ Joshua Pickard

**NEPTALY MOLINA—  
IGLESIA BAUTISTA MISSION, NACOGDOCHES**

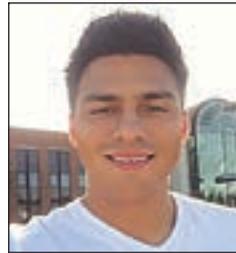
God blessed us with the achievement to make the Biblical School of Vocations, in the West Side Baptist Church of Nacogdoches. We have a total attendance of 54 people, mostly children of all ages; teens, youth and adults. We were able to attract four new families for the church. We will focus on serving these four families through discipleship and small groups. We are thankful to work with Pastor Jerry Wilson.



▲ Neptaly Molina

**CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ—  
GRACE HARVEST BAPTIST MISSION, LUBBOCK**

Lubbock is known as a college city. So, as we plant a church here we need to have in mind the students. It has been a prayer of mine to have more influence there. Many students come from other states and countries. Sharing the gospel and investing in them will have an impact not only in Lubbock but in other nations as well. God has provided a college student that I have been discipling and implanting the vision of making disciples and church planting. Please pray for his spiritual growth and for him to be an instrument to reach more college students. Thank you for your committed prayer and support that allows us to devote fully in making disciples.



▲ Christian Martinez

**CLIFF ROBERTSON—  
CARPENTER'S HOUSE MISSION—  
LAKE JACKSON/CLUTE**

It has been a summer to remember. Renovation, VBS and growth... people coming to know Christ as their Lord and Savior. We have a beautiful new addition to our church with Joshua and Suzanne Pickard and their amazing family. Worship has taken a giant leap forward with this addition. God is good!



▲ Cliff Robertson

**KINGSLEY NDUKA—  
INTERN PREPARING FOR HOUSTON**

The harvest is now, let us do our best to preach the word in season and out of season.



▲ Kingsley Nduka

**MATTHEW PRATHER—  
THE BRIDGE MISSION, MIDLOTHIAN/WAXAHACHIE**

I can't believe how fast summer has flown by! It has been a productive summer for The Bridge. We have the potential to see seven new families get plugged in. We were able to take a few teens to SOAR this summer and had one salvation as a result. It also allowed us to get to know our teens and their parents better. Please continue to pray for our teens as their group continues to grow. Pray that we will be able to find a leader to work with them that has a heart for youth and that we will see this group continue to grow and reach other teens. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

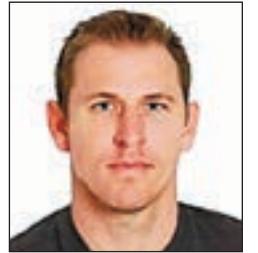


▲ Matthew Prather

We could not do what we do without your support.

**BRANDON DURHAM—  
REDEEMER'S LOVE MISSION, HOUSTON**

Greetings, from Brandon and Amanda, on behalf of Redeemer's Love, Houston. We thank you all for your continued prayers. Amanda is recovering well following a visit to the ER and a four day stint in the hospital, where she received a blood transfusion for anemia, and a subsequent surgery. Ministry has felt sluggish this summer. We're grateful, however, for the fresh energies of Spencer, our summer intern, and Kingsley, our resident church planter for the upcoming year. They've done a tremendous job shepherding our flock, as well as sharing the preaching & teaching responsibility.



▲ Brandon Durham

God continues to work in the lives of our people. We celebrate the slow, steady, discernible ways in which the Holy Spirit is growing us, more and more, into the character of Christ. We anticipate an exciting season of ministry ahead as the fall approaches, and expect to be well rested, ready to give it our best.



BMA TX MISSIONS continued on p. 9

# Donor to match all funds given to ChangeMaker 100

On August 8, Dr. John David Smith, Executive Director of BMA Missions, dedicated his century ride to ChangeMaker Missionaries, and encourages supporters to donate \$100 toward grants for these missionaries. A recent donor has pledged to match every dollar given toward the “ChangeMaker 100”

A century ride is when a cyclist rides 100 miles within the span of twelve hours. Several months ago, Dr. Smith challenged himself to this fitness goal for his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, but then he continued to wonder how his goal could be used for the kingdom of God.

“I kept thinking,” said Dr. Smith, “How could we leverage this to more than just a personal fitness goal? How could we bring awareness and participation in God’s global mission?”

After speaking to John Meriweather and Donny Parrish, who serve at the BMA America offices, they decided to focus on raising grants for “ChangeMaker Missionaries.”

These missionaries were previously referred to as national missionaries, and they serve as missionaries in their native countries. Spread out over nearly 80 nations globally, it is often difficult for them to raise funds due to their lack of exposure.

“The ChangeMaker Missionaries are the thrust of what we do in BMA Global Missions. In this event, we want to spotlight them and let people know who they are.”

“Kim and I gave the first 100 dollars,” said Dr. Smith. “Each 100 dollars collected will be used as grants for church planting and compassion ministries of the ChangeMaker missionaries. Every penny will go to these missionaries.”

To give your 100 dollars, which will be MATCHED IN FULL, in support of the ChangeMaker 100, you can visit



bmamissions.org/changemaker100 to give online, or send a check to P.O. Box 878 Conway, Arkansas, 72034, and make sure to put “ChangeMaker 100” in the memo line.

# National Galilean Camp 2019 Date Change

By **KENNETH COLVERT**

National Galilean Camp 2018 is now history, but we are still rejoicing over the wonderful camp. We are so thankful for the five young men who were saved and the young man who surrendered to the ministry. With a prayer on our hearts for God’s blessings in 2019, we can hardly wait for next year’s camp.

National Galilean Camp 2019 will be held one week earlier at StoneRidge Baptist Camp in Smithville, Arkansas. The dates are June 21 -24, 2019, that is Friday afternoon through Monday morning . The Recognition Service and Visitor’s Night will take place on Sunday night. Please place this date change on your family and church calendars and start making plans now to attend.

The 2019 National Galilean officers will meet at Ponca Bible Camp on the weekend Of June 27 - 29 in conjunction with the 2018 Arkansas Galilean Summer Camp to make plans for the 2019 National Galilean Camp. Dr. Jason Aultman, Pastor , Antioch Baptist Church, Conway , AR has been invited to be the Camp Pastor and Speaker. Please be in much prayer for next year’s camp.



## An expression of everlasting love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home for Children, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from Jul. 1, 2018 – Jul. 31, 2018.

### ENDOWMENTS

- RICKIE MARIE JOHNSTON:** Duane & Charlotte Turner
- E ANN PACE:** Karl & Martha Pace; R T Willis
- MYRA STOKES:** Bill Stokes

### HONORARIUMS

- JAMES & CAROLYN JACKSON’S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson
- PASTORS & MISSIONARIES EVERYWHERE:** Roy & Elizabeth Talbot

### MEMORIALS

- BARNEY BAGGETT:** Johnny & Phyllis Howell
- DEANNE DAVID BAKER:** Delores Adams
- JS & MYRTLE BASS:** Charlotte Morgan
- WALTER BECKER:** Dennis & Ilona Myrice
- WINDA BOUNDS:** Temple Baptist Church, Mexia
- JOHNNIE FAYE BOWDEN:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson
- JUDY BRINKLEY:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson
- LAWRENCE CALDWELL:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Jed & Glenice Whitaker; Brian & Mary Mauk
- ALVY & GAY NELL COLLINS:** Tom & Sharon Tolar
- JERRY COOK:** Travis & Brenda Floyd
- KENNETH CULPEPPER:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson
- HAROLD DEAN:** Johnny & Phyllis Howell
- MARIE DICKIE:** Johnny & Phyllis Howell
- DALE FORD:** Temple Baptist Church, Mexia
- LOUELLA FOSTER:** New Hope Baptist Church; Jerry & Sheree Mize; Encouragers Class; Roy L. Christian
- DON GLOVER:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson
- HOWARD GODFREY:** New Hope Baptist Church
- SUE GOSSETT:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson
- SHIRLEY HAWTHORNE:** Eugenia Boley
- WAYLAND HICKS:** Jerry Null
- KATHY HOOVER:** WM Valton & Brenda Ray
- DON KIDD:** Neta Hicks
- TED LATHAM:** Neta Hicks
- BOBBY MARTIN:** Earlene Crenshaw
- CHRISTOPHER MCCALMAN:** Norma Allbright & Noah Pruitt, Jr.
- EVA EDDENE MILLER:** Terry Huntsberger; Rick Denson; Jerry & Becky Miller; Daniel & Gina Wilson; JC & Jerri Miller
- CHARLES MITCHELL:** Gay Mitchell
- SUSAN MURPHY:** Leon & Katy Engle; Mary Hunt
- BILL OWENS:** Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church
- PREACHER FRANK ROBERSON:** George & Marilyn McClintock
- CHARLES & DON ROUSE:** Concha Rouse
- LUKE SCOTT:** Roland & Sandra Plaster
- DICK & MARGARET SHICK:** Concha Rouse
- LEE SHORT:** Fay Short
- IVA NELL SOAPE:** Cecil & Jackie Blair
- JAMES TANKERSLEY:** Margaret Tankersley
- JAMES TROUT:** Johnny & Phyllis Howell
- JOHN WOLCOTT:** Gay Mitchell

memorials-honorariums



## Texas ladies' retreat

By SHARON COLE

The Texas Ladies' Retreat place of meeting has changed to Union Hill Baptist Church, Brownsboro, 15866 FM 3204, Brownsboro for Friday, September 14 from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. and Saturday, September 15 from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Registration for the meeting is \$25 per person if registered by August 22.

After this date, registration is \$35 per person. The forms can be downloaded and printed from the State WMA website, [texaswma.com](http://texaswma.com). To have a registration form mailed to you, please email [gcham33@yahoo.com](mailto:gcham33@yahoo.com) or call 903-725-6570. A nursery will be available for children under the age of six. Pre-registration of children is required. If you need to book a hotel room, there are great hotels located in Athens, which is approximately 10 miles away, and Tyler, which is approximately 15 miles away.

The theme is "In the Potter's Hands," Isaiah 64:8, "We are clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." Come join us as we hear from different women sharing their journey of how God reached into their lives during difficult times, transforming them and is using them today for His glory. Their stories will leave you inspired, encouraged and challenged as you reflect on God's hand on your own life shaping and molding you into His masterpiece.

Friday evening, we will hear from Rose Nguen. Rose is from Ho Chi Minh City (Siagon), south Vietnam. She was led by the Lord to attend the BMA Bible College in the Philippines. Currently, she attends the BMA Theological Seminary in Jacksonville. She was impressed by the deep need for education of the "boat people" along the Mekong River, between Vietnam and Cambodia. These people are claimed by neither country and are not allowed to come ashore to live or work legally in either country. Rose plans to start a Christian Education Center for the boat people upon graduation.

On Saturday, Patti Foster and Nafisa Morris will be our guest speakers. Patti Foster is a former radio personality who was severely injured in a horrific traffic crash and suffered traumatic brain injury (TBI) along with multiple injuries and fractures all over her body. For six weeks her life hung in the balance as she lay in a coma. Today, as a TBI survivor, Patti shares her story giving hope to anyone who is dealing with adversity along the journey. Nafisa Morris is a stay-at-home, homeschool mom to four precious children. She has been both a missionary wife and a pastor's wife. Nafisa lost her husband of 15 years in July 2017 while he was traveling for work. She has a passion to point others to Christ and to encourage women to walk in biblical

womanhood.

Come join us as we hear from these inspiring women who desire to make a difference. You will enjoy seeing friends from the past Retreats and making new friends. You will enjoy a time of worship, inspiration, fun, creative workshops, and good food served Friday evening and Saturday lunch. A light snack will be offered Saturday mid-morning. You will need to contact your choice of motels personally ASAP and remember to register for the Retreat early.

### DISTRICT NEWS

CHEROKEE DISTRICT WMA met July 10, 2018 with Friendship, Jacksonville with 39 present, enjoying a delicious meal of baked potatoes and all the trimmings plus desserts prepared by the ladies of Friendship and Afton Grove. President Cindy Allen called the meeting to order. Friendship Minister of Music, Bro. Jim Tate, played the piano, sang and whistled, "He Did It All For Me." Shirley Hoffpauir gave an inspiring chalk talk on Easter as beautiful music filled the air explaining the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. The following officers were nominated for 2018-2019: President-Cindy Allen; Vice President-Nancy Washburn; Secretary/Treasurer-Carol Shine; Asst. Sec./Treas.-Shirley McAnally; Pianist Eloise Thomas; Historian-Carleen Thompson. The Project for supplies for the returning students to the Seminary and College was very good. The ladies of each church will prepare the dinner for the Hispanic Conference in August. There was a tie for the attendance banner between Afton Grove and Mt. Selman. The next meeting will be October 9, 2018 at First, Maydelle.

MT. OLIVE DISTRICT WMA met July 31, 2018 with Old Center, Tenaha for the quarterly business, program and fellowship meal at 6:30 p.m. President Leona Wimberly called the meeting to order leading in the motto and WMA song. After singing the theme song: "The Basics of Life" and "Love Lifted Me," the meeting was opened for business. The following officers were elected for 2018-2019: President-Sharon Cole; 1st Vice President-Tyler Rogers; 2nd Vice President-Emilee Baker; Secretary-Leona Wimberly; Treasurer-Renee' Nolen; Sunbeam Promoter-LaVerle Spurgeon; Asst. Sunbeam Promoter-Cindy Dyer; Project Promoter-Shawn Norris; Asst. Project Promoter-Virginia Spurlock; Pianist-Host Church. Advisory Council: Bro. Rodger Cole and Wayne Wimberly. The new project for the year is "LifeWord Cloud, or wherever it is needed

most. More information will be given at a later date. Meetings for the new year will be October 23, 2018 at Old Center; January 22, 2019 at Antioch, Carthage; April 23 at Old Center and July 23 at Antioch. Because of time limits, an extra meeting was planned for August 28, 2018 at Antioch at 6:30 p.m. to finish business and worship time with Bro. Rodger Cole.

### S.E.P. WEEK (SUNBEAM ENLISTMENT & PROMOTION WEEK)

S.E.P. Week is September 16-22, 2018. Plan activities during this week to encourage your Sunbeams. Have a meeting with your Sunbeams' parents to explain the Sunbeam program. Encourage their support for the program and their projects, (local, district, state and national). Serve light refreshments and provide printed information of the Sunbeam activities. The following are suggestions for activities for the special week: \*Have a special awards program for the Sunbeams who completed Star Awards requirements. \*If your group is just getting started, have a special program and present each student with their pin or sash. \*Use a treasure chest (old trunk) for a centerpiece filled with things like: the Bible, photos of children, family photos, a church bank, fake coins (to represent money), a map of the world or globe, etc. \*Have a reception after a Sunday service for the Sunbeams. \* Let the Sunbeams sing a special song in a church service. \*Serve cake and ice cream at one Sunbeam meeting and invite the children in your church and community who do not attend Sunbeams; then explain what Sunbeams is all about to those attending. \*Make tray favors for a Nursing Home's residents and take to them. Have the Sunbeams sing for them while there. The theme for this year is "Digging for Treasure." "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" Luke 12:34. The National Sunbeam Project for this year is Shepherd Bags with a goal of \$5,000. Make your donations and offering checks payable to National Sunbeam Promoter-Shirley Hoffpauir, 106 Summit Dr. Gilmer, Texas 75644.

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



# L.G.B.T.Q.

By **DR. JOHN M. ADAMS**

*Executive Director of Moral Action*

L.G.B.T.Q. (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) possess U.S. Constitutional rights identical to those that everyone else in America enjoys. They are free to be gay. Gays mistakenly believe that basic human rights and our U.S. societal norms guarantee them the right to marry as in a traditional marriage of man and woman. Yet centuries of human rights' definitions have never included same-sex marriage.

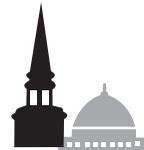
There is no way to sugar-coat the reality of the core of immoral, selfish L.G.B.T.Q., especially the male sexual relations, it is as ugly as anything can get. God's relevant Word states in Romans 1:24 "God gave them up to uncleaness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves."

Many of this day attempt cover-ups such as "they are nice people", or "they have loyal commitments", but L.G.B.T.Q. are tearing apart the moral fabric of our American nation, and they are attempting to rid our society of allegiance to God's Word and His marriage precepts. Paul said in Romans 1:28, "They did not like to retain God in their knowledge..." So how do Christian moralists consider the "gay world" selfish?

**L.G.B.T.Q. and Abortionists believe in a Zero Population position.** Surprisingly, very few have spoken of or written of the selfish intent of these to never increase the population. In Genesis 1:28 God told Adam and Eve "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth..." L.G.B.T.Q., and avowed abortionists in living their way would never populate the world as God intended it to be. There would never be another child born! It is truly the highest form of selfishness.

**This selfishness leads others astray as they assess those who oppose homosexuality.** They want all to believe it is just "old-timers" and fanatical Christians who hate their lifestyle. But the people of many states have voted against gay marriage. In spite of the U.S. Justice courts overruling these states and outlawing the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) does not mean that the American people are in favor of perversion in marriage. Of the 325,700,000 Americans that populate our nation, only 7.0% are gay and only 4.0% are bisexual, according to Wikipedia and the 2017 census. In the first large-scale government survey measuring Americans sexual orientation, the UCLA's Williams Institute reported in 2016 that 65,000 American soldiers identify themselves as gay or lesbian.

**Gays' selfishness closes their eyes to the overall health of American society.** Again, in Paul's admonition of Romans 1:27, "men leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in



## Moore's to celebrate golden anniversary



Doyle and Linda were married after "a whirlwind courtship" on August 17, 1968 at Lee's Chapel #2 in Picayune (Leetown), Mississippi by John E. Moore. They will celebrate their 50th anniversary at a reception hosted by their children on August 18, 2-4 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the same church.

The Moores recently retired as BMA of America missionaries after serving for 41 years in the Philippines. They arrived on the island of Negros Occidental in 1976 with the goal of establishing a Bible college to train pastors and ancillary support staff (Sunday School teachers and music worship leaders) for establishing churches in the Philippines. That mission has expanded over the years to preparing workers for outreach to all of southeast Asia.

These Filipino workers are able to go to nations not typically open to foreigners because of their ability to blend in and learn the native languages. They are brought in as teachers, IT specialists, medical professionals or whatever their skills might be. Then, by establishing relationships with the local people, they start small Bible studies and provide outreach programs in the community.

Leaving the mission field is never easy, but coming home to family (and especially grandchildren!) has helped. Please continue praying for them as they make this transition!

When they are not traveling to churches, talking about the work that continues in the Philippines, Bro. Moore enjoys teaching and preaching sermon series at Lee's Chapel #2 as needed. They both are enjoying being home and visiting with friends and family, along with their trusty sidekick — their dog, Rusty!

They have five daughters: Myrna (Doug) Kiper, Kara Moore, Rebecca (Charles) Bowers, Rachel (Shawn) Self and the late Aileen Moore. They also have seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

The Moores' address is 14025 Lott McCarty Road, Picayune, Mississippi 39466.

their lust working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet." Historically, civilizations like Babylon, the Mayans, Greece and Rome crumbled from within their own culture via sexual perversion. Many in our nation seemingly have no regard for what gay life will ultimately cost their soul or what corrosion it will inflict upon society around them. Gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender and queer are selling their health and their soul for short moments of deviant physical pleasure.

**L.G.B.T.Q. selfishness continually and viciously disparages any references in the Bible that condemns their open sin.** L.G.B.T.Q. shamelessly discounts the concept that the Bible is the moral standard of living, or if they do accept the Bible verses, they misconstrue them to fit their lifestyle of sin. They prefer no moral standards which is so dangerous for any society. They argue that Jesus Christ is all about love and complete acceptance. Romans 1:22 says, "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools." Jesus does love all people, including gays, but He notes the sin and offers forgiveness and healing if it is desired.

In conclusion, this deviant selfishness springs from an immoral mind and heart that leads to an erroneous conviction that the gay life is okay. Lesbianism produces a gross picture of a woman on woman and two gay males engaging in sex is a quantum leap from anything beautiful or moral in marriage.

L.G.B.T.Q. has been classified as deviate and criminal by the majority of the world's population for thousands of years, but now in the last 40-50 years, powerful people are attempting to reverse that standard with brainwashing techniques via our children, the media, and by liberal judges and liberal churches.

To love and be loved with the warmth and intimacy of a Godly marriage is a beautiful thing. But to accept this concept of marriage is a serious distortion of acceptable conduct. Romans 1:32 "who knowing the judgment of God..." as you read God's Word may it speak clearly: Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus 20:13, Mark 10:6-9, I Corinthians 6:9-12, and Jude 7-8.

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*Dr. John M. Adams is the executive director of BMAA Moral Action. Contact him at Moral Action - BMA of America . P.O. Box 305 . Mantachie, Mississippi 38855 or visit [www.macbma.net](http://www.macbma.net) for more information.*



## BMA TX Missions cont.

### PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE FIELD

-Pray for each of your mission points as they prepare for the "Back to School" season.

-Pray for our missionary's spouses Amanda Durham, Gloria Garcia, Manuela Molina, Chris Driver and Jaime Driver as they face health issues.

-Pray for Joshua Pickard and his family as they settle in at Lake Jackson.

-Pray for several men and women waiting on immigration documents.

-Pray that God provides the funds and the laborers for more evangelistic disciple-making churches.

-Pray for souls saved, disciples made, leaders equipped

and sent out to start again.

### PRAISE REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

-I know of 14 saved this month!

-God continues to answer your prayers on behalf of your mission effort!

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*Heith Mitchell is the director of BMA of Texas Missions. Contact him at P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, TX 75168, 972-923-0757 or [hmitchell@bmatexas.org](mailto:hmitchell@bmatexas.org). For more information, visit [www.bmatexasmissions.org](http://www.bmatexasmissions.org).*



# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

## Hope for dashed dreams

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: September 2, 2018

TEXT: 1 Samuel 1:1-20

Hannah, one of the two wives of Elkanah, from Ephraim, is the main character of our lesson this week. Hannah found herself living in a state of hopelessness for many reasons.

1. She could have no children. The reason was because “The Lord had shut up her womb.” (verse 5) Why is it that many women who desperately want children, cannot bear them. Hannah was one such woman.

2. She was taunted by Peninnah. (verses 6-7) Surely being one of two wives created quite a few issues in a household. But to add insult to injury, the other wife, Peninnah, received some kind of sadistic pleasure in taunting Hannah for being unable to give birth. 1

3. She received little comfort from her husband: Elkanah, the husband of Hannah and Peninnah, gave Hannah a half-hearted, patronizing statement in verse 8. “Am I not better to thee than ten sons? Elkanah felt a need that women naturally feel — motherly instinct is strong, and very grievous whenever there appears to be no hope for a child. For a husband to sanctimoniously and arrogantly ask, ‘Am I not enough?’ Elkanah’s “comfort” was ill spent.

4. She was accused of being drunk. Eli, the priest of the temple saw Hannah praying earnestly to the Father. Her prayer was silent, but she was moving her lips, which caused the priest to conclude she was drunk.

5. She received the answer to her prayer: v 17 — the priest assured her that God had granted her petitions. In verse 19, it was verified that the Lord “remembered her.”

Why does the Lord see fit to cause His children to wait on the answer to an earnest prayer?

First of all, God’s timing is perfect. We do not understand His ways which are infinitely higher than ours. We have a deep desire - and God the Father is the One who fulfills them. But in His own good time.

Secondly, it was possibly that deep anguish and longing Hannah had for a son, which prompted her to totally dedicate him to the Lord. verse 28. “Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord.”

Perhaps Hannah would not have been so willing to dedicate this baby to the Lord if she had given birth earlier in her life.

## Stealing honor from the Lord

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: September 8, 2018

TEXT: 1 Samuel 2:12-36

In our lesson this week, we see the peril of a dysfunctional family “ministering” in the temple.

1. It is possible for lost men to carry on as leaders in the temple. The sad truth is, many people who do not know the Lord, find their way into a place of worship leadership. But Hophni and Phinehas were the sons of Belial (the devil) they did not know the Lord.

2. Lost men who lead in the temple practiced the sin of gluttony. verse 15. It was customary for the priest to lower the three-pronged hook down into the sacrificial flesh which was seething in the caldron, That was their portion to consume. But the two evil sons demanded to choose the best cuts for themselves and have it cooked to order. (verse 15-16)

3. Lost men who lead in the temple cause others to stumble. verse 17. “. . .the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord: for men abhorred the offering of the Lord.” Not only were they sons of Belial, but they influenced others in the temple to “abhor the offerings of the Lord.

4. Lost men who lead in the temple committed fornication in the temple. verse 22. They were gluttonous, they discouraged people from worship, and they laid with the women right in the doorway of the temple.

5. Lost men who lead in the temple, were neglected proper discipline by a soft father/priest. “Nay my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the Lord’s people to transgress.” verse 24. By this time it was too late. Hophni and Phinehas were over 30 years old. It was too late to discipline them. Eli obviously had been so tedious in caring for the things of the temple during the boy’s growing up years, he felt no need to correct them. Many a pastor has had a troubled ministry, or else has had to drop out of the ministry because of wayward children. I know of pastor of a great church whose daughter didn’t find the Lord until she went off to college. Sad indictment on a ministry. First Samuel 2 is a sad indictment on a priesthood.

Eli house was hit with severe judgement because of his negligence. May we learn the truth of God’s swift judgement on us when we fail to minister at home first.

## Don't turn a deaf ear to God

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: September 16, 2018

TEXT: 1 Samuel 3:1-21

According to Josephus, a secular Jewish historian, noted that Samuel was now 12 years old when he was working in the temple for Eli. It was a time when there was no “accredited” account of God speaking through a prophet (verse 1)

Eli was in his waning days — and he must have been very aware that the judgment of God was about to fall upon his house. Samuel was working in the temple, performing tasks including opening doors (verse 15)

Samuel heard the voice of God three times, but had mistaken it for the voice of Eli. But Eli was certain that it was God (verse 8) and encouraged Samuel to answer “Speak; for thy servant heareth.”

This was the first time Samuel had heard the Lord speak. This was obviously the answer to Hannah’s prayer just 12 years earlier, vowing to give her son to the Lord.

The Lord spoke through Samuel, concerning the judgement about to fall on Eli.

Samuel was faithful to convey every word that God told him (verse 18) and in verse 19, we find that Samuel grew and the Lord was with him. It was known throughout the land that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet.

There are three thoughts we glean from this passage.

1. Samuel knew someone had called him twice, and he mistakenly assumed it was Eli. This was before the revelation of God to Samuel. Verse 7 The only time today that a person hears the call of God, it is to come to Him in repentance.

2. When one receives the call from God, oftentimes there is one who has walked with God to help enlighten him. Eli was the one to do that. verse 9

3. Samuel finally was convinced that the voice was God, especially since Eli told him, he was ready and anxious to hear God and do what He said. Verse 10

4. Sometimes, when God calls, it is to move upon him to do the unpleasant. Of course Eli gave him a stern warning not to suppress the command. And that command was to pronounce God’s judgement upon Eli for failure to rule his own house, resulting in raising two devilish sons, who were instrumental in destroying temple worship and leading worshippers astray.

5. Although judgement fell upon Eli and his descendants, he demonstrated a noble spirit of surrender in verse 18. “. . .it is the Lord: let him do what seemeth him good.”

Sometimes God calls on us to say the unpopular, the uncomfortable, a message that will not endear ourselves to the hearers. Be faithful to speak what God commands.

## Is God a lucky charm?

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: September 23, 2018

TEXT: 1 Samuel 4:1-22

The tragedy of going out to battle without the Lord: verse 1. Probably the only positive thing the Israelites had going for them was a prophet (Samuel) who was in good standing with God. But in their minds, they felt there was every reason to expect victory against the Philistines. Eben-Ezer was the name of a stone raised by Samuel to commemorate a victory over the Philistines at Mizpeh (1 Samuel 7:12) “The Stone of Help.” This was the place of conquest. But they mis-read the signs - and lost 4,000 in the battle.

The folly of questioning: verse 3. “Why has the Lord smitten us today before the Philistines? Sound familiar? All through the wilderness wanderings, the recurring cry was heard, “Why did you lead us, our children and our cattle out here to die?” It was their faithlessness that brought about the judgement of God. “Without faith, it is impossible to please God.” Hebrews 11:6

The foolishness of trusting in an Ark, from which the Lord had

departed. It still had the cherubim stationed at both ends of it; The Mercy Seat was still in tact between them. This Ark was heretofore the epicenter of their worship. In the Holy of Holies, this is where it sat - and where the presence of God hovered over.

The vanity and arrogance of their misspent shouts of joy over the return of the Ark. verse 5. The shouts were so great, the earth shook. Although the Philistines were horrified because they remembered what the God of Israel did to Egypt through the plagues.

To add insult to injury, the Ark was accompanied by Eli’s sons, Hophni and Phinehas — remember The two “sons of Belial” in chapter 2? They both met their death, as did Eli, whom God had pronounced judgement on his house and descendants.

The Glory has departed. Phinehas’ wife was pregnant, and labor came upon her because of the capture of the Ark, the death of her husband and her father in law.

The name she gave her baby boy commemorated the sad plight of Israel — She named him Icabod — “The glory is departed from Israel.”

*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.*



# EVENTS

## EAST TEXAS MISSIONS DISTRICT MEETING

**DATE:** August 28, 2018

**PLACE:** Centro De Vida Mission, 1013 S. Robertson Avenue, Tyler, Texas

**TIME:** 6 p.m.

## 82ND HOMECOMING

**DATE:** September 16, 2018

**PLACE:** Woodland Baptist Church, 6049 FM 3358, Gilmer, Texas 75645

**TIME:** 9 a.m.

**SPEAKER:** Garvin "Pete" Richardson

## 118TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

**DATE:** November 5-6, 2018

**PLACE:** Calvary Baptist Church, Fairfield, Texas

# pastor & staff changes

**JAMES MCCARTY** is the new pastor of First, Rice.

**DR. ELTON MCCANN** is retiring as pastor of New Hope, Saint Elmo.

**SHAWN BRANDON** is the new senior pastor of New Harmony, Tyler.

# personnel & positions

## AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**PASTOR**—New Hope, Saint Elmo at Richland Chambers Lake, located 85 miles south of Dallas, is seeking a high-energy, outreach-motivated pastor to replace our retiring pastor. Candidate must have had prior pastoral experience or have had a significant leadership role in a ministry other than as a pastor but have the skill set and calling for the pastor role. Please send resume to the church at P.O. Box 215, Streetman, Texas 75859 or call 903-599-3364.

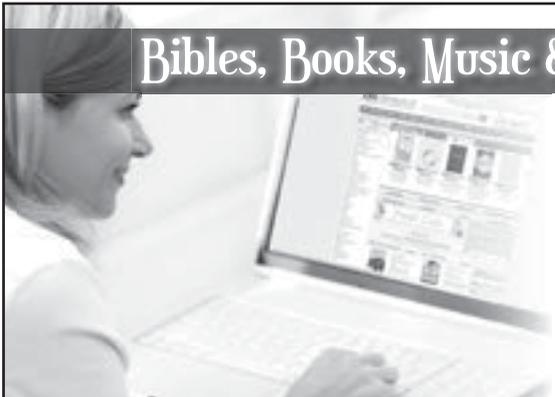
**MUSIC**—First, DeSoto is seeking a part-time music minister. Must be a Christian. Must be able to play a musical instrument to lead the congregation in worship and provide lyrics for the congregation to participate in worship or use the material available. Time frame is Sunday (2 Services 10:45 a.m./6 p.m.) Wednesday (1 Service 6 pm). Send résumé to fbcdesototx@gmail.com to schedule an appointment. Call 972-223-7448 for more information. TFM

**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. TFM

## ORDINATION

**EAST MAYFIELD, HEMPHILL** ordained Eleazar Carranza and Roy Smith to the office of deacon July 29, 2018.

### Bibles, Books, Music & Gifts



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# CHURCH REVIEW

July 17, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	44	126	
First, Omen		83	
First, Palmer	45	66	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	17	35	
Jackson, Joaquin	61	110	
Little Flock, Lufkin	108	208	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	38	52	2 by letter
Merriman Hills, Sherman	14	15	
New Harmony, Tyler	279	342	
New Hope, Mineola	69	141	1 by baptism
Olde Tyme, White Oak		45	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	47	68	1 by baptism
Rosewood, Gilmer	132	215	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	40	74	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	30	54	
Simmons Hill, Diana	19	29	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	14	18	

July 22, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	49	119	
First, Omen	32		1 by statement
First, Palmer	45	73	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	20	42	
Jackson, Joaquin	75	133	2 by statement
Little Mound, Big Sandy	35	50	
New Hope, Mineola	40	101	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		54	1 by letter
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	47	70	
Rosewood, Gilmer	133	180	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	38	58	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	20	32	
Simmons Hill, Diana	12	26	

July 29, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	48	93	
First, Omen		85	8 by baptism
First, Palmer	54	70	1 by baptism
Glade Creek, Gilmer	15	40	
Jackson, Joaquin	71	112	2 by letter
Little Mound, Big Sandy	37	52	
New Harmony, Tyler	268	315	
New Hope, Mineola	55	94	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		44	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	47	48	
Rosewood, Gilmer	141	224	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	41	60	1 by baptism
Security Calvary, Cleveland	27	40	
Simmons Hill, Diana	12	25	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	18	29	

August 5, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	59	103	
First, Omen		89	1 by baptism, 1 profession of faith
First, Palmer	47	85	1 by baptism
Glade Creek, Gilmer	23	41	
Jackson, Joaquin	73	115	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	39	50	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	17	24	
New Harmony, Tyler	262	331	
New Hope, Mineola	76	167	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		40	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	38	53	
Rosewood, Gilmer		227	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	20	42	
Simmons Hill, Diana	22	28	

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## Jacksonville College Announces New Athletic Director

By **DR. MIKE SMITH**

*President of Jacksonville College*

Jacksonville College is proud to announce the promotion of Ken Hamilton, Sr. to the position of athletic director.

A native of Troup, Texas, Ken began playing golf at a very early age. He was a member of the golf team at Troup High School, where he shot an unprecedented 62 at the High School Men's Regional Tournament in 1981.

Ken began his collegiate career at Jacksonville College, where he continued playing competitive golf and where he met and married his wife, Teri. Ken and Teri have been married 36 years and have three adult children and five grandchildren.

Ken has a Bachelor of Science in Sports Management from Texas A&M University-Commerce, where he will complete his Master of Athletic Administration this fall. He is a veteran of the United States Navy and spent 28 years in supervision and management in the freight industry, most recently in New Orleans, before returning to his East Texas roots.

In the fall of 2017, Ken joined the staff of Jacksonville College as Athletic Department intern and assistant golf coach. The following semester, he served as the assistant athletic director while continuing his responsibilities as the assistant golf coach.

Because of his background in management and his success as Jacksonville College's assistant athletic director, Ken will make an outstanding athletic director. He is highly respected by JC students and staff, and he has proven to be an effective recruiter.

Ken fully embraces Jacksonville College's mission statement of "challenging minds, transforming lives." As a believer in Christ, he is proud to be a part of an educational institution that places great emphasis on ministering to the spiritual needs of the student as well as the educational needs. Ken is an ordained deacon, and he and Teri attend Central Baptist Church in Jacksonville.

The Jacksonville College Athletic Department also welcomes Savannah Carter as head coach for women's basketball, and Martin Melchor as head coach for both the Jaguar and Lady Jaguar soccer programs.

Please pray for our faculty, staff, and students as they begin a new semester on August 15. Pray for the salvation of those who are lost. Pray for the spiritual growth of those who are saved. Pray for revival at Jacksonville College.



▲ Ken Hamilton

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 31ST ANNUAL JC GOLF TOURNAMENT

Shotgun Start at 7:30 a.m. on October 6

Cherokee Ranch Golf Club, Jacksonville Texas

Contact Ken Hamilton at

[khamilton@jacksonville-college.edu](mailto:khamilton@jacksonville-college.edu), (903) 589-7130

### HOMECOMING 2019

February 1-2



### *New Harmony, Tyler Welcomes New Pastor*

The historic New Harmony Baptist Church will welcome as pastor, Bro. Shawn Brandon, on Sunday, August 19, 2018. Bro. Brandon follows in the footsteps of Bro. H.L. Lee and Bro. Robbie Caldwell, who combined, pastored the rural church for about 50 years. Bro. Brandon, who is from Jonesboro, Arkansas, brings to the 151 year old church, 12 years worth of service as a College/Young Adult and Senior pastor. The 49 year old Brandon, who has a mission minded focus, is a graduate of Andersonville Theological Seminary in Camilla, Georgia, where he earned Bachelor of Theology and Master of Ministry degrees. When asked how he feels about coming to pastor the East Texas church, Bro. Brandon said, "What an honor it is to become a part of such a great church and area of our country." He continued, "Please know that residents of Tyler and surrounding areas are welcome anytime. Because of the love of God which we have experienced, NHBC cares for you." Brandon is married to Janee' Jones Brandon who serves as a partner in ministry. They have been married 26 years and have two adult children, Ben and Michaela.

The church invites all of those who would like to hear his inaugural message to come on

**August 19, at 11:00 a.m.**