DiscipleGuide Church Resources is conducting a series of "town hall" style meetings to communicate with BMA churches regarding plans to relocate offices from Texarkana, Ark. to the Lifeword building in Conway, Ark. Last April, the BMA of America overwhelmingly approved a similar proposal for the BMA Missions office to also relocate to the Lifeword building. According to Executive Director Scott Attebery, “Our Trustees believe the move will not only save us money, but will also help us to do a better job working in cooperation with the other BMA departments. But we don’t want to do anything without communicating with the churches of the BMA first.” On Jan. 30, 2014, Farley Street, Waxahachie will host a DiscipleGuide town hall meeting at 11 a.m. Scott Attebery will share details and answer questions regarding the proposed relocation. Steve Crawley, executive director of Lifeword, will also be available at the meeting to answer questions regarding current renovations to the Lifeword facility to accommodate multiple departments. In April of 2013, the BMA of America approved a recommendation by the DiscipleGuide board of trustees to conduct a feasibility study regarding the issue of possible relocation. The resulting study investigated the logistical, financial, personnel and strategic implications of relocation. As a result of the study, the board determined that relocation of the publishing offices from Texarkana to Conway, Ark. was in the best interest of DiscipleGuide and the BMA. The recommendation will be made to the BMA of America at the national meeting in April of 2014.
Thank you Ms. Vicki

WAXAHACHIE, Texas—Vicki Garner, receptionist and longtime employee of the Texas Baptist Home for Children has retired. Affectionately known as “the heart of the Home,” children, foster parents, clients and co-workers adored “Ms. Vicki.” Employed for over 20 years at the Home, Ms. Vicki began in the Home’s former daycare, eventually becoming the receptionist. It was Ms. Vicki’s voice most would hear when calling the Home.

Ms. Vicki always had candy and stuffed animals for the children who often visited her office. To some, she was a second mother, offering a lot of love to those who needed it the most.

A reception was held in Ms. Vicki’s honor upon her retirement. Lunch was served, followed by cake and a special presentation to her by the Home’s president, Eddie Marsh.

SOAR:lit Spring 2014 Review

By JEROME COOPER
DiscipleGuide Director of Publishing

Scott Attebery, SOAR:lit writer for spring 2014, shares that his dream job would be that of a college football coach. That’s a great insight into the path and purpose of the SOAR:lit lessons for the spring quarter. A coach instructs, motivates and ultimately pours himself or herself into the lives of countless players.

One goal is to experience athletic success, but the greatest coaches are those who enable their athletes to experience life success.

Isn’t that what discipleship is all about? It’s pouring one’s own life into the lives of others so that they can experience Christ’s purpose in their own relationship with the Savior. Ultimately the task isn’t about the discipler (the coach); it’s about Christ and achieving His will in the lives of believers.

The spring series of SOAR:lit lessons will focus on the task of discipleship. That task involves pointing people to Christ, getting personally involved in other believers’ lives, and seeking the eternal dividends of fulfilling Christ’s command to “make disciples.”

One lesson deals with the cost of such a commitment; but while the cost of discipleship is great, the failure to make disciples is much more costly as lives are lost, churches fail, and God’s kingdom work suffers because His people have refused to devote themselves to the task.

In the first lesson of the series, Scott asks, “Can you think of a friend whose heart needs to be cultivated for Christ?” Then he offers the challenge: “Pray that God will give you opportunities to prepare the way of the Lord by getting involved in his/her life.”

The spring lessons in the SOAR:lit series will help students understand their calling to be disciple makers and challenge them to obey Christ by investing in the lives of others.

Ebeneezer Baptist Church,
Pittsburg ordains Pastor Mike Hall

PITTSBURG, Texas—In a recent evening service at Ebeneezer Friendship, Pittsburg, a council of about 20 brethren met to ordain Bro. Mike Hall, the new pastor at Ebeneezer. Bro. Randell Trull was elected as moderator. The preacher for the service was approved at the request of the candidate. Bro. Steve Packer was elected. After questioning Bro. Hall, the council approved him for ordination. By vote of the church, this action was approved and the laying on of hands was conducted. Bro. Packer’s message was from Hebrews 11 and 12, “Consider Him.” A right hand of fellowship was given Bro. Hall and his wife, Telly. A reception followed the service, where snacks and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

BMAA President encourages greater attendance at national meeting

By ED STEPHENSON
BMA of America President

The 65th Annual Meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of America is fast approaching and I am anticipating a great meeting. It will be good to return to the city of our roots, Little Rock, Ark., enjoy our fellowship and give our attention to the most important business in the world! The meeting dates are April 28-30 and we will meet at the Statehouse Convention Center with the Little Rock Marriott Hotel serving as the headquarters hotel.

There are some things I want you to seriously consider:

1. Your attendance is very important to the success of the national meeting. The past few years we have seen a decline in attendance and I am praying that this year will see a reversal of that trend.

2. If at all possible please consider making your reservations with the host hotel, the Little Rock Marriott. The negotiations concerning the expense of the meeting are partially based on our booking of the rooms allotted to our guest and messengers. It is also important that we plan on staying through Wednesday night.

3. If at all possible please consider increasing your offerings to the ‘Minute Fund’ which is used to cover the expense of the national meeting. Like everything else the cost of our national meeting continues to increase but many churches are still sending the same amount to the minute fund and have done so for many years.

4. Let’s all join together in prayer for our national meeting. I think we all agree that prayer is important and vital, for the success of our meeting. My desire is for our meeting to bring honor to our Lord and that it will be a time of inspiration and motivation to everyone in attendance. I pray for the presence, and power of the Holy Spirit to reign supreme in all of our sessions.

I extend a special word of thanks to the Committee on Arrangements, Production Committee and the Host Committee for their work in preparation of this year’s meeting. All of us appreciate the behind the scenes work of those in the field of sound and video, for the major contribution they will make in the success of the meeting.

All of your officers are looking forward to seeing and serving you April 28-30 in Little Rock, Ark.

STILL GOT A FEELING

Editor Jerry Fulton sings! Order his new CD, Still Got a Feeling, by calling the Baptist Progress office at 972-923-0756, emailing him at editor@baptistprogress.org, or directly from his website, www.jerryfulton.com. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE BAPTIST PROGRESS.


Price: $12
Use good judgement

By SCOTT ATTEBERY

A recent quote in my local newspaper caught my attention. A spokesman for a secular organization critiqued a Christian for speaking his convictions. That’s not the part that caught my eye. What stood out to me were the additional comments made by the organization’s spokesman, in which she said (paraphrase), “The convictions this man has spoken are judgmental which is a direct contradiction to Christianity.”

Ok, here’s a few quick thoughts:
1) It’s strange to think a non-Christian has the wisdom to define what is and isn’t “Christian”
2) To state that something is or isn’t “Christian” is a judgment
3) While certain “judging” is warned against in Scripture, there is plenty of admonition to “judge” and make “judgments” (but that’s a different subject)

The whole issue heightened my awareness that the world is not leaving Christianity alone. Instead, many non-believers are trying to redefine the message of Christ’s gospel.

What’s worse is many who claim to be “Christians,” buy into false teaching and begin to propagate a false gospel. Whether or not it is because of their lack of knowledge, lack of conversion, or desire for worldliness or a combination of all three, believers are called to be on guard against false gospels. Paul wrote to the Galatians:

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ” (Galatians 1:6-10).

Wow, that’s some pretty strong language Paul is using. The call to guard against “other gospels” is crucial to the Christian life.

The best way to be on guard against false gospels is to know the real gospel. The more your life revolves around the gospel, the more aware you will be of errors in false teachings.

Further, you must never allow your faith to go into “cruise control” where you cease to test ideas and teachings. One of the most dangerous things a Christian can do is to stop thinking. Test everything you read and hear against Scripture. Ask whether the teaching exalts Christ and reflects the gospel accurately.

Don’t be tempted to think that “I’m saved, that’s all that matters, so I’ll leave the deep thinking to scholars.” Every message you hear has the power to impact your heart. Proverbs 4:23 states, Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.”

So when it comes to filtering incoming messages, good judgment is a must!

The day the church begins to die

By JOE MCKEEVER

A preacher friend lives in a brand-spanking new home provided by the ministry he heads. “They had to tear down the old one,” he told me. “Mildew was everywhere and after years of trying to cure it, they gave up.”

A friend in that city told me the previous tenants—my friend’s predecessor and his family—were constantly sick for no reason anyone could find. Workers repainted the interior of the house every year.

“When they tore the house down, they found the culprit. There was a pipe underneath the house—not in any of the architect’s original drawings—that was constantly leaking water into the foundation.”

The minister said, “At one point, in an attempt to cure the problem, the ministry head had storm windows installed throughout the house. He was sealing the house, but it had the opposite effect of what he intended.”

“An architect told me, ‘That day the house began to die. With the windows sealed, it could no longer breathe.’”

The day the house began to die.

An intriguing line. Churches also begin to die when they can no longer breathe.

I’ve seen churches die, and seen them in the process of dying. The culprit—the killer, the perpetrator, the murderer—is suffocation (an inability to breathe).

1. Churches begin to suffocate when they no longer welcome change.

Change is life. Our bodies are always in the process of sloughing off old dead cells and replacing them with new ones. Recently, a young pastor who served a local church during his seminary years, commented to me about the congregation he’s now serving. “It’s the oldest church of our denomination in this state,” he said. “But in many ways, it’s far younger than the New Orleans church I tried to pastor.”

Two texts come to mind. “No one, having drunk old wine, immediately prefers the new; for he says, ‘The old is better’” (Luke 5:39). That’s the problem, and it’s why the Lord said in the verses immediately preceding that “new wine must be put into new wineskins.”

Godly old people—and I want to think this applies to old faithful churches—still can do much for the Lord. “They will still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing” (Psalm 92:14).

2. Churches begin to suffocate and die when they no longer welcome new members with different ideas.

It’s not only pastors who hear that death chant called “We never did it that way before.” New church members hear it, too. I’ve known of dedicated and godly people moving into a city and joining a struggling church, one desperately in need of a transfusion of life and health, only to be told point-blank when they made a suggestion, “This is not that kind of church.” Soon they moved on.

The frustrating thing to an observer like myself—one who loves churches and hates to see any make Kervorkian-like choices sealing their doom—is that those same church leaders will turn right around and lament, “Why don’t people come help us in our ministry. We need some young adults to help us reach new people.”

They just don’t get it. They made the decision for their church to die, and are in denial about it.

3. Churches speed up the process of suffocation when their leaders grow to prefer the status quo.

All of these are inter-related, of course, and the lines separating one from another are not well-defined. One reason new members with ideas are unwelcome is that leaders have grown to like the present state of affairs. Pastors especially are in danger of growing complacent when the numbers are bottoming out but the finances are still sufficient. There is little panic so long as a lazy pastor is still getting his check.

Good and godly leaders are always pushing the congregation to reach out, minister, grow, and serve. When they quit—they find it more comfortable and less stressful to accept how things are now—the church begins to die.

4. Churches begin to suffocate when they discourage dissent.

No church makes that final journey to the ecclesiastical cemetery without a few men and women of faith protesting. They voice their concerns in business meetings, they visit the pastor with urgent pleas, they turn Sunday School classes into prayer meetings.

If the church—mainly its present leadership—sees all these efforts as trouble-making, go ahead and call the undertaker. That church is gone.

A pastor friend who read this says we need to emphasize that there are proper forums for expressing dissent in the church, that it really is trouble-making and counterproductive when criticism is lavishly doled out right and left. True enough. But, many churches have no way for people to express their dissatisfaction with what’s going on.

A friend who changed the organizational makeup of his congregation which eliminated all monthly business meetings told me later that was a mistake. “It frees the little group of powerChurch begins to die continued on p. 9
Seven reasons why worship centers will get smaller

By THOM S. RAINER

A seismic shift is taking place in American church facilities, a shift that will become even more noticeable in the years to come. Church worship centers or sanctuaries will become smaller than they were the past 40 years. As church leaders decide to build, a large number of them will decide to build smaller than most of their predecessors have in previous years.

The trend for the past four decades has been to build increasingly larger worship centers. And while the large worship center will not disappear, you will notice more intentionality to build or buy smaller. Why? As I look at the church landscape in America, I see seven reasons, and only two of them are related to declining attendance. I will note those two first.

Decreasing frequency of attendance among church members. The informal definition of an “active” church member a decade ago was a member who attended worship services an average of three to four times a month. Now a member can be present only two times a month and be considered active. That trend is definitely adversely affecting attendance.

The growth of the “nones.” Pew Research found that the number of Americans who say that have no religious affiliation increased from 15 percent of the population to 20 percent from 2007 to 2012. This shift is huge. One out of five persons will likely never be in your church services, and they no longer feel a cultural compulsion to do so.

The growth of the multi-site and multi-venue church. This movement is large and growing. Church leaders are strategically starting different sites and venues to bring the church to the population rather than expect the people to come to one worship center. Churches are more likely to have a few small worship centers or use one worship center on multiple days than to have one large worship center.

The Millennials’ aversion to larger worship centers. I have seen this trend in my research of this generation born between 1980 and 2000. I have also experienced this sentiment personally with Millennial church leaders. On one occasion, I went on a tour of a large worship center with my Millennial friend remarked that he was concerned about more

The shift in emphasis from the big worship event to an emphasis on groups. Worship services will not go away. Preaching will remain central. But an emphasis on worship services as the big event will not be as great. Church leaders are giving more of their energy to the development of healthy leaders and groups. As a side note, watch for an increased demand for small group pastors or disciple leaders as worship pastors are sought after the past 30 or 40 years, so will these other staff members for the years ahead.

The desire to spend more on ministry and less on facilities. Church facilities have grown in proportion to expenses of churches over the past four decades. Church leaders are looking for more funds for ministry, and they will find those funds by reducing facility costs. The big worship center will not be built in many congregations, so they will have more funds to reach and minister to the community and beyond.

This trend toward smaller worship centers has already begun, and I only see it accelerating. An ancillary issue will be the challenge of churches to do something wise with existing worship centers that will continue to have higher percentages of vacant seating.

But that’s a matter for another article.

This article was originally published at ThomRainer.com on Dec. 9, 2013.
By DR. TRAVIS PLUMLEE

American culture has gone to pot

This New Year has started off with so much moral decadence that it leaves your head spinning. I wanted to start the year off with a positive article, but my spirit is vexed over the spiritual and moral bankruptcy that has exploded in our American culture since New Year’s Day.

It started off with Colorado and Washington legalizing a mood altering drug called marijuana for recreational use for all adults in the state. As if we didn’t have enough heartache in the American homes caused by drugs, we have to go and legalize more of them.

The answer to our stress and problems are not consuming more drugs!

Then the Obama administration has ordered the justice department to seek with impunity the Sisters of the Poor. These nuns refuse to sign a statement allowing for abortion pills and birth control pills to be part of their insurance coverage. They run an adult hospice care program for the poor. They say it goes against their religious beliefs. It doesn’t matter. The government is out to get them.

Then, there is a radical homosexual agenda going on to which many Christians seem indifferent. It started off with the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade that highlighted cross dressing men as the entertainment. In an even more bold and blatant act to cram homosexuality down our throats, the Rose Bowl Parade had a float in it with a gay couple (two men) who got “together” during the parade on the float as it went down the street and on national TV.

I can’t say the two men were married because they were not married. Marriage is between a man and a woman. They had a union. But they didn’t get married. Marriage for two men is impossible.

According to the large photo and article that hit newspapers across the country, the pastor, Alfredo Lanoix performed the first ever Rose Bowl Parade gay hook up. Thousands applauded as the float went down the street.

A woman pastor is another problem. Famous pop singer Beyonce, who is wildly popular amongst the masses, posed as Jesus Christ in a picture of the Last Supper. Dressed in her usual attire of a harlot, it was tantamount to blasphemy. But all the national news media showed it and laughed about it and thought it was great.

On New Year’s Day, the new Houston mayor, Annise Parker, was sworn into office. Her lesbian lover kissed her after her swearing in. Houston is the fourth largest city in America, and is now led by a lesbian.

This is just a few of the many headlines that got my attention. Does this bother anybody but me? You may be asking, well what can Christians do? It is the silent majority of Christians in this nation that keep silent and sit behind locked doors that have allowed this abomination to God to flourish.

How can God bless America when we are giving our children an education that leaves them dumb? Too many Christians have jumped on the liberal band wagon of “let’s not judge anyone,” and “we should just love everybody because God loves everybody.” So American culture blasphemes His holy Son, and the Supreme Court rules that an abomination to God is now the law of America. And you really think that God just smiles and gives his nodding approval.

No one can judge whether someone is truly saved or not. We should never be harsh in looking down on someone that has been through hard times, because Christ can heal, save and restore. But to always keep silent and never be willing to speak up against things that are clearly against the Bible is wrong. Do you care what kind of nation your children and grandchildren will live in?

We can love everyone, but that doesn’t excuse sin. We can forgive everyone, but that doesn’t mean there are no consequences for sinful behavior. I hear many a person in our churches tell other church goers – “you can’t judge me.” The reason this is our new national motto, (instead of in God we trust) is because so many Christians are living worldly lives.

We live like we want to live. We sin without guilt, without remorse and without repentance (2 Timothy 4:2-4). We almost, deep down, hope the world continues to grow worse in their sin so that we can justify our own rebellion to God. If we keep throwing out the lie that you can’t judge me about anything, then everyone can do what seems right to them (Proverbs 21:2). It is the Bible that judges. It is the Word of God that says what you are doing is wrong—not I, but God in His Word.

We can pray. We can pray for deliverance. We can pray for healing and repentance. We can pray for our own sins, and that we as a nation will turn from our wicked ways. But it must start with us (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Next, we can stop being mindless drones and voting for whomever the news media outlets tell us to vote. We could actually look at the platforms of the candidates and know their positions on political issues. We could watch for voting records of how senators and congressmen vote rather than pay attention to their Bible wagging commercials just before an election.

The liberal Supreme Court is appointed by the president and confirmed by the senate. We could speak up at work and amongst our friends and family to hold out the truth of God, and quit being such lily livered Christians, afraid that we won’t be politically correct. Maybe we should be biblically correct. Take a stand for God and His ways now, or prepare for His wrath (Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14; Jeremiah 32:33). We have turned our backs unto God, and not our faces!

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.

January 15, 2014 | 5

By PAUL GAUNTT

Things that finally dawned on me Part 1 - What is the true definition of success?

Looking back over the past 57 years since I gave my heart to Christ, I find that I have a deep sense of disappointment that I haven’t reached the level of spiritual maturity I would have expected to reach at this age. But it seems that in the early stages of my “golden” years, a few things have finally begun to dawn on me when it comes to this matter of what the abundant, successful, joyful Christian life is really about.

This short, simple list, which I submit, may not be profound to the reader, but here are some epiphanies I’ve experienced, and I know I would be much further along in my walk with Jesus if I had only reached these conclusions decades ago. I have discovered three things: (1) The true definition of success; (2) the merits in serving behind the scenes without acclaim; and (3) The proper motive for service to Christ. In this issue, I want to address what I’ve come to believe is the true definition of success.

1. I have found myself slowly but surely redefining success.

Early on, I more or less adopted the secular world’s definition—reaching high upon the so-called ladder of success, accumulating nice things and gaining acclaim and influence.

Renowned Baptist pastor and author, Jack Taylor once explained in his book, The Key to Triumphant Living, the futility and emptiness of such a life. He gave his testimony of how he had, according to worldly standards, reached the pinnacle of success in the Baptist world; pastor of a large and growing suburban church, best-selling author, in great demand as revival and conference speaker, president of the national denomination, and other marks of acclaim.

But he came to a point in his life when he asked God, “Is this all there is to an abundant life?” He fell into such despair, he finally asked God, one night, to take him in his sleep if this was all there was. He said, obviously he awoke the next morning and decided there must be purpose in life, so he spent hours and days desperately searching the scriptures to gain assurance that there was indeed more. His attention was drawn to a passage in Colossians 1 where the Lord spoke to Paul concerning the mystery of the ages, hidden from past generations, but now revealed to New Testament saints. And in verse 27 the Lord said, “To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

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 paul.gauntt@att.net.

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An expression of everlasting love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from December 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013.

ENDOWMENTS
MULLIN HOME: Red Springs Missionary Baptist Church
E. ANN PACE: Mr. & Mrs. Robert Houston
MYRA STOKES: Mr. Bill Stokes

HONORARIAUMS
ALL MY CHILDREN: Earlene Crenshaw
PEGGY AMEN: Travis & Allene Meador
EDDIE M BOOTH: John W. & Belinda Thiele
CHUCK BOSTON: Mrs. Joan Hartfield
BRO. EDIE & ALL TBHC STAFF: Harold M. & Jocie Lewis
JESUS CHRIST: Henry & Margaret Coffman
CHARLES CONNELLY: Mrs. Mary N. Wilson
C. D. COE: Ron & Lourita Coe
JIM & LYNDA CRUMP: Don Bryant
LOUIS DUFFY: Ron & Lourita Coe
NEIL & DIANNA DUMAS: Phillip & Donna Canup, Larry Poole
MARY DUNAVANT: J. M. & Margaret Wolf
KAY RAY, SUSANNE ENGLBERT: Shane & Patricia Whisler
MARFERY GILMER: Margaret Smith
PASTOR DAVID & NELDA HARKINS: Roy H. & Elizabeth Talbot
JOSEPH HARISON: Michael Ward
JESUS our HEAVENLY FATHER: Johnny & Billie Dodson
FRANCES C. KENT: Mr. Robert Kent
LADIES SS CLASS TUNDRA BC: Hoyt & Virginia Hopkins
JUNE & JACK LOYD: Ron & Lourita Coe
JACK & CALLIE MARSH: Steven Marsh
BRIAN & KAREN MATHIOWETZ: Mr. & Mrs. Lyall Kirton
OUR TEACHERS: Worker’s SS Class
PASTOR’S & MISSIONAIRES EVERYWHERE: Mr. & Mrs. Talbot Charitable Trust
WAYNE & JO ANN PETREA: Brenda Reeves
LAURA & LAYTON SANCHEZ: Christopher Sanchez
M/M G. DEAN SOAPE: Melinda Young, Patti Moore, Tonya Johnson

MEMORIALS
HELEN & OTTO ADRIAN: Carol Tisdale
J. P. ALSBROOKS: Beamon & Doris Calhoun
TYLER ARCHIBALD: Temple Baptist Church
RUDOLPH ARNOLD: Debra Wilson
RONALD BALLARD: Anthony & Heather Chiniara
J. S. BASS: Charlotte Morgan
ROB & GAYLYNN BEASON: Wayne & Linda Beason
WALTER BECKER: Dennis Myrice
JIMMY BEDDINGFIELD: Busy B Ranch
HAROLD BELL: Linda Lewis
NATHAN LOYD BLAIR: Mrs. Peggy Blair
MARTHA BORHENE: Fair Park Baptist Church
ROBERT BOUDREAX: Mrs. Frances Boudreaux
LINDA BOYD: Johnny & Phyllis Howell
LOIS & ED BRUMMET: Mr. & Mrs. Pat B Patterson
LORENE BURNS: Mrs. Jan Holcomb
BONNIE CALDWELL: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson, Jed & Glencie Whitaker
EULA CALDWELL: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson, Rosewood Baptist Church
Hazel Cookston: Mrs. Neta Hicks
HERMOLENE CORTEZ: Tommy & Virginia Gipson
BOBBY COSPER: Mrs. Virginia Cosper
CINDY CRANFILL: New Hope Baptist Church
EARL C DANIELL: Roland & Sandra Piaster
ALISSA DAVIS: Wayne & Linda Beason
SOPHIA DENNEY: Mr. & Mrs. Andy McCuistion
JEAN DICKERSON: Mr. Alby Dockery Living Trust
HARRIET M. ELLIOTT: Mrs. Jo Ann Sikes
WESLEY FERRELL: Don & Beverly Ferrell

2014 Barnabas Touch trips planned

By DANNY BULLOCK
Barnabas Touch Coordinator

Barnabas Touch trips for 2014 have been planned to go to four countries on five different occasions. The first trip will be to The Philippines April 18-26 to work with Missionary Don Newsom on the island of Panay. A pastor’s conference will be held during the day and there will be preaching in nearby churches at night.

At the invitation of Pastor Pete Etabag, Barnabas Touch will go to the island of Negros to hold a pastor’s conference Oct. 2-11. Ghana will be the next stop Aug. 1-9. During the Ghana trip follow-up training from a 2013 trip there will be conducted. There will be a two week recess of the Bible School there when the trip takes place.

A trip is planned for Nepal for the third consecutive year to work with the pastors there Sept. 5-13. A trip to Tanzania is for Dec. 4-13 to Tanzania to help teach pastors is pending for Dec. 4-13. The trip will be in response to the request of a Baptist pastor in western Tanzania who is concerned about the different doctrines being taught by untrained pastors.

Costs for the trips will be $2,750 which will include airfare, lodging and meals while in the country. For more information, contact Danny Bullock at 870-904-5032 or danbull0550@gmail.com. Churches, consider sending your pastor to help encourage and bless these men who do not always have much access to formal teaching and training.

Bro. Bob Whitten and his wife, JoAnn, have faithfully served Friendship Baptist Church, Mesquite for 40 years.

A celebration lunch will follow the morning service on Sunday, Jan. 26, in the fellowship hall.

Thank you Bro. Bob for your service and the example you have set for everyone.

Please call the church at 972-285-4544 if you plan on attending or want more information.
The Miracle of Christmas

By EDDIE MARSH

This year, the theme for Christmas at the Texas Baptist Home was the Miracle of Christmas. You never cease to amaze me with your generosity to the children to whom we are blessed to minister. This year there were 130 children who received gifts through this ministry.

We put out the plea and I prayed that God would meet the need and you responded. The bulk of the gifts came through the BMA of Texas and a few Southern Baptists of Texas Convention churches, but others got involved as well.

A lady with whom I went to high school saw our plea on Facebook and wrote to ask how she could help. Within days I received a package containing a variety of gift cards for our teens. We have written before about the bike lady who does such a great job each year to provide a bike for each child on campus and those in the community homes who make a request. The sheriff’s deputies of Ellis County sponsored a toy drive for TBHC and other benevolence agencies in the County.

All of these were wonderful and deeply appreciated, but that was not the true Miracle of Christmas for me. The true miracle came through talking with one of our houseparents. The offices of the Home were closed on Monday and Tuesday before Christmas. One week before Christmas, 10 children came into care on the same night. There were two sibling groups and one other child. Immediately Jennifer and Kristen began to gather gifts in order to have gifts for each of them.

On the Friday after Christmas, the lady, who along with her husband works with one of our Cottages, was in the office and I assisted her in taking some clothes to her vehicle. She told me that she wishes that I could have seen the faces of some of the children when they saw their gifts on Christmas morning.

One of the children said “you must really love us to give us all of these presents.” She explained that all of the gifts did not come from her and her husband. She pointed out that some came from Child Protective Services and that others had come from members of churches. The child then said, “Then they must really love us, but they don’t even know us.”

After further conversation the house-parent discovered that this child’s biological family did not believe in Christmas and the children had never celebrated Christmas. This opened the door to share the Christmas story with them and to teach this child that the whole celebration is because Jesus Christ came to this earth.

Now let’s review. Children are removed from their homes just days before Christmas and the place chosen for them to reside is Texas Baptist Home for Children where they received gifts and heard the true story of Christmas. Coincidence? No that’s a Miracle of Christmas.

Eddie Marsh is president of the Texas Baptist Home for Children in Waxahachie, Tex. Contact him at emarsh@tbhc.org or 972-937-1321. You may also visit the TBHC website, www.tbhc.org.

TBH Memorials continued from p. 6

A.L. FORD: Mrs. Marjorie Gilmer, David Gilmer & Family, Kent Gilmer & Family
LAVELL GARY: Jerry & Terri Hudson
BART GRANT: Wanda Gaet
LOIS & HESTER GIBSON: Janice G. Dore
WINK GIBSON: Jed & Glencie Whitaker
VEDA GOAD: Mr. & Mrs. Andy McCuiston
HEATH GREEN: Jimmy & Cynthia Green
WANDA HALL: Westside Baptist Church
DR. HAROLD HENDERSON: Thomas & Dianne Allen
KYLE HUSTON: Richard & Audra Easter
C W JOHNSON: Mrs. Bess Johnson
WIFE JOYCE: Mr. James D. Murphy
J R KENMORE: B. d. & Joy Colene Linton
DURWOOD KING: Mrs. Geneve King
JOE LISKA: Mrs. Mary Liska
E. R. LOVL: Mt Calvary Baptist Church
ANITA MARLEY: Mt Home Miss Baptist Church
DOROTHY MARSHALL: Ms. Candace Fraker
BILLY SUE MARTIN: Terry & Sharon Martin
BRO & SIS VIRGIL MAYES: Nelson & Veda Womack
THELMA MCCUTCHEN: Mr. & Mrs. Andy McCuiston
HOMER/MARIE MCKINNON: Ms. Jean Menough
DELORES MCKEELEY: Jack McNeely
HAROLD A. MCVAY: Mrs. Margie McVay
DOROTHY BENNINGFIELD MELTON: Mrs. Daisy Parker
CORY MONZINGO: Mr. W. V. (Tres) Watt, III
JERRY MORROW: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M Johnson
MY MOTHER: Janice Holt
KENNETH LARRY NEWMAN: Charles & Betty Johnson
EVORENE ODELL: Mrs. Marjorie Gilmer, David Gilmer & Family, Kent Gilmer & Family
BRUCE ODOM: Mrs. Doris Gardenhire
KENNETH W. OGLE: Mrs. Mary Ogle
MARY LEE O’NEAL: Mrs. Marie Smith
CLIFTON & RICKEY PARKER: Mrs. Daisy Parker
RAYMOND & EARLEEN PAYNE: Mrs. Alice Galloway
WAYLAND POOLCO: Loy S. Pollock
EVA LOU ROLDES: Ray & Cheng Rhodes
JAMES R RICHIE: Mrs. Charmel Richey
MAE PEARL ROBBINS: Nelson & Veda Womack
STEPHEN J ROME JR: Mr & Mrs Dale Robeson, Mrs. Ann Jackson
GAYLA ROSE: Gerald & Judy Phillips
JENNA RUSSELL: Royce & Joyce Johnson
ARTHUR A SATTERWHITE: Mr & Mrs Bobby B Nelson
SILAS & GERTRUDE SIGHTS: Mrs. Margie Mc Vay
DAMON L. SMITH: Ms. Patricia Ann Smith
STANLEY FAMILY: Mr. & Mrs. James Hightower
MARY STANLEY: Mrs. Mary Liska, Bro. & Mrs Duane Turner, Mr. & Mrs. Andy McCuiston, Mr & Mrs David Stanley
MARY LEE STANLEY: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson, Valera Green
STEVE STEVENS: Mary K. Gilbert
ROY DON STOUT: Jed & Glencie Whitaker
BOBBY STOWELL: Mr & Mrs Don Rhodes
CHARLES STILSON: James C. & Pam Moore
A WARD & DOROTHY SUTTON: Ward & Marge Sutton
HARRIS TEEL: Bro. & Mrs Duane Turner
JIMMY RAY THOMAS: Ms. Connie Priddy
TALOA THORPE: Fair Park Baptist Church
LEON TILL: Johnny & Phyllis Howell
MARGARET TILLEY: Jerry & Terri Hudson
H T (BUBBA) TREADWELL: Mr & Mrs McCown Enterprises
BILLY TURNER: Jack & Faye Higgins
BRO ESTON TURNER JR: Mrs Pat Chappell
OUR GRANDSON TY: James & Dianne Seale
JAMES WARREN: Marcus & Linda Tramel
ELLA WHEELER: Tommy & Brenda Shuttlesworth
MRS. JADIE WHEELER: Jerry & Linda Richardson
BILL WILSFORD: Wayne & Linda Beason
BILLY & BESSE WHITE: John & Phoebe Bowman
RON WILLIAMS: Brent & Tammy Swanner
M/M W. E. A WITCHER: Travis & Tommie Mason
JIMMYE WOLFE: Katrina King
CARL & EDNA WORTHINGTON: Mary C Edmondson

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—The entire concept of the Baptist Missionary Association of America is based on the idea of partnership. Christ’s Great Commission to take His message of redemption to the entire world is a daunting task for one church to accomplish. But, by partnering together we can obey His command!

You, your church, BMA Missions and God... that’s the partnership that your Missions Team desires to see strengthened. By participating in the 2014 World Missions Day Offering on Feb. 23, you’ll be helping BMA Missions identify, prepare and launch new missionaries to share the message of Jesus. Presently, BMA churches support over 1,000 missionary families across the globe and the largest number of North American missionaries in the history of our association. The BMA World Missions Day Offering plays a vital role in making sure that all those missionary families have the tools they need to get the job done.

Partnership! God never intended for the Great Commission to be a solo act! We all have a role to play. Visit bmamissions.org/worldmissions to see how you and your church can participate in the February 23rd World Missions Sunday.
He’s the one I want

By SHARON COLE

The Texas GMA officers and Promoters are looking forward to seeing all GMA girls at the Texas GMA Houseparty at Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment in Gary March 14-15, 2014. Check-in/registration upon arrival begins at 4 p.m. Our theme this year is He’s the One I Want, and the theme Bible verse is Psalm 27:4.

The tabernacle will be decorated with the different scenes from the 1950’s. The girls have the opportunity to participate in the program in many different ways. Churches are asked to re-write a song from the 1950’s, your song is included in the packet. It may be performed live or shown as a video (You Tube) during the talent show.

Districts are asked to do a hand-jive to be performed live or shown as a video during the talent show. See the GMA website (www.texasgma.org) for video instructions.

There will also be many other entertaining activities for the girls to participate in once they have arrived at the Houseparty, including a ping pong tournament for $1 each girl, there will be prizes for first, second and third place. Girls can have their hair done in a 50’s style for $2. The proceeds will go toward our project: 90 percent Trevor Morris Work Fund, 10 percent General Fund.

We will not be having food in the cafeteria for Friday evening this year. Also, to help raise funds for our project, the Texas GMA officers will have homemade crafts to sell.

On Friday night, the girls may wear their new Houseparty T-shirts with jeans (50’s style). Dress will be casual Saturday morning (the officers will be wearing their poodle skirts), if you are in the program Saturday afternoon, we request that you wear a dress or skirt, camp dress code applies. Dresses or skirts cannot be shorter than 4 inches above the knee.

Registration fees are $22 for cabins per girl, and $25 for dorms per girl. Registration can be done by mail to Daniel Springs Camp, P.O. Box 310, Gary, Texas 75643, or online at www.discipleguide.org and should be done by March 7.

T-shirt order forms are available in the packet sent to each counselor or on the GMA website. T-shirt orders must be mailed with money for each one by Feb. 10 to Kristi Key, 17304 CR 2854, Eustace, Texas 75124.

Also mailed to Kristi should be project money, the VIP project money, GMA Accomplishments page and the Texas GMA Officer Survey, which includes: the girl’s GMA attendance record, a 1-page essay “Why I Desire to be a Texas GMA Officer,” a signed parental information/consent statement, and a letter of recommendation from her counselor). The following should be sent to Assistant GMA Promoter ReNae Eyre, 100 Preston Trail, Jacksonville, Texas 75766: Miss/Jr Miss Packets including: a cover sheet, record sheet, questionnaire, autobiography, counselor recommendation, pastor recommendation, attendance record and district interview committee recommendation letter.

Something new to encourage promoting the project, for every $20 each individual girl brings to registration for the project, she will receive a chance to win a variety of awesome prizes. Each girl must turn their money in to Ms. Jayna Williams. A note to Counselors: please prayerfully consider, if asked, to be on the Advisory Council. These ladies help in implementing the state goals each year and work behind the scenes to make the Houseparty a memorable experience. They also support the officers with positive attitudes, words of encouragement and an abundance of hugs. The Advisory Council meets with the Promoters and Officers to plan the State meeting and make recommendations that would benefit the State GMA. They make financial recommendations, advise in parliamentary procedure, interview and recommend nominees for State GMA offices and offer any other assistance necessary to make the meeting run smoothly. God will bless you for being a positive influence in the lives of girls. To all the churches of the BMA of Texas: even if you do not have the GMA program currently at your church, if you have girls between 4th and 12th grade, give them the opportunity to come and have fun, meet new people, and most importantly, worship the Lord with girls their own ages. We are going to have an awesome time worshiping the Lord at the Texas GMA Houseparty this year! We can’t wait to see you there! Any questions can be answered by contacting Kristi Key at 903-451-1929 (home) or 903-340-0845 (cell) or outnumberdad@aol.com.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS

As we begin the New Year, we have many desires, hopes and dreams that by ourselves we cannot attain. What we think we want may not be God’s design for us at this time because He sees the whole picture and the future. Many fail to understand this concept and therefore think that God does not answer their prayers. But He does.

Sometimes He says yes. Sometimes He says wait a while until you’re spiritually mature enough to handle it. Sometimes He says no, which is the hardest answer to accept. Just believe that God is in control and He should be all you ever want or need because He is everywhere.

GOD IS EVERYWHERE

When I look up in the sky, see a bluebird flying by I wonder how some people say that God is dead. In his majesty on high he hears the sparrow’s cry And he knows the numbered hairs upon my head.

If your heart is filled with doubt and can’t figure out How God created this old world so perfectly Well, I can sing and shout and tell the world about Amazing Grace that saved my soul and set me free.

God is here, God is there, I know God is everywhere He has given me his promises to share It is not a mystery, he wrote it down for you and me Oh praise the Lord, I know he answers every prayer.

~ Sharon Cole
How do you understand the purpose and ministry of the church? Most of us have a very limited view of Jesus’ mission, which is our mission. A primary human condition and struggle is that we want our Savior to be about us, to focus on our people, our communities, our perspectives. Even when we learn to think more expansively about the configuration of the Kingdom, we too easily settle into communities that look, speak, and act like us.

During the forty days after Jesus’ resurrection until His ascension, He continued instructing the disciples about the nature of His mission. They were slow in getting it and the ascension, He continued instructing the disciples about the nature of His mission. They were slow in getting it and so we moved beyond the neighborhoods of our greatest comfort? Are we giving witness to those who are different from us? Are we faithful to the call?

In the presence of the risen Christ, our question may be, “Where would you have me go in order that your kingdom might be built?”

One example of a multi-ethnic ministry among us is our mission in Lewisville. George Martinez and his staff have a commitment to reach all people groups in their area. He has tried various ways to reach people in a changing community.

During the Christmas Holidays they had a live Nativity with a camel, donkeys and sheep to illustrate the birth of Jesus. On Sunday, Dec. 22, they had 183 in attendance, including 40 first time guests. There were four additions to their fellowship: two by profession of faith and two by letter. They also baptized a nine year old girl.

In that attendance there were people from Colombia, Bolivia, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Mexico and Costa Rica; in all 11 different nationalities. Our Metropolian areas have large numbers of many ethnic groups, and George and his staff are reaching across cultural lines to share the “Good News” to those living in the Lewisville area and people are responding to the gospel message. Remember, about four years ago George re-started this church with about 12 people. God has certainly blessed his efforts and their ministries.

They also have a Hispanic service with Ren Gustavo leading it. Their group is growing and reaching unchurched Hispanics in the area. I asked George how his work has grown and he said that it was because of four years of hard work, prayer and perseverance. We praise God for how He has blessed this work.

I ask you to pray for all our church planters. All of them are working on the fringes of society with unchurched people and people with many different backgrounds. It takes wisdom and creativity to build relationships and reach them with the gospel. Also pray for God to help us discover more church planters to be involved in His mission.

**Church begins to die** continued from p. 3

brokers who fought me on everything from the public invitation?”

“I do not claim to know the mind of the Lord as to which churches He tells, “For years I have come seeking fruit on this tree and find none. Cut it down. Why does it take up space?” (Luke 13:7)

“In fact, I’m not sure He says that at all.

“Lord, give us members and leaders alike who see that in following the Holy Spirit, they multitudes who can still be reached for Jesus by making a change, and take a stand for Christ’s sake as well as the sake of the unreached multitudes who can still be reached for Jesus by a vital, functioning church in this neighborhood.

“Lord, give us members and leaders alike who see that in following the Holy Spirit, they have nothing to lose except their chains and dullness. For Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

**An awesome responsibility.**

My one piece of advice to any church on life-support struggling to get its breath is this: If you sit here as you are now, you will die. So, get up and do something. Take a chance. What do you have to lose, for heaven’s sake?!! If you do something and it doesn’t work and the church does not survive, at least you can walk away saying you tried. But if you do nothing and the church dies, you will be among those blamed.

Anyone finding echoes of 2 Kings 7:4 and Ezekiel 3:19 in this, go to the head of the class.

“O Father, give us people who love your church as Christ did (and gave Himself for her). Give us leaders of courage and faith, who value Thy pleasure more than their careers. Give us life-saving ideas and ministry-birthing insights and a new freshness in our work for Thee.

“Then, give us the will to stand before complacent congregations and self-satisfied members who would let the church die before making a change, and take a stand for Christ’s sake as well as the sake of the unreached multitudes who can still be reached for Jesus by a vital, functioning church in this neighborhood.

“Lord, give us members and leaders alike who see that in following the Holy Spirit, they have nothing to lose except their chains and dullness. For Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

**Mission Life**

By JERRY BURNAMAN

January 15, 2014 | 9
**EVENTS**

**JANUARY 28, 2014**
DiscipleGuide Town Hall Meeting  
@ Farley Street, Waxahachie  
11 a.m.

**FEBRUARY 9, 2014**
Baptist Progress Rally  
@ Rosewood, Gilmer  
Message & singing by Jerry Fulton, Baptist Progress Editor  
11 a.m.

**FEBRUARY 23, 2014**
World Missions Sunday  
@ New Harmony Baptist Church, Tyler  
North American Missions Operations  
Director Larry Barker, guest speaker  
Morning Service @ 10 a.m.  
Missions Banquet @ 11:30 a.m.  
Evening Service w/several missionaries speaking @ 6 p.m.

**MARCH 13, 2014**
Texas Baptist Home Rally  
@ Brumley, Gilmer

**APRIL 28-30, 2014**
Annual Meeting of the BMAA  
@ Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock, Ark.

**MAY 15, 2014**
Texas Baptist Home Rally  
@ Willow Oak, Gilmer

**AUGUST 14, 2014**
LifeWord Media Ministries Rally  
@ Woodland, Gilmer

**OCTOBER 13-14, 2014**
Annual Liberty Baptist Association  
@ Little Mound, Big Sandy

**NOVEMBER 4-5, 2014**
Annual Meeting of the BMA of Texas  
@ Kelly’s First, Lufkin

**PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES**

Robert F. Lee has resigned as pastor of Antioch, Fairfield to become pastor of Macune, San Augustine.

**AVAILABLE POSITIONS**
Youth—Soda, Livingston is seeking a full time youth pastor. Send resume to the church at 8135 US Highway 190 East, Livingston, Texas 77351 or to youthguwayne@yahoo.com.

**PERSONNEL & POSITIONS**

**CHURCHES IN REVIEW**

**DECEMBER 22, 2013**

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<td>Elwood, Wills Point</td>
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<td>First, Palmer</td>
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<td>Glade Creek, Gilmer</td>
<td>13 30</td>
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<td>Harvest, Lufkin</td>
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<td>Jackson, Joaquin</td>
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<td>New Hope, Mineola</td>
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<td>Walnut Street, Winnsboro</td>
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**JANUARY 5, 2014**

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<td>37 64</td>
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For publication, statistics for Churches in Review must be received by Monday at 5 p.m.
SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

Speak clearly

By GARY HOUSE

DATE: January 19, 2014
TEXT: 1 Corinthians 14:1-40
LESSON IN BRIEF: Communicate clearly for words are to mean things. Therefore, they should be spoken clearly and with forethought, for the glory of God. Communicate clearly for words can be used to bless the hearers by showing the true way of life, for the glory of God.

Background—In chapters 12-14 of the Apostle Paul’s letter to Corinth, he gave them a list of spiritual gifts. Prophecy and speaking in tongues are among the more up front of the gifts, especially speaking in tongues. The Corinthian church had some real problems using this gift. They became enamored with these particular gifts and earnestly sought them, so they would feel more important or more spiritual than others. In reality, this was a sign of spiritual immaturity.

In chapter 13, Paul writes that love must be our motivator. But in the desire to have the preeminence these Christians selfishly sought tongues. Therefore, Paul addresses the issue once more in chapter 14, calling for clarity. They became enamored with the gifts, especially speaking in tongues. The Corinthian church had some real problems using this gift. They became enamored with these particular gifts and earnestly sought them, so they would feel more important or more spiritual than others. In reality, this was a sign of spiritual immaturity.

The gift of prophecy is the ability given by God to speak in a language that you did not learn. Tongues were never used to proclaim a new revelation from God. The first and primary use of tongues was on the Day of Pentecost. On that day, prophecy and tongues were in their proper balance and used under the authority of God’s Holy Spirit. Jesus received glory, the people were unified, and man’s greatest need—his need for salvation—was met in the lives of thousands.

“The ability to speak in a plain, clear, instructive manner, so as to edify the church and convince sinners, [is] a more valuable endowment than the power of speaking foreign languages” because it is more useful for communicating God’s truth within the context of the church service (Barnes’ Notes, p. 259). When I speak God’s truth in simple English, you can understand me. You still may not respond to what I have to say, but at least you have understanding which gives you the option to respond. It is clear that Paul prefers prophesying to tongues. He says if you speak in tongues you are not edifying anyone other than yourself, but prophecy builds up the church.

Paul says teaching or exhorting is more important than whether I speak in a tongue. Church is not a show, but it is a time for exhortation, encouragement, and teaching. The person who communicates God’s truth directly to people has the greatest potential of seeing real changes happen in their lives. In verses 21-22, Paul reminded the Corinthians that tongues would cease, in and of themselves, as soon as their reason for existence was revealed. So, tongues are a sign, not for believers, but for unbelievers. In contrast, prophecy is for believers, not for unbelievers.

Summary of the four truths presented in this chapter:
1. Biblical tongues was the supernatural ability to speak in known languages not understood by the speaker. It was not babbling or ecstatic speech.
2. Tongues was a special sign for the confirmation of the Word before rebellious and unbelieving Israel until the destruction of Jerusalem and the scattering of the nation which began the times of the Gentiles.
3. Biblical tongues are no longer spoken. The purpose has been fulfilled and the phenomena has ceased.
4. The Corinthians became fascinated by tongues because their use brought attention to the user. The preoccupation resulted in misuse of the gift and a disregard for the total spiritual life.

LESSON IN BRIEF: Communicate clearly for words are to mean things. Therefore, they should be spoken clearly and with forethought, for the glory of God. Communicate clearly for words can be used to bless the hearers by showing the true way of life, for the glory of God.

By GARY HOUSE

DATE: January 26, 2014
TEXT: 2 Corinthians 1:3-11
LESSON IN BRIEF: Salvation does not relieve us from suffering, but it does give it a purpose. Why do Christians suffer?

1. God allows us to suffer so that we may share comfort (verse 4).
2. God allows us to suffer because it develops our faith (verse 5).

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Why do Christians suffer?
It’s time!

To make your reservations for the 2014 BMAA meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas

The 2014 session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America will meet April 28-30 at the beautiful Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Bro. Pastor, we need your help. When the BMAA Committee on Arrangements contracts with a convention center to host our annual meeting, the rental fee is normally tied to the number of hotel rooms we expect our attendees to use during the meeting. The rental fee in Little Rock is contingent upon our use of rooms blocked at the designated hotels. The rental fee will increase by the daily cost of each room not used.

The Committee on Arrangements has negotiated terms in Little Rock that will allow the conference center space to be rent free if we use the total number of rooms blocked at the Marriott and two overflow hotels. Please help us fill the Marriott first to cap the cost of the rental space and then the overflow rooms will help us get the meeting space rent free.

Our association has had to pay extra in the past years because many of the blocked hotel rooms were not used. Please help us avoid a situation like that this year.

We appreciate your help.

Charles Attebery
Leon Carmical
James Ray Raines
BMAA Committee on Arrangements

2013 BMAA yearbook published on CD

TEXARKANA, Ark.—The BMAA recording clerks announce the release and mailing of the 2013 Yearbook of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. The newest feature of this year’s book is that it was produced on CD rather than the traditional print format. The 2013 Yearbook contains the record of the proceedings of the annual association meeting in Norman, Okla., as well as all of the annual reports, audits and board meeting minutes of each department of the BMAA.

The use of a CD to publish the 2013 volume of the Yearbook provided a significant financial savings for the BMAA’s Meeting Expense Fund. The 2013 Yearbook expense represented approximately a 70% savings over the previous year’s expense of printing and mailing the Yearbook.

In addition to reports from the BMAA national departments, the Yearbook contains reports from the Women’s Missionary Auxiliary, the Brotherhood, and several other miscellaneous committees of the BMAA.

Churches or pastors that have not received a copy of the Yearbook may request one by contacting BMAA recording clerk Jerome Cooper at 1-800-333-1442.

65th Annual

BMA of America National Meeting

April 28-30, 2014

Statehouse Convention Center • Little Rock, Arkansas

Program (Tentative)

Monday Morning, April 28

8:30 Display/Exhibit Set-up
2:30 Registration Set-up (Enrollment and Finance Committee)

Monday Evening, April 28

7:00 First General Session
Opening session
Welcome/Introduction (President)
Introduction of guest for official welcome to Little Rock
Sound of the gavel declaring the meeting open
Introduction of the Host Committee
Introduction of the Committee on Arrangements
Introduction of officers
Special Music
Introduction of President for the presidential message
President’s Message
Closing Prayer

Tuesday Morning, April 29

8:00 WMA Registration
8:30 WMA Meeting
Brotherhood Meeting
10:00 Pastors’ and Laymen’s Conference
Noon Seminary Lunch

Tuesday Afternoon, April 29 (Called Meetings)

1:30 Committee Meetings
- Missions Department
- Lifeword Media Ministries
- DiscipleGuide Church Resources
- Moral Action
- BMA Seminary
- Nominating Committee
- Ministers Resource Services

Tuesday Afternoon, April 29

3:00 Second General Session
Missionary?
Special Music?
3:20 Opening Instructions to the Messengers
3:30 Initial Report of Enrollment Committee
3:35 Petitioning Churches & Seating Their Messengers
3:45 Proposed Changes to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation
4:00 Nominates for Nomination Committee
4:10 Clerk’s Report
4:15 Moral Action Agency Report
4:45 Miscellaneous Business
Dismiss in Prayer

Tuesday Evening, April 29

7:00 Third General Session
Central Baptist College Choir
Annual Sermon

Wednesday Morning, April 30

8:30 Fourth General Session
Missionary Speaks or Video?
8:45 Music?
9:00 WMA Report
9:10 Brotherhood Report
9:20 Master’s Builders Report
9:30 Coordinating Council Report
9:40 Nominating Committee’s Report
9:50 Lifeword Media Ministries Report
10:25 Vote on any changes to the SPC
10:30 Special Music or Video?
10:35 Committee on Arrangements Report
10:45 Ministers Resource Services Report
11:15 Miscellaneous Business
Closing Prayer

Wednesday Afternoon, April 30

2:00 Fifth General Session
Missionary Speaks
2:15 Music
2:30 BMA Seminary Report
3:00 Revolving Loan Fund Report
3:10 DiscipleGuide Church Resources Report
3:40 Final Nominating Committee Report
3:50 Special Music or Video?
4:00 Minute and Clerk Hire
4:10 Election of Officers/Annual Speaker
4:20 Election of Missions Advisory Committee Members
4:30 Final Report of Enrollment Committee
4:40 Miscellaneous Business
Closing Prayer

Wednesday Evening, April 30

7:00 Sixth General Session
Music
7:15 Missions Department Report
7:45 Closing of the 65th Annual Session
7:50 Missions Commissioning Service
At the end of the commissioning service the meeting will be over

Enrollment Committee Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>2:00-4:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00-7:00 p.m. and 30 minutes after session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8:30-9:00 a.m., 2:00-3:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
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