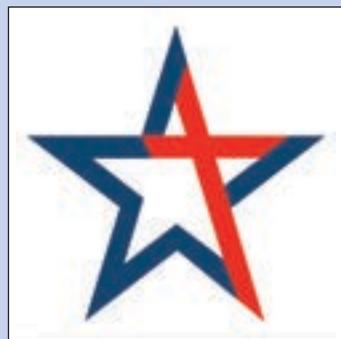


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DiscipleGuide

ATTEBERY RESIGNS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLEGUIDE

By **AARON MIDDLETON**
DiscipleGuide Trustees Chairman

The board of trustees for DiscipleGuide Church Resources announces that Dr. Scott Attebery has submitted his resignation, effective May 1, 2018. Dr. Attebery has served faithfully as our executive director for the past 5 ½ years with a deep conviction that we are to connect small churches with big resources to equip them in making disciples. Our board appreciates the creativity and vision he has brought to the department during his tenure, and we have no doubt that God will bless him in his new adventure.

Bro. Scott commented on his departure, saying, "It has been an honor to serve local BMA churches through the ministry of DiscipleGuide. I am confident that God will provide the right person to lead the ministry into the future. I am looking forward to spending more time writing and enjoying time with my son."

DiscipleGuide remains committed to resourcing the local church with innovative tools for discipleship. We are in the process of searching for a new executive director. Resumés may be submitted to DiscipleGuide Search Committee, C/O Aaron Middleton, 2709 Chaffin Lane, Magnolia, AR 71753.



▲ Dr. Scott Attebery



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High School Graduates

The names of high school graduates
will be published in the

next issue of *Baptist Progress*.

If your church has 2018 high school graduates,

please send their names to

editor@baptistprogress

or P.O. Box 2085, Waxahachie, Texas 75168

by 5 p.m. on May 7, 2018.

Letter to the Editor

The members of Bethel Baptist Church, Port Arthur, are excited to announce our dedication service following our recovery from the effects of Hurricane Harvey last year. We are very thankful to our God who has blessed us amazingly and for those who have helped us with prayers, encouragement, physical work and/or finances. Some have helped us through the BMAA Emergency Relief Fund. Thank you all very much for that help.

We invite those who have helped us rebuild our church house to come to our dedication service. We also invite the friends of Bethel and those who love Southern Gospel music.

The dedication service will be May 6, 2018 at 4 p.m. *The Southern Plainsmen* will help us celebrate this momentous occasion with a concert. Brothers Thomas Monroe and Chris Blacksmith will speak. There will be a slide presentation of the devastation and of the recovery. The service will end with a fellowship meal.

Your help with our buildings have also helped us to recently launch

a new ministry to the Hispanic people of our area. They will share our remodeled facilities with us. Brother Santos Lopez of Houston will lead in this Hispanic outreach.

Paul expressed his thanks to the Philippians in a way that speaks of our appreciation for those who are a part of our "fellowship in the gospel." He wrote, "Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, tha he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: Even as it is meet for us to thing this of you all, because I have you in my heart" (Philippians 1:2-7a).

Yours in Christ,

Jim Lea

Pastor of Bethel, Port Arthur

Master's Builders work at Oak Hill, Gilmer

By **NELDA MALONE**

Master's Builders Reporter

Some of you may be wondering, "What has become of The Master's Builders?" Well, we are doing well and are working, but our reporter has fallen down on her job! I do apologize for this.

The Master's Builders worked at Oak Hill Baptist Church, just north of Gilmer, in September 2017. They helped the church finish putting up OSB in the youth building. Thank you to Pastor Dicky Mauk and all who helped the builders as they worked and to all who helped with our meals.

In February, the Masters Builders met for our annual Retreat at Spring Lake Baptist Assembly, Lonsdale, Arkansas. We always enjoy our time of fellowship and relaxation. Here we are able to just visit and eat! We also learned of upcoming jobs and it seems like The Master's Builders will be very busy this spring.

In March, The Master's Builders traveled to Stone Ridge Baptist Camp in Smithville, Arkansas. Brother Scott Small had some jobs lined up for the men, which included putting up white tin on the ceilings in one of the large dorms, putting a window in Bro. Scott's office, and replacing some boards in the area around the big freezers in the kitchen area.

We will be working in Texas during April and May, and in Arkansas in June. Please remember The Master's

Builders in your prayers! Pray for safety as the men work and that God would lay this ministry on the hearts of men and women!

If you have any questions about The Master's Builders Ministry or if your church has any building needs, please contact our Office Coordinator, Bro. John Mangum at 318-202-5155 or (cell) 318-607-4100 or our Field Coordinator, Eddie Sikes at 903-725-6549 or (cell) 479-462-1675.

Remember, you can follow us on Facebook at "The Master's Builders."



Liberty Association hosts Texas Baptist Home rally

By **CHARLES JOHNSON**

Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer

Simmons Hill, Diana was the site for a Texas Baptist Home for Children rally on Thursday evening, March 15. The event was sponsored by the Liberty Baptist Association. There were representatives from 13 churches present at the meeting.

Simmons Hill Pastor Gabriele Knopp welcomed the messengers to Simmons Hill. Association moderator Wayne McKay presided over the business session. A generous offering of \$4,000+ was received for the Home.

Jason Curry, president of the Home, gave an informative report and power-point presentation on the ministry of the children's Home which began as Texas Baptist Orphanage in 1910. Bro. Curry also played on his guitar and sang a beautiful rendition of *I'll Fly Away* before he brought an inspiring message entitled "Being a True Neighbor" from Luke 10:25-37.

After the service, the host church served a delicious meal of various soups, sandwiches and homemade desserts in their fellowship hall. The next meeting of Liberty Association will be a rally for Baptist Medical Missions International and will meet with Willow Oak Baptist Church, 1538 Sunflower Road, Gilmer at 7 p.m. on May 17.

Churches Planting Churches Seminar

There will be a "Churches Planting Churches" Seminar held at the BMA of Texas Building, located at 632 Farley Street in Waxahachie, May 21-23. Buddy and Eric Johnson will be leading the seminar. The seminar is sponsored by BMA of Texas Missions and BMA of America Missions. Please make plans to attend to learn how your church can plant new churches. Contact Allison Sinclair at BMA of Texas Missions if you plan to attend at allison@bmatexas.org or 972-923-0757.

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"What's the point? Why keep going through the motions when nothing in life makes sense or really matters? Why keep trying?"

Amy Segal, a pre-med second year student at the university kept asking herself these questions and more. At first, no one could have guessed. She loved learning, had big plans, goals and determination with straight A's to prove her dedication. None of it seemed worthwhile.

Amy's parents never talked about faith. Her dad had some knowledge of the gospel and wondered if it might be true. She always knew her mom was an avowed atheist who believed life ended with death. Raised as a secular Jew, she never thought much about it until her grandpa died. Then she couldn't quit thinking, "one day I will be old and what will happen to me when I die?" Always vague and unclear, her mom answered, "don't worry, these feelings will pass and you will feel better soon."

And they did. But the questions returned, and this time they wouldn't go away. Tired of the battle and with no relief in sight, she called her parents to let them know she was leaving the university, at least temporarily, because it all seemed like a worthless pursuit.

While this was disappointing, her parents wanted to offer support, but how? Amy's dad wondered if he should pray. Her mom scoffed at the idea asking how long it would take for God to answer. Without thinking, he promised they would hear by March 1!

February 28, a new friend on campus shared his personal testimony with Amy, continuing the conversation on March 1. The more he talked about the importance of his faith, the more Amy wanted to hear. Old fears about death and dying returned, but this time she knew the answer. Jesus was not just a good man, He was her long awaited Messiah—her Savior! Hope sprang up inside and a peace she'd never experienced flooded her heart. Amy called her mom to say she was "looking into Christianity" only to learn later that God was working with her parents, answering her dad's prayer right on time—by March 1!

What on earth had happened to her daughter and her husband? Amy's mom had no idea where this sudden belief in the Bible had come from, but decided she should check out the "magical" book for herself. What a surprise! No fairy tales here! Matthew's

description and account of the Pharisees lifted off the page and went straight to her heart. Ancient words, yet so relevant to her life they had to be true. Finally she understood what her husband and daughter already knew. Jesus is the Son of God! Not knowing what to do next, quite by accident she found several gospel tracts. One of them explained the plan of salvation and the sinner's prayer was printed on the back. By accident or supernatural intervention, it didn't matter. She understood enough to believe and readily accepted the simple truth of God's Word.

He works that way today. Even when we don't understand why or how, He always shows up—right on time every time! It starts with a one on one relationship, and the precious promise to never leave us alone is for all who receive Him as Savior. What a happy day! But there's more. Accepting His great gift is just the beginning. Not only does He walk with us each day on this earth, He's our lifeline to a forever hereafter we cannot begin to comprehend. And it's all ours because we've been adopted into the King's family. Today we can only imagine its' splendor and beauty; one day it will be our home.

Amy (Segal) Butterfield is a faithful member of our church, South Park Baptist, Ft. Worth. Thank you, Amy, for sharing your story and for allowing us to see this beautiful example of love and grace with fresh eyes. While every journey to faith is different, the answer remains the same. Knowing Jesus personally and trusting Him completely brings comfort, peace, and so much more... because He always shows up and He's always on time—every time! (1 Peter 1:3-9)

Pat Quesenbury has been active in ladies' ministry for years. She is a pastor's wife, mother and active member of the Women's Missionary Auxiliary. Contact her at pquesenbury@gmail.com.



BMA of america



Grounded in the Word of God



By **MATI SPENCER**

DiscipleGuide

People are getting grounded in the Word of God.

This is the trend in Filipino BMA churches, as Sam Freeman and his missionary family work to provide DiscipleGuide's Sunday school literature to churches across the Philippines.

"We provide literature for 115 churches in the Philippines every quarter," explained Sam Freeman. "And we are currently raising funds to print the children's literature, since kids ages 9-12 are an age that we primarily run in to. They're also the age where the children are usually making life decisions."

The Freemans work to print the literature at a publications office in the Philippines. When it is printed, the literature gets distributed to four locations around the island. From there, it is either picked up by churches or mailed.

"When we arrived in the Philippines to be missionaries, they had the publication office already, yet they would print 1,200 copies in January and still have 1,000 copies left in June. We were in desperate need of a distribution channel."

Bro. Freeman used his background in IT and computer knowledge to help make a way for that channel to distribute discipleship materials to churches. Now that Christians in Filipino BMA churches have access to discipleship literature, Bro. Freeman says that the believers are getting grounded in the Word.

"Our adults in the churches are thankful that they don't have to search elsewhere for materials," explained Freeman. "To know that different churches across the Philippines are on the same material helps us all work toward the same goal."

Not only do the Freemans make sure to distribute the literature, but they make sure to offer churches tracks and study guides to deepen their knowledge of Christ and help them disciple others.

"We in the Philippines appreciate the fact that we have this vast material available to us because of DiscipleGuide," said Freeman. "We are thankful also that we are looking forward to many more years of partnership, because the materials are very fruitful for us."

Everlasting Smiles shoebox distribution in Honduras

By **ANGELA RICE**

BMAA Missions

Last week, I experienced the "other side" of Everlasting Smiles, our BMA Shoebox Ministry. I was honored to lead a team to visit our missionaries, Denis Lopez and Brad Gathright in Honduras to pass out shoeboxes to children in our BMA churches. Can I tell you that there is nothing like it? Our first shoebox distribution happened in a church. We had a time of worship and Bible story with the kids, of course we had a little snack and then we gave out the gifts. I wish you could have heard all of the excited little voices as they looked at the things inside the boxes you packed. They were very excited to receive the boxes. Over and over little voices would say thank you in both English and Spanish.

Our lesson to the children was simple, Jesus loves you. Our verse was John 3:16. We told them "We love you because Jesus loves you. Because we love you, we want to give you a gift. There are many gifts inside this box, but the best gift of all is this book, The Bible. It is the story of Jesus and how much he loves you." It was so neat to see that as the children looked at each of the gifts in the box, they all looked for the Bible that we had told them about.

The next day, we enjoyed church at Iglesia Boutista Misionera Nazareth with the songs and message shared in both Garifuna and Spanish languages. It was a great service. We also attended church at the mission church at Bro. Denis Lopez's house. We loved worshipping with our brothers and sisters in Tela. Bro. Brad Gathright, BMA missionary to Honduras, preached. These men work so well together. They love the Lord, love people and shine Jesus to their communities, and they are best friends.

The next two days we traveled an hour and a half into the mountains. We visited children at school. This was exciting to me because I have taught in the public school, as many on our team have. We were able to share with them our lesson of Jesus Loves You and give gifts to them. Every classroom was the same. There was a lot of sweet smiles, laughter and hugs. No wonder we call this Everlasting Smiles. The smile begins when they see the wrapped box, something that most of these children will never receive if we didn't bring them. Our prayer is that they read the Bible and find the Everlasting Smile that comes from a relationship with Jesus.

One of the teachers of the school gave us this message: "We thank this group of Brothers and sisters from the United States. We are very thankful for the gifts and the message of God that each child received. We read that message to a child that was with us. We are thankful for the vision you have. God Bless you."

After we gave gifts, Pastor Raul invited the children to

come to his house, where they just started a mission church. Under the roof that he recently added to his house for the church meeting, we filled every seat with children and their parents to share with them again the love of Jesus. Over 70 people each day crowded in the church. Pastor Raul had the opportunity to meet and personally invite each of them to worship with him at his church.

Pastor Raul Ayala said, "Thank you for your time that you have given to support this mission work. Thank you for the gifts and bringing the kids happiness. Thank you for bringing the Word of God to each of them. Thank you for coming so far to give this gift. The rural place where we work is in great need of the Word of God. Thank you for giving us this support. We hope in the future to give reports and results. God Bless you and Thank you very much."

Our missionary, Denis Lopez, is the coordinator of the BMA Honduras. "I want to thank God most of all for all of the blessings. For the churches of the BMA of the United States, I want you to know that the shoeboxes that we received were a huge blessing. They have been distributed to the 36 churches in Honduras and have been a blessing to each one. Giving out shoebox gifts help us reach out to children and their families that do not attend our churches. We want to encourage the churches to keep supporting this ministry of Everlasting Smiles Shoeboxes. We want to thank you for your support and your prayers. All of the churches in Honduras are very thankful."

Everlasting Smiles Shoebox Ministry connects our missionaries with people in their community that come to receive the gift that we bring. It gives the area pastors and the missionaries a chance to personally meet people and begin a relationship with them.

Thank you for helping us share this love with children around the world.



Church Health

Ministry Placement System

By LARRY BARKER

We speak often of the great commandment (Matthew 22:37), and the great commission (Matthew 28:19-20) but there is also the great charge given by Peter.

I Peter 4:10 says, “Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God.” This great charge must be the goal of every church regardless of its size. The goal is to involve every believer in ministry by using their gifts to serve others. The truth is that saved people are supposed to serve people and willingly sacrifice for others.

Dynamic Church Planting International training says, “Every believer should be serving in their local church based on the Bible’s teachings about spiritual gifts. Peter says that everyone’s spiritual gift should be used to serve others. This is a means of imparting God’s grace to people. Paul lists seven different spiritual gifts. Concerning each it says, ‘let him use it: according to the grace given him.’ and ‘let him use it in proportion to his faith.’ So, God’s design for the church is that it be led by leaders, taught by teachers, and administrated by administrators, etc.”

DCPI continues, “You must develop a system of inviting, observing, orienting, scheduling, equipping, developing and celebrating those who use their spiritual gifts in the church. As a church grows and attracts new believers, pastors must teach about: the importance of service, the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9), and the nature and purpose of spiritual gifts. The process of placing people into ministry can be quite simple. This is a key component of a discipleship process.” The church has enough spectators and must continue to provide opportunities to serve.

Here are some ways to enlist volunteers and you can begin by listing ministry needs and sharing them with your people.

First, consider publishing a list of serving opportunities and spiritual gifts. You could also preach a series of messages about serving and spiritual gifts. Then develop a way to invite people to sign up for a ministry that appeals to them. Consider offering a class about spiritual gifts and give each student a spiritual gifts test to help them discern where they might best be able to be a blessing to their church.

Second, pray just like Jesus instructed us in Luke 10:2, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Your first prayer should be, “Lord, who should I invite to serve in this particular area?” Before you approach someone about serving, ask God to prepare their heart and purify your motives. Your invitation should be based on a desire to see people find a fulfilling role in your church. You are inviting them to fulfill God’s agenda and purpose in their lives.

Third, look for people who seem to be a perfect fit for a specific need. Identify a need and then as you pray look for the right person to invite to meet that need. You desire to find the right person serving in the right place, in the right way, and at the right time. Look for people who are not currently serving and you believe might be interested in that particular area. Offer them an opportunity to observe before they have to commit to a ministry team. See this “first serve” as a way for them to kick the tires and see if this is a ministry fit for them.

Fourth, cast vision for the importance of different ministries by emphasizing the benefits of their service. Show them how their ministry will benefit the recipients of it and how their service will benefit the whole church. Also, show them how their ministry will benefit them by being a blessing to them and how their ministry will delight God. Offer them an opportunity to observe. Find ways people can observe a ministry before they commit to a ministry team and make sure they have a good time when they do check it out.

Fifth, you will want to debrief their experience within 48 hours. Once you have invited them, arrange for the potential volunteer to accompany one of the most enthusiastic and best members of that particular ministry team. First impressions last! You want the potential volunteer to have a good time so they will want to join the team. Discuss how they think the experience went. Give the new volunteer a short-term commitment initially (for three months or so) to ensure that the commitment is doable.

Sixth, do background checks and provide for them an orientation. Make sure you use a service that will provide background checks with official documentation. Barnabas vouched for Saul (who later became the Apostle Paul) when he wanted to join the church in Jerusalem (Acts 9:26, 27). The 12 apostles instructed



the church to choose “seven men of good repute” (Acts 6:3). If they will be serving with children in any capacity this is especially important. Do not over look this important step in the ministry placement system.

Last, remember that all people who volunteer should have an orientation. They should never be thrown into the ministry unprepared. Ideally, new volunteers will be given good job descriptions. Those will include what is expected of them: when, where, for how long, etc. The orientation should also include the ministry’s purpose and values. People are waiting on someone to ask them to help. Most people want to do a good work and that is why you must develop a system that shows how to ask, when to ask, and who should ask.

A great big thank you to Dynamic Planting International and their training materials *New Church Dynamics* from which this article was adapted. This training is worth attending for any size church and will be offered May 21-23 at the BMA of Texas offices in Waxahachie.

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.



Lori Cline hosts Lifeword's broadcast for women

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

Lifeword Media Ministries

"My faith roots are a result of the BMA and ministries like Lifeword, so the idea of partnering with an organization that values ministry through media is a no brainer. Speaking from the heart and connecting to other hearts the love and truths of God is my mission and I know it's the mission of Lifeword, so I'm excited to be a part of that."

Born in Bossier City, Louisiana, Lori Carroll grew up in an atmosphere of ministry. Her father Phillip Carroll was a pastor, so they were always around people, always talking, always building relationships. In fact, she says, while her peers were terrified of giving presentations, Lori couldn't wait for her turn to speak in front of the class.

When she was 13 and her family was hit by divorce, Lori and her brother found community and divine direction at First Baptist Church in Springhill, Louisiana, because of a loving youth pastor, Donny Parrish. It was there that Jesus met Lori in a very real way and started her on an intentional path of seeking God's will for her heart and life.

During high school, her ministry calling and skill set began to formulate. The results of a personality profile test revealed "disc jockey" as her ideal occupation, and, based on her love of communicating, it made sense to her. After graduation from Springhill High School, she began attending Central Baptist College as a mass communications major.

In her freshman year at CBC, Lori met a music major named Drew Cline. The two were married in June of 1994 then moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas, where Drew was serving as music and youth pastor. Two years later, they moved to Houston when Drew joined a singing group called The Sound. Lori's experience working in college radio and at Heaven 107.7, a Little Rock based Christian music affiliate station, gave her the experience

necessary for her first full-time job in radio at KSBJ in Houston.

For five years she worked full time in programming and promotions and on air as the evening host of *Open Line with Lori Cline* at KSBJ. In 2001 God called them to Nashville, Tennessee, where Drew had attended Belmont University and made music industry connections. He became worship pastor at a church in Franklin, and Lori entered the world of record label and Christian Contemporary Music (CCM) artist marketing and promotions with Word Records.

She was hired at Word to manage the national promotions department but later led the team as director. Her four years of experience connecting artists to radio at Word gave her the confidence and contacts to begin her own promotions company, Brighter Promotions, in 2005. For the next three years, she worked with talented artists and radio teams working records to radio and Drew became lead singer of NewSong, touring with them for two years.

In 2007 Drew and Lori welcomed daughter Daisy, and her professional career was put on hold for the next four years, a "mommy hiatus," as she calls it; Jovie joined the family in 2010. The following year Lori began working for Christian Music Broadcasters as communications and member services manager serving radio leaders and industry professionals through conferences, community connection and engagement tools. During that time, Drew served as creative arts pastor at Journey Church then planted ROOTS Church in Franklin, Tennessee.

Eleven years in Music City came to an end in 2012 when Drew was called to Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock to be their creative catalyst and worship pastor. Three years later, Lori left CMB to focus on family for a season then returned to work in Christian radio and ministry fundraising at ShareMedia Services.



As engagement and communications strategist, she helped broadcasters expand their ministries to reach people for Jesus.

In October of 2016, after nine months of prayer and God leading, Drew left Fellowship to pastor Temple Baptist Church with a fresh vision and mission for that community as South City Church. Lori serves alongside Drew and loves her primary focus of serving her family and mission of South City.

Coming full circle, Lori is excited to step into a new season of ministry partnering with Lifeword. On April 3, her twice-a-week Lifeword Facebook broadcast will debut at 10 a.m. Lori says, "Donny's call confirmed what God was already doing in my heart. I've felt a stirring to develop content but haven't been sure about the right outlet and timing. This opportunity gives me the chance to share my heart and the truth of God's Word in an everyday-life, relatable way that I love—just sitting down and talking."

For Lori Cline, a lifelong relationship, a lifetime passion for people and a life of service and ministry have come together for God's good purpose at Lifeword.

Meet Lifeword's Luis Ortega

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

Lifeword Media Ministries

"Going north" meant success and a better life to Luis Ortega, Sr. and the other men in his village of La Estancia. So he left his wife and four young boys behind in Michoacán, Mexico, to go north to Houston, Texas, for the promise of higher wages. When they hadn't heard from him in a while, Esther Ortega decided to take her sons to Houston and find her husband. Luis Ortega, Jr. was six years old at the time.



▲ Luis Ortega

Before they left for the States, Luis recalls that his father was no different than the others he knew who drank and were abusive and unfaithful. No matter how many candles they lit or idols they implored, nothing changed until Luis, Sr. was invited to Centro de Vida/Center of Life church in Houston, jointly pastored by the late Paul Robinson, Ricky Robinson and, later, Bob Allcorn.

Luis, Sr. had no interest in going to church, but agreed to go to a small home meeting with the intention of poking fun at

the believers gathered. But God had other plans for the Ortega family, and it wasn't long before God convicted him and he was saved.

Luis's mother, however, was not as easily convinced; she was suspicious of his new-found faith, and her Catholic and animistic rituals made more sense than an intangible god. But God worked in her heart, and soon the whole family not only went to church but committed their lives to Christ.

Centro de Vida and her leaders loved, taught and disciplined the Ortega family. Even with his limited education, Luis's father read the Bible and taught it to his family. Later, Luis Ortega, Sr. became a church leader and now pastors Centro de Vida in Dallas.

At age twelve, Luis's mentor took him to the place he worked: a radio station in Houston, Texas. After a short studio tour, the mentor left to do a quick errand and instructed Luis to "do something if I'm not back before the song is over." The song stopped and Luis queued the next one, gave the station I.D., announced the weather, and started the song. Because the station manager heard a new voice on the air, she came into the studio and discovered a young boy at the controls. Luis was offered a volunteer position that day, and four years later it became full time.

Luis surrendered to the ministry as a teenager, and his interest in technology continued during high school. He began attending Central Baptist College in 1996 as a Bible and ministerial student and graduated in 2000. The next year he married CBC student Lisa Sutherland, and they have four children: Elyse, Elias, Elynn and Ellisen.

After graduation, Luis began full time at Lifeword and part time as youth and associate pastor at Bald Knob Baptist Church in Plumerville, Arkansas. The pastor, Bro. Rufus Crawford, became a mentor to Luis but understood when Luis shared his burden to minister to Hispanics in central Arkansas. So after leaving Bald Knob in 2009, he and Lisa began a mission under the umbrella of Antioch Baptist Church in Conway called Camino de Vida, where he still pastors.

In seventeen plus years at Lifeword, he has managed the Spanish broadcast and technology for BMA America. He is now Lifeword's director of operations, where his skills are critical as Lifeword implements the Cloud, which will allow anyone with internet access to hear the gospel.

Luis recently earned a Masters degree with a leadership emphasis from Liberty University; however, through discipleship and his own natural bent, servant leadership is a skill he has had for a long time.

ABS student ministries, Stephen F. Austin State University report

By **JOHN SHACKELFORD**

ABS, SFA Director

We are having a school year and being blessed! I am thrilled to share with our friends and partners in ministry, some of the events so far this year.

Wellness Fair. Once again God opened a large door for the gospel at SFA at the Wellness Fair. In answer to our prayers, God moved in the hearts necessary for ABS to be asked to participate in the SFA Wellness Fair. We were specifically asked to represent the Spiritual side of wellness. This gave us the opportunity to share the Gospel with a multitude of students. We emphasize that the Bible has the answer to all of life's problems. It all begins with being born again through placing one's faith solely in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. In addition to verbally sharing the gospel, we handed out free Bibles and tracts that clearly explained the gospel message. We also providing counseling literature. There were 280 souls in attendance. We had the opportunity to speak with many interested faculty, staff and students.

Special Events.

- January 13 & 14 – Helped students move into dorms
- January 18 – Back to School Pizza at Cicis
- February – Wellness Fair
- February 22 – Movie Night: The Case For Christ
- March – Spring Break Outreach. Student Bible Studies and Outreaches. Student led.
- March 22 – Game Night – On Campus Out Reach. Set up Corn Hole at tennis courts and played tennis
- March 27 – Easter On Campus Outreach. We will give out 350 Easter eggs with gospel message, candy and ABS information.
- April 26 – End of Semester Celebration / Open House / BBQ and fish fry. Campus Groups are not permitted by SFA to have on campus events during Dead Week or Finals.

Student Deaths Cause Students to Question Meaning of Life. Five SFA students have died in the last eight weeks. Four died in car automobile accidents and another student was found dead in her room. This really upset a significant number of students. Two students were so distraught from these events that they threatened to jump off the parking garage. The effect that the deaths have had on the student body has been so difficult that SFA has bought in State Counselors to help students deal with their feelings. This is not publicized to the public. Through all of this, we have been forth sharing the only real answer to these tragic events – personal salvation through faith in Christ.

Special Easter Events. Easter remains an important holiday in our East Texas culture among most students—even though they don't know Jesus Christ. We capitalized on their interest by a special emphasis on sharing the Gospel and Hope that is found in Jesus Christ. We used this holiday time to share the good news of Jesus Christ. We had a campus event with eggs containing the true Easter story and information about the ABS ministry. We contact around 350 students at our event.

Thursday Meal and Bible Study. Our weekly meal and Bible study on Thursdays is going great. Lives are being changed through the proclamation of God's word and through fellowship. Students are challenged to grow in their walk each week at our meetings. The positive response is encouraging.

Discipleship. Discipleship is a slow process. There are no shortcuts to spiritual growth. We emphasize constant intake of God's Word, obedience to the Bible, dependence upon God through walking in the Spirit, fellowship with other believers and regular attendance at a strong church.

Local ABS Church Involvement. We try to support local churches events in the area surrounding SFA. For example, we attended the 50-year anniversary of Calvary, Jacksonville. We wanted to make sure that we supported Pastor Michael

Mathis. He will step down from being one of our trustees after Easter. We will surely miss him. We greatly appreciate his partnership and labors with ABS.

Thank you, Thank you for your partnership in this ministry! We are celebrating 18 years of service at ABS since April 2000. I consider it a tremendous privilege to be involved in this ministry. I am grateful to the Lord for all the generous support that you—our supporting churches, supporting church members and friends of the ministry—have provided. I am keenly aware that none of this is possible without the generous support of you—our partners in ministry. I sincerely thank all of you with much gratitude.



Upcoming EVENTS

SPRING THEATER PRODUCTION OF

FURRY TAILS WITH A TWIST: A SHOW FOR ALL AGES

April 12-13 at 6:30 p.m. and April 14 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
in the Mary S. Lewis Theater

Admission: free for children through fifth grade;
\$5.00 for other students; \$7.00 for adults

SPRING CONCERT

Tuesday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. in Buckner Chapel

FINE ARTS SHOWCASE

(MUSIC, THEATER AND VISUAL ARTS PROGRAMS)

Thursday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mary S. Lewis Theater

JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, May 12 at 10:00 a.m.
in the Curtis Carroll Field House/Gymnasium

JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE SUMMER AND FALL TERMS 2018

Registration is ongoing for Maymester, Summer I and II, and Fall 2018.
Visit www.jacksonville-college.edu for a list of course offerings.

2018 SUMMER SESSIONS (REDUCED TUITION RATES):

Maymester: May 16 – May 31

Summer I: June 5 – July 2

Summer II: July 9 – August 2

FALL 2018:

August 15 – December 6

2020	
DEBT FREE IN THREE	
_____ (Your name/church)	commits to pray for Jacksonville College and to give:
_____	a month for operating expenses
_____	a month for "Debt Free in Three"
_____	as a special gift for "Debt Free in Three"
_____	Amount enclosed
(Cut out and mail this form to: Jacksonville College, 105 B.J. Albritton Drive, Jacksonville, TX 75766)	

JOB OPENINGS AT JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

Biology: Jacksonville College is seeking an adjunct Biology instructor. Teaching responsibilities may include Biology I and II, Nutrition, Anatomy and Physiology, and Microbiology. The ability to teach both face-to-face and online classes is preferred.

Speech: Jacksonville College is seeking an adjunct Speech instructor. Teaching responsibilities include face-to-face courses in Public Speaking and Business and Professional Speech.

Accounting: Jacksonville College is seeking an adjunct Accounting instructor to teach Principles of Accounting I and II. The ability to teach face-to-face classes is preferred, but online classes may be considered.

Qualifications: Required qualifications include a master's or doctoral degree or 18 graduate hours in the relevant field. Job related experience is preferred, but not mandatory. Must possess effective verbal and written communications skills, as well as strong organizational and interpersonal skills. Computer proficiency is also required.

Mission Statement: Jacksonville College exists to provide a quality education from a biblical worldview that challenges minds, transforms lives, and equips students for servant leadership and lifelong learning.

Statement of Faith: A deep faith in God is the foundation of Jacksonville College. The College believes that no education is complete until a student understands who God is and how to relate to Him through His Son Jesus Christ. Doctrinal beliefs influence all that the College does and teaches.

Download an application form at www.jacksonville-college.edu/contact by clicking on the *Applications Form* link under *Employment*. Mail the form to Dr. Mike Smith, Jacksonville College, 105 B.J. Albritton Drive, Jacksonville College, 75766. Applications may also be submitted via email to msmith@jacksonville-college.edu. Include your resume and certified copies of your academic transcripts with your submission.





A WORD FROM YOUR MISSION OFFICE:

God is blessing your partnership in the Texas Mission Movement! God is at work among an ever expanding network of disciples around the state with a burden to make disciples, that make disciples, that result in churches made up of those who were lost. We are seeing the missions equipping and sending. This is even more impressive realizing that the oldest mission in funding is two years old. Everything God does is for his glory and is a result of prayers. Your prayers are making a difference. Your giving is making a difference. Your involvement is making a difference. Your encouragement is making a difference. It's a great time to be a BMA Baptist.

We want you to rub shoulders with your missionaries. We would love to share their training with you. Arnulfo and I enjoy sharing our foundational training one on one with pastors. We have a workshop coming up that we want to invite you to. We are partnering with National Missions in hosting a workshop called Churches Planting Churches. If you desire to train and send out teams to start new churches or want to know how to be a beneficial mother church then this workshop is for you. See details about the seminar on page 3 of this issue.

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:

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

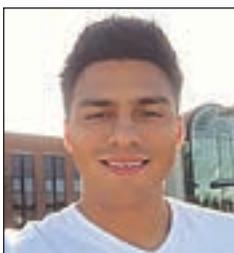
He logrado contactar mas personas trayendolas a los pies de Cristo (5 Personas) Tambien avanzar en el discipulado para fianzar el crecimiento y prepararlos para pronto bautizarlos. Nos perfilamos a ir creciendo poco apoco pero seguro. Recordando que iniciar de cero una nueva Iglesia se requiere comprension y paciencia porque no se hace con fuerzas humanas sino con las de Dios. Hasta ahora tengo tres puntos(Sectores) distintos donde realizamos reuniones celulares.



▲ Neptaly Molina

**CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ—
NEW MISSION, LUBBOCK**

Our vision is to be a community of followers of Jesus that proclaim, defend and display God's greatness. God has given us several opportunities to proclaim the good news of how sinners can be reconciled with a holy God through Jesus Christ. We have done this in



▲ Christian Martinez

different ways.

We have built relationships that have led to sharing the gospel. We have knocked on doors. We have given gospel tracts and talked with people while they were in the line to get free pizzas at Little Caesar's. God has given many opportunities to share the gospel. So, I ask you to pray for God to bring fruit out of the seed that has been spread.

We thank God for your prayers because He has given us boldness to defend the truth about salvation through faith alone in Christ alone. In many occasions the gospel has been very offensive to people that see the exclusivity of salvation in Christ as God being unloving instead of praising Him for giving one way of salvation out of pure grace when we only deserved eternal condemnation for our sin. Please continue to pray for us to be committed to proclaim, defend, and display God's greatness.

**RONNIE MILLS—
INTERN PREPARING
FOR MISSION IN FORT WORTH**

We've just begun, but we are so excited for what God has in store for this mission. Please continue to pray for the people of Fort Worth. Also, pray for us as we build our team. Thank you for all of your support and prayers!



▲ Ronnie Mills

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

God is doing a work that is amazing. We are looking at starting a new missional community in a remote part of our area, that may lead to a "Micro-Church". We are also introducing the beginning of Spanish Bible study at 2 p.m. on Sundays that we are prayerfully believing will lead to a Spanish Mission and then Church planted in our midst.

WORK OPPORTUNITY: Carpenter's House has possession of their new (old) building and can use help with demo and remodel work. The welcome individuals and teams that want to help. Contact Cliff at drcliffrobertsonjr@gmail.com.



▲ Cliff Robertson

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

March is in the books! It was filled with a lot of things for The Bridge. Through the month we have seen several different families visit The Bridge. Pray for us as we minister



▲ Matthew Prather

to each one of these families that come from many different backgrounds. One of the highlights of the month was Easter weekend. On the Saturday before Easter we hosted an Easter Egg Hunt at a local Elementary School that we serve at regularly. We had at least 250 people show up for the Easter Egg Hunt. More important than the amount of people that showed is the conversations that we were able to have. Many people had a lot of questions about the church. We were also able to continue building relationships with many people that we have been getting to know. One of the conversations that I had was with a family that claim to be atheist. Please pray that God uses us to reach this family over the next year. Thank you for your continued support and prayers!



**JOHN HARRIS—
FOUNDATION COMMUNITY MISSION, BENBROOK**

Thank you for your support of our mission here in Benbrook, and the encouragement you have sent our way! God is doing some great things here and we would love to come and share them with your church! We have several families considering joining us in our planting efforts this month, so please be praying that the work continues and God blesses beyond our requests!



▲ John Harris

BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p.11

BMMI travels to Haiti

By **LANDON MILLS**

Sheridan, Arkansas

On March 16, a team of seven men connected with Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) traveled to Haiti to serve the citizens of Port-au-Prince. The team consisted of Dr. John Ladd and Dr. Chad Trammel of Texas, Dr. David Chung of Missouri and Dr. Stephen Warrick, Stew Stewart, Micah Powell and myself, Landon Mills of Arkansas. We stayed nine days at Blue Ridge Compound on the outer edge of Haiti's capital city of Port-au-Prince. Under the guidance of Haiti Missionary Michel Poirier, Pastor Romiche Bastien and several members of the Bastien family, we were able to organize a 5-day medical clinic in the Port-au-Prince area. Through the clinic we were able to provide much needed medications to over 780 citizens of Port-au-Prince and 17 individuals accepted Christ.

With this being my first mission work away from the comforts of the United States, I had no idea what to expect. When we arrived in Haiti Friday afternoon it didn't take long for me to realize just how poverty stricken the country was. Electricity and clean water, two commodities that we Americans take for granted, were nonexistent in many areas of Port-au-Prince. With no recycling or trash services to speak of, the city streets were lined with garbage and waste. To say the living conditions there were rough is an understatement. However, the people of Port-au-Prince seemed very content with their lives. We saw many smiles throughout the week and during our clinic. I believe the one thing that stood out to me the most throughout the trip was the people's resilience. The people of Haiti work hard for what they have. The medical need in Port-au-Prince was immense and there were several patients that came through our clinic that needed surgery or other treatment needs that we could not meet. But the people were very appreciative of what we gave them and we were able to serve the community to the best of our abilities.

As we pulled out of the gate of the compound for the last time heading to the airport on the morning of March 24, I couldn't help but think of the smiles on the faces of the many

patients we saw. I know in the big picture of Haiti, what we were able to accomplish wasn't much. But for 17 of those people we were an avenue for them to come to know Christ and accept Him as their Savior! That is something to be proud of and cherish forever.



▲ Pharmacy Team in Haiti—Landon Mills, right; Stephen Warrick, left



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 Mar. 1, 2018 – Mar. 31, 2018.

ENDOWMENTS

E ANN PACE: Karl & Martha Pace

MYRA STOKES: Bill Stokes

HONORARIUMS

JEAN THURMAN: Brenda Mewborn

RANDY ODOM: Jimmy Woodson

TBHC STAFF: Earlene Crenshaw

MEMORIALS

GARY DON ALLEN: Allbright Insurance Agency

PAT BATES: Central Baptist Church, Mineola

WALTER BECKER: Dennis & Ilona Myrice

GRADY CHAPMAN: Brenda Bull

MARY CHRISTENSEN: Brenda Bull

HENRY CORBELL: R. Corbell

JOSIE COX: Jimmy & Carla Shipp; Larry & Rolanda Barton; Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Judy Wall

SHAWYNE DONAHO: Glade Creek WMA

PAT GHOLSON: Rosewood Baptist Church

JERRY HELM: Nicholas DiSalvo

CHRISTOPHER HENRY: Fendley & Lois Tucker

JACK HUME: Rosewood Baptist Church

WILLIAM "BILL" LAKES: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

JACKIE LANDRUM: Gary Landrum

IMOGENE MARTON: Macedonia Baptist Church, Etoile

SHERRY MEEKS: R. Corbell

BONNIE MORRIS: Kenneth & Tina McKnight

LOUISE MORRIS: FBC Carthage, Friendship Sunday School Class

MABLE JO ODOM: Brent & Tammy Swanner

JOSIAH ALEXANDER RUIZ: Concha Rouse

S.A. SHARP: Ida Sharp

BARNEY SMITH: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

JAMES C. STAFFORD: Alan & Diana Lennox

LARRY 'BO' STEGALL: Brent & Tammy Swanner

TREY SUTTON: Norette White

NORMA THOMPSON: Fendley & Lois Tucker

E.T. WILLIAMS: Minnie Williams

NORVIL WILLIAMS: Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Terri Hudson



Join Us for a Retirement Reception

in honor of

PASTOR ROBBIE CALDWELL

Sunday, April, 29, 2018 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

for his many faithful, dedicated years to
New Harmony Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas.

His final sermon will be preached at 10:00 a.m.
and the church would love to have you join us.



auxiliaries

Texas GMA Houseparty, Diamonds in the Rough

By SHARON COLE

Daniel Springs Encampment has been the host to the Texas GMAs for many years and we are thankful for their hospitality and always willing to make our meetings as pleasant as possible by providing food and taking care of the cabins. This year the theme of the Houseparty was, "Diamonds In The Rough." The theme verse was Matthew 5:10-12 and the theme song was "Gold," by Britt Nicole.

Seventy-two girls and counselors met to take care of yearly business, praise the Lord through song, encouraging each other in learning the GMA steps and recognizing those who have achieved awards. The special speaker this year was Bro. Billy Sheets, pastor of Greenpond Baptist Church, Como. Friday night Megan Gebauer presented a special song, "Oh, Lord," before Bro. Billy spoke to the group about being the best that we can be for God because He made us and we are God's masterpiece. We have to look at ourselves as God sees us and also look at others

the same way. GMA President, Cheyanne Collard and the other officers did an excellent job in leading the meeting in business and singing.

In the business meeting Saturday morning, the new project for the year was chosen: "Water for Christ," presented by New Harmony, Tyler. The goal is \$7,000. The following officers were elected: President-Jenna Schmidt; 1st Vice President-Emily Henry; 2nd Vice President-Hannah Kizer; Secretary-Karo Buck; Adult Secretary-Laura Hazzard; Song Leader-Mary Key; Adult Song Leader-Kristi Key; Historian-Darbi Wilson; Adult Historian-Kristi Wilson; Project Promoter-Melissa Henry; Treasurer-Lisa Maynard; Assistant Treasurer-McKenna Wilson; Advisory Council: Laura Hazzard, Tammy Blackburn, Teel Witt and Terry Holmes. Texas WMA President Cindy Allen gave the induction of officers. She presented each officer with a candle and encouraged each one to shine their light for Jesus every day.

TEXAS LADIES' RETREAT

The 2018 Texas Ladies' Retreat will be held Friday evening, Sept. 14 and Saturday, Sept. 15. We are excited to announce that New Bethlehem Baptist Church, in Cut and Shoot (near Conroe), has volunteered to host the Retreat this fall. New Bethlehem is located at 14630 Millmac Rd, Conroe. The Tryon District WMA ladies are excited and are already hard at work planning decorations, food, etc. Let's keep this wonderful group of ladies in our prayers as they proceed with plans for the Retreat. May God bless them for stepping forward to volunteer.

Plans for the Retreat program are well underway and promises to be a wonderful time in the Lord. If your church has a skit or special music that you would like to see and hear in the program, please contact Glenda Chamberlain, Texas WMA 2nd Vice President at 903-806-3484. Registration forms and a list of hotels will be available in a few weeks. You don't want to miss this retreat. It is a special time for ladies from across our great state to come together to worship our Heavenly Father.

The theme for this year is "In the Potter's Hands." "We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." Isaiah 64:8. Our Heavenly Father wants to use the events we encounter each day as tools with which to shape and sculpt us into the image of Christ. He wants to deepen our faith, to develop within us the quality of perseverance and to make us watertight containers of His love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal.5:22-23). Ask God to take control of your life today. The Potter is waiting to shape and mold you into His masterpiece. We're all works in progress.

REMEMBER OUR TEXAS WMA PROJECT

Our State Missions is in need of a box trailer to store and transport equipment to Missions sites to use in their outreach events. They need money as well as equipment to put in the trailer. Go to texaswma.com to find a list of needed items if you choose to purchase an item and check the list by adding your church name and the item. For more information, email Diana Morris, Texas WMA project promoter at grammydi1013@msn.com or call 903-288-7575. Money given to the project so far is \$1,738.23. Much more is needed. Pray that the Lord will supply these needs through you.

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



Ladies Conference

First Baptist Church, Blooming Grove, Texas

Saturday May 5, 2018

8:30 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.

'Soar Like An Eagle
On Your Journey with Jesus"

Renewed Strength, Increased Power, Confident Hope.

Isaiah 40:31

Breakfast — lunch — music — crafts

No charge

Bring a Friend

Speaker — Pat Quesenbury

RSVP to 214-801-0498
or jlleamon@gmail.com






insights for pastors

Protecting your church

By **DR. ALLEN TILLEY**

Last year, the unthinkable happened at First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs. Unfortunately, such tragedies are becoming commonplace in churches. Every church needs a plan for defending themselves from an active shooter. Although no plan is foolproof, here are some basics that will help you protect your church.

Pray for your church's safety. While we should work as hard as possible to make our churches safe, let's never forget that we desperately need God's power, strength, and protection. Remember, if we don't ask, we won't receive (James 4:2).

Develop a security plan. This plan should include all issues of security, from active shooters to child abuse. Check with your local law enforcement for recommendations. Once you develop a plan, put a copy in the hands of all your church members.

Select a safety team. Pick people who are passionate about security. If possible, select those with a background in law enforcement. Place these individuals near entryways and

children's areas.

Limit access to your facilities. The days of leaving all your doors open all the time are long gone. After the service starts, lock doors or have someone stationed at them. Limit the number of keys, so they don't fall into the wrong hands. If you haven't changed locks in a while, consider moving to digital access that can be changed frequently.

Train your people. Don't just instruct them what to do in an emergency, rehearse. Set aside time on a Sunday morning to put your plan into practice. Additionally, remind them to watch for anything unusual. Those with keen eyes and discernment can save lives.

Safety is not an expense but an investment. If you can't afford to keep your members safe, maybe you should close your doors permanently. Keeping your people safe should be a priority, regardless of the cost. Security is as much a ministry as any other in the church.

Take precautions. Consider retaining a local police officer during services. Host or attend a training seminar.

Contact your church insurance company about making your facilities safer. Most offer reductions in premiums for churches that follow their guidelines. Furthermore, have someone outside your church come and assess your church's safety precautions. An outsider can see things that you take for granted.

Be proactive. Church shootings are increasing every year in America. We must be prepared. The downside is just too great. Saving lives both spiritually and physically should always be a priority.

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.



BMA Texas Missions cont.

BRANDON DURHAM— REDEEMER'S LOVE MISSION, HOUSTON

He is risen! What a privilege to share the greatest news in the history of the world! We served 125+ from our community for our Easter Cook Out. We met folks from Columbia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, India, Mexico, and numerous other places. It was beautiful to see such a diverse



▲ **Brandon Durham**

crowd show up to hear the good news of a risen Savior! Would you please pray that the Lord would draw many of these individuals and families unto himself, and that they would join us in the weeks ahead, as we seek to become "a diverse church for a diverse city." Thank you for all your prayers! We're preaching through the book of Philippians right now, which centers on the mutual joy of "partnership in the gospel." (1:5) We're truly grateful for your partnership in the gospel as, together, we seek to preach Christ to the nations!



JAIME GARCIA— IGLESIA BAPTISTA NUEVA VIDA MISSION, SPLENDORA

Sigamos firmemente en el Señor Jesucristo y creyendo que como dijo nuestro Señor, hacer a de la Obra; Mi padre hasta hoy trabaja y yo también, (Juan 5:17)

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE FIELD

-We are currently assessing several new church planting teams. Please pray for wisdom and for God to do big things.

-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

-Easter outreaches and worship services were held all around the state this month. We are hearing great reports of salvations, gospel proclamation, and new contacts.

-Several of our current missions in English and Spanish are preparing to send church planters out!

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

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. For more information, visit www.bmatexasmissions.org.





Riley Pate ordained to Gospel Ministry

Oak Hill, Gilmer was the site on Sunday, March 25, for the ordination service of Bro. Riley Pate who was ordained to the Gospel ministry. A large presbytery of 36 ordained ministers and deacons assembled with a packed house of other family members and friends present for the service. Oak Hill is Bro. Pate's home church.



▲ Bro. Riley Pate

The ordaining council included the following: Dicky Mauk, moderator; Larry Lansdale, clerk; Tommy Stracener, presentation of candidate; Fred Morrow, questioning of candidate; Joe Don Reynolds, motion to proceed; Dicky Mauk, ordination message; Charles Johns on, charge to the candidate and church; Don Whisenhunt, ordination prayer; and Danny Patterson, presentation of gift from Oak Hill Church.

Bro. Pate has recently been called as pastor of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church in the Pine Mills community of Wood County. Riley was saved at Daniel Springs Encampment in 2010. He surrendered to preach at age 14 in 2014 and has preached in numerous churches and held many revival meetings since his surrender. He is a first-year student at Jacksonville College.

When God preempts our protocol

By PAUL GAUNTT

Pastor of First, Palmer

I think whenever something unexpected happens in a church service, rather than it being spontaneous, it is probably God's eternal plan interrupting our protocol.

I once erroneously referred to the Holy Spirit's work in our midst as often being spontaneous. Once in a great while, as we are following our worship schedule, it appears that God just inadvertently decides to show up and do something extraordinary, as though He was becoming impatient with our formality and decided to break the monotony.

Since God does all things "decently and in order," nothing with Him is ever "spontaneous." In fact, all His workings and agenda have already been determined in His mind long before he spoke the world into existence.

Sometimes we missionary Baptists feel twinges of panic or apprehension whenever it seems that God decides to interrupt or intervene amid our program and protocol. It is understandable that His unexpected movement in a service is sometimes construed as being spontaneous. May I cite a few examples?

In my first pastorate at Enon, Iola, at the end of a revival service one night, the dismissal prayer was being prayed. I was tip-toeing, with head bowed back to the foyer to greet people, when suddenly, I collided, head on, with a woman in the aisle.

"I want to be saved!" she said in a loud whisper as the dismissal prayer was about to be concluded. Now such an experience can knock a Baptist group off of their heels and out of their comfort zone. At the conclusion of the dismissal prayer, I called the service back to order and we took care of the business at hand—leading the lady to the Lord.

A few years later, in a July 4 weekend service at College Heights (now University), Nacogdoches, a quartet of our men sang a medley of Calvary—and during the solos of each one, I noticed people were weeping—not only the quartet as each man sang his solo part, but all across the sanctuary. I knew that to try to get up and preach after that was to quench what the Holy Spirit was doing in that service—so we went immediately to the invitation. There were moves for 45 minutes, and one man for whom we had prayed for months, was gloriously saved. We spontaneously changed the service—or more accurately dispensed with our own agenda in favor of God's.

More recently, at First, Palmer, we had our usual one verse of invitation. In fact, our worship leader, Jose Maldonado, has jokingly said, "We only need to put one verse on the screen. If he ever has two verses, we're in trouble."

Sure enough, Sunday, Nov. 26, we stuck to our regular schedule—had the one verse and closed the service with announcements. While announcements were being made, a woman began to approach the front where the pastor was standing. She whispered, "I want to join the church." So we dispensed with the announcements and voted to receive her by letter. It is a sweet expression when the Father moves, even when we don't expect it.

Even more recently, another breach in missionary Baptist protocol was when I received a call from a woman who asked me if I would baptize her brother, Gary, who had terminal cancer. Raised in a pastor's home, he went forward in church as a child and ended up being baptized, but later genuinely received Christ.

With my church's blessing, we held the service on a

Monday evening. But I was extremely disappointed when water failed to heat up. Gary was a real "trooper" though and was ready to get on with the baptism. His illness made him extremely cold natured, and his family was concerned for him. So, I outfitted him in my waders hoping to take a little of the chill off. But when we started down, water flooded into the waders making him excruciatingly cold, but he said "Don't stop." So, he went under the frigid water, following his Lord in this act of obedience.

I told the small gathering of about 30 people that Gary had truly demonstrated his obedience to Christ by being willing to show forth his inward faith through baptism. And it truly placed another dimension on his faith, being a cancer patient, being baptized, in frigid water. And like the Ethiopian, he left the house that evening rejoicing—and his family too.

Gary recently went on to glory, and when his sister called asking how much it would cost to rent the building for a memorial service, I replied, "I told your brother the night he was baptized upon his profession of faith, he was a member of our church—and being a member, of course there's no charge!"

The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the congregation in Jerusalem was not spontaneous. It wasn't an afterthought of God. It was prophesied in the book of Joel. It was established in the heart of God before time began.

Phillip's meeting with the Ethiopian eunuch was not spontaneous—God providentially arranged that meeting on that prairie—and it wasn't by happenstance that a pool of water appeared at the very moment the Ethiopian declared his faith in Christ.

Missionary Baptist protocol dictated to me to ask the church to vote. But I have always wondered if Phillip got the Jerusalem Church to vote in advance to authorize him to baptize wherever he traveled.

I think we mean well when we establish and follow protocol because we want things to be done "decently and in order," but sometimes God seems to force us to take a break from Robert's Rules of Order, (whoever Robert was.)

M&M Tours Presents:
May 8-12, 2018 - (5 Days)
Tour of Noah's Ark & Museum
* Ark is size of Football Field
* Also Great Music Show at
* Renfro Valley, Ky - \$675 pp
Call for place of pickup
Call Charlie @ 1-800-700-9620

M&M Tours Presents:
July 17-24, 2018 - (8 Days)
* Amish Guided Tour - Ohio
Tour of Noah's Ark & Museum
* Also Great Music Show at
* Renfro Valley, Ky - \$998 pp
Call for place of pickup
Call Charlie @ 1-800-700-9620

Tired of Fluctuations of the Stock Market or the Low Rate of Return on Certificates of Deposit?

A charitable gift annuity offered by the BMA Foundation can provide you a fixed income amount for the remainder of your life at a rate higher than most certificates of deposit.

IN ADDITION

- You receive a federal income tax deduction the year of the gift.
- Your annuity income can be partially income tax-free.

Contact BMA Foundation Executive Director Charles Atsberry for current annuity rates and additional information.
charles@bmaamerica.org or call 501-472-2183

BMA FOUNDATION

*Annuities issued by the National Christian Foundation on behalf of the BMA Foundation

EVENTS

REVIVAL

DATE: April 9-13

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

REVIVAL

DATE: March 29-31

PLACE: Little Flock Baptist Church, Lufkin

TIME: 7 p.m.

SPEAKER: Bro. Jim Ross

2018 MEETING OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

DATE: April 16-18, 2018

PLACE: Jackson Convention Complex, Jackson, Mississippi

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL: The Hilton Garden Inn and Marriott Sleep Inn & Suites

105TH HOMECOMING

DATE: July 1, 2018

PLACE: Little Flock, Lufkin

TIME: 10 a.m.

SPECIAL GUESTS: Southern Plainsmen Quartet

SPEAKER: Bro. John McGuire

118TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

DATE: November 5-6, 2018

PLACE: Calvary Baptist Church, Fairfield, Texas

pastor & staff changes

TIM BROWN has resigned as pastor of First Calvary, Mesquite.

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

PASTOR—First, Rice is seeking a bivocational pastor. Please contact Jason Fisher at 903-467-7299 or email fbricegale@yahoo.com. ^{6/18}

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 am / 6 pm) Wednesday (1 Service 6 pm). Send résumé to fbcdesototx@gmail.com to schedule an appointment. Call 972-223-7448 for more information. ^{TEN}

YOUTH PASTOR—Davis Street, Sulphur Springs is seeking a full-time youth pastor. Send resume to dennis@davisstreetbaptist.org. ^{TEN}

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. ^{TEN}

AVAILABLE MINISTER

JOHN HENDERSON is available for pulpit supply. He is a member of First of Providence, Livingston. Contact him at 936-327-9228 or at henderson2@livingston.net.

Church news

SANDFLAT, GRAND SALINE is having a homecoming May 27, 2018. The day will begin with the regular morning service at 10:50 a.m. and a special speaker. Lunch will be provided after the service. Other plans for the day are in the making. All past members are encouraged to attend. Check our church website for more information as plans develop.

YELLOWPINE-MACEDONIA, HEMPHILL will host Original Bethlehem Association's quarterly meeting at 7 p.m. Friday, April 27, 2018. The speaker will be Bro. David Boyd, who will be preaching as well as discussing the relationship between Christianity and law enforcement. In addition to being a pastor, Bro. Boyd has been a state correctional officer, a deputy sheriff, and will soon take office as a Sabine County constable. For information, contact Bro. T. A. Lane, pastor at Yellowpine-Macedonia, at 409-584-1144 or 409-382-8765.

Churches in review

MARCH 18, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	47	108	
First, Omen	37	72	
First, Palmer	52	72	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	20	49	
Jackson, Joaquin	71	109	
Little Flock, Lufkin	70	80	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	36	40	
New Harmony, Tyler	274	311	
New Hope, Mineola	60	161	4 by letter
Olde Tyme, White Oak		57	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	26	36	
Pine Brook, Tyler	32	64	
Rosewood, Gilmer	120	173	1 by letter
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	44	73	1 by baptism
Security Calvary, Cleveland	20	40	
Simmons Hill, Diana	9	40	

MARCH 25, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Omen	21	41	
First, Palmer	56	83	1 by baptism
Glade Creek, Gilmer	19	40	1 by letter
Little Flock, Lufkin	115	120	2 by letter
Little Mound, Big Sandy	44	45	2 by letter
New Harmony, Tyler	293	345	1 by baptism
New Hope, Mineola	67	151	7 by letter
Olde Tyme, White Oak		56	1 by baptism
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	34	44	
Rosewood, Gilmer	144	244	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	36	76	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	25	40	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	17	25	

APRIL 1, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Omen	31	97	
First, Palmer	57	115	1 by letter
Glade Creek, Gilmer	28	77	
Jackson, Joaquin	91	189	1 by baptism
Little Flock, Lufkin	114	120	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	30	79	
New Harmony, Tyler	321	503	
New Hope, Mineola	70	180	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		62	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	38	71	
Pine Brook, Tyler	27	84	
Rosewood, Gilmer	137	477	2 by letter, 2 by statement
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	46	114	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	19	46	

APRIL 8, 2018

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Glade Creek, Gilmer	27	44	
Jackson, Joaquin	55	102	
Little Flock, Lufkin	105	105	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	36	47	
New Hope, Mineola	59	138	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		41	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	34	49	
Pine Brook, Tyler	24	56	
Rosewood, Gilmer	110	238	1 profession of faith
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	38	54	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	20	37	
Simmons Hill, Diana	13	24	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	15	33	

Sunday School Lessons

Faithful like Him

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: May 6, 2018

TEXT: Hebrews 10:19-25, 32-36

It is wonderful to know faithfulness has been perfectly modeled to us by God the Father, His blessed Son Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit? Because of His faithfulness to us, we are not only enabled to be faithful to Him, but are mandated to be faithful to Him.

Because of His faithfulness, we have access to His throne of grace through the power and sufficiency of the blood of Jesus. (verse 19-20) Old Testament saints had a thick, 45 feet veil separating worshipers from the

Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. But now since that veil has been “rent in twain,” (Matthew 27:51) thus giving us access — making the Jew and Gentile one new man in Christ. “Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace.” Ephesians 2:15”

Because of His faithfulness, we have full assurance that we can trust in His power, wisdom and goodness. Not because we have made ourselves presentable to approach His throne, but because His grace has made us

presentable to approach His throne. (verses 20-22)

Because of His faithfulness, we have assurance that His promises are reliable and His word is true. Verse 23

Because of His faithfulness, we are equipped to minister to one another. (verse 24-25) This is why it is urgent to be faithful to the assembly of the church. He will make us resourceful and inventive in seeking ways to motivate one another in acts of love and good works. Proverbs 27:17;

Because of His faithfulness, we can see the benefits and blessings of suffering for Him. Verses 32-36.

The path of faith

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: May 13, 2018

TEXT: Hebrews 11:32-40

Hebrews 11 has been commonly known as the “Hall of Faith,” citing historic examples of men and women who endured trials, persevered and remained faithful even under excruciating circumstances.

1. The examples of saints who were used to blaze the trail

of faith for our benefit are numberless. Verse 32. God has more than enough examples of rewards for faith in Him during tribulation.

2. The saints experienced God grace to accept their plight in suffering unto death. (verse 35 “not accepting deliverance”) God gave grace and peace to Stephen to receive the stoning; He gave grace to Paul to receive multiple beatings for the gospel’s sake; Of course Jesus is the ultimate in being faithful to what God had

called him to, to give His life, without wavering.

God gave Jim Elliot the grace to be martyred by the Aucas of Ecuador - and gave his wife, courage to return to the Aucas and lead them to Christ later.

3. Sometimes the saints who are faithful to God’s calling do not receive their reward in this life, but in the life to come. (verses 39-40)

Chastening brings blessings

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: May 20, 2018

TEXT: Hebrews 12:3-11

Chastening (or discipline) is vital to one’s survival. To constantly enable a child (or an adult) is to hinder them from growing and developing.

A squirrel’s front teeth never stop growing. Therefore, it is vital to their existence that they have the practice of cracking acorns and nuts in order to hone their teeth. Otherwise, the teeth would grow so massive, they would be unable to eat, and they would eventually starve.

Exercise to the physical body causes it to be strengthened and generally prolongs life. To be sedentary is to cause multiple physical defects and ailments and shorten life.

In the life of the believer, the sanctification process must, of necessity, include stress, struggle and hardship if a life is to mature and develop spiritually.

(Verse 3-4) The endurance of Christ on the cross is the standard for discipline in a life. It is easier to rejoice in our own trials when we compare them to Christ’s suffering.

(Verses 5-8) We are not to refrain from submitting to correction and discipline of the Lord. The fact that He loves us is revealed in

His attention to our discipline. To discipline a child is one of the greatest expressions of love. Also, to be chastened by God is one of the indicators that one has passed from death unto life. If one has never experienced the chastening hand of God he or she needs to examine themselves to see if they really belong to the Lord.

(Verse 9-10) The discipline of our earthly fathers is to be an illustration of the discipline of our Heavenly Father. The Father’s discipline is consistent, it is loving, and it is effective. Every earthly Dad should utilize God’s standards for discipline.

(Verse 11) Discipline yields good, positive results to the one being disciplined. A great harvest of fruit comes from those who have been trained in the “nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

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.



The sacrifice of thanksgiving

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: May 27, 2018

TEXT: Hebrews 13:15-25

1. The writer of Hebrews concludes the book with some admonishment concerning living a life of continual thanksgiving and praise to God. To say continual is to emphasize that it is a lifestyle with the Christian believer. When one truly has a heart of thanksgiving to God it will be manifest in these ways:

2. Sharing with others (verse 15-16) Such thanksgiving is demonstrated by meeting the needs of others — doing others good. This is well pleasing to God.

3. Following spiritual leaders: (verse 17) The spiritual leader (the pastor) has a grave responsibility to God to guard the spiritual welfare of the souls of the flock. Because he will one day give an account to God. Therefore, it is profitable to the flock to submit to the teaching and ministry of those who spiritually oversee the fellowship.

4. Honor prayer requests: (verse 18) The writer that his conscience was clear before God, concerning his desire to lead a holy and honest life before the flock. Nevertheless, he needed the prayers of the people in his behalf. He was also expressing a deep desire to be with the flock soon.

MINISTERS RESOURCE SERVICES FORTHCOMING CHANGES

Why are we changing?

By **STEVE CRAWLEY, Ph.D.**

Executive Director Elect

With the impending retirement of Bro. Ron Chesser and his staff, Ministers Resource Services (MRS) will be undergoing a number of significant changes.

The existing 401(a) plan of the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) has served a valuable purpose and has helped establish a solid savings foundation for many. We are most grateful to Bro. Chesser and his staff for the stability they have brought to MRS over the past 18 years. Yet, we do not want to rest on our laurels and become satisfied where we are. We want to build on this foundation and take advantage of new options now available.

The first reason we are changing is to enhance benefits. The new 403(b)(9) plan will offer provisions for ministers that are unique to any other type of retirement program. Specifically, this plan offers the *Ministers Housing Allowance* to retired pastors. This provision will save ministers thousands of dollars in federal and state taxes for years to come. The new plan will also reduce the minimum withdrawal age from 62 to 59 ½, include a provision for hardship withdrawals, and provide the ability to borrow against your retirement account on a

short-term basis in emergency situations.

The second reason we are changing is to provide more flexible options. The new retirement plan will offer investment options that will aid younger and older pastors, as well as those in between. Younger pastors will have more aggressive options available to build savings while older pastors may utilize more conservative options to preserve the capital they have accumulated. Those in between will benefit from flexible alternatives tailored to their age, risk tolerance, and money personality.

The third reason we are changing is to lower costs. The new plan and service provider agreement will reduce participant fees by over 60%. These savings will result in more of your investment earnings remaining in your account, and, compounded over time, could produce higher returns benefitting your family's financial future. Additionally, the new plan, coupled with the opportunity to relocate MRS to the BMA Global Ministry Center in Conway, Arkansas will allow us to reduce MRS operating costs by more than \$160,000 annually. Of course, these savings will be passed on to the participants.

The fourth reason we are changing is to provide on-

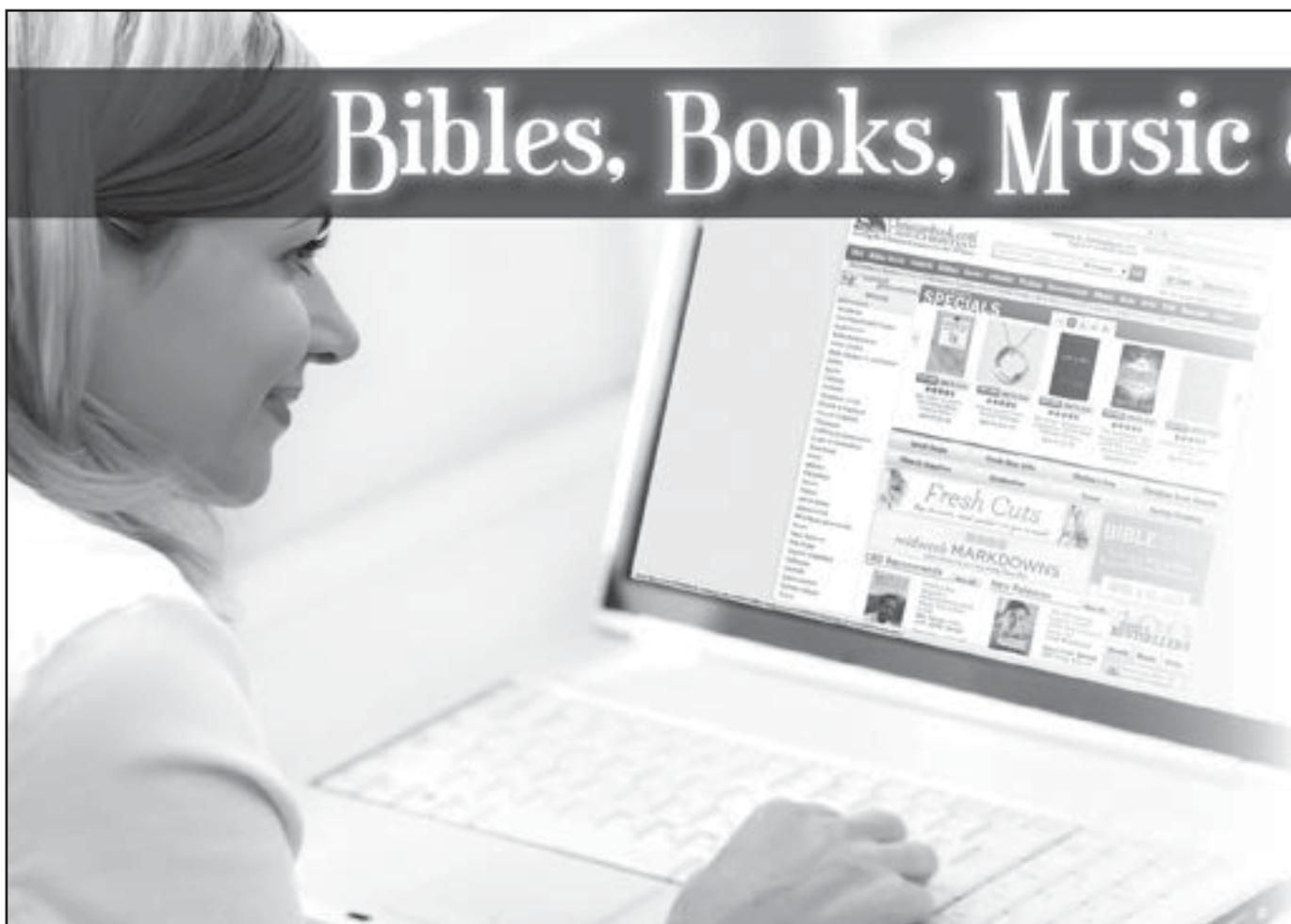
going educational services. A recent at large survey indicates that 83 percent of employees admit not being on track to meet retirement goals, yet 92% of employees make changes to their retirement within 30 days of receiving training. On-going stewardship training will be a key component of the new retirement program.

Finally, we are changing with hopes of increasing participation. While we currently have 425 participants in the plan, we have approximately 1,200 BMA churches. We are hopeful that broadening our scope with enhanced benefits, more flexible options, lower fees, and on-going educational services will increase participation in the BMA Retirement Plan and allow us to build on the foundation we've inherited.

Dr. Steve Crawley is executive director elect of Ministers Resource Services. Contact him at 844-262-8634 or steve@bmaamerica.org.



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**SUNDAY
MAY 6, 2018**



JAGUAR DAY ACROSS TEXAS

ANNUAL OFFERING FOR JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

Dear Jacksonville College Supporters,

Thank you for your faithful support and prayers. God is blessing Jacksonville College. We are seeing lives transformed within our student body. Brady Weaver, a student from New Harmony Baptist Church, preached in Chapel on March 21, and a student was saved. We have had several accept Christ as their personal Savior this year. God is also bringing transformation to hurting communities through JC's servant leadership. After more than one hundred students were trained in Disaster Relief, we had five different groups of students lead teams to the Houston area to assist in recovery.

Sunday, May 6 is Jaguar Day Across Texas. We need your help.

1. Pray for Jacksonville College
2. Encourage any high school students in your church to consider Jacksonville College
3. Give a love offering for Jacksonville College. This offering will help the college in the following ways:
 - a. to pay expenses during the summer months
 - b. to make repairs on a \$5,000-\$10,000 plumbing project
 - c. to provide scholarships to students in need

**JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE
JAGUAR DAY ACROSS TEXAS
OFFERING GOAL**

\$55,000.00

Thank you in advance for helping us reach our goal.

Please make checks payable to Jacksonville College. Add a notation on the check for Jaguar Day.
Mail checks to 105 B.J. Albritton Drive, Jacksonville, Texas 75766.