

Baptist Progress

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BMA SEMINARY
Christ-centered since 1955

Darby/Beal Lectureship at BMA Seminary

JACKSONVILLE, Texas--BMA Seminary is pleased to announce the guest lecturer for the Darby/Beal Lectureship on April 15 and 17, 2014. This year's guest lecturer will be Dr. Harold E. (Hal) Brunson, Jr., who currently serves as professor of Humanities for the Dallas Christian College in Dallas. Dr. Brunson is a graduate of Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Theological Seminary and holds a Ph.D. in Humanities from the University of Texas at Dallas, with a double concentration in Comparative Literature and History of Ideas.

Dr. Brunson's 30 years of pastoral experience includes 23 years at First, Parker. He has also worked as an Educational consultant for various private Christian schools, has served as headmaster of three classical Christian schools, and has taught theology, Greek, literature, philosophy, and history at the high school and collegiate levels.

Dr. Brunson is a published author of a number of books, periodicals, essays, short works and poems. He is married to Nancy and has two children: Trey Brunson and Dr. J. Matthew Brunson.

The lectures are open to the public at no charge. Brunson's speaking schedule is as follows:

Tuesday:

10:00-11:00 a.m.

Topic: The Physiological, Pneumatological, and Psychological

Effects of The Fall

Sec. III, New Hampshire Confession, "Of the Fall of Humanity"

3:00-4:00 p.m.

Topic: Human Volition and Regeneration

Sec. VII, New Hampshire Confession, "Of Grace in Regeneration"

Thursday:

10:00-11:00 a.m.

Topic: Repentance

Sec. VIII, New Hampshire Confession, "Of Repentance and Faith"

3:00-4:00 p.m.

Topic: The Faith that Perseveres

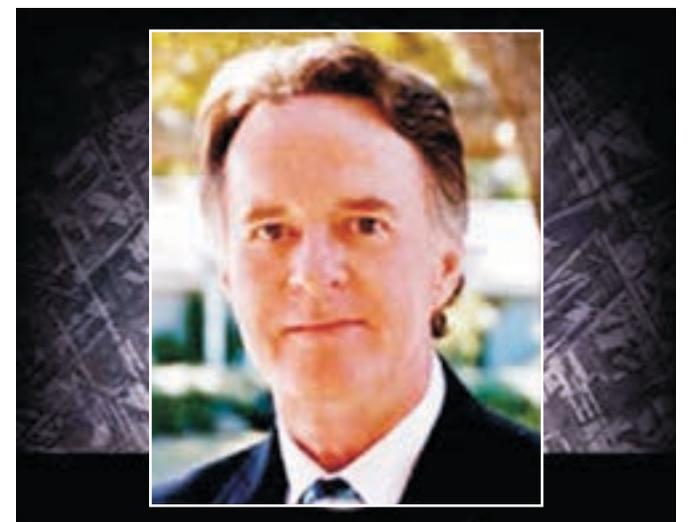
Sec. VIII, New Hampshire Confession, "Of Repentance and Faith"

Sec. XI, New Hampshire Confession, "Of the Perseverance of Saints"

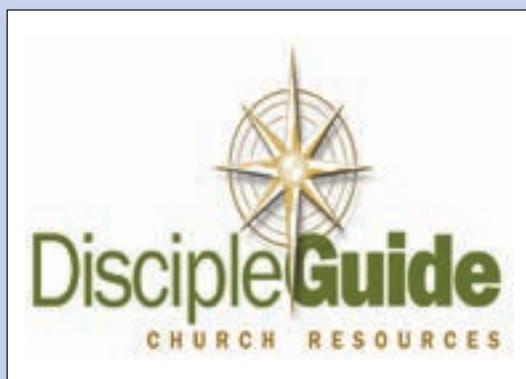
In 2011 Wayne and Elaine Beal of Jacksonville, endowed the lectureship series in honor of Mrs. Beal's father and mother, Armen and Dorothy Darby. Brother Darby was a life-long rancher

in Cherokee County, Texas, and was a faithful deacon at First, New Summerfield for many years.

BMA Seminary is pleased to host the fourth annual Darby/Beal Lectureship. The seminary's mission is to provide accredited theological education to qualified individuals by seeking to equip them for Christian service and leadership roles. The seminary supports the educational needs of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and other groups who share a like commitment to the authority of Scripture.



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Anchor, Pharr nears completion of new building

PHARR, Texas —Anchor Bible Baptist Church, Pharr is nearing the completion of their new multipurpose building. By the time this issue is published, Pastor Dr. John Tisdale said, “The ceiling will be completed, the fire alarm system and the carpet installed. Landscaping will start in a few days.” The pastor requests prayer that the church faces no problems getting their occupancy permit. Congratulations Anchor Bible Baptist Church!



Golden Jubilee Group visits Texas Baptist Home

By **EDDIE MARSH**
TBHC President

The Golden Jubilee group from First, Jacksonville, visited the Texas Baptist Home for Children March 25. The group took a tour of the Home, including a visit to the Plains Cottage which houses the girls. The visit ended with the group presenting sheets and pillowcases they had collected. It was great to have them on campus.

On March 24 the president was honored to visit the home of H.L. Woodard to collect a donation of clothes that had previously belonged to his wife. The garments were of top quality and will be used to assist ladies who are involved in making plans for their unborn child. This gift is one of the largest donations of clothes we have received. We appreciate the generosity of Mr. Woodard and the assistance of those who helped to load the van to take the items back to Waxahachie.



Missionary resigns



▲ **The Wade Allen Family**

By **WADE ALLEN**
BMAA Missionary to The Philippines

What a blessing and honor it has been to be able to serve the Lord through BMAA missions for the past 12 years in the Philippines.

We were blessed to be able to return home for furlough in April 2013. As we visited our churches to share more about the ministry in the Philippines, I found that my heart was burdened because of the struggles facing many of our American churches. During our time in the U.S., these thoughts and feelings persisted and grew.

My family and I love the Philippines and the ministry God has allowed us to be a part of, but God has been working in our lives and is steering us in a new and different direction in ministry.

It has not been easy for the Lord to convince us, but through His work in our hearts and through a series of divine circumstances, God has made His will abundantly clear to us. He has given us peace to know that it is time to turn our hearts back toward home, so we will be returning to the United States in June or July of this year.

Please pray for us through this time of transition, that we will continue to abide in Him so that our next steps in His plan will be made abundantly clear. We are eternally grateful for your partnership,

— *Wade, Joanna, Carly and Caleb*



This Summer, See Faithfulness Embodied

A Review of the *Compass* Summer 2014 Quarter



By **CHARLES REDDIN**
DiscipleGuide Adult Editor

God's people today still face a problem that existed three thousand years ago, when Israel's King David prayed, "Help, LORD ... for the faithful fail from among the children of men" (Psalm 12:1). To counter a dearth of faithfulness among Christians in modern times, next summer's adult Sunday-school studies from DiscipleGuide Church Resources will develop the theme "Faithful Anywhere Anytime."

Dr. Virgil Porter, who developed the quarter as a member of DiscipleGuide's Compass Curriculum Committee and then wrote the *Compass* quarterly, explains: "This quarter concentrates on the last nine chapters of Acts, where Luke details the trials and travels of Paul that eventually bring him to Rome.... Luke reminds us of how faithful Paul was

to continue his service to God regardless of where he was or what his circumstances were."

Paul sets the example, Dr. Porter says, in being "faithful servants anywhere, anytime, any place, to any people, under any circumstance, and welcoming any opportunity."

The lessons will teach such faithfulness by illustrating it in a variety of real-life situations. They will show Paul faithfully serving Christ when a man fell asleep while Paul was preaching, when friend after friend was warning Paul to back down in his determination to travel to Jerusalem, when a mob assaulted him bent on killing him, when he stood trial in multiple one-sided courts, when he waited through two unjust imprisonments of two years each, when a fierce storm was breaking up the ship transporting him

to Rome, and even when a snake bit him. (How many of those incidents would cause your faithfulness to fail?)

Covering nine consecutive chapters in fourteen lessons, the summer quarter will give ample opportunity for expositional Bible teaching. Yet the dramatic events of these nine chapters will add the spice of adventure to the studies. Most of all, the flesh-and-blood example of Paul's biography will challenge Christians to faithfulness anywhere anytime. The goal of these Bible studies is to keep today's Christian leaders from having to say, "The faithful fail from among the children of men."

To order *Compass* and other DiscipleGuide resources for the summer, visit DiscipleGuide.org or call 800-333-1442.

Thank You

By **SCOTT ATTEBERY**

I want to say "thank you" to the churches of the BMAA in the midst of our current transitions. Our goals throughout the decision making process have been 1) to continue providing quality resources to our churches with the minimum amount of change possible, and 2) to find ways to stabilize our finances.

As we began communicating the transitions through our State BMA papers and through letters to our churches, I was nervous. Honestly, I wasn't sure about the feedback we would receive.

That's why I want to say, "thank you." We have not received any negative feedback. Instead, several pastors have responded encouragingly.

Although we have had to make difficult decisions, I praise God that we have only had to make minimal changes in the literature we offer. We will continue printing our most popular publications, *Compass*, *Compass Large Print*, and *Compass Teacher*. Only our *Compass Point* quarterly is being

discontinued due to low sales. We are hoping that the churches affected will encourage their classes who formerly used *Compass Point* to try *Compass*.

We are also thrilled that we will continue to offer children's literature. Children's literature is extremely expensive to produce, so we had to make one change to reduce costs. We have combined our Children's Activity Sheets and Leader Guide together into a download-only format. This has allowed us to reduce the price for our churches. Instead of paying \$5.95 per leader guide and \$2.30 per Activity Sheets, the bundled download will now be \$2.00 per child. Churches must order these on the DiscipleGuide website in order to download, print, and copy.

Thank you for supporting DiscipleGuide in this transition time. I believe with all of my heart that God has a plan for our ministry. Just as so many of you have recently expressed your

support for DiscipleGuide, I want to express our desire to serve your church. Our goal at DiscipleGuide is to invest in churches as we all strive together to fulfill the Great Commission.

Thank you for believing in us and continuing your support of BMA publishing.

If you have any questions or concerns about how these transitions will affect your church, please call or email us at 800-333-1442, info@discipleguide.org.

Scott Attebery is the executive director of DiscipleGuide Church Resources. Contact him by email at scott@discipleguide.org, on Facebook: Scott Attebery or Twitter @scottattebery. Visit www.DiscipleGuide.org.



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Pastor, Thou Art Loosed

By **JERRY FULTON**
Baptist Progress Editor

Theologically and methodologically, T.D. Jakes and I are probably polar opposites. However, Jakes wrote a popular book, several years ago, titled, *Woman Thou Art Loosed*. I do not recommend the book for reading, and I do not endorse the ministry of T.D. Jakes. In fact, aside from borrowing a few words from the title of his book, this article has nothing to do with T.D. Jakes.

Just as some women feel the need to be free to be who the Lord made them to be, I am certain numerous pastors would like to be freed from their churches to be who God made them to be.

Churches place unrealistic expectations on their pastors that lead to burnout, resentment, resignations, church splits, etc. I am convinced there must be a solution to these undesired outcomes.

In fact, I have made it my practice as a pastor as well as editor of *Baptist Progress* to allow staff or employees the opportunity to help in writing their job/ministry descriptions. Obviously, there are specific duties for which a staff member must be responsible, but they also need to be released to pursue their passions while fulfilling the roles assigned to them.

When I was approached by Anthony Drive, Ennis to consider becoming their teaching pastor, we discussed what my responsibilities would be. After the pastor search committee and I met, we drafted a formal agreement as to what would be expected of me in the role of teaching pastor.

The agreement lends itself to my strengths and spiritual gifts. Very clearly and unapologetically, in addition to listing duties for which I would be responsible, we also listed duties for which I would not be responsible. The committee and I recommended that I take care of preaching/teaching, leadership development and vision casting. Ministry teams would then be assigned the tasks of congregational care, outreach, etc.

When it came time for a vote, I boldly told the congregation that if I were elected as their teaching pastor, the job/ministry description we agreed upon would have to be adhered to, and no other expectations would be placed upon me. I even said, "If this is not what you are looking

for in a pastor, don't vote for me." I am glad to say that the church gave me a 100 percent call.

Has the arrangement worked? Yes, it has worked, beautifully! Why? Because the committee and I were up front concerning what my duties would be and would not be. Furthermore, in forming ministry teams, the membership has been freed to exercise their spiritual gifts and become more deeply involved in day to day ministry.

For example, our Inreach Ministry Team (responsible for congregational care) is composed of members who love hospital/homebound visitation, sending get well cards and being there for surgeries or in the case of any emergency. Our Outreach Ministry Team does a splendid job following up with guests as well as planning, promoting and facilitating special events and projects.

Other ministry teams include Property/Maintenance, Children's Ministry, Audio/Visual, Long Range Planning and the list goes on. Our people enjoy serving the Lord in the area of their passion; and this pastor is "loosed" to be who the Lord made and gifted him to be.

It is my opinion that churches would do well to include their pastors and staff in writing job/ministry descriptions. Then, instead of placing expectations on the pastor or staff member and pointing out that Brother So and So always did this or that, let the pastor or staff member do what the Lord has given him a passion to do. Remember, the Lord gave pastors to equip the people to do the work of ministry. He never said, "Church, hire a pastor or staff member to do the work of ministry for you."

Church, is your pastor loosed? If not, remove his chains and let him lead you according to his strengths and giftedness, and come alongside of him, joining him as a fellow laborer for the glory of our Lord!



▲ Jerry Fulton

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Hunkered in the bunker

By DR. TONY CLEAVER

Several friends and family have contacted me over the past few days regarding the shooting at Fort Hood. I tell them my wife and I are safe, and jokingly say “we are hunkered in the bunker.” In fact we are not remotely in any danger, nor were we during the event. Once again Fort Hood is in the news with this terrible tragedy. Quickly the name Ivan Lopez will become linked with Nidal Hassan in people’s memories of “those terrible rampages of death.”

The Fort Hood area has been our home for more than three decades now.

The towns of Killeen, Copperas Cove, Harker Heights and the extended communities of the area are very supportive of Fort Hood and its soldiers and their families. The entire area comes together in such times as

these to provide exceptional care for our military.

News will come and go for a few days over background and other guesses regarding the motives of the shooter. Who can explain this? Why did this have to happen again? What can we learn from this to prevent this from happening again? These questions will have some quasi responses at best. We live in a broken world marred by humanity’s normal nature that at times has no real reason that explains bizarre and incomprehensible acts.

The families who lost loved ones will be scarred. Those wounded will be forever changed. Our community will heal over some time, but yet have the thought of this incident in the recess of memory-like the incident before.

Join with my wife and me—and the many others of the Fort Hood community—as we seek to bring the light of

our Lord Jesus onto this dark episode. Pray with us to ask for grace for troubled families, wisdom for military and community leaders, and Holy Spirit guidance for our area churches as we minister.

Tony Cleaver is the director of distance learning and a professor of Biblical studies at Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Tex. He is an author and writer of the popular newspaper column, Leave It to Cleaver. He may be contacted at tony.cleaver@bmat.edu.



Count to four and shut the door

By DR. TRAVIS PLUMLEE

We all have people that say or do something, that hurt our feelings. Still others experience profound pain from the actions of others. A divorce. Abuse. A child who keeps parents out of their life. Parent’s rejection of a child, even adult children. The list is endless. So are the numbers of people that experience these things. But the key to healing is to practice forgiveness. And do so quickly. When someone does something that you need to practice forgiveness on; then count to four and choose to forgive them. You pray, “Lord I CHOOSE to forgive (and name their name).” Now you have shut the door to them living in your brain all the time. Shut the door to them having power over you in your life by giving them to God through forgiveness. Forgiveness is for you – not them. Whether they get right with God will be their choice. But you could be so free from them having power over you by practicing forgiveness.

I say count to four so that you will know it must be done quickly. Life is too short to let them ruin your whole day. Give it to God and grow on. You’re not ruining my day. One guy asked if he could count to 20 with his in-laws. I laughed and said okay. 20 for them. But seriously, the point is that you must give forgiveness, and do so quickly. Some of you may be saying, “But I can’t forgive them.” We can. We can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth us. It is the “wanting to” that keeps us from doing it. However, you should realize that as long as you will not forgive them; then you allow them to have power over you. You are allowing them to live rent free in your brain. They may not even be in your presence physically, but you allow them to always be nearby in your thoughts. You can be having a good day, and something triggers a thought about what happened to you. Maybe someone says something and it reminds you of what this other person said or did to you. And the downward spiral begins. I hope that through this

article, you might come to realize what forgiveness is and what it is not.

Forgiveness is not saying what they did is okay. What they did- or are still doing- is wrong. It is. That’s a fact. But it isn’t beneficial to you to dwell upon that fact. You just keep re-hurting yourself. Give them to God. Forgiveness is for you. It gets you right with God. Whether they make amends and make things right on their own will be their problem. God will deal with them. You must realize that God is a fair judge. He makes everything come into account and balance. If they never practice forgiveness, if they never recognize their ways; if they just keep going and gloating; you must come to the realization that God will not forget. He will take care of them.

So, vengeance does not belong to you. You cannot as a Christian, seek to retaliate or destroy or hurt them back. I know many of you want to. It is human nature to strike back at those who strike us. Just watch a couple of 2 year olds. When one pushes the other; then the other one pushes back. But we can’t act like two year olds. We have to let our spiritual nature control us. We have to be obedient to the Lords’ command. You may say that you don’t FEEL like forgiving them. Well, join the club. But our relationship with God must be based upon obedience to His Word and not based upon how we feel. He tells us in Ephesians 4:32 to forgive others like the forgiveness we received from Him through Christ. God forgave you of all of your sins because of Christ. You didn’t deserve it. But he gave it. It is called unconditional forgiveness. It doesn’t depend upon how we or others act. God forgave us out of pure love for us. Then He tells us to do the same thing. In Matthew 18:35 we are instructed to forgive everyone who has offended us. In the KJV Bible it uses the word “everyone”. Other translations leave this word out. However, we are instructed here to forgive

others or be handed over to the tormentor. Verse 34. The worst jail for a Christian to be in is the prison of an unforgiving heart.

You can set boundaries. Just because I forgive you does not mean you can walk on me like a door mat. God did not create you for abuse or misuse. Set boundaries with them to avoid future hurt. Once I forgive someone, I can’t hold it over them the rest of their life. God doesn’t do that to our past sins. We have to be like Him. You will remember the event. But it shouldn’t cause raw emotions or you haven’t dealt with it fully. Communicate and let go. When you think about what happened, choose to remember the event as “forgiven and given to God.” If you keep thinking about it, you need to ask Jesus to guard your heart and mind. Fully release to Him. You haven’t done that yet. Satan keeps you from fully releasing it. Everytime the thought comes into your brain; pray and read the scripture, anywhere in the bible. It renews your mind. If you have the opportunity to tell them you forgave them; that is good. It is a way of letting your light shine before others. If the opportunity has passed, or you are not led to do so; then still practice forgiveness towards them privately in your heart, and God can read your heart and you will now be right with Him. A lot of our stress, depression, anxiety and even conflicts in current relationships stem from not counting to 4 and shutting the door. Forgive and be healed.

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.



Farley Street dedicates new building

By PAUL GAUNTT

Farley Street Baptist church worshippers and visitors braved inclement weather Sunday, April 6 to attend the dedication of the new, \$4.3 million worship center.

The backdrop of Pastor Richard Smith's dedication sermon was the Old Testament account of King Solomon's dedication of the Temple. Smith is celebrating his 21st anniversary as pastor of Farley Street.

On hand to help in the celebration were Texas State Representative Jim Pitts, and Waxahachie mayor and candidate for State Representative John Wray, who shared some memories of his own concerning Farley Street.

"Many of the lessons of life, which I learned, were learned in kindergarten, back about 40 years ago, when I attended Condor's Day Care which was located in the back of the old Farley Street Church on Marvin Avenue," Wray recalled.

Donny Parrish, program director for LifeWord Broadcast Ministries in Conway, Ark. and his wife, Datha, were present for the services. Parrish represented all of the national leaders of the Baptist Missionary Association of America in congratulating Farley Street.

"I want members of Farley Street to know hundreds of BMA churches across the land are looking at you," Parrish said. "I told the rest of the (national directors) that if nobody else was able to come to this dedication, I would be more than glad."

Immediately after Parrish spoke, a video of congratulatory remarks, featuring department heads of the national denomination, was shared.

Other program personalities included Farley Street deacon, Ron Craddick, who recognized the many people who had a hand in the building program, and awarded the "Servants Heart Award" to church member and deacon Randy Stinson, who led the building committee during the 18-month building project, and Debbie Barnard, who headed up the decoration committee. Deacon Billy Walker presented the pastor with a plaque which will be displayed on the front of the building.

Music was conducted by Larry Wood, music-creative arts director for Farley Street. The 50-voice Farley Street Celebration Choir sang a Brooklyn Tabernacle spiritual, "Thou Oh Lord."

Blanton Feastor, education pastor for the church, led the congregation in a responsive reading.

The worship center, which houses office complex, adult Sunday school rooms and choir rehearsal room, was added to the phase I facility, completed in November 2008. The two buildings together have a total of 76,000 square feet of space.

For further information about the church, visit the website at www.farleystreet.com, or call the church office at 972-935-0000.



▲ Visitors and church members of Farley Street began filling the facility for the historic service. An estimated 700 people attended the service.

▼ Pastor Richard Smith preached the dedicatory message, referring to Solomon's dedication of the Temple.



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.



*100 Years of
Serving the Lord*

Maydelle First Baptist Church
Maydelle, Texas
(North on Highway 84—look for signs)

April 27, 2014

Join us for a day of worship, music
and dinner on the grounds.

Worship begins at 11 a.m.
with former pastor
Tony Cleaver as guest speaker.

Music by The Jacksonville College Singers

A catered lunch will be served at noon.

For information, contact
Pastor Rusty Sherman at 903-262-5395.

Rusty Sherman, pastor
Stephen Davenport, associate pastor

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 March 1, 2014 – March 31, 2014.

HONORARIUMS

STANLEY & DORIS ALLEN'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

CHILDREN: Mr. & Mrs. James O. Hill

MEN & WOMEN FIGHTING FOR OUR FREEDOM: Mr. James D. Murphy

MEGAN FREEZE: Chris Freeze

MY 6 GRANDCHILDREN: Harold & Ann Rider

JACOB & HOLLY LAGRONE'S WEDDING: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

PASTORS & MISSIONARIES EVERYWHERE: Roy H. Talbot

NOELLE PINA: Moises Pina

BETTY WIEGMAN: Jerry & Teri Hudson

MEMORIALS

QUIDA BALEY: Jed & Nona Dockery

J S BASS: Myrtle Bass

JERRY BEATTY: Jerry & Terri Hudson

WALTER BECKER: Dennis & Ilona Myrice

JUNE BRADLEY: Temple Baptist Church

TOMMIE BLOXOM: Tracy & Rose Moore

FAYE BREWER: Cecil & Jackie Blair

EDWIN ODEAN BROWN: Mrs. Nila Brown

AMY LYNN MOORE BURNETT: Don & Susan Ross, Jed & Glenice Whitaker

GARY CARNEY: Westside Baptist Church

F. MICHAEL COKE: L. B. & Freedia Coke

ALVY COLLINS: James & Mary Jackson, Mrs. Daisy Parker

NADINE CORLEY: F. A. & Virginia Corley

REBECCA CORLEY: F. A. & Virginia Corley

BOBBY COSPER: Mrs. Virginia Cosper

JOE DARBY: James & Billie Schafer

JOE DURDIN: Mary K. Gilbert

BETH GARNER: Calvary Baptist Church

KIM GODWIN: Mr. Jerry Null

BOB HARRISON: Mr. & Mrs. Andy McCuiston

JAN HEARNE: Mr. W. V. (Tres) Watt, III

JUNE HETHERINGTON: Ms. Sandra J. Sharp

HENRY HOLT: Rosewood Baptist Church, Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

MELVIN JOICE: Mary K. Gilbert

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J. L. NEWTON: Mrs. Patsy Bishop

BETTY PEGUES: Elaine Copeland

JUSTIN PRESLEY: Mrs. Daisy Parker, Glee Hutson

JACK PROCTOR: F. A. & Virginia Corley

ROSA LEE QUINN: Red Springs Miss Baptist Church

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BONNIE COPELAND: Elaine Copeland

JACK TAYLOR: Mrs. Dolores Taylor

VIVIAN THOMAS: E. K. & Peggy Sandifer

VENICE TURNER: Mr. Jerry Null

WANDA: Mr. Bob (Austin) Hickingbotham

LOIS B. WATT: Mr. W. V. (Tres) Watt, III

LISA ANN WILKERSON: Harold & Jean Jacobs

MRS. EDITH WOOTEN: Mary Lou Wilson Ables

AUXILIARIES

Trust in Jesus, Walk by Faith

By SHARON COLE

The National GMA Retreat is June 17-20, 2014 at Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment, Gary. All counselors/chaperones must complete the mandatory background check before they can attend the retreat. This is Texas state law! All registration information can be found at danielspringscamp.com. Every adult in your group must undergo the background check every two years.

Camp fees are \$120 for cabins and \$130 for dorms. The theme is taken from Proverbs 3:5,6. The theme song will be "Walk by Faith" by Jeremy Camp. Scott Attebery, executive director of DiscipleGuide, will be the camp pastor.

The project for this year has been 90 percent for DiscipleGuide ESL and 10 percent for the GMA General Fund. The goal for the project is \$25,000. Please send project offerings by May 15 to the National GMA treasurer, Ruby Poteet, 8303 Middle Warren Rd. Pine Bluff, Ark. 71603. Contact her at 870-879-1378 or rwp8303@aol.com.

If you are a new GMA group and would like to attend camp for the first time, we have funds available to help with part of the registration. Contact Robin Clark as soon as possible if you would like more information at 501-679-4867 or robinclark@windstream.net.

If you have a GMA girl that will be making a BMAA affiliated mission trip this year, we still have funds available to help with expenses. Girls should apply as soon as possible. For more information, contact Robin Clark.

AfterGlow will be held this year on Wednesday night after services. If you have girls who wish to participate, present a special song or talent, make a list and turn it in to the National GMA song leader, Kaylen Fagala.

The National Officers are asking everyone to wear a white or neon colored shirt to *AfterGlow* to accent the black lights. Glow sticks and bracelets will be available for purchase at the project promotion tables near the silent auction area.

Queen's Day is being planned by Kristin Herring and Jesslyn Spence for Wednesday of the retreat week. Girls should wear comfortable clothes and shoes. *Shining Stars* is a special time on Wednesday morning for all girls in Maiden through Princess Steps.

The GMA Coronation will be Wednesday night. All girls who want to participate must send the necessary registration form

by May 15 to: Mrs. Jean Knight, 2978 Hwy 15, Wiggins, Miss. 39577. Contact her at 601-928-3764 or goggyandpapa@gmail.com. State promoters please send your state's Miss/Jr. Miss GMA participant's folders as soon as possible, before April 15, to the National GMA promoter, Jayna Williams, P.O. Box 321, Mineola Texas 75773 or contact her at 903-258-0284 or jaynaw@gmail.com.

The deadline for ordering National GMA T-shirts from the National Treasurer (address above) is May 15. They will be mint green with the theme written in blue. Cost: Youth 10-12 through X-L \$12. Shirts size 2X and 3X are \$14. Make checks to National GMA.

The Bridge in Celina—An interview with Matthew Prather

When did you and Amy know the Lord was leading you in the direction of missions?

Amy and I knew God wanted us to plant a church for several years before we did. We were waiting on His timing. In January of 2011 God showed us the timing was right and He began to speak to us strongly about church planting. We began praying and seeking His will as to where he wanted us to go. We prayed about what state and city He would have us go. As we continued to seek Him, it became clear that he wanted us in Celina. On our first visit to Celina, God gave us a peace that this is where He wanted us.

When did you move on the field?

We moved on the field at the end of August of 2012. We were finally able to live in Celina on a full time basis in October of 2012 after we were able to sell our house in Fairfield.

Briefly, where is Celina, and how large is the area you are serving?

Celina is in North Texas in a very fast growing area. It is in Collin County which is one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. If you are travelling north of Dallas, you would go through Plano, Frisco, Prosper, and then Celina. It is located on Preston Road and Dallas North Tollway. Celina is a town, of approximately 10,000 people, and is growing at a rapid pace. The growth expectation for Celina is for it to be over 50,000 people in the next 20 years. Many city officials believe that it will grow even faster than that.

How many on average are attending the ministry you have begun?

We are reaching many families that are unchurched. It is an exciting thing to see so many young families begin to get plugged into a church; some for the very first time. On launch Sunday we had 94 people attend. Since then we have averaged anywhere from 40 to 65 people at our Sunday Worship services.

What are your specific needs other than prayer and financial support?

Prayer and financial support are of course big needs. We definitely covet everyone's prayers. It makes a huge difference! Praying for us as well as other missionaries cannot be underestimated. We appreciate everyone's prayers. Please pray that we continue to reach new families and that we continue to impact our community. At different times of the year we do need and use different teams to help us with different projects in town. These teams are a huge blessing to us. We want to reach out to our community and show God's love in every possible way.

What are your goals and desires for this ministry?

We want to see more and more people come to know Christ as their personal Savior. There are so many people all around us that do not know Christ. I am afraid that too often we make assumptions that because people live in the United States, they know Christ or have at least heard of Him and it is just not always the case. Our deepest desire is to create movement in people's lives. To put it in the simplest of terms, we want to see people grow to a point that we see five things in their lives. 1. Love God. 2. Connect with others. 3. Grow in their relationship with Christ. 4. Serve in some type of ministry. 5. Reach others for Christ. We want to see movement started in people's lives so that wherever they are in their relationship with Christ, that they take the next step. This allows them to create movement in their life and ultimately lead others through that same path. The ultimate response then is our greatest desire to see people make disciples that make disciples.

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.



It's not too late to give to the National WMA project

By JACKIE RICKS

National WMA Editor

The books have closed on the National WMA project for 2014 but you can still give even up to the national WMA meeting April 22. At the end of February the local chapters of WMA have raised \$30,663.54 for the IAW (I Am Woman) project in the Middle East.

To see a video update of the ministry visit the national WMA website at www.nationalwmaofbmaa.net

As we get closer to time for our meeting we need to be considering a project for 2014-15. Please remember these projects must be presented to the Project Promotion Committee by April 15th and the nomination must be made by a local WMA chapter represented by messenger or by letter at the national WMA meeting. Nominations cannot be taken from the floor because there are certain criteria that must be met for a project to be considered.

To be considered a project must be associated with a department

or ministry of the BMA and have a quantifiable financial need.

Feel free to follow this format or something similar when submitting your nomination:

We, the messengers of the WMA of (name of church), present the following nomination to the National WMA for consideration:

(Name of Ministry) promoted by or affiliated with (name of department or ministry) in (location). This project needs (amount of money) to be used for (purpose).

Also include with your nomination the name of someone to give a 2-3 minute overview of the project need at the national meeting. This is not necessary but helpful in choosing a project.

Project Promotion Committee 2014

Valarie Fish dvfish@swat.coop

Ann Raines jar8899@sbcglobal.net

Alice Smith alicesmith.8821@yahoo.com

Brotherhood Update

National Brotherhood Secretary/Treasurer Robert M. Bynum reports the following disbursements: Thailand Missions, \$1,955.56; and Galileans, \$628.68.

Designated funds that are being held include: Galilean Scholarship, \$985; and General Fund, \$534.53.

Although the books have closed on this year's project, offerings will still be accepted at the national meeting in Little Rock later this month.

— Pat Spriggs, national project promoter



Mission Life

By JERRY BURNAMAN

Do you have a ministry team? Every pastor has some people he depends on to help the church function effectively and fulfill God's Great Commission. It may be a group of faithful teachers or a ministry team composed of elected staff members.

The ministry team at various times will face differing agendas and clashes that could potentially damage the team's unity and affect the church's ministry. United teams learn how to deal with issues at hand and come out united in purpose and vision.

"A people that value its privileges above its principles soon lose both."

—Dwight D. Eisenhower

Values are the principles that influence and guide a team's behavior. When and where values are absent, self-interest will reign supreme. People begin to protect their own turf, putting their own power and privileges ahead of the wellbeing of the team. A team's values are vulnerable to time, turnover and growth. Leaders have to counteract each of these threats with a specific strategy in order to make sure their team's values stay strong.

1. Time. No organization's values are immune to the wear and tear of time. Like the winds and the rain gradually erode the earth, the grind of day-to-day operations eats away at a team's values. Over time, the pressing demands of doing business tend to crowd out the principles on which the team

was built.

The passage of time diminishes team values, but the investment of time renews them. The key is scheduling time together to celebrate the team's values. If you publicly praise and honor the people who epitomize the values of the team, those values will get embraced and upheld by others. What's routinely admired and affirmed by the leaders is eventually adopted and applied by the team and guides the church's ministries.

2. Turnover. The constant flux of personnel takes a toll on team values. Experienced veterans, who have long embraced and embodied the teams' values, transition away, and they are replaced by new arrivals who know little or nothing about the team's guiding principles. The danger is that the incoming team members will not assimilate to the shared values of the team.

To limit the disruptive effects of turnover on team values, leaders must focus extra attention on communication to help the new members understand the team's values. It may be essential to have a time of training for them to understand their responsibilities.

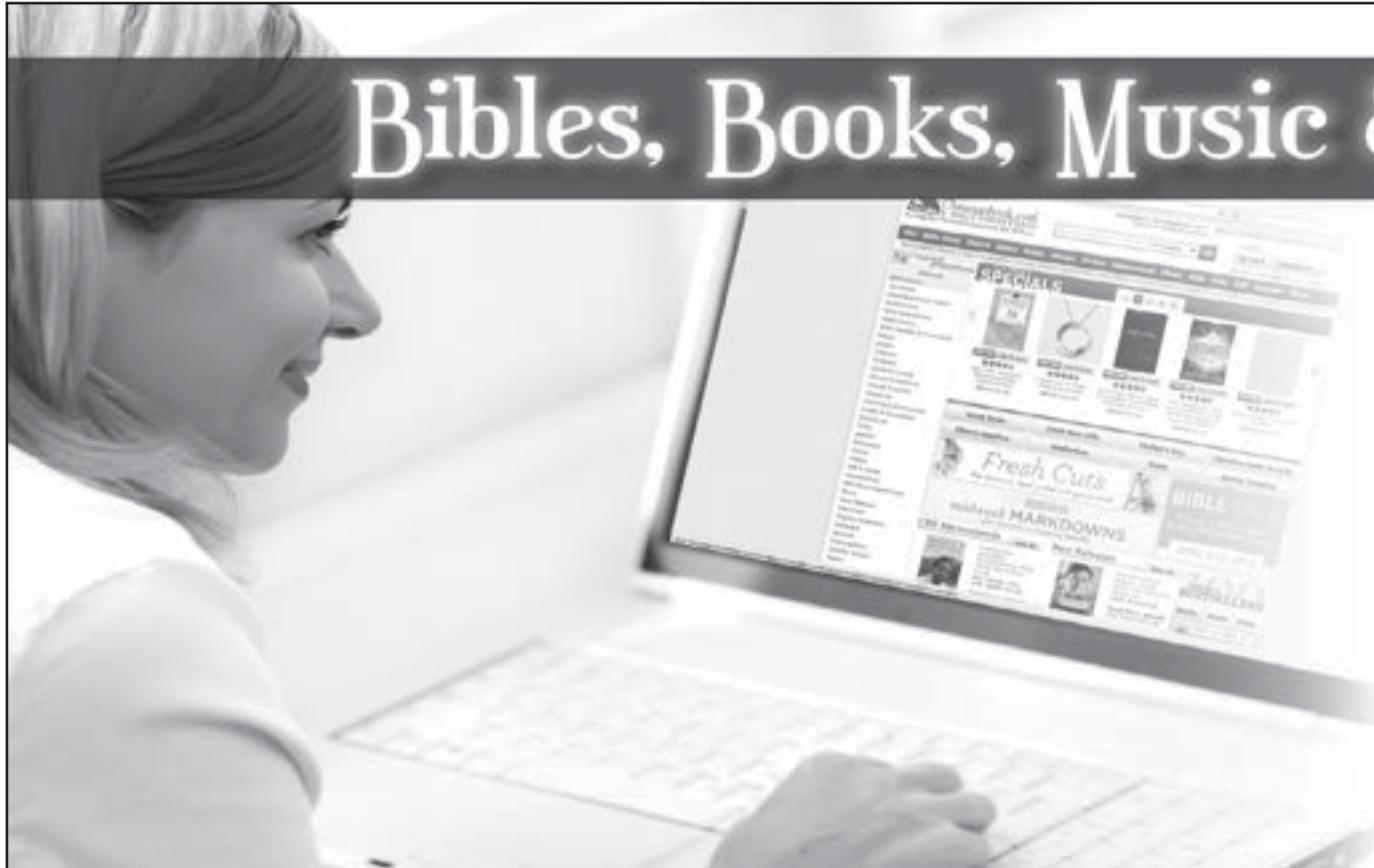
3. Growth. Growth, especially when rapid, threatens to obscure a team's values. Like turnover, part of the challenge involves welcoming new people and introducing them to the team's culture. What's different is that the size of the organization changed the way a leader can communicate values.

To address the challenge of growth, leaders must learn to weave their values into the fabric of the team. In this way, values become part and parcel of the way the team interacts. For example, Bill Hybels, senior pastor of Willow Creek Community Church, regards "community" as a core value of his church. To reinforce the value, he devotes the first third of every leadership meeting to building and maintaining the personal relationships among co-workers. In this way, the focus on community becomes part of the regular rhythm of the church's daily life

Of course most churches are not as large as Willow Creek, nor do they have as large a team or experience rapid growth. However, your team should have some values that guide your actions. What are your team's top three core values? Make sure they comply with the church's distinctive values. What are you doing to safeguard them from the threats of time, turnover and growth?

—Adapted from John Maxwell, *Leadership Wired*

Jerry Burnaman is the executive director of State Missions and the Baptist Missionary Loan Association. Contact him at jerryburnaman@yahoo.com or 972-923-0757.



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EVENTS

APRIL 15 & 17, 2014

Darby/Beal Lectureship
@ BMA Seminary
10-11 a.m. and
3 p.m. to 4 p.m. each day

APRIL 26, 2014

Eric Johnson Mexico
Missions Golf Tournament
@ Lufkin Country Club
8:30 a.m.
For information, c
all Jimmy Nunn at 936-465-1828

APRIL 28-30, 2014

Annual Meeting of the BMAA @
Statehouse Convention Center,
Little Rock, Ark.

MAY 15, 2014

BMMI Rally
@ Willow Oak, Gilmer

JUNE 17-20, 2014

National GMA Retreat
@ Daniel Springs Camp
Gary, Texas

JULY 22, 2014

Smith County District
Brotherhood & WMA Meeting
@ Omen, Arp
Jerry Fulton, editor of Baptist Progress,
guest singer & speaker Meal
@ 6 p.m. Meeting @ 7 p.m.

AUGUST 14, 2014

Lifeword Media Ministries Rally
@ Woodland, Gilmer

APRIL 27, 2014

100 Year Anniversary
@ Maydelle First Baptist Church,
Maydelle
11 a.m.

OCTOBER 13-14, 2014

Annual Liberty Baptist Association
@ Little Mound, Big Sandy

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2014

Annual Meeting of the BMA of Texas
@ Keltys First, Lufkin

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

Youth—Calvary, Jacksonville is seeking a bivocational youth pastor.

Contact Pastor Michael Mathis at mathi1314@gmail.com or 903-625-0776.

Music—Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden is seeking a bivocational music minister.

Send resume to Attn: Pastor Craig Kearby, P.O. Box 99, Golden, Texas 75444 or pilgrimresttwo@gmail.com or call 903-768-2653.

Music or Music & Youth—First, New Caney is seeking a bivocational

music or music & youth minister. Send resume to Pastor Jonathan Fitzgerald, P.O. Box 1027, New Caney, Texas 77357 or to fbcnewcaney@att.net, or call 281-399-9930.

Pastor—Piney Creek, Kennard, located at 7015 Farm Market Road 2781

in Kennard is seeking a bivocational pastor. Contact Billy Don Davis at 936-655-2938 or send resume to Billy Don Davis at 822 County Road 4615 Kennard, Texas 75847.

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 youthguywayne@yahoo.com.

PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

Jody Windham resigned as pastor of Little Flock, Lufkin.

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.**



Songs included on the CD: When I Get Carried Away, Without a Valley, Ten Thousand Years, Just Ask, I Still Got a Feeling, He Saw It All, Who Am I, Try a Little Kindness, I Call It Home, Thinking About Home, The Other Side of Grace and I've Come Too Far.

Price: \$12

CHURCHES IN REVIEW

MARCH 30, 2014

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	65	93	2 By Letter
Cedar Creek, Teague	14	24	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	459	522	
First, Palmer	48	87	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	17	32	
Harvest, Lufkin	15	20	
Lake Highlands, Sulphur Springs	85	112	
Lighthouse, Rowlett	16	34	1 By Statement, 2 By Profession
Little Flock, Lufkin		10	
New Harmony, Tyler	328	399	
New Haven, Dallas			
New Hope, Mineola	73	113	
Oak Hill, Gilmer	20	49	
Pine Brook, Tyler	28	84	
Rosewood, Gilmer	97	155	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	16	32	
Temple, Mexia	34	65	
Tundra, Canton	105	125	
Woodland, Splendora	53	76	

APRIL 6, 2014

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	66	94	2 By Letter
Cedar Creek, Teague	13	18	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	459	522	
First, Palmer	40	67	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	12	25	
Harvest, Lufkin	17	25	
Jackson, Joaquin	66	105	
Lighthouse, Rowlett	18	35	1 By Baptism
Little Flock, Lufkin		15	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	31	42	
Long Creek, Sunnyvale	67	83	5 By Statement
New Harmony, Tyler	244	308	
New Hope, Mineola	62	87	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	31	42	
Pine Brook, Tyler	32	76	3 By Statement
Rosewood, Gilmer	112	157	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	19	33	
Temple, Mexia	30	33	2 By Letter
Tundra, Canton	88	110	

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

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

Up From the Grave

By GARY HOUSE

DATE: April 20, 2012

TEXT: Ecclesiastes 3:19-20; 7:15; 8:8; 9: 5; 1 Corinthians 15: 19-23.

LESSON IN BRIEF: The world is full of erroneous ideas about death and eternity because they reject the fact of the Resurrection. Receive the resurrected Christ, who has defeated death, hell and the grave. This is the only way to fully enjoy life in this world and eternity in heaven.

I wonder if the Apostle Paul recalled the words of Solomon concerning death and eternity when he wrote: *“If in this life only, we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.”* Solomon paints a bleak picture of life and the end of it, concluding that without God, life is worthless and empty. Solomon is looking at death the same way as the world sees it. Without God, the outlook is utterly hopeless. We are all like animals in that we will all die. *“For that*

which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts.” Death ends it all; the grave is the end.

Bertrand Russell, one of the spokesmen for those who do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus, wrote: *“The life of a man is a long march through the night, surrounded by invisible foes, tortured by weariness and pain, toward a goal which few can hope to reach and where none may tarry long. One by one as they march, our comrades vanish from our sight, seized by the silent orders of omnipotent death. Brief and powerless is man’s life. On him and all his race the slow, sure doom falls, pitiless and dark. Blind to good and evil, reckless of destruction, omnipotent matter rolls on its relentless way. For man, condemned today to lose his dearest, tomorrow himself to pass through the gate of darkness, it remains only to cherish, ere yet the blow falls, the*

lofty thoughts that ennoble his little day.” Summation: Death ends it all. Everyone will cease to exist at death. Man is helpless against death. No man can affect eternity.

“Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?” Who knows what happens to a person’s spirit after they die?

Keep in mind that Solomon doesn’t know. We now know. When Solomon talks about being dead he is not getting theological and describing what people call “soul sleep.” He’s not talking about what a person is experiencing in heaven or in hell, he’s simply stating the fact that a dead person no longer enjoys the benefits of the world we live in. Life is better than death.

Paul is writing to remind his readers that the resurrection is essential to salvation and to any hope of Heaven. In an effort to awaken

the Corinthian believers to the importance of the resurrection, he, like Solomon, paints a dismal picture of what life would be like if there had been no resurrection.

Jesus Christ defeated death, hell and the grave. He arose! Today, we not only celebrate His triumphant victory, we celebrate our resurrection with Him. When a believer dies, their spirit goes immediately to be with the Lord.

“For me to live is Christ and to die is gain” Philippians 1:21.

“For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better...” Philippians 1:23.

“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord” 2 Corinthians 5:8.

Life without Christ is a hopeless end. Life with Christ is an endless hope. In Christ we have a hope, a future and a reward.

Obedient Citizens

By GARY HOUSE

DATE: April 27, 2014

TEXT: Ecclesiastes 8: 2–5, 9-14

LESSON IN BRIEF: God puts government in place to promote law and order. Our obedience to the government is part of our obedience to God.

I detest seat belts. They are uncomfortable and confining. And what right does anyone have to tell me what to do? But I wear them anyway. Why? Even though our permanent citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20), we are currently residents here on earth where we are governed by government authorities. Why should the Christian submit to municipal authority? A secondary question arises: What if I disagree with legislative mandates, especially those which violate biblical principles? (Case in point: Funding abortion through my tax dollars.) Solomon addresses these questions in today’s scripture passage.

This passage and others, such as Romans 13:1 and 1 Peter 2:13, says nothing that limits my responsibility to obey only to those times I agree with the government. As a follower of Jesus Christ, I am to obey the governing authorities even when I don’t agree with them. Even Jesus commanded his followers to comply with the IRS and pay their taxes,

even though the government might be doing something with those taxes that they disagreed with. There are but two exceptions: 1) When the government **requires** me to do something prohibited by the scriptures; 2) When the government **prohibits** me from doing something required by the scriptures (recall the life of Daniel.) Our subjection to government does not override our responsibility to God.

As Dr. Tilley, the writer of *Compass* lessons for the quarter, astutely points out: The key to obedience to government is **submission** to God. By first submitting our lives to God, the highest authority, we are then able to submit to lesser civil authority which is ordained of God.

Submission in its purest form means every day saying, *“Not my will but thine be done.”*

“Stand not in an evil thing” (verse 3). We must understand that wicked rulers will occur. Maintain your integrity. As long as you don’t have to choose between God and man, obey the king. Develop the wisdom to discern when it is time to act or not act and what the penalty for either action might be. Don’t do anything to impede your Christian witness. No matter what I may think about any government

official and his or her policies, I can live the kind of life that God wants me to live.

Our primary responsibility as followers of Jesus Christ is to make disciples and I certainly don’t want my politics to offend someone and keep them from coming to know Jesus. If the world is going to hate me, I want them to hate me because of my faith in Jesus, not because of my politics. Ultimately, it makes absolutely no difference if an unsaved person is for or against abortion, for or against gay marriage, a liberal or a conservative, a Democrat or a Republican. Apart from Jesus that person will spend eternity separated from God in a place of everlasting torment. God is not interested in changing people’s politics. He is much more interested in changing their hearts. And if that is where God’s focus lies, then so should mine.

I do not trust in the government to provide my needs, I trust in the Sovereign God.

We need to be salt and light in this world by being good citizens, obeying our government officials, doing what we can to promote peace and prosperity here and praying to God on behalf of our country. As bad as things are and as bad as things may get in this country, can you

imagine what it would be like without the preserving and enlightening effect of the devoted followers of Jesus who are salt and light in the midst of decay and darkness? And so with whatever time I have left on this earth, I’m not going to waste it complaining about the government or being active in politics. I am, to the very best of my ability, going to invest my life in telling people about Jesus and helping them to grow in their relationship with Him

God places governments in power to maintain law and order. Honor God by being as good a citizen as possible without violating Scripture (Ecclesiastes 8:2.) Use your time on earth to be the best ambassador for God you can be.

Personal note: Thanks to Paul Gauntt for writing the previous lessons. Please continue to pray for me as I recover from a heart attack.

Gary House is the writer of the Sunday school lessons for Baptist Progress. He serves as pastor of Tundra Baptist Church in Canton. Contact him at Tundraparson@aol.com.



JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

Department of Literature and Languages

By DR. MIKE SMITH

The Jacksonville College Department of Literature and Languages makes specific efforts toward integration of Christian faith and building a Christian worldview within the teaching/learning process by using Christian values to guide the presentation and discussion of class material. The ability to gather and evaluate information, organize one's thoughts, present one's idea in written or spoken form, and engage in critical thinking are essential skills needed in today's workplace and are vital for the successful development of spiritual maturity and wholeness of the educated Christian.



▲ Chairperson of the JC Department of Literature and Languages, Vanita Pettey

The chairperson of the Jacksonville College Department of Literature and Languages is Vanita Pettey. Vanita was born in Jacksonville to Charles and Ruth Pettey. She is a lifelong resident of Jacksonville and is also a graduate of Jacksonville College. Vanita earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree and Master of Arts Degree from the University of Texas at Tyler. She is not only a member and sponsor of the Phi Theta Kappa, Alpha Beta Alpha Chapter at Jacksonville College but also a member of the Curriculum Committee, Social Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and Administrative Committee. In addition, Vanita is the current chair of the Faculty Association.

Vanita has taught English at Jacksonville College for 14 years. Serving at Jacksonville College is very important to Vanita. She says, "I feel that this is the will of God for my life at this time. I am thankful that God has blessed me with the opportunity to teach in a place where the Bible, prayer, and biblical discussion are welcome and appropriate in class."

Vanita is actively involved in her local church, especially with a global project known as Knit a Square. She knits squares that her church mails to Africa where the local women sew them together to form blankets that are delivered to abandoned children. Jacksonville College is blessed to have Vanita Pettey as part of our family.

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



▲ Congratulations to Devanyar Workman, JC Lady Jaguars basketball player, who was named Region XIV's 2014 Most Valuable Player.



▲ The Barnwell Anderson Chapter of the JC Walter Prescott Historical Society was awarded \$600.00 and the Caldwell Memorial Award at the Texas State Historical Association meeting last month. Pictured holding the certificate are Dr. Mike Smith and president of the JC Historical Society, Ashlei Green.



▲ Mario Cruz, JC maintenance worker, enjoys using the new riding mower provided by New Harmony Baptist Church in Tyler, where Robbie Caldwell serves as pastor.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Early Registration for Maymester and Summer 2014

Began March 31
Online registration is available

Maymester and Summer Sessions

Maymester: May 14 - May 30

Summer I: June 2 - July 3

Summer II: July 7 - August 7

Awards Night

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

Donkey Basketball (Fundraiser for JC Scholarships)

Saturday, May 3, at 8:00 p.m. in the Curtis Carroll Field House/Gymnasium

Tickets are \$10.00, no charge for preschool and under

For more information, call 903-589-7144

Commencement

May 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Curtis Carroll Field House/Gymnasium