

Baptist Progress

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Ron Chesser

announces his retirement as executive director of Ministers Resource Services after over 18 years of service

By **RON CHESSE**

Ministers Resource Services Executive Director

As confident as I was in December, 1999 of becoming the executive director of Ministers Resource Services, the retirement agency of the BMA of America, I am equally confident that it is now the time for me to announce my retirement. My retirement will be effective May 31, 2018. I am allowing this time frame, from my announcement to the effective date, so our board of trustees can receive resumes and have a candidate to submit as nominee for executive director at the BMAA national meeting in Jackson, Mississippi next April.

Let me express my sincere appreciation to the churches of the BMAA for allowing me to fulfill my call to the ministry of retirement. God has allowed me to help pastors, church staff, missionaries and department personnel plan financially for the future. For this opportunity to help others I am extremely thankful and can firmly say, "To God Be the Glory."

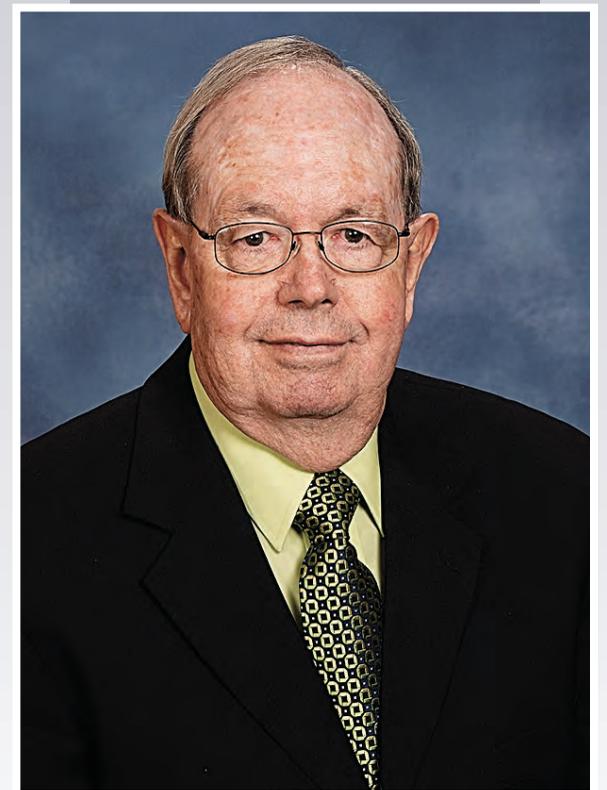
This mission I have been on for the past eighteen and one-half years as executive director would have been impossible without our MRS office personnel. Upon my retirement in May, 2018, Alice Griffin will have finished 38 years in her position as administrative assistant and serving in the same

position, Sharon Daniels will have completed over 34 years. Jane Hoy will have been with us for four years. These ladies have made my job not only easier but I simply could not have done it without them. A huge word of gratitude for a job well done goes out to each of them.

Words are inadequate in expressing appreciation not only to our current board of trustees but to those who have served faithfully down through the years during my time as executive director. Every board member fills a significant role as a trustee but Kenneth Lott has served longer as chairman of the board during my tenure than any other individual. His administrative and financial expertise has been a strength and encouragement to me.

The name Gloria Hudson Chesser may not mean a lot to you but to me it means everything. For over 55 years she has faithfully been by my side, first, as a pastor's wife for 40 years and then as a director's wife. God knew what He was doing when He gave her to me. To me she is priceless!

Psalms 37:4, "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Indeed, God has proven Himself true to His Word many times over during my almost sixty years of ministry!





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making progress

\$105 for 105 years of ministry

By **JERRY FULTON**

Thank you to those who have given to our \$105 for 105 years of ministry anniversary offering. Others who have given, in addition to those listed in our last issue, include the following:

Already reported: 3,560.00

- Anonymous
- Richard and Gloria Murray
- Michael and Lisa Phillips
- Bethel of White Rock, Dallas
- Cedar Creek, Teague
- Farley Street, Waxahachie Son Shine Sunday School Class
- Fellowship, Pittsburg
- First, Bardwell
- First, Carthage
- First, Livingston
- Jacksonville College
- LakeRidge, Lubbock
- Macune, San Augustine
- Olde Tyme, Gilmer
- Sand Springs, Mineola
- New Total: \$5,635.00**



▲ Jerry Fulton

THANKS TO MT. OLIVE DISTRICT WMA

The Mt. Olive District WMA raised \$966.50 for *Baptist Progress* over the last year. We are grateful for their generous contribution. We can do more together. Their partnership in ministry is appreciated.

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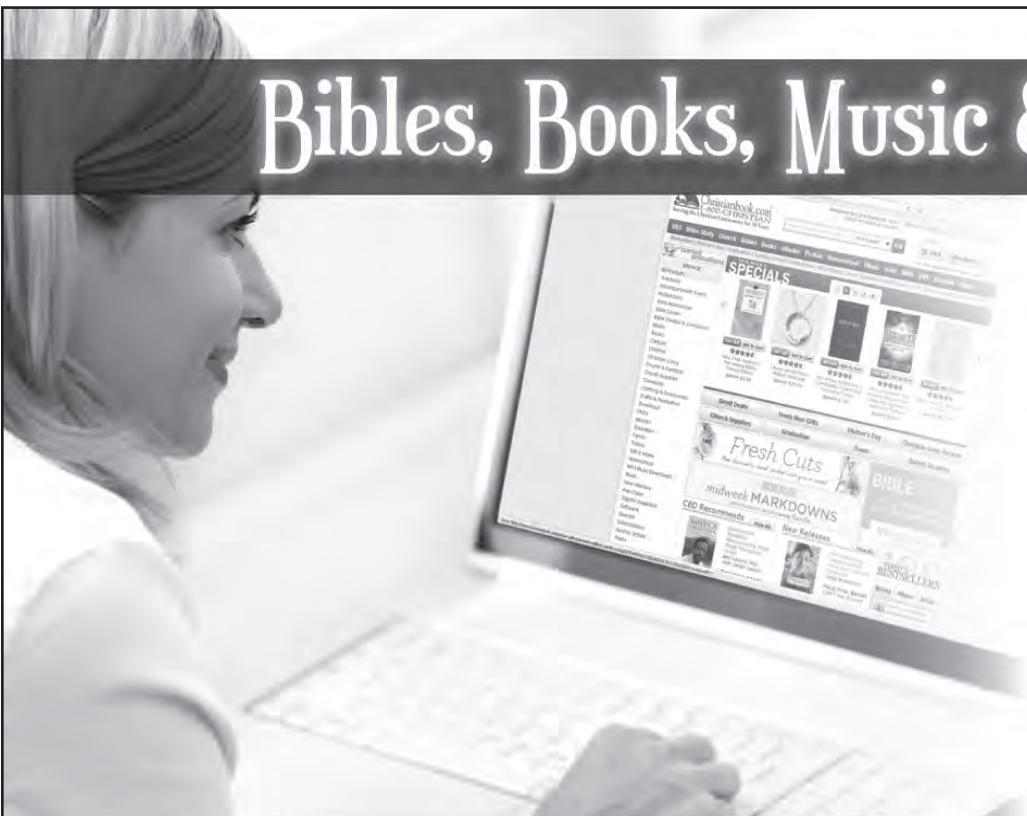
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Church health

Leadership Distinctives

By LARRY BARKER

What makes a leader a leader? Even more importantly, what makes a leader worth following? There are several reasons leaders are followed such as position, power, and personality. The lowest level of leadership is being followed only due to the position you hold, but at some point leadership influence must be earned. People may follow you for a period of time, but eventually you will earn or lose the right to be followed. Leadership influence is a lot like trust because it takes a long time to earn but can be lost in a second.

In *The 5 Levels of Leadership*, John Maxwell describes level one where people follow you because they have to or believe they should because of the position you hold. The second level is permission where they continue to follow because of the relationship they have built with you and have decided they want to follow you. The next level is based on your ability to lead well and they follow because of what you have accomplished through your leadership. Leadership then moves to reproduction because of how the leader has poured into your life and mentored you.

These five levels move from rights (position) to relationships (permission) to results (production) to people development (reproduction) and then on to respect (the pinnacle). This is where people follow you because of who you are and what you represent. The reality is that sometimes the closer we get to some leaders the less we want to follow them because we discover they are not who we thought they were. What a joy it is when the closer you get to a leader the more you desire and want to follow them. Familiarity should breed respect not contempt in leadership.

Distinctive #1 is spirituality. There is a huge difference between leadership and spiritual leadership. Of more importance than your leadership skills, those following you need to be able to see you are walking with God. You should not have to convince people you are walking with Him because it should be apparent to all that you are. Even though leadership can be accomplished by many, spiritual leadership only occurs by those who are walking closely and intimately with the Lord. Manipulation will not be necessary when the Holy Spirit is present.

Distinctive #2 is prayer. For emphasis sake and

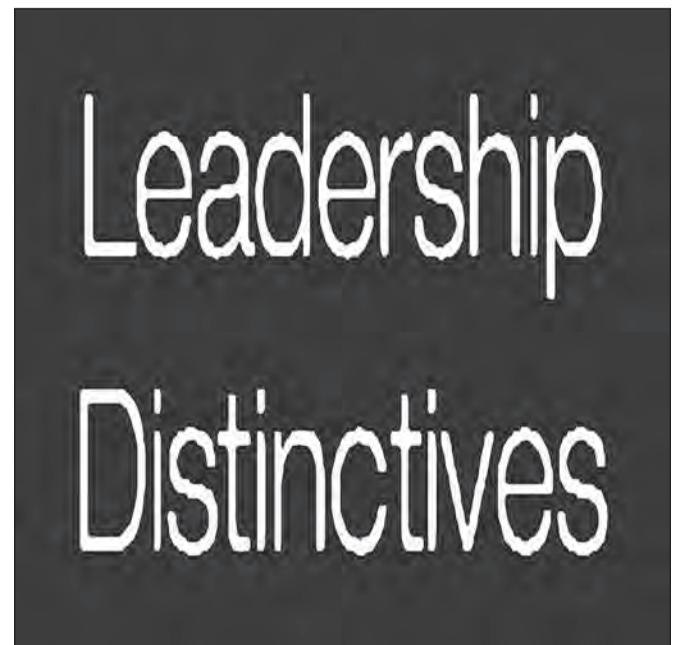
because it is so vital to the leader's effectiveness allow me to quote again from *Spiritual Leadership* by Henry and Richard Blackaby speaking on the importance of prayer in their lives. "For leaders to have this kind of relationship available to them and then choose to not communicate with the One who wants to guide them is a gross dereliction of duty." Prayer reminds us of who is really in charge and gives us a confidence that He is able to do above and beyond all we could ever ask or think.

Distinctive #3 is a great work ethic. Leaders are not lazy and they are not afraid of hard work. They lead by example and have a servant's heart meaning they are willing to do what others are unwilling to do. The Blackabys ask this, "If the people in my organization worked with the same intensity as I do, would they enhance the operations of this organization or would they reduce it to a crawl?" If the goal of your leadership is respect then you should not see your position as an escape from sacrifice but as platform to demonstrate what sacrifice looks like.

Jesus set the example here by washing the disciples' feet but some leaders act more like they seek privilege and entitlement. Maybe you should not have to do a particular task but you should always be willing. Remember, the greatest way to influence others is by example. If we want those who follow us to go an extra mile Jesus said we must be willing to go two. It cannot be "do as I say" but rather "do as I do" and our actions back it up. Church leaders we need to work hard at showing our people that we know what it means to work hard.

Distinctive #4 is answering questions before they are even asked. Communicate your vision and how you will carry it out over and over again. One of the greatest lessons I learned was that what I often thought was opposition was simply just individuals who needed more information. We can easily think that because of the journey we have been on that people will automatically fast forward to where the Lord has brought us. Anticipate that there are "late-adopters" who by their nature will need their questions answered before they can move forward.

Distinctive #5 is having good spiritual mentors and counselors. Make sure you check out the wisdom of Ecclesiastes 4:9-16 with verse 10 saying, "For if



either falls, his companion can lift him up; but pity the one who falls without another to lift him up." In Proverbs Solomon also tells us that there is wisdom in the multitude of counsel. You do not have to have all the answers as a leader, but you must have the wisdom to seek counsel and listen to other godly leaders. It is not about your agenda or their agenda but getting on God's agenda.

These distinctives of spiritual leadership are important...but there are more. Leadership is not easy and actually it is very hard work. It can be draining and overwhelming at times so here are a couple of other suggestions. Be sure you do not take yourself too seriously and be able to laugh at yourself. Protect your personal walk with God because the attacks of the devil are real and he especially focuses on those leading the charge against the gates of hell. Lastly in the words of Paul, "I tell every one of you not to think of himself more highly than he should think."

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.



BMA of america



What we're doing, where we're going at Lifeword: Lifeword Community Radio and the Lifeword Cloud

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

Lifeword

There are 16,000 people groups in the world, and 7,000 of them are considered “unreached” with the gospel. A *people group* is considered *unreached* (UPG) when there is no indigenous community of believing Christians able to engage them with church planting. Generally, that means less than 2 percent have heard the name of Jesus. Lifeword’s goal has been and always will be to seek out those people groups and present the gospel via the airwaves and all available technology.

In 1965 Harvest Gleaner Hour (as Lifeword was called for almost 30 years) began its gospel programming from a high-wattage St. Louis radio station. This traditional “broad” casting from high wattage stations was its primary transmission method until four years ago when a BMA lay leader and the Lifeword team began exploring the idea of using “narrow” casting through low-wattage, inexpensive equipment that, for the most part, did not require government licensing. Once an antennae was installed from the highest point in a village, on a church, or at the top of a mountain, broadcasts could be heard in a five- to seven-mile radius. In a small village where people live and work within that distance, it has proven to be an incredible gospel tool for indigenous pastors, churches, church planters and missionaries.

From its fledgling beginnings broadcasting Kekchi-language Bible reading into a Guatemalan military base from a nearby Kekchi church, the idea has taken root and Lifeword Community Radio (LCR) stations are now scattered from Chile to Mexico, from the western coast of Liberia all the way across Africa to Tanzania, and across Asia from Cambodia to remote mountains of the Philippines. BMA churches and missions are now using LCR to touch the lives of people in ways that pastors and missionaries say they never could have without radio.

The process begins when Lifeword’s visionary leaders in the Philippines, Africa and Central and South America find people groups who have never heard the gospel in their heart languages. Sometimes their searches include difficulties like flood-swollen rivers, mosquito-infested jungles, muddy roads, dense mountain foliage, carabao (and other animal) transportation and uncertain weather conditions. Once they’ve discovered unreached areas, these leaders will make contact with nearby pastors or churches who pay the \$350 for LCR equipment, which is a necessary part of the process: If they “own” it, they’re more likely to use it.

Next, in a perfect example of the multiplication process,

visionary leaders identify, train, and coach other leaders in installation, maintenance and operation of new LCR stations in their areas of ministry. This is where ministry support partners are needed: The cost of this training can be as high as \$1,800 for travel, transportation and accommodations. Expenses are greatly reduced, however, when indigenous broadcasters, station managers and engineers can do the training, but Lifeword USA is always available for support and coaching.

At present there are about 80 of these little stations on the air. While most are able to operate without licenses, that is not always the case. Three stations (that we know of) are in the final stages of being formally licensed by their country’s governmental communications authorities.

Lifeword Community Radio is reaching the unreached through “broad” and “narrow” –casting, and now the vision continues with the Lifeword Cloud. Plans are in the works for a repository of broadcasts and discipleship materials accessible in the heart languages of unreached people groups. In the coming months, the specifics of those plans will be released, so pray for the Lifeword team as we seek God’s guidance in this effort.



Lifeword
MEDIA MINISTRIES

Lifeword Sunday season officially begins



By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

Lifeword

Your church should have received the 2017 Lifeword Sunday/Walk during the week of July 31-Aug. 4, marking the official beginning of Lifeword Sunday season. The packet includes a letter from Executive Director Donny Parrish, a sample bulletin insert and two posters for promotion. When you register your church at lifeword.org/lifewordsunday, you can request additional inserts and posters for promotion.

October 22 is Lifeword Sunday (or whatever day works for your church), an opportunity for church members to understand how Lifeword helps them fulfill their Great Commission calling. We ask churches to show the 2017 Lifeword Sunday video, pray for and give to Lifeword on that day.

Since 1980, the flagship fundraiser for Lifeword has been the Walk, but many churches have discontinued it in favor of other types of events, often very creative ones. Many churches include Lifeword in their budgets, and we are honored by that partnership. We especially encourage those churches to at least have an emphasis day informing their congregations about what Lifeword is and does.

The 2017 Lifeword video will be available for download or by DVD at the end of August. The Lifeword Team just returned from Peru with footage of visionary leader Pastor Paul Tinoco and Lifeword Programming Director Luis Ortega in the mountain village of Quelicani as they develop a partnership to broadcast the gospel to thousands in that region.

For up-to-date information about Lifeword’s ministry, please use the following sources:

lifeword.org for viewing videos about current initiatives and future vision and reading articles and blogs

Facebook pages: Lifeword, Lifeword Community Radio and Team Lifeword

Instagram and Twitter

Lifeword.org/lifewordsunday to register your church for participation in Lifeword Sunday and order Tshirts

If you’re in the Central Arkansas area, the area walk will be on Wednesday night October 11, 6:00, at Conway High School stadium.

NEWS OF TEXAS



Dykes to speak at Leadership Conference

By **JERRY FULTON**

Baptist Progress Editor

Dr. David Dykes will speak at the Leadership Conference that coincides with the BMA of Texas Annual Meeting in November. The conference will be from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday, Nov. 6 at New Harmony, Tyler.

Dykes is senior pastor of the 16,000 member Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler where he has served since 1991. He has also authored 14 books.

More information about the Leadership Conference and the BMA of Texas Annual Meeting will be included in future issues of *Baptist Progress*.



▲ **Dr. David Dykes**

Playground dedication at Rosewood, Gilmer



By **CHARLES JOHNSON**

Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer

A new playground park and pavilion facility was dedicated at Rosewood, Gilmer Sunday, July 30. The park began as a vision of the R.E.H.A.B. (Really Excited Happy Awesome Believers) Sunday School class. They began a fund a few years back and purchased playground equipment for use by the younger children. A security fence was added around the perimeter.

In June of 2016, tragedy hit the congregation when young member Haley Johnson, 19, was killed in an auto wreck. In lieu of flowers, her family requested memorial donations be made to Texas Baptist Home or the Rosewood Church. The donations to the church and other funds were combined to add a 24 x 40 covered area with all-weather seating and tables. An adjoining covered grilling area was also erected.

The congregation decided to name the playground the "Haley Johnson Memorial Park & Pavilion" to honor Haley's memory. Haley had a special love for younger kids and was in college preparing to be a kindergarten teacher when her untimely death occurred. She had been instrumental in working with AWANA groups in the church.

At the dedication service, the church officially recognized the park belongs to the Lord and dedicated it to be used for "His honor and glory." It was noted the church desires for this resource to be a tool to promote family fellowship and bring joy into the lives of young children and be used as an instrument to introduce them to the greatest joy of all--trusting Jesus as Savior.

Rosewood youth pastor Brian Mauk led the dedication prayer. This was followed by an official ribbon-cutting ceremony by Haley's parents Paul and Donna Johnson to officially open the playground. A luncheon was then enjoyed in the adjoining gym and pavilion.

Tracy Miller licensed to Gospel Ministry

By **CHARLES JOHNSON**

Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer

Tracy Miller, a longtime member of Rosewood, Gilmer, was recently licensed to the Gospel Ministry by his local congregation. He has been approved by the BMA of America as the associate missionary for Stonepoint Mission in Cummings, Georgia, (an Atlanta suburb) where Todd Cox is the lead missionary.

Tracy and his wife, Wendy, have been faithful servants of the Lord at Rosewood for many years. They have directed a most successful college ministry which includes over 20 millennials who are productive and integral members of Rosewood. The Millers have also been instrumental in the media team development in their church.

Wendy is a veteran educator and has already obtained a teaching position at a Georgia school where she relocated in late July. Tracy and their teenage daughter Julia will be joining her in August after completing sales of their house and business.

The Millers ask for prayers for God to guide and direct them in this new field of ministry to which they have been led by the Holy Spirit.



▲ **Pastor Charles Johnson presents Tracy Miller a certificate of licensing to the Gospel ministry on behalf of Rosewood Baptist Church.**

North Texas giving day

By **JENNIFER WALKER**

Texas Baptist Home for Children

On Sept. 14, Texas Baptist Home will be participating in an online fundraiser called North Texas Giving Day. We are working to raise \$20,000 on this one day. It is a great fundraiser because not only is it easy to donate but all the funds raised over \$25 are bonused. All funds raised go directly to support over 120 children at TBH. That means if you donate \$25, TBH will actually receive \$27-\$28 for that donation. So, on Sept. 14, go to www.northtexasgivingday.org, type in Texas Baptist Home, and give!

Also, this year you can now donate up to a week in advance. You can schedule your donation Sept. 7-13. Your donation will be processed on the Sept. 14. We think this is a great addition to North Texas Giving Day! Especially if you want to make sure you remember to give on Sept. 14, now you can do it ahead of time!

If you have any questions for North Texas Giving Day, please email our Marketing and Development Director-Jennifer Walker at jwalker@tbhc.org



Church Issues

Have we lost our sense of association?

By PAUL GAUNTT

I scoffed at a church marquee sign a few years ago. The sign bore the slogan, “Church like it was done 50 years ago.” Today, I’m seriously rethinking my attitude about it. Might there have been some merit to some of those methods and ministries we embraced in years gone by? It might behoove us to address this issue.

We are burying our heads in the sand if we can’t recognize that our particular Baptist work is really only a fraction of what it once was 50 years ago. You may agree with me, or you may pass this off as an archaic, non-visionary trip down memory lane by a doddering old man. But don’t write this off yet.

We have watched our association of churches shrink in number during the past 50 years. We have dropped in the number of local associations. There was a time when most of them were jam packed into a host church, and took at least a day and a half to wrap up business which usually entailed denominational and missions support, reports, preaching, singing and prayer. Now the few local associations which remain consist of a couple of dozen people.

The BMA of Texas annual association commonly overflowed a large hotel ballroom in downtown Dallas, Houston or Lubbock in the early 1970s. Today the meeting can be hosted in the fellowship hall of most churches. May I offer a small “laundry list” of possible reasons why this could be the case?

1. Paradigm shift of culture. This is complements of the electronic age, broken family units, an all-out assault on our way of life with permissiveness and promiscuity, thanks to

Hollywood, politics, media and the education system. I’m afraid much this mindset has bled over into the church and we have, in turn, rejected Jesus’s formula for discipline in Matthew 18.

2. Programs, once geared to training youth are basically defunct. Girls Missionary Auxiliaries, Sunbeams, Galileans and Young People’s Meetings were our own in-house training grounds directed to our own youth. The purpose was to (1) teach them how to study the Word; (2) develop character and responsibility; (3) model church leadership; (4) familiarize them with missions; and (5) instill into them something, which we have laughed off today — denominational loyalty.

But today, churches tend to hide their denominational affiliation from the lost and dying world because they’ve been told that it is a roadblock to the lost entering their doors. The church today, has been marketed much like the retail or entertainment industry markets its products. May I go on record expressing my sorrow and my apology that I got caught up in the church growth movement years ago? I believe today that it was nothing short of a scheme to try to build the church the world’s way, with our own flesh, and I fear we are paying for it dearly today. To quote my son-in-law, Matthew Loafman, a high school coach and pastor of First Missionary Baptist of Cleburne, he said, “Church is not for the degenerate—it’s for God’s people to come and be fed and ministered to—then to be sent out to evangelize on the other six days.”

Bro. L.H. Raney had a wooden facsimile of the earth in the entrance of the old facilities of Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie. When one entered the door, they saw the words on it, “enter to worship,” and on the reverse side, as people filed out, they saw the words “depart to serve.”

But we have majored on making our services a showbiz type concert, and many sermons are commonly tailored to 12 minutes of “How to Have Your Best Life Now” in order to appeal to the lost. We have built country club style facilities to minister to the total man—and we have softened “thus saith the Lord” in order not to cause discomfort—or conviction. Oh God help us!

We laughed off programs such as Baptist Training Service—Sunday evening classes in which people, including youth, had the opportunity to stand before a group and present a Bible lesson. When it was worked effectively and fervently, it instilled into a young person (and adults) the ability to prepare, to stand before a group and lead, and the long-range results were a generation of church leaders was raised up. Training service could be a huge success, as long as the leadership worked it. I have belonged to churches in which over one-half of the Sunday school crowd returned on Sunday night for Training Service. In

fact, the evening worship services were as exciting and powerful as the morning worship—maybe even more so.

Remember the District Young People’s Meetings? These were essentially built on the style of Training Service, with a purpose of providing opportunity for youth to fellowship with youth of sister churches, and, in turn, instill a sense of associational loyalty and leadership. Years ago, I recall our youth group in Midland, piling into cars and making a two-hour drive to a sister church for the district young people’s meeting, and returning shortly before Training Service began at our own church. It was a grueling day, but it was rewarding on many fronts.

Then there was the State Youth for Christ—a state association of youth which met in a format much like that of the BMA of Texas—or the BMA of America. The organization had a moderator, clerk, treasurer, song leader, pianist, program committee and perhaps even a historian. There was even a choir organized to render special music during the meeting. These meetings modeled the format and inner workings of our association, and familiarized youth with it.

The National Encampment was also an effective vehicle to instill this sense of leadership and denominational loyalty into our youth. It created venues to give youth an opportunity for leadership. It seems most aspects of our programs 50 years ago were for the purpose of training.

3. Promotion of missions has basically died in our churches because we no longer conduct ministries to train our youth in missions. While AWANA, Pioneer Clubs and other programs could be construed as having been effective in reaching more of the masses of unchurched youth, they do little to promote a spirit of association, leadership training and missions promotion. Today, we have loosely formed activities with not much focus on leadership, or a long-range goal of perpetuating our associated work.

Why was it that the great old Central Baptist Church of downtown Lubbock had scores of young men who gave their lives to the ministry and the vast majority of them reached places of great leadership in our work? Because the leadership of that church was interested in fostering a rich spiritual environment which resulted in young men giving their lives to ministry. And there were just about as many young girls in that great old church who became pastor’s wives.

Years ago, a group from our church, visited Bro. Buddy Johnson when he was a missionary in Huejutla, Mexico. On our

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CHURCH ISSUES continued on p. 7

Have we lost our sense of association cont.

way back to Tampico where our party was to catch the bus for home, he asked me how I felt about AWANA. My answer was rather curt—all I could think of to say was that I thought it was a great outreach tool. He then shared with me how drastically the promotion of missions had decreased with the demise of the auxiliary programs in local churches. Missionaries felt the drastic drop in interest in mission work among the churches. I failed to consider his words until years later. Now I am convicted by them.

4. Preaching which fails to convict. A preacher who was preaching a hard sermon on the attributes of God, recently told me he had a couple to send a note later to let him know they would not be back. Although they did not tell him the reason, they told another member, “We felt that he was preaching ‘at’ us instead of ‘to’ us.” I am afraid in this era of “feel good,” pop-psychology “talks” from the pulpit, we have raised up a generation of people in church who have trouble handling “thus saith the Lord.”

So, before anyone writes these paragraphs off as an old man living in the past, I challenge you to write your own article and give us your take on why our state association meetings have dwindled from over 1,100 in attendance to less than 300? Why do we have less than 1,200 churches in the BMA of America today as opposed to over 1,500 about 40 years ago? Why does our national encampment have 300 in attendance today as opposed to 1,200-1,400 years ago? Why did the Plains Association of West Texas have almost a dozen churches that

averaged well over 200 in Sunday school, and was considered one of the strongest local associations in the state—but today, there may be one church on the Plains that reaches over 100. Why do we have 24 local associations today when we had 31 of them just 20 years ago? What has happened to the camaraderie among our pastors today as opposed to 40-50 years ago? We all seem to each be on our own little islands, paddling our own canoes and refusing to associate. Tell me why?

The answer might be that we (and I include myself) have abdicated our role as churches, to raise up leaders in our work. It may be that we need to do as Jesus told Ephesus; “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove the candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.” Revelation 2:5. It may be that we as an association of churches need to fall on our faces and beg God, “Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?” Psalm 85:6

Have we placed ministries on auto-pilot, and as a result, have cast our identity, our heart for evangelism, our love for missions, Christian education and Christ to the wind?

And by the way—all the above mentioned issues might also give us a hint as to why our state and national departments are in deep trouble financially right now.

You may regard these words as irrelevant—but if this is a conversation which could begin in circles among our work, and in turn lead to revival fires, then I’m glad I raised the issue.



The Heart Connection

—by Pat Quesenbury

Bring Back the Sparkle

“Oh no! Sunday again?” My head stuck like glue to the pillow. Every bone in my body shouted for more rest, and I was quick to comply. I couldn’t move; nor did I want to. And that’s what bothered me the most. What was I thinking? I was the pastor’s wife and everyone expected me to be in Sunday School to teach, to check in on children’s ministry, to play the organ during worship, plus a myriad of other self-appointed tasks. The afternoon was also full with nursing home ministry, followed by W.M.A., followed by worship, followed by after church fellowship. To make matters worse, there was little white space on my calendar for the week. Including my full time job!

My joy was gone and not even a tiny sparkle could be found. What happened? Living in the parsonage and serving with our precious church family had been fun and exciting those first few years. In fact, it was so much fun I was out of control. When my pastor-husband (or anyone else) said, “we need”, my hand went up. My motive was pure; wisdom greatly lacking. I had volunteered way too often and now I couldn’t deliver.

Paul unraveled the mystery for me about “doing church” God’s way. I love his example of comparing the church to our physical body in I Corinthians 12. This popped off the page and made perfect sense to me. The Holy Spirit gives every believer special gifts for service within the church. Some more visible than others but each one is equally important. Like the smallest part of the body is necessary for our overall physical health, so is every member. When we all use our gifts, ministry gets done and God receives the glory.

Paul was a dynamic leader and no one can dispute what he did for the church. But when we look closely, other folks were in the background. Following him through the book of Acts and the Epistles, his pattern for ministry included partners joining him in the work. Though we know little about them each one played an important role.

It’s that way today. The church is a unit on mission to reach the world with the message of God’s love through Jesus Christ. Every member has specific gifts and, like the different parts of our physical body, each gift is necessary. When we all show up for duty and become an active participant, hearts and lives are changed; kingdom goals are reached. And we are blessed! Yes, there are times we all pitch in to rally around a specific need (and we should!) But when our primary areas of service work in concert with our unique gifts, there’s a happy jolt to our heart that results in pure joy—the kind that brings laughter to our heart and a sparkle to our face. I need this reminder from time to time. How about you? Serving when and where God leads will always bring back the sparkle! And our work will be fun!

(Check out Romans 12 and I Peter 4 for more on this subject.)

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.



Online giving to BMA of Texas now available

We have exciting news!

The BMA of Texas is now setup for easy online giving!

Simply follow the Donations option at
www.bmatexas.org to get started.

If you have questions, just give us a call at 972-923-0757.

ONLINE GIVING now available



By HEITH MITCHELL

A WORD FROM YOUR MISSION OFFICE:

This month we will complete our first ever summer internship and we couldn't be happier with how it has gone. Eli Maldonado has grown up in a missionary home. He is the son of Arnulfo and Elizabeth Maldonado. Eli feels that God has called him to start a church in the future and is currently a sophomore at the University of Houston. His desire this summer was to get a broader perspective on church planting. He wanted to see what it looks like to make disciples among different people groups. Eli spent the month of June with the Church at Valley Ranch Mission helping with music, outreach, teaching and set-up. In July, he assisted The Carpenter's House Mission in much the same way. He is spending August with Redeemer's Love Mission. He is experiencing ministry in a suburban bedroom community, ministry to construction and refinery workers and their families, and now ministry to a melting pot of migrants from around the world. He is also experiencing missions in all stages from 4 years old, 4 months old, to 1 year old missions. It has been quite an opportunity that I think would benefit other young men. Hopefully this is the first of many.

As always, I would love to share with your church about your Texas Mission Movement. Also feel free to contact us anytime with questions and concerns. Call me at the Missions Office or email me.

A WORD FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES:

MATTHEW PRATHER – THE BRIDGE MISSION, MIDLOTHIAN/WAXAHACHIE

It is hard to believe that it is now August! School will be starting again soon. The past couple months have been busy and good months at The Bridge. In July we partnered with a couple of churches through SOAR Serves to help us serve. They helped us canvas neighborhoods and pass out door hangers. There were several families that have visited The Bridge as a direct result of their hard work. We are also thankful for Round Prairie Baptist Church in Fairfield partnering with us in serving our community for an entire week. They were a huge blessing. We are excited to see the fruits of our and many other churches hard work that has taken place this summer as everyone gets back into a more normal routine in the coming months. We have made many new contacts and relationships this summer. Please continue to pray for The Bridge as we build relationships with the many new people that we meet the past couple months. We are still in need of purchasing a new computer for our children's ministry. If you would like



▲ Matthew Prather

to donate toward this it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support and prayer!

GARY SOUTHARD – THE CHURCH AT VALLEY RANCH MISSION, NEW CANEY

On July the 16, we had 46 people gather together to witness five people being baptized! Lord is blessing us in many ways and we are grateful that you, the BMA of Texas churches are participating by furthering the Kingdom of God.



▲ Gary Southard

From the first of 2017 we have had 14 new members join by statement. We have been praying for a total of eight new families for 2017 and the Lord has blessed us with six new families. Our total membership is currently 36.

We had an average of 50 for the month of July for our Sunday service. In our Home Group meetings we had 38. We have a Home Group meeting on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

In every Home Group meeting we have a meal, prayer and a Bible Study. We are currently doing an overview of the four Gospels.

We deeply appreciate the prayers, encouraging words, cards and text messages that we receive on a regular basis from our fellow believers and churches of the BMA of Texas.

Please keep it up and we will see God do some amazing things - not only with this mission project but with your church as well.

JOHN HARRIS – FOUNDATION COMMUNITY MISSION, BENBROOK

Thank you all for your prayers. It is easy to want things to go quickly, but discipleship takes time, and we are excited to have several prospects for starting this journey in August!! Pray that God gives us direction and discernment, and that we can continue to serve in His name!



▲ John Harris

BRANDON DURHAM – REDEEMER'S LOVE MISSION, HOUSTON

Praise God! Redeemer's Love Houston enjoyed very solid turn outs for our "Pursuit of Marriage" Single's Mini-Conference and also for our "Cook Out—In The Park." We continue to see people from



▲ Brandon Durham

many different nations join us for these events, and we're prayerful for a harvest of new disciples in the upcoming season, as we continue to sew into the people God sends our way. Later this month, our church will participate in an outreach event that serves the ever growing refugee communities in our neighborhood. But I personally won't be able to make that event, because I'll be in Brazil...getting married! It's a busy season, and we need God's grace now, more than ever! Thank you for praying!



CLIFF ROBERTSON – CARPENTER'S HOUSE MISSION - LAKE JACKSON/CLUTE

God is so good! We are moving forward and growing. The next step is big and we need your prayer and support now more than ever.



▲ Cliff Robertson

WILL HUTCHINSON – RESONATE COMMUNITY MISSION, HUTTO

Having a heart for the Great Commission is not always as easy as it seems. As proud as I am in what God does in people in Hutto there is always that small part that is screaming when God begins to move people. Please pray for one family in our church that has accepted a call to minister to families in the coastal regions or the Gulf and Caribbean. They are selling their home, have purchased a sailboat and started training to be self supported missionaries to this community. As much as we will miss them here, we celebrate them starting this journey and calling.



▲ Will Hutchinson

BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p.11



JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

A legacy

BY DR. MIKE SMITH

Jacksonville College President

James Shaffer was born in Garland, Texas. He was raised by his grandmother and attended First Methodist Church of Garland. As a youth, he began to ask numerous questions about faith and the Bible. He went to his Methodist Sunday School teacher with his questions. The teacher said, "You need to go to the superintendent with questions," and the superintendent said to go to the pastor with questions. He said, "James, some people read the Bible too much. Terrell State Hospital is full of people who read the Bible too much." He then went to Lakewood Baptist Church where he met his wife, Billie. One Sunday, James was at Billie's house for lunch. Billie said, "James, why don't you ask all your questions to Pastor Offord?" The pastor could answer his questions, so James started attending Lakewood.



▲ Bro. James Shaffer

As a youth, James got involved in Young Life, and Dallas Seminary students would come speak to the school sports teams and have Bible studies. One day, while James and a Dallas Seminary student were riding in the back of a pickup, the student shared the Gospel with him. At the service that night, the student used a verse James had never heard, "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us of all our sin." God's Spirit brought conviction to James, and that night he was saved.

After high school, James attended Dallas Baptist Institute. He would spend weekends on street corners preaching the Gospel. Street evangelism wasn't always easy or safe. One day, James even witnessed a boy stabbing another boy with an ice pick. However, James continued his ministry because of his passion for the Lord and for the lost.

James accepted his first pastorate at Blackjack in 1953. Later, his home pastor at Lakewood asked him to be associate pastor. James accepted, but after seven months, James was hungry to preach. Therefore, he returned to Blackjack to pastor. He later pastored Walnut Street Baptist Church until his retirement in 2009. His daughter wanted him and his wife to move to Beaumont to be closer to her. They moved and James served as a supply preacher for Southern Baptist churches in the Gulf Coast area. Beacon Baptist Church, a BMA church, asked James to come for a revival. The pastor had a heart attack and soon resigned, and the church asked James to be interim pastor. After several months, they asked him to be pastor, and he accepted.

One of the annual hurricanes hit the Gulf Coast, and high water damaged the church. The next storm destroyed the sister church, Bellaire. Beacon invited Bellaire to join them

for services until they could build back. James and the pastor of Bellaire would alternate as preachers. The two churches had split fifty years before but decided to merge. They moved into the Bellaire property and sold the Beacon property. They changed the name of the church to First Berean Baptist Church.

In 2014, his wife of 62 years died, and James decided to move to East Texas. The people of the church told him that if he moved, they were not going to continue as a church. They decided to put the church on the market, and a Southern Baptist church bought the property. With the sale of various properties, the church had over \$600,000. They decided on a formula to divide the money among 10 ministries.

Jacksonville College received \$116,000. The day the check came in the mail, President Smith shouted praises unto the Lord. It came in late December between semesters, and money

was scarce. The gift was an answer to prayers and a testimony to God's gracious provision. The money is now in a donor restricted endowment with the Southern Baptists of Texas Foundation.

James is an example of a single life that God can use in mighty ways to bless the lives of His people and His ministries and to advance His kingdom. The legacy and ministry of James Shaffer, Beacon Baptist, Bellaire Baptist, and Berean Baptist will continue.

Lifeway Christian Resources reports that 4,000 churches a year are closing their doors. If a church would give the assets of that property to Jacksonville College, their legacy and ministry could continue for eternity. Thank you, First Berean Baptist Church and James Shaffer, for your contributions in ministry and money.

FALL SEMESTER 2017

Placement Testing and Registration: August 11, 14

Classes Begin: August 16

Last Day to Register: August 22

Full course schedules are available at www.jacksonville-college.edu.



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)

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 Jul. 1, 2017 – Jul.31, 2017.

ENDOWMENTS

MYRA STOKES: Mr. Bill Stokes

E. ANN PACE: Karl & Martha Pace

HONORARIUMS

GERARDO FLORES: Anonymous

PASTORS & MISSIONARIES EVERYWHERE: Roy & Elizabeth Talbot

ALEX & ANDI YOUNT: Danny & Diane Yount

MEMORIALS

OPAL ADAMS: Westside Baptist Church, Nacogdoches

EDDIE ALEXANDER: Noah Pruitt

HELEN ANDERSON: Steven Anderson

CHESTER BAILEY: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

TIM CURTIS BAKER: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Doyle Reynolds; Lola Fay Baker

J.S. & MYRTLE BASS: Charlotte Morgan

WALTER BECKER: Dennis & Ilona Myrice

ALEX BERRY: Harold & Jocie Lewis

TOMMY BLAKLEY: Betty Blakley

ROY CASEY III: Jerry & Lucille Carter

JUANITA COKER: Roland & Sandra Plaster

ALVY & GAY NELL COLLINS: Mr. and Mrs. William Tolar

QUINCY FAYE CARTER MATTHEWS COLLINS: Calvary Baptist Church, Midlothian

GEORGE CONN: Oma Conn; B.H. (Bea) Conn

JOHN CONN: B.H. (Bea) Conn

LUTHER DAVIS JR.: Frieda Davis

MELBA DIETZ: Jerry Null; Red Springs Baptist Church, Tyler
KYNDERD DREW: Jed & Glenice Whitaker; Charles & Charlotte Johnson

TOMMY ESTES: Greg & Judith Holladay

CAMILE NAISMITH EVANGELISTA: Alton & Sheena Butler

COLTON & INEZ FITE: Velma Isaac

AUBREY & PAULINE GANDY: Jerry & Virginia Gandy

LOIS & HESTER GIBSON: Janice Dore

HOOT GIPSON: Jed & Glenice Whitaker; Tommy Gipson

CORINE HENRY: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

STEPHEN HENSON: Jed & Glenice Whitaker; Charles & Charlotte Johnson

WELDON KERBY: Mary Hunt

DONNIE KING: Travis & Brenda Floyd

BEN & WILMER LEE: Leon & Linda Lee

TRUMAN NEAL LEE: Calvary Baptist Church, Midlothian

ED & LOMETA MARTIN: Earlene Crenshaw

MILDRED BURLESON MASSAD: Harold & Jean Jacobs

VINA MCCOLLUM: Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Rosewood Baptist Church, Gilmer

LOU ESTER MCGRAW: Ladies & Mens Sunday School Class @ First Baptist Blooming Grove

LINDA RAMSEY: Mary Hunt

TERESA REED: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

JEANNIE THOMASON RIDDLE: Clay & Tammy Wilkerson

BILLY ROYCROFT: Fendley & Lois Tucker

SAM SANFORD: Joyce Sanford

GEORGIA SENN: Weldon Senn

AMELIDA SEPEDA: Mary Dunavant

ODELL TERRELL: Jean Terrell

ROBERT WOOD: Ardeena Wood

RONNIE WHITTAKER: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

BEATRICE WILLIAMS: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

MARY E. WOLFINGTON: John Wolfington

DANIEL SPRINGS NEEDS YOUR HELP



By **MATI SPENCER**

DiscipleGuide

Church camp is so much more than just fun. Though there is an abundance of fun, Daniel Springs Baptist Camp surrounds students in an environment of spiritual growth and discipleship. It's a vital part of many young lives and a cherished memory of many more.

But this BMA camp legacy is in danger.

Daniel Springs is experiencing financial difficulties, and a line of credit has been established with a local bank. This financial strain is not a result of spending problems. Camp Director Jason Prewitt works on a very tight budget and makes the most of every single dollar.

Our problem is simply one of income. Daniel Springs maintains minimal registration fees so that churches of every size can afford to bring their children and youth to experience the impact of Daniel Springs. In the past, church offerings helped cover the gap that camp registrations did not cover. However, over the past few years, costs for Daniel Springs have increased, causing significant losses. If finances do not improve by the end of this summer, the camp trustees will be forced to make difficult decisions.

The children and youth of the BMA need Daniel Springs. It's a crucial missions tool that has reached countless people for the Kingdom of Christ. Additionally, Daniel Springs Camp has been used by God as a place where missionaries and pastors have surrendered to the ministry. These people are the Christian leaders of the current and future generation, and God used Daniel Springs to mold them.

Bryce, a 13-year-old young man that attended the camp this summer, said that being at Daniel Springs has made him think differently about sharing the Word of God. Stormy, age 16, says that everyone at Daniel Springs helps her find out more about herself, as well as brings her closer to the Lord. Camryn, 11 years old, said that now that she has spent time at Daniel Springs, she wants to meet new

people and develop a relationship with them, so that they can end up talking about God.

These are real, missional, discipleship opportunities that are happening every week at Daniel Springs. Lives are being changed as you are reading this story, but that may not be the case much longer if the financial strain continues. But there is hope! You and your church body are that hope.

Consider taking a group of students to camp this year. There's still time to register! If you haven't been to Daniel Springs lately, you're in for a treat! Camp Director Jason Prewitt has worked diligently to create a camp that our churches can be proud of. Visit danielspringscamp.com for more information. You'll be pleased with the personal staff of college students, coordinated programming, and upgraded facilities.

Another way to help Daniel Springs is to prayerfully consider how your church can support camp through regular giving. Over the years, church giving to the camp has declined. Yet the importance of camp ministry is at an all-time high. In a fast-paced, technology-driven world, students need a place to escape distractions and focus on Christ in a safe environment. For over fifty years, Daniel Springs has been that place for the BMA. Let's make sure it remains for the next fifty years.

Current projections indicate that the camp will need at least \$85,000 to finish the year in the black without any debt. That does not include any money for major improvements. The bottom line is, going forward, the ministry of Daniel Springs needs about \$100,000 more income per year to operate and maintain the camp. Based on past giving, this is not an impossible goal.

It's clear that we have a problem. Will you and your church be part of the solution? Support for the camp may be sent to Daniel Springs Camp, PO Box 1749, Conway, Arkansas 72033.



Overcoming discouragement

By DR. ALLEN TILLEY

Demands on a pastor can be overwhelming. Working long hours with little or no appreciation, pastors are not immune to discouragement. Pastor, if you feel life caving in on you and you're ready to give up, try these steps first.

Turn worries into prayers. Whenever an anxious thought enters your mind, decide that instead of worrying about it that you'll pray about it. Pray as often as you think about what is troubling you. Know that, unlike worry, prayer actually accomplishes something positive.

Discipline your mind. Rather than dwelling on your troubles, decide to think about what is true, right, pure, beautiful, and praiseworthy. Read and meditate on Scripture often, to saturate your mind with the right kinds of thoughts. Pray for the Holy Spirit to renew your mind every day.

Exercise. Pastors are notorious for working long hours and eating late at night. Take time to work out. Just as you take care of your spirit, work at taking care of the only body God will give you in this lifetime. Exercise releases endorphins that perk up your attitude.

Let go what you can't change and change what you can. Stop trying to change what's beyond your control. Direct your energy away from depression by working towards a solution to your solvable problems. Don't just think or talk about them, actually take action and enjoy the progress you make.

Pray for the right perspective. Ask God to give you His perspective on the relationships and situations in your life that are troubling you. Correct your vision so you can see with eyes of faith.

Tap into the power of forgiveness. People often say and do things to pastors that they never dream of doing to someone else. Instead of harboring hurts, forgive the offender. Don't allow their judgmental attitude to place you in bondage.

Make time for rest. Be sure to get plenty of sleep each night, getting at least seven hours nightly. Practice deep breathing to help reduce tension. Regularly engage in activities that relax you; such as watching a movie, reading a book, listening to music, or taking a walk. Use your vacation to get away from the daily grind. Turn off your cell phone.

Grow in your pain. Ask God to show you how you can grow as a person and pastor from your suffering. Then, ask Him how you can use what you've learned to help others who are suffering.

Change the way you talk to yourself. Instead of beating yourself up, remind yourself of how much God loves you. Use the same words of grace and compassion for yourself that you share with others. You are just as important.

Draw strength from Scripture. Read, study, and meditate on the Bible every day. Let God's Word refresh your soul and revive your spirit.

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.

ARNULFO MALDONADO – TEXAS HISPANIC MISSION COORDINATOR

We need wisdom and discernment on new opportunities that arise and we do not have enough leaders to supply the demand. Please pray for more leaders to rise to the challenge and become church planters in this great state of Texas.

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE FIELD

-Arnulfo Maldonado asks you to pray that God will continue to provide more Hispanic Missionaries.

-Each of your mission points are working hard on back to school outreach plans. Please pray for each of them as school kicks off.

-Gary Southard of The Church at Valley Ranch Mission, New Caney asks you to pray for eight new families and increased offerings as they head toward self support.

-Matthew Prather of the Bridge, Midlothian asks you to pray for a meeting place for them more centered on their target reach area.

-Cliff Robertson of The Carpenter's House Mission, Lake Jackson asks you to pray for them as they launch regular Sunday morning worship services this month.

-Pray for the launch date of Oct. 1 at Redeemer's Love Mission in Houston. Pray for Bro. Brandon and Amanda's upcoming wedding.

-Pray for John Harris as he continues to meet people, share Christ, and make disciples in Benbrook. Pray specifically for open doors of opportunity.

-Pray for Resonate Mission in Hutto and Missionary Will Hutchinson to equip new leaders as God has taken some of theirs to new ministry. Pray for perseverance for them and the mission..

-Pray for interns Christian Martinez and Joshua Pickard, Intern as they seek God for their places of service.

-Please pray for God to provide an associate missionary at Resonate-Hutto, Carpenter's House-Lake Jackson, and Foundations-Benbrook.

-Neptaly Molina from the Nacogdoches Mission is waiting on his Religious work visa approval. Pray that it will

be resolved this month.

Jaime Garcia's move to Mesquite has been backed up. Pray for God's direction and provision.

-Let's pray for the families of each of our missionaries, associates, and interns during this "back to school" season.

PRAISE REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

-20 salvations were reported this month!

-It's a girl! Intern Christian Martinez and his wife Vanessa were blessed with a healthy baby girl this month that they named Joellen Alice.

-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 hmittell@bmatexas.org. For more information, visit www.bmatexasmissions.org.





“You Were Saved to Shine” Ladies’ retreat

By SHARON COLE

Make plans today to attend the Texas WMA Ladies’ Retreat slated for Oct. 6-7, 2017 at Rosewood, Gilmer. This dynamic 2-day event is designed to equip, encourage and challenge you to SHINE FOR JESUS.

You’ll experience inspiring worship with great speakers. On Saturday, Christy Beam, author of *Miracles From Heaven*, will share the remarkable true story of her young daughter Annabel, who was plagued by a chronic illness; of the trials she and the family endured while working towards a cure. How this brave girl survived a dangerous accident and of Annabel’s visit to Heaven followed by the miraculous disappearance of the symptoms of Annabel’s chronic disease. Christy said “This journey has taught me to remember that no matter how hard things get, I am now and have been blessed beyond measure and for that I am so grateful!”

Betty Gibbs will share her inspired message of love and grace on Friday and Saturday. God, sons, grandchildren, and friends—these are Betty’s life, and you will hear about all of them if you walk with her any length of time. Whether speaking at women’s conferences, providing personal counseling or volunteering at church, she embraces them all with equal excitement. Serving God by Serving Others is her ministry’s byline.

On Friday you’ll find a time of worship, plus fun and creative workshops. You can pick any two workshops to attend:

- Sunbeams-GMA-Galilean: You’ll have an opportunity to learn more about these exciting BMA auxiliaries.
- Fellowship Roundtable: Betty Gibbs will lead a delightful discussion and a relaxing time of fellowship.
- Publishing: Jackie Ricks will give insights into the publishing world. If you’ve got a book you’ve been wanting to write, this workshop can help you get started.
- Bible Journaling: Shawna Blissett can show you how to bring the scripture alive by adding your own personal artwork and typography right on the page of your Bible.
- Craft Time: Kelly Laminack will guide you to create your own work of art that you can take home with you.
- Crochet a Granny Square: Johnnie Ross will help you crochet a Granny Square that will be added to an afghan to give to someone in need.

OR you can enjoy movie time watching *Miracles From Heaven* DVD. The movie based on the true story of the Beam family.

On Friday a sandwich box dinner will be served, Saturday a snack is provided and a delicious lunch.

Make plans today for this awesome retreat. We are expecting a great turnout, so get your registration in early. Download the registration form at TexasWMA.com, click on the Events tab and download the pdf. Early registration is \$40. If you need a form mailed to you please call 903-725-6570 or email gcham33@yahoo.com. Rosewood Baptist Church is located at 8260 Arrowwood Rd., Gilmer, Texas 75644.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16. We anticipate God will do a mighty work in your heart and life. You were saved to shine! So shine your light for all the world to see!

JESUS—OUR SUPER HERO

The 2017 State Sunbeam Houseparty met once again with Jacksonville College July 14-15. As always, the Sunbeams and Counselors had a wonderful time expressing how Jesus is our super hero. We want to thank the cafeteria ladies for feeding us so well with such delicious food. Each child was given a mask and cape to let them pretend to be super heroes. The children were encouraged, to be a super hero, they need to pattern their life after Jesus. The Sunbeams enjoyed crafts, snacks, games and a missions lesson. Officers for 2017-2018 are: President-Lillie Phillips; Adult officer-Melissa Henry; 1st Vice President-Kainan Moy; Adult Officer-Dera Moy; 2nd Vice President-Eli Norris; Adult Officer-Melody McVay; Co-Secretaries-Daelin Mathis & Lindsey Orr; Adult Officer-Gene Mathis; Co-Treasurers-Lexi Loafman-Laci Loafman; Adult Officer-Shera Claire; Co-Song Leaders-Abby Norris & Layla Traylor; Adult Officers-Shawn Norris & Audra Traylor; Co-Project Promoters-Joesie Hoffpaur & D.J. Hoffpaur; Adult Officer-Jessica Hoffpaur; Co-Historian/Reporters-Kaleb Moy & Caden Koonce; Adult Officer-Dera Moy; Webmaster-Alicia Johnson. Advisory Council: Melissa Henry, Sarah Whitfield, Shera Clair; Shayna Hall and Shawn Norris. Next year’s houseparty will be at Jacksonville College; date to be announced. The fee will be \$15. Next year’s theme will be GCIA-

God’s Children In Action. The new project will be “Power System,” purchasing transmitters to send God’s Word to other countries.

DISTRICT WMA NEWS

CHEROKEE DISTRICT WMA met July 11, 2017 with Mt. Selman Baptist Church and with the help of Enterprise Baptist Church, provided a delicious lunch. Vice President, Rose Bowen, called the meeting to order reading the theme verse, 2 Chronicles 7:14, then the theme song, “God Bless America,” was sung. Installation of new officers was conducted by Alicia Johnson who presented a challenge using the theme of “A Coloring Book.” Each officer was presented with a coloring book. Officers for 2017-2018 are: President-Cindy Allen; Vice President-Nancy Washburn; Secretary/Treasurer-Carol Shine; Asst. Sec/Treas-Shirley McAnally; Pianist-Eloise Thomas; Historian-Carleen Thompson. Special music, “Jesus Loves You,” was presented by Anna Traylor. A special presentation of piano music was presented by Karen Harrelson. The OUTREACH Project for the meeting was to bring tennis shoes for boys and girls for Texas Baptist Home for Children. A special request was made and approved for helping with basic supplies for incoming international students for the Seminary and for Jacksonville College.

LIBERTY DISTRICT WMA met at Rosewood Baptist Church, July 8, 2017. President, Elizabeth Midkiff called the meeting to order by reading Psalm 127:3,4. The program was presented by the Sunbeam and GMAs of the district. The children sang their theme song for the year, “Wild Ride,” and told why they were wild about Jesus. The children reported that they had raised \$550 for the BMA Academy in India. The GMAs told about their annual theme: “Jesus Is the Real Thing.” They each told of their experiences at Daniel Springs Camp and retreat theme: SEND: Service,

AUXILIARIES continued on p. 14

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.



EVENTS

HOME COMING

DATE: Sept. 23-24, 2017

PLACE: Yellowpine-Macedonia, Hemphill

There will be an evening of gospel music to kick off homecoming at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, featuring congregational singing and special music by locals. The homecoming service begins at 10 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 24. There will be local singing as well as special music by The Southern Plainsmen. The homecoming message will be delivered by Dr. David Digmon of Lumberton. A covered dish lunch follows. An afternoon singing with The Southern Plainsmen will follow at 1:15 p.m. All are invited to all aspects of this year's event. Yellowpine-Macedonia is located on Hwy. 87 South at FM 2343 in Sabine County's Yellowpine community near Hemphill. T.A. Lane, pastor

SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

DATE: November 13-15, 2017

PLACE: Branson Hilton Convention Center, Branson, Missouri
DiscipleGuide.org

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION 117TH ANNUAL SESSION

DATE: November 6-7, 2017

PLACE: New Harmony Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas

CHURCH LEADERS CRUISE

DATE: January 13-18, 2017

PLACE: 5-day Caribbean Cruise
DiscipleGuide.org

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE MINISTER

MIKE CROSS is available for pulpit supply or to serve as pastor or interim pastor. Contact him at 979-402-5491 or mikecross413@gmail.com. ^{10/17}

SCOTT SCHULLE is available to serve as a bivocational pastor. He is a member of First, Maydelle. Contact him at 903-948-0058 or 903-795-3886.

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

YOUTH MINISTER—First Baptist Church of Cross Roads (Athens) is seeking a full-time youth minister to develop and oversee a program for youth and young families. Parsonage available. For information or to apply, contact Brian Spurling, 903-681-0195 or bspurling@tvcc.edu.

PASTOR—Sunset, Littlefield is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to the church at 1720 E. 18th Street, Littlefield, Texas 79339, Tomandsheilaedwards@gmail.com or call 806-385-4822 for more information. ^{9/17}

PASTOR—Emmanuel, Garland is seeking a bivocational senior pastor. Send resume to Rodney Blount, 721 Wallace Drive, Garland, Texas 75041 or rodney.blount@aggregate-us.com. For more information, call 214-384-8557. ^{8/17}

EXECUTIVE PASTOR—Farley Street, Waxahachie is seeking an ordained minister to serve as executive pastor. Send resume to resume@farleystreet.com.

OUTREACH DIRECTOR—Farley Street, Waxahachie is seeking a bivocational outreach director. Send resume to resume@farleystreet.com.

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.

FROM DOYLE AND LINDA MOORE

Doyle and Linda Moore are available to visit churches that are interested in hearing about the BMA ministry in the Philippines and beyond especially the BMA Bible College. Contact them at mooredoyl46@gmail.com or call 601-590-1196. They are available for any church, WMA, Brotherhood or local association meeting as time permits.

Church news

Pineview, Winnsboro held their VBS program, Rome and the Underground Church June 26-30, 2017. What a success!! We had an average of 20 children each evening. They visited Paul in prison and watched Brutus get saved. They had chariot races, held a fire brigade, and participated in a shot putt competition! The kids visited the market place in Rome where they made laurel wreaths, made bulla necklaces, learned to write with bamboo sticks on a scroll they made and then seal it with wax. The classes were in "home" settings with different ages in each home. So much was done in such short times, but was enjoyed by young and old alike! Thanks to all the ones who helped in this endeavor! So many seeds were planted into each child's life! Praising God and His Glory!

Churches in review

JULY 16, 2017

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Blooming Grove	193		2 by baptism, 1 by letter
First, Palmer	50	78	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	16	40	
Little Flock, Lufkin	50	70	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		64	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	37	45	
Rosewood, Gilmer	149	244	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	28	55	1 by baptism
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	16	18	

JULY 23, 2017

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	52	117	
First, Omen		81	
First, Palmer	47	68	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	15	38	
Jackson, Joaquin	73	139	
Little Flock, Lufkin	40	60	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	41	48	1 by baptism
Olde Tyme, White Oak		54	1 by baptism
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	31	36	
Pine Brook, Tyler	31	56	
Rosewood, Gilmer	147	276	1 by baptism
Security Calvary, Cleveland	24	49	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	17	22	

JULY 30, 2017

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Omen	51	75	2 by baptism
First, Palmer	40	60	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	15	26	
Jackson, Joaquin	80	159	
Little Flock, Lufkin	64	74	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	44	53	
New Harmony, Tyler	267	357	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		67	2 by baptism
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	30	39	
Rosewood, Gilmer		289	3 by baptism
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	19	22	

AUGUST 6, 2017

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	46	97	
First, Blooming Grove	201		
First, Omen	27	62	1 by baptism
First, Palmer	54	70	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	12	32	
Jackson, Joaquin	74	141	
Little Flock, Lufkin	40	60	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	39	48	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	14	34	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		57	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	38	44	
Rosewood, Gilmer	135	250	1 by baptism, 1 by letter, 2 professions of faith
Security Calvary, Cleveland	30	58	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	14	19	

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“You Were Saved to Shine” Ladies’ retreat cont.

Evangelize, Nations, Disciple. They are raising funds for the orphanage in Peru and for Daniel Springs. The upcoming schedule for our district WMA is: September 23rd at Enon Baptist Church, Gilmer; January 6th is Winter Retreat at Fellowship, Pittsburg; April 7th is at Latch Baptist Church, and July 7th is at Coffeyville. A total of \$3,040.96 has been raised for the Ilocano Children’s Ministry in the Philippines.

MT. OLIVE DISTRICT WMA met July 25, 2017 with Antioch Baptist Church, Carthage with 20 present. Leona Wimberly called the meeting to order. The theme song, “Ten Thousand Reasons” was sung. Special recognition was given to Cheyanne Porter for high school graduation and plans to attend Jacksonville College. She also was recognized for being a former Sunbeam and GMA of Antioch. The following officers were elected for 2017-2018: President-Leona Wimberly; 1st Vice President-Nelda

Salas; 2nd Vice President-Shawn Norris; Secretary/Treasurer-Sharon Cole; Project Promoter-Emilee Baker; Sunbeam Promoter-LaVerle Spurgeon; Asst. Sunbeam Promoter-Melody Dillard; Song Leader-Renee Nolen; Advisory Council: Bro. Rodger Cole and Wayne Wimberly. The new project for the year is the “Kid Zone” program at Daniel Springs. Second Vice President-Shawn Norris presented the program: “Flourishing in Our Work.” Our work where God has placed us gives us an opportunity to be a witness for Christ. Renee Nolen spoke on her work at Heartsway Hospice as a liaison between patients and caregivers and others who come into the office. She expressed that she is blessed to be able to work in a place that helps the final needs of people. Phil.2:14 states that we are to do all things without complaining. So, when we have a job and expect to flourish for God, we need to remember to respond cheerfully.

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October 6-7, 2017

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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16.

Christy Beam

Author of *Miracles from Heaven*, will share her inspiring testimony on Saturday.

Miracles from Heaven is a true story of faith and blessings. Christy shares the story of her young daughter Annabel, who was plagued by a chronic illness; of the trials she and the family endured while working towards a cure. How this brave girl survived a dangerous accident and of Annabel’s visit to Heaven followed by the remarkable disappearance of the symptoms of her chronic disease.



Download registration form and retreat schedule at **TexasWMA.com** (click on the events tab)

To have a registration form mailed to you contact Glenda Chamberlain, Texas WMA 2nd Vice President • gcham33@yahoo.com • 903-725-6570

DON’T MISS THIS INSPIRING LADIES’ RETREAT! REGISTER TODAY!

Obituaries

TREVOR MORRIS

A celebration of life for Trevor Morris 39, were held July 18, 2017 at Rock Hill Baptist Church in Brownsboro with Bro. Buddy Johnson and Bro. Eric Johnson officiating. Morris was born Sept. 24, 1977 to parents Calvin and Diana Morris in Tyler, Texas. He graduated from North Garland High School where he excelled in sports and other activities. After high school, he served his country in the United States Marine Corps during which time he earned a rank of sergeant and received several medals for his steadfast and distinguished service. His fellow Marines remember him as “the best Marine they ever knew”. He gave his all to everything he did, which extended to his professional and ministerial life. Morris’ service to Christ in the Gospel ministry began when God called him to preach in the year 2,000 and continued till the day God called him home. After pastoring in the United States, he followed the Lord in foreign missionary service to the country of Ecuador, where God used him to begin a church in the city of Cuenca in the mountains of Ecuador. After returning from Ecuador, he worked as general manager and later vice-president of Burton Oil Service Operations. Most recently he served as pastor of Union Hill Baptist Church in Brownsboro, where he is dearly loved and remembered. He was most passionate for the glory of God, the work of missions and his precious family. Morris is survived by his wife Nafisa Morris, children; Kylor, Cole, Lane, Cana and Boaz, father and mother; Calvin and Diana Morris, sister; Tiffany Shelby and her husband Ryan, grandmother; Frances Smith Cantrell, many aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews and cousins, his beloved church family



of Union Hill Baptist Church in Brownsboro and a host of friends. At request of the family, in lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Baptist Missionary Association Department of Missions 611 Locus Street Conway, Arkansas 72034 or at BMAMissions.org.

IQBAL SARA

Iqbal was a strong and loyal servant of our Lord Jesus Christ. She was a devoted wife, loving mother, devoted grandmother, powerful ministry leader and dear friend to many. She was born in Ninevah, Iraq November 27, 1943 and went home to be with her Lord and Savior July 13, 2017. She lived the majority of her years in Baghdad, Iraq. She was a retired English high school teacher and had completed her bachelor’s degree at Al-Mustansiriya University in Baghdad. She was a resident of Allen. She received the call from the Lord for a life of ministry. She established the Al-Imaan Al-Aamil bil Mahabba Ministry in Baghdad and continued to faithfully live a life of ministry true to her calling until God called her home. She is survived by her loving husband of 44 years Nabil Sara, her son and daughter-in-law Ashraf and Jenny Sara, her daughter and son-in-law Doug and Rasha Cummings, 4 grandchildren John, Andrew, Mark and Luke, all of Allen, Tx. She is also survived by 2 sisters, Heyam Rezeqallah of Allen, Tx and Amal Rezeqallah of Baghdad, Iraq. She also has several beloved and cherished nieces and nephews. Iqbal will be greatly missed on Earth but her teaching and legacy will live on until we join her in Heaven. We rejoice at her Heavenly reunions with those that had gone on before her including her parents and beloved brother Mokbil Rezeqallah.



LC. AND DORIS SMITH

Doris Ann Davis Smith was born March 6, 1933 in Clarke County Mississippi. Doris better known as Dot passed from this life into Heaven July 30, 2017 at the age of 84 years.

LC Smith was born October 29, 1930 in rural Mississippi. He passed from this life into heaven on August 1, 2017 at the age of 87. Preceding him in death were his parents Wilburn Lewis Smith and Helen Marie Downey Smith of Butler, Alabama, a sister Eloise Irby of Butler Alabama and brother James of Meridian Mississippi. Also preceding L.C. and Dot was an infant and A Daughter Martha Kaye of Bryan Texas.

Surviving L.C. and Dot is one son, Dr. Mike Smith and wife, Susan, of Jacksonville Texas (president of Jacksonville College); four grandchildren: Elaine Gardner and Husband James of West Monroe, Louisiana, Lance Curtis Smith and wife Asheley of Tyler, Texas, Crystal Palacios and husband Juan of Conroe, Texas, Lees Moore and wife Lacey of Bryan, Texas. Also surviving are eleven Great Grandchildren: William Gardner, Emma Gardner and Jacob Gardner of West Monroe, Louisiana, Logan Curtis Smith and Landon Cole Smith of Tyler, Texas, Joseph Palacios, Elanea Palacios and Annie Palacios of Conroe, Texas, Ella Kaye Moore, Lee Clayton Moore and Jess Lee Moore of Bryan, Texas. Numerous nieces and nephews, cousins and friends. L.C. and Dot were members of First Baptist Church of Conroe, Texas L.C. was owner of LC Productions and Cardinal Well Service of Conroe. Dot worked as a beautician, clothes designer, and owner of an antique shop. They both loved spending time with their family and friends and traveling. Services were August 5, 2017 at Pine Grove Baptist Church Quitman Mississippi. In lieu of flowers contributions made to Jacksonville College 105 B.J. Albritton Drive Jacksonville, Texas 75766.

Sunday School Lessons

One of God's greatest hits

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: September 3, 2017

TEXT: Song of Solomon 1:1

The Song of Solomon gives us God's perspective into the institution of marriage, which He has designed and has sanctioned. Possibly the most neglected book in pulpits across America is the Song of Solomon. May we take these next few months to look at this most sacred institution.

The Song of Songs: This song, which is "the best song," was likely written during the early part of his reign over Israel. He wrote 3000 proverbs and wrote 1005 songs. Most of his songs were lost, but God, in His infinite wisdom, decided this song on love, courtship and marriage found its

place in the scripture.

Satan has always sought to undermine God's plan for the ages, on many different fronts. But probably one of his most effective campaigns has been his assault on the institution of marriage. Movies, sitcoms and other works of literary "art" have taken the husband/wife relationship and have hijacked it, commercialized it, perverted it and has turned it into anything but what God's plan has been for this most blessed union.

The Song of Solomon, as inspired by the Holy Spirit, puts into perspective, the emergence of feelings of love between a man and a woman. Many interpret this book as being a

symbol of God's love for His bride Israel.

The purpose of this poem is to showcase the feelings of love between a husband and a wife. The poem clearly presents marriage as being designed and ordained of God and it is for the man's and woman's pleasure, within the confines of marriage.

Marriage is good. Proverbs 18:22 states, "He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord."

The writer of Hebrews says, "let the marriage bed be undefiled." Hebrews 13:4

Marriage is an earthly symbol of a higher marriage, between Christ and His church. Ephesians 5:25-33.

What a woman wants

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: September 10, 2017

TEXT: Song of Solomon, 2:4

The problem with most marriages is, men have little clue as to what brings joy to their wives, when it comes to the marriage relationship.

1 A woman wants to know her husband places her above

any other. Verse 2: "As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters."

2. A woman wants her husband to be strong and protective. He is as the apple tree (rare) among the trees of the forest. He shines brighter than any other in the crowd. She mentions being "in his shade." which indicates strength,

protection. What woman would not respond excitedly to a husband whose strength protects

3. A woman wants her husband's comfort. verse 4: His banner over me is love."

4. A woman wants her husband to sustain and refresh her. "Sustain me with raisin cakes, refresh me with apples. . ."

Isn't She Lovely

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: September 17

TEXT: Song of Solomon 1:5-8

Being deeply tan is a plus in today's culture. Women (and men) spend enormous amounts of time in tanning booths, or lying in the backyard or on the beach, because being extremely tan is socially (and romantically) accepted. But this woman in Song of Solomon 1:5 was tan for a different reason — she was dark from working in the sun, and being such, she did not feel lovely. Perhaps her thoughts about herself were a result of remarks from acquaintances, including her step-brothers. Her tan reflected her lowly background.

But a well adjusted woman, one who places her faith in the Lord, will not consider herself to be worthy of a man's love because of her physical appearance, but rather because of what God has made her. It is most gratifying to know that a man married a woman, not because of looks, but because of inner beauty. Physical looks have a way of changing with age, but inner beauty continues to flourish. 2 Corinthians 4:16

Bring out the best

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: September 24, 2017

TEXT: Song of Solomon 1:9-2:7

Why do some men feel they have to bolster their male ego by putting their wives down among other acquaintances? Many women are downtrodden when all it would take from their husband is a few kind, complimentary words.

The reference in 1:9 was not to call her a horse, but to liken her to the well-groomed, satiny sheen of Pharaoh's horses. He says the strands of jewels highlight the curvature of her neck and accents her beauty.

She referred to the head of her lover as being like a sachet of sweet myrrh, an ointment used for healing, as spices and as a sweet fragrance. Engedi is, today, an oasis and nature reserve in Israel located west of the Dead Sea. His fragrance reminded her of the wildflowers of Engedi.

He likens her to a lotus blossom blooming in a swamp of weeds. He carries her on a pedestal, and is always attentive to her self worth. His unfailing expressions of love and adoration for her (including his warm embrace - verse 6) causes her to

swoon and cry out for something to eat to sustain her.

Men, you will do no greater service to your wife, and delight her children more than to deeply revere her as God's person for your life. When you bolster her self-worth, you are bolstering your marriage and glorifying God, who designed that marriage.

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.

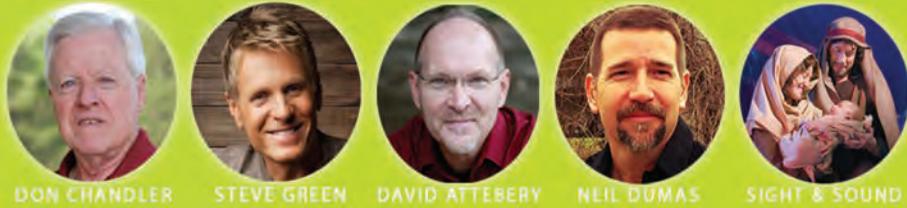


Editor's Note: We apologize that we skipped ahead one month with the lessons that were published in our last issue. Therefore, we are reprinting the September lessons in this issue.



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Curry elected as president of Texas Baptist Home for Children

By **JERRY FULTON**

Baptist Progress Editor

During a special called executive committee meeting at Farley Street, Waxahachie, Jason Curry was elected unanimously as the new president of Texas Baptist Home for Children Aug. 8, 2017.

Curry is a native of Jacksonville. He holds a Bachelor of Religion in New Testament Studies from the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary and a Master of Christian Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He and his wife, Tonya, were married in 2004 and are parents to Brandon, Cameron and Dexton. The Currys served as foster parents at Texas Baptist Home for Children and adopted two of their sons through the adoption ministry of the Home.

Licensed to the Gospel ministry in 2003, Curry has served as pastor of children and young families at Plymouth Park Baptist Church in Irving for the past eight years.

Curry plans to begin his duties as president Sept. 1, 2017.



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