

# Baptist Progress

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BMA OF AMERICA  
MISSIONARIES HONORED

## BMA of America meets in Waxahachie



▲ Eric Johnson, former international missions director leads prayer during BMAA Missionary Commissioning Service

By **JERRY FULTON**

*Baptist Progress Director/Editor*

Over 400 people, representing 164 churches gathered at Farley Street, Waxahachie for the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of America (BMAA) Aug. 2-4, 2021. A pre-association concert featuring *The Erwins*, a popular singing family Sunday evening, Aug. 1. The actual meeting kicked off Monday evening with a concert by Southern Gospel recording group, *The Martins*, followed by a message by Jeff Swart, BMAA president. Swart preached a message in keeping with the theme of the meeting, *Think Globally, Act Locally*. The worship center of the church was packed for the concert and message.

Tuesday morning, the national Women's Missionary Auxiliary hosted its annual conference at nearby Heritage Baptist Church. A report on the auxiliary's meeting is included on page 11 of this issue. The national Brotherhood meeting and numerous breakout sessions were conducted simultaneously at the host church.

Tuesday afternoon, BMAA Missions hosted a moving legacy awards presentation honoring missionaries who have served the Lord for at least 30 years through the association with faithfulness and integrity. Former missionaries who were honored were Doyle and Linda Moore, Phil and Lajuana Knott, Jerry and Sue Kidd and the late Darlene Carey. See the article on the BMA Missions Legacy Awards on p. 9 of this issue.

A brief town hall meeting was conducted following the awards presentation, and the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary hosted its annual dinner Tuesday evening.



▲ Jeff Swart

Luis Ortega, of Lifeword, preached a challenging message and the association's officers were also elected Tuesday evening. New BMAA officers elected were Justin Rhodes of Mississippi, president; Cliff Johnson, of Arkansas, first vice president; and Charles Johnson, of Texas, second vice president. Jerome Cooper, of Arkansas, and Greg Medenwald, of Mississippi, were reelected to serve as recording clerks. Elected to bring the annual message next year was Richard Smith, pastor of Farley Street, Waxahachie. Elected as the alternate speaker was Gary O'Neill, pastor of Oak Park, Little Rock.

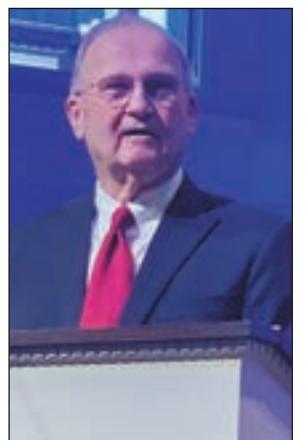


▲ Luis Ortega

It was time to get down to business Wednesday morning and afternoon. Department and agency directors offered reports for the entities they lead. Summaries of the reports given are as follows:

### BMA FOUNDATION

Charles Attebery, who has served as director of BMA Foundation since it was founded in 2014, explained that the purpose of the foundation is to develop an endowment fund for the benefit of the various departments of the association.



▲ Charles Attebery

**BMA OF AMERICA MEETING** continued on p. 8



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## 2021 Local Association Annual Meetings

The following local association meeting information is all we have been provided to date. Please contact *Baptist Progress* with information about your local associations annual meeting.

Association	Date	Time	Location
East Fork			
Ellis-Hill	Sept. 9	11:30a.m.	Farley Street, Waxahachie
Tarrant County			
Dallas County			
Tryon	Sept. 26	5 p.m.	Northside, Conroe
Mount Olive	Oct. 2	9:30 a.m.	Old Center, Tenaha
Gulf Coast	Oct. 4	5 p.m.	Bethel, Port Arthur
Trinity River			
Original Bethlehem	Oct. 2	9 a.m.	Zion Hill, Jasper
Central West Texas	Oct. 9	10 a.m.	Pecan, Robert Lee
Harmony	Oct. 9	12 p.m.	Mountain Home, Jacksboro
Landmark Montague			
Liberty	Oct. 10	3 p.m.	Latch, Gilmer
Van Zandt			
Cherokee	Oct. 11	7 p.m.	Cornerstone, Jacksonville
Harris County	Oct. 11	7 p.m.	Suburban Wood, Humble
Wood County	Oct. 12	7 p.m.	Hubbard Chapel, Quitman
Angelina			
Plains			
Central Texas	Oct. 16	9 a.m.	Ward Prairie, Fairfield
Houston-Anderson	Oct. 17	5 p.m.	Sheridan Terrace, Palestine
Navasota River			
Landmark Nacogdoches	Oct. 28	7 p.m.	Westside, Nacogdoches
Polk County			
Smith County			

## \$109 for 109 years of ministry

The following additional donations have been received since our last issue for the *2021 Baptist Progress Anniversary Offering*. We appreciate all who have given to help meet our budgetary needs for the associational year.

First, Crandall	229.00	New Harmony, Tyler	150.00
Antioch, Gilmer	109.00	New Beginnings, Ferris	109.00
Bethel, Port Arthur	109.00	South Park, Ft Worth	109.00
China Grove, Eustace	109.00	First Missionary, Cleburne	109.00
Delores A. Adams	109.00	Glade Creek, Gilmer	218.00
First, Beckville	109.00		
Calvary, Ennis	109.00	TOTAL	6,992.00
Forest Hill, Quitman	109.00		

# Bringing the Redeemer's love to the World in Houston

By **CHRIS DRIVER**

*Baptist Progress Correspondent*

Thirty people gathered in a living room singing hymns and devoting themselves to the study of God's Word—30 people sharing a meal and sharing their lives, 30 people committed to following Jesus and helping others to do the same. In so many ways it is everything the original vision for which Redeemer's Love, Houston could have hoped. But in the same breath, it is vastly different than what they had planned.

God's Word tells us in Proverbs 16:9 "A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps" (NKJV). That has certainly been true for BMA Texas Missions church plant, Redeemer's Love, Houston.

Five years ago, God began to birth a vision for a church that would reflect the heart of Houston. In 2016, God tapped Brandon Durham to begin the journey of planting Redeemer's Love, Houston through BMA Texas Missions. Brandon was a dynamic young man with a passion for Christ and a heart for discipleship. God used Brandon's heart and passion to lead him, not into the suburbs of the Houston metroplex, like so many other church planters, but into the center of one of the darkest and most neglected areas of Houston. But why Houston? Why the center of Houston? Because the center of Houston presents an amazing and unique opportunity to see God's people fulfill the Great Commission and make disciples of all nations without ever leaving the heart of Texas.

Houston is a wonderfully diverse and colorful city. According to the Redeemer's Love homepage, Houston is home to 345 unique people groups, 120 languages and people from 220 different nations. In 2013, *Forbes Magazine* went so far as to call Houston, "America's next great global city." So, it only makes sense that our missionary God would send someone with the gospel into a place that contains so much of the world.

But what would a church look like there? Like most planters as they begin, there was an idealistic vision of how things would go. And like most church planters, it wasn't long before Brandon began to realize that diversity doesn't come without its difficulties and birthing a church in such a place would be anything but easy. Brandon began evangelism and discipleship the summer of 2016. Small groups began to form and disciples began to grow. But without a team, Brandon struggled to make a lot of headway.

Multiple launch services took place in an effort to get the infant church off the ground. Real growth and stability, however, remained elusive in spite of the fact that a truly multicultural church was beginning to take form. The truth was, Brandon needed help. He needed a team.

In January of 2018, Spencer Simpson came on board as an intern to help Brandon and the plant. Later that spring, Kingsley Nduka came on board and a team began to form. But the struggles for the infant church

continued to mount. In August of 2018, Brandon was forced to step away from the plant to take care of the medical needs of his wife. At that point, amidst all the struggles and setbacks and now the loss of the visionary leader of the church, no one would have given it a second thought if the church decided to fold.

But God wasn't done with Redeemer's Love. It was during that transition that the church moved to an elder led model. Pastor Spencer believes that transition was a turning point for the church. "It was in 2018 that we moved from just gathering as a Bible study and began to intentionally function as a church."

Three elders were originally called: Spencer, Kingsley (who was equipped and released to begin the first church plant from Redeemer's Love), and David Mathew (David had been a critical part of the church from the very beginning). David Mathew (David had been a critical part of the church from the very beginning).

The next three years were spent building up believers from all walks of life and all corners of the earth. During that time, the church remained focused on placing a high value on authentic and committed membership, the authority of scripture, obedience-based discipleship that develops a "gospel view of life and the world", and a heart for multiplication. But somewhere along the way, the leadership of Redeemer's Love began to realize that this church would need to be a little different than what most of us think of when we think of a "church." Because of the economics of the city, because of the economic means of most of the people they would reach, because of the importance of family to many of the people groups they would reach, and because multiplication is such a high priority, the leadership of Redeemer's Love moved away from the traditional church model to a house church model.

And the results? God was faithful to His original vision of reaching the world represented in Houston through Redeemer's Love. God birthed a truly multi-ethnic church, not because Brandon and Spencer and the team tried to make it that way. God birthed a multi-ethnic church because they were faithful to make disciples of the people around them... people from multiple ethnicities and countries and backgrounds. The church simply reflects its culture.

On June 27, 2021, Heith Mitchell, director of BMA Texas Missions, stood in front of almost 30 members of Redeemer's Love—30 members gathered in a living room singing hymns and devoting themselves to the study of God's Word, 30 members sharing a meal and sharing their lives, 30 members committed to following Jesus and helping others to do the same. Mitchell stood before 30 members of an authentic, multi-cultural, disciple-making, New Testament, BMA church in the heart of Houston, Texas.

To those 30 members, their elders, BMA Texas

Missions Trustee Andy Slater, BMA Texas Missions Church Planter Coach Gary Southard, Mitchell admonished this body of believers by saying "Redeemer's Love, it has been a blessing to serve you on your journey. You have exhibited faith, love, endurance and faithfulness. You have stayed centered on disciple-making and leadership-equipping. I commend Spencer and Brandon for their leadership along the way. I praise God for what He has done, and I expect big things in the future from this church family."

During the service, the church was gifted a love offering from BMA Texas Missions and a commemorative plaque hand carved by professional chainsaw carver, Cameron Dockery, a member of Fifth Steet, Levelland.

Redeemer's Love became a member of the BMA of Texas family this past spring at the state meeting in Waxahachie. The service in July commemorated their completion of the five-year plan and support from BMA Texas Missions. But neither of those things signals the end of anything for Redeemer's Love, Houston. In fact, it's quite the opposite. This church has many more great plans for multiplying themselves and reaching the nations for Christ all over the city of Houston. The challenges will be many. The difficulties will continue to come. But they will continue to plan and move and continue to trust that God will direct their steps.



▲ left to right: Chris Driver, Andy Slater, Heith Mitchell, Spencer Simpson, Kingsley Nduka, David Mathew, Gary Southard



# BMA TEXAS

## MISSIONS

Your Church's Mission Movement in Texas



### A word from your Missions Office

By **HEITH MITCHELL**

We look forward to July in your BMA of Texas Missions because we have our annual missionary retreat. Your missionaries and their spouses gathered at Beaumont Ranch in Grandview for rest and recharge. It was a good time. Chris and Jamie Driver do a good job putting this event on each year. Here are some captured moments.



Isaias has had severe health issues this month. He had stents put in for blockages and had fluid on his heart. He developed pneumonia and needed a pacemaker. He is recovering but is in a wheelchair and on oxygen. Join me in prayer for his complete recovery. He lives all in for Jesus. (Missions Office)

**WESLEY BURKE & BLAKE MOORE—  
REDEMPTION BAPTIST MISSION, NACOGDOCHES  
WESLEYDAVIDBURKE@GMAIL.COM**

I hope it is not too cliché to admonish any reader seeing this of the simple reality that God must establish the work of our hands. If we build anything without Him, we labor in vain.

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray for the Lord to establish the work of our hands, we are plowing the ripe fields of Nacogdoches in this season more than we ever had opportunity since we began. We are thankful for the favor. We now beseech God to save the lost individuals with whom we are doing deep gospel witnessing and life. Will you join us?



▲ Wesley Burke



**CHRIS MINDI/JESSE HALES—  
ANCHOR AUSTIN MISSION IN LEANDER  
CHRIS.MINDI@BMATS.EDU | HALESJESSE@GMAIL.COM**

It is a blessing to have churches that support the vision to disciple people of all nations and invest in new church plants and planters, and the fact that almost all the resources you cheerfully provide are used for the ministry and not for other things, is a commitment to see God's Kingdom expanded from leadership.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the support.

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray for the ongoing conversations with unbelievers



▲ Jesse Hales

Will you join me in praying for these and the 34 other Mission Points you are supporting? Let's pray for souls saved, disciples made, leaders equipped and churches started for King Jesus and His Kingdom!

### A word from your missionaries

**ISAIAS ROJAS OSECHAS—  
CHURCH PLANT IN SPRING  
ISAIAS.ROJA5299@GMAIL.COM**

Urgent Prayer Request: Brother



▲ Isaias Rojas Osechas

# BMA Texas Missions cont.

from different cultures that don't know Jesus Christ to be fruitful in God's own timing. Pray for us as servants of God to be committed to do the work of taking the gospel to the unreached.

**ISAIAS MARTINEZ—  
NEW SPANISH MISSION AT NORTHSIDE, CONROE  
ISAIASMJ1966@GMAIL.COM**

It has been an excellent experience to start a fellowship with BMA churches. We appreciate your people and especially the training programs that you have.

**Prayer Needs:**

Please pray for our church and our community.

**MIKE WATT & TREVOR COWAN—  
CROSS-WORK MISSION, TAHOKA  
MIKE.WATT@CROSSWORKCHURCH.ORG**

We are about to lose our meeting place. We had been in an old church that was given to the school, but the school would like their space now. We have until the end of September. We have had a town hall with our people as well as a prayer service. Please pray that we continue to be dependent on God for a place to meet for worship and that He would provide.



▲ Mike Watt

**JAIME HENRIQUEZ—  
FUENTE DE VIDA ETERNA MISSION, HOUSTON  
DAIRYJENY@YAHOO.COM**

Things are going well here in our mission field. We are averaging the same in church attendance as we were prior to the pandemic. We continue to do the work of evangelism, discipleship and service. I am pleased to tell you that this month we celebrate our fifth anniversary. Two souls were baptized.



▲ Jaime Henriquez

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray that the Lord will open doors and touch the souls of the unbelievers.



**CESAR LEAL—  
NEW MISSION IN SAN ANTONIO  
CESARLEAL2002@YAHOO.COM**

Constancy and perseverance, despite the circumstances, produce in the end the joy of victory by seeing a group

established who worship God, study the blessed Word and grow in the ways of the Lord.

**GUADALUPE ROBLE—  
GOFOURTH MISSION, KILGORE  
ROBLESGUADALUPE51@GMAIL.COM**

Continuing to pray is what will strengthen us to continue ministering.

**Prayer Needs:**

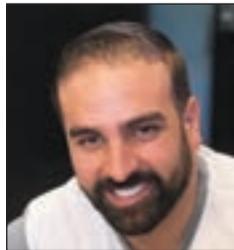
Pray for God to help us use doors that are opening.



▲ Gaudalupe Robles

**TIMOTHY ALBA—  
NEW MISSION IN SEAGOVILLE  
TIMALBA1986@GMAIL.COM**

I have found but have also known that bringing people together can be both thrilling and also challenging. I have told my group many times that coming together can be difficult but also fulfilling. At times, it is the leader's responsibility to lead others to peace and reconciliation. However, there is also a time to wait and see how events turn out. Rushing to fix everything can also be damaging. Your job as a leader is to keep the mission and vision the main focus of your plant. People will get sidetracked at times, so it is our job to make sure the church stays focused. When things get hard, just remember who you are to be obedient to and trust that God's plan is bigger than any interruption you face. Run the race as Paul says and always loom towards the prize. God bless.



▲ Timothy Alba

**Prayer Needs:**

Continue to pray for our plant. We are continually working towards becoming a church and want to find the right time to do practice services.

**ROBERT LEE—  
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH  
IN NORMANGEE REPLANT  
BRO.ROBERT.F.LEE@GMAIL.COM**

God has continued to bless us at Harmony! While the summer months can be a challenging time, we have been working towards implementing the systems needed to be able to serve families with children of all ages. We were also blessed in the past month with the donation of a van that we will be using as part of our youth and children's ministry. We continue to look forward to what the Lord has in store here at Harmony!



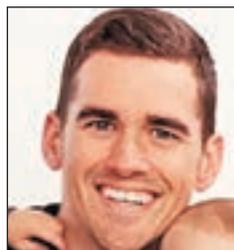
▲ Robert Lee

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray for our youth and children's ministries as the school year starts back.

**BRAD HOLCOMBE—  
REDEMPTION HILL MISSION IN  
FORT WORTH  
BRAD@REDEMPTIONHILLFW.COM**

One older pastor once told me,



▲ Brad Holcombe

"Jesus is always worth it." He was right.

**Prayer Needs:**

Please pray for my family--that the Lord Jesus would heal my son, Everett, of epilepsy. Also, pray that we would see both Cody and Ricardo (visitors to RHC) come to faith in Jesus.

**KINGSLEY NDUKA—  
LIGHT HOUSE MISSION  
IN HOUSTON  
KINGEDU700@GMAIL.COM**

Thank you all for all you are doing.

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray that the Load will send us the men and material He has planned for the church.



▲ Kingsley Nduka

**CESAR CANTU—  
CARPENTER'S HOUSE CHURCH IN OYSTER CREEK  
CESARHCANTU42@GMAIL.COM**

By Faith We Understand

Hebrews 11:1-3 says, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."



▲ Cesar Cantu

Have you ever flown in an airplane? Well did you know that there is evidence of what is not seen under you? The air flowing under the wings of that aircraft is evidence of lift which defies gravity. Yes, it breaks the law of gravity, by operating based on a new law!

The law of gravity holds you down. Newton's law of universal gravitation states that every object in the universe attracts every other object in the universe. The amount (force) of the attraction depends on the mass of the object. If you're sitting in front of your television, you may be surprised to know that the television set is attracting you. However, because the mass of the TV is so small compared to the mass of the earth, you don't notice the physical "pull" toward the television set.

This law operates in our lives every day, and we hardly notice it. It becomes unseen, yet it is there. Imagine gravity to be someone without a relationship in Christ. Life is very real and unrelenting. It governs you and everything around you. You have no control over it. You don't see it, but it has everything to do with you, every day.

It takes faith for someone to understand how planes fly. The only problem is that we don't exercise faith until we feel the turbulence.

**Prayer Needs:**

My hope is to be more focused on the church and its development to the Kingdom of God.

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



# Restarting a church that lives up to its name

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

*Baptist Progress Correspondent*

Robert Lee went to Normangee, Texas with a vision in his heart to replant a church that would live up to its name — Harmony.

Nacogdoches native, Lee, moved his family to Normangee in February 2020, under the auspices of BMA Texas Missions, to replant a church.

Harmony Baptist Church, which has been a fixture in the central Texas community of Normangee, located on Farm-to-Market Road 39 about an hour's drive south of Mexia, had dwindled to just a handful of folks, and was in danger of closing her doors, after approximately 100 years of ministry.

"I was serving on the trustee board of BMA Texas Missions when I called Missions Director Heith Mitchell, and told him that I was feeling that it was about time for me to do something different," he said.

"Heith told me, 'I want you to pray about going to Normangee, Texas and replanting a church.'"

Lee told him he had reservations, but would pray about it, and finally he called Mitchell and said, "Look, if there's any way I can go to Normangee, I want to go."

He added that he had already made up his mind even before driving to meet the people of Harmony, that it was the place God had opened for him.

Years earlier, Lee followed his great uncle, Gilford Vaughn, to Antioch, Fairfield, and remained there four years.

"They were a little nervous about calling a guy right out of high school, but when they finally decided to call me, they went from a 91-year-old pastor to a 19-year-old pastor," he said with a laugh.

"I stayed there for almost four years until I went to San Augustine to pastor."

He lived in Jacksonville during those years going to Jacksonville College and the BMA Seminary. Since Antioch had no Wednesday night services, he would fill the pulpit at University, Nacogdoches on Wednesday nights. Later, he accepted the Macune Baptist Church near San Augustine.

Lee met his wife, Jacksonville native, Rebecca Simpson, who was a BMA preacher's daughter.

"I picked her up when I went there, and didn't let go of her," he recalled.

The Lees have four children—daughter Summer, 7; a 4 year old son, Hunter; Bethany, 2 and Josiah, who is not a year old yet.

Moving to Normangee had its challenges because it was about a month later—February 2020—that COVID-19 descended on the world.

The task in Normangee was daunting with not only the onslaught of COVID—but the fact the church had dwindled to just a few people.

"We had about 20 people with most being 70 years old and above," Lee said, noting that one younger couple was still in the church when he and his family arrived, but the couple soon left.

The new pastor was faced with many obstacles, including difficulty in connecting with the school due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But being an experienced fireman, it was not long until Lee was added to the Normangee Volunteer Fire Department, which, incidentally, is located about two blocks from the parsonage, and about a month into his pastorate at Harmony, he was named assistant fire chief.

"I was able to make many connections with the community through my work in the fire department," Lee said.

"I'm a bit of a tinkerer so I would often go to the auto parts store downtown, and end up staying there greeting people who would come in.

"I enjoyed meeting people there, and had many great conversations," he said.

During the quarantine, Lee did what many other pastors did—he tried broadcasting services online, but since the area around Normangee was not conducive to livestreaming, and since only two or three families in his church were on Facebook, he invested in a good camera, recorded services in an empty auditorium on Friday, and hand delivered the DVDs to people within 10-15 miles of Normangee in four different directions. He also left a stack of DVDs at the front door of the church with a sign saying 'pick up a copy.'

"My kids would get aggravated because for the first few weeks of our Facebook premiere my wife would get them all up and seat them in the living room and make them watch me preach on TV," he laughed.

They had a drive-up service at the church during Easter, setting up a PA system on the patio adjoining the church. The young man who left the church months earlier, had been the music director, so Lee recruited Rebecca to lead in worship.

"The drive-in service was a great chance to bring people together," he said. "And I'll be honest—folks weren't real good about staying in their cars and not visiting. They were so thrilled to get back together and be in one place."

Harmony was able to meet in person quicker than most because about 20 years earlier, when the church was at one of her peaks in attendance, they widened the sanctuary to give a seating capacity of 240, making social distancing very easy.

Lee responded to a question about his style and approach to ministry by saying he was more of a "be in the community" type of a pastor.

"The way I'm wired, I'm not much of a 'sit in the office' type. I'd much rather be out in the community, building relationships and showing people that I care," he said.

"That's where you build relationships—even if these folks never darken the doors of this church, they'll know I care about them because I'm out there."

Lee says he has a bond with a group of pastors in the community, and gathers once a week in a cafe for coffee in Flynn, a community a few miles north of Normangee.

"We've actually done a few community events together," he said.

"Right after I got here, at a time when the race relations issues would come up, we [pastors] did a little rally that showed folks that we were together in Christ and invited [African American congregations] to come be a part of it too."

He said the pastors held up signs sharing the love of Jesus, but some misunderstood, thinking they were protesters.

The pastors also held events in the city livestock show barn and held services for the community, and went to the school and held up signs telling students and teachers that they were praying for them.

Lee said his church, in an effort to build good relationships with churches in the African American community, participated in the Juneteenth barbecue cook off, and not only were they the only white church participating, but they ended up winning first place in the cook off.

"It was a great opportunity to show folks that we are not



concerned about what color one's skin is. We don't care about this black church-white church issue because there's not going to be a black Heaven and a white Heaven," he said.

Other avenues of outreach have become available to Harmony Church, including hosting a Cub Scout pack each week in the church. When the Girls' Scouts heard of it, they also requested permission to use the church for their meetings, which brings more traffic into the church and gives Harmony some exposure to the community.

"There are people who have lived here for years who didn't even realize the church was here," Lee said.

The pastor is thankful for the victories they have experienced thus far, including a Sunday when 20 regular attenders showed up, and an additional 20 visitors also came.

Lee has also been blessed with a man in the church who served as a church planter for the Southern Baptist Convention. He is ex-military, and he is also substitute teaching in the school.

"He is getting a youth ministry started. He is semi-retired, and it's great having somebody like him I can turn the pulpit over to—and he's just jumped in, filling roles, and frankly taking up some areas that I'm weak in. The Lord just provided," Lee said.

The pastor's vision for Harmony is to be a church that lives out its name. He said the vision was developed in him when he heard a podcast by Tom Rainier, a Southern Baptist who was talking about redeeming the name. That statement resonated with him.

"This church has struggled for years—with a name like Harmony Baptist Church, and has had a history of being anything but. . .," he said.

"What a wonderful thing it would be for this church to become a church that lives out that name in this community

**RESTARTING A CHURCH** continued on p. 13



## Where we have been and where we are going

By **JASON CURRY**

Imagine, if you will, a circuit riding preacher traveling across the state of Texas, challenging everyone everywhere he went, to live boldly for Jesus Christ. Stopping at numerous places, he traveled by train, wagon and in one of the first automobiles through snow, rain and sweltering heat. He found himself stuck in the mud, removing fences and traveling on unknown roads, but was a preacher and a beggar of the best kind. Faithful and determined, he called on every church to give to an orphanage that was at times desperate, just to feed their kids.

Just like the commitment of this preacher, there is a commitment from people all over Texas, to care for our TBHC kids in need. Abused and neglected children find themselves in a place that is unfamiliar yet they are safe. Our hope is that each child would experience the safety of a home, the nurturing of parents and good news of the gospel.

We were established to meet the needs of children.

I hope that this article and others will communicate where we have been as an orphanage, where we are as a foster care and adoption agency, and where we are going as a ministry to children. Join me as we explore TBHC's current, yet timeless, imperatives that have been molded by our wonderful heritage!

*Jason Curry is the president of the Texas Baptist Home for Children. Contact him 629 Farley St, Waxahachie, Texas 75165, 972-937-1321 or jcurry@tbhc.org. For more information, visit www.tbhc.org.*



## 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 to Jul. 31, 2021.

### ENDOWMENTS

**MYRA STOKES:** BILL STOKES

### HONORARIUMS

**PALMER ANDERSON:** JAMES AND SUSAN ANDERSON

**HOLLIN ANDERSON:** JAMES AND SUSAN ANDERSON

**CARSON BARBER:** JED AND GLENICE WHITAKER

**HEATHER COE:** GLORIA RODRIQUEZ

**KEITH FAULKNER:** LEON AND JOHNNIE ROSS

**MR. AND MRS. LARRY HENSON:** LEON AND JOHNNIE ROSS

**MR. AND MRS. WESLEY HENSON:** LEON AND JOHNNIE ROSS

**MR. AND MRS. CLARK KEIFER:** LEON AND JOHNNIE ROSS

**MR. AND MRS. ALAN LENNOX:** LEON AND JOHNNIE ROSS

**MR. AND MRS. TIM LEVENDUSKY:** LEON AND JOHNNIE ROSS

**BRIAN LILLY:** CELVA LILLY

**KARL PACE:** KELLY PENICK

**MR. AND MRS. KEVIN PHILLEY:** LEON AND JOHNNIE ROSS

**RED SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH:** JERRY NULL

**MR. AND MRS. JOSHUA ROSS:** LEON AND JOHNNIE ROSS

**BRO LEON ROSS:** LEON AND JOHNNIE ROSS

**LUANN SOAPE:** EMMA BURLESON

### MEMORIALS

**AMY BUCHANAN:** DAVID AND DEANA MCADAMS

**LARRY AND ROSELYN BOBO:** JAMES BOBO

**THELMA BOLTON:** TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

**CECIL DOWNEY:** CARLEY DOWNEY

**RICK HARRISON:** JED AND GLENICE WHITAKER

**WAYNE HERRING:** DUANE AND CHARLOTTE TURNER

**ANTHONY HODGES:** JOE AND FRIEDA SMITH

**WANDA HORN:** JUDY GOEBEL

**CHARLES JOHNSON:** TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

**TERRY LYNN KING:** HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH

**VICKY MARTIN:** BRIAN AND MARY MAUK

**RAY MCCOWN:** MCCOWN ENTERPRISES

**LARRY WAYNE MCKAY:** DUANE AND CHARLOTTE TURNER

**LANCE ODOM:** RUS AND TERESA JACKSON

**MARGIE ORSO:** BETTY DUNN

**LOVITA LOU OUIMET:** JAMES OUIMET

**DELANA PATRICIA PAXTON:** DARINDA MEDCALF

**RICHARD "PEANUT" PIERCE:** CHARLES AND CHARLOTTE JOHNSON, JED AND GLENICE WHITAKER

**RUBY REID:** DUANE AND CHARLOTTE TURNER

**MARC RIDER:** BRIAN AND MARY MAUK

**LOUIS SIMPSON:** DAVID AND DEANA MCADAMS

**NEIL AND WANDA SNOW:** JOHN AND LINDA SIMONSON

**H.T (BUBBA) TREADWELL:** MCCOWN ENTERPRISES

**LOIS WATKINS:** ANDY AND NELL MCCUISTION

**DIANE WEST:** JERRY WEST

**PAY WILLIAMS:** NANCY EDWARDS

**PEARL WILLIAMS:** NANCY EDWARDS

**DOROTHY WRIGHT:** THOMAS JETER



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memorials-honorariums

# BMA of America meets in Waxahachie cont.

He said, “Contributions are never spent unless they are designated for operating expenses. Rather, they are invested and the earnings from the investments are used to provide supplemental funding to BMA departments as specified by the donor.”

Attebery stressed, “This means the contributions have the potential to keep providing earnings each year until the Lord returns.”

The young foundation currently has \$1,388,902 in assets.

A few months ago, Attebery announced his resignation as executive director of the foundation. Upon the recommendation of trustees for BMA Foundation, messengers elected Dr. Steve Crawley as the interim executive director. Crawley also serves as the executive director of Ministers Resource Services.

## MORAL ACTION

Dr. John Adams, executive director of Moral Action, an agency of the BMAA, noted that the agency supports the right for life for the unborn, school choices and local control of public schools, abstinence based sex education programs, voluntary prayer in public schools, public policy that promotes family values, biblical decency and morality, the rights of parents to rear their children without government intervention, rights for Judeo-Christians practicing their religious beliefs without government interference and legislation that promotes Christian moral and family values.

Often, Adams meets with lawmakers in Washington, D.C., to express opposition to the use of federal money for abortion, euthanasia or sex changes; condom distribution in schools and colleges; special rights for any group or organization that is in willful disobedience to God’s Word; tax funding of pornography and/or obscene art; and legislation that results in the decline of biblical moral values.

Messengers at the meeting approved resolutions calling for prayer for peace in the Middle East, opposition to Roe v Wade, observing the sacredness of the Lord’s Day and modeling good manners in a spirit of thankfulness.

## BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE

Dr. Charley Holmes, executive director of Baptist Publishing House (BPH), updated messengers on what the department he leads has accomplished in the last year. Among the accomplishments mentioned were the completion of the *Associational Baptist Church Manual* that can be ordered from BPH. The manual was built on the *Cobb’s Church Manual* and contains doctrinal materials and pastoral helps. The manual has also been



▲ Dr. John Adams



▲ Dr. Charley Holmes

translated in Swahili for distribution in Tanzania.

A free downloadable study course on the BMA Doctrinal Statement is also available now at [baptistpublishinghouse.com](http://baptistpublishinghouse.com). Expositor Workshops have also begun in various churches and associations. The one-day workshops are dedicated to helping Sunday school and small group leaders and pastors sharpen their Bible study and teaching skills.

Holmes emphasized that *The Baptist Expositor* Sunday school curriculum is the best on the market because it not only presents the word from an expositional standpoint, but also teaches students how to study the Bible.

He also announced that he will be transitioning out of the executive director position and that BPH Trustees would most likely nominate a new executive director at the 2022 BMAA Meeting.

## DANIEL SPRINGS CAMP

Jason Prewitt, director of Daniel Springs Camp, said those involved in the camp’s ministry saw a lot of changes and challenges in 2020. While the camp trustees and director had to make the difficult decision to close the camp due to the COVID-19 pandemic last year, he noted that a building on campus was converted into a self-contained retreat center in 2018, and the center was put to use during the pandemic. Churches and groups started calling and seeing if the camp had a building they could rent for their people to spend some time together, and the building was put to use.

Prewitt said that the Lord saved 28 souls at the camp in recent months. The director was reelected to his position.

## MINISTERS RESOURCE SERVICES

Dr. Steve Crawley, executive director of Ministers Resource Services (MRS), shared that the agency now offers more than just retirement services. In addition to those services, MRS now provides employee benefit, church financial and pastoral benevolent services. The executive director said, “We are presently working with 302 participants and approximately \$13 million in assets, a growth of 27 percent since the start of the new plan in May of 2018.”

More information may be found at the agency’s website address, [ministersresourceservices.com](http://ministersresourceservices.com). Crawley was reelected as the executive director of MRS.

## BMA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

In recognition of his 20-year anniversary of the dean of Baptist Missionary Theological Seminary, Dr. Philip Attebery was given the privilege of delivering the institution’s annual report by President Charley Holmes at the 2021 BMAA Meeting. Attebery said that the seminary’s purpose statement has remained basically the same since its

beginning in 1955.

He noted, “...the purpose focuses upon providing accredited undergraduate and graduate level education.”

Attebery said that the seminary offers an associate degree, a bachelor degree and four master degrees. He stated, “...the seminary’s purpose directs it to meet the educational needs of churches and agencies of the BMA and of others who have a similar commitment to the authority of the Bible.”

The dean said, “The seminary also provides thousands of dollars each year in scholarships specifically for BMA missionaries. The monies donated during the annual Scholarship Sunday offering goes directly to the fund used for helping these missionaries.”

Attebery explained that the COVID-19 pandemic did a number on the seminary’s enrollment for 2020-2021 with an approximate 20 percent decline from the previous spring 2020 semester. Adjusting to the pandemic, the seminary offered courses exclusively online during the year. In spite of the necessary adjustments, 2021 included one of the largest ever graduation classes for the seminary. The students represented 14 of the United States and 14 foreign countries.

The seminary also received reaffirmation of accreditation by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological School.

In addition to presenting the seminary’s annual report, Attebery was honored at the seminary’s annual dinner and gave the keynote address Tuesday evening.

Dr. Charley Holmes was reaffirmed as the president of the seminary.

## LIFEWORD

Donny Parrish, executive director of Lifeword, shared with messengers, “We are praying that God allows us to build on the ministry momentum of 2020 in the year to come.”

The executive director presented four ministry objectives for 2021 including increasing the appeal and creativity of each Lifeword broadcast. Drew Cline, pastor of South City Church, Little Rock, Arkansas, who has years of experience in music and film, will join the Lifeword team in a part-time role as the ministry’s creative catalyst.

A second objective is to increase Lifeword’s media outreach in the US and around the world. At present, Lifeword presents the message of Jesus to 123 countries. A goal has been set to expand broadcasts in 200 languages in the next five to 10 years.



▲ Dr. Philip Attebery



▲ Jason Prewitt



▲ Dr. Steve Crawley



▲ Donny Parrish

# BMA of America missionaries honored with legacy awards

By **JERRY FULTON**

*Baptist Progress Director/Editor*

Perhaps the most moving portion of the 2021 BMA of America Annual Meeting held at Farley Street, Waxahachie, was the BMA Missions Legacy Awards presentation. A legacy missionary was defined by Dr. John David Smith, executive director of BMA of America Missions as a missionary who has served our Lord for at least 30 years through our association with faithfulness and integrity. Four missionaries or missionary families were presented the award by Smith during the Tuesday afternoon session of the annual meeting.

First to receive the award were Doyle and Linda Moore, who were both born in small towns in south Mississippi—Tylertown and Picayune. Though they were both small town kids, God had big plans for their future. While attending Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, Mississippi, Bro. Moore attended a revival meeting held by Harold Latham. God moved Moore's heart during that meeting and he surrendered to God's call to become a missionary. The Moores moved to Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas to prepare to fulfill God's call on their life.

In 1975, God revealed His missionary plan to the Moores. They were to move to the Philippines and begin a Bible college to train young ministers to pastor the growing number of churches in the Philippines. Today, the Baptist Missionary Association Philippine Bible College is fully accredited with the Philippine government and is sending men and women all across the Philippines and around the world to help plant new churches and reach people with the Good News of Jesus. God has used two from small-town Mississippi to birth a world-wide missions movement.

Second to receive the Missions Legacy Award were Phil and Lajuana Knott. Bro. Knott was introduced to church planting at an early age. Born in Oklahoma, Knott and his family moved due to his father's employment several times. At one point, his family moved to Alaska, and it was at the age of 19 where Knott began helping a BMA church planter attempt to establish a new church there.

In 1969, he enrolled in Jacksonville College where he met his bride, Lajuana. Soon after college, they were called to pastor a church in the Houston area. While serving in Houston, Knott volunteered at the Spanish Baptist Publishing House. It was there that he was exposed to the Hispanic culture and felt the call to serve Hispanic people.

In 1982, Knott moved his family to Costa Rica to serve as a missionary for the BMA. He ministered there for 18 years, leaving a strong network of established churches. Today, the BMA is no longer sending missionaries to Costa Rica. The BMA of Costa Rica is sending their own missionaries to fields around the world.

In 2000, Knott began serving as assistant to International Missions Director Jerry Kidd. Later, he served as coordinator for Latin American missions. Then, in 2013, Knott was elected as the director of international missions for BMAA Missions and served in that position until his retirement in 2017.

Third to receive the award were Jerry and Sue Kidd. Bro. Kidd was born in Hope, Arkansas in 1938. His parents made a commitment that they would give their son to God to be used in whatever way He wished. Little could they have imagined the impact of this one life around the world.

The call to ministry was planted in Kidd's heart during

his teenage years and he surrendered to God's call while enrolled at Southern Arkansas University. He attended Central Baptist College to prepare for ministry in 1959. There he met his future wife, Sue, and they married in 1960.

The Kidds first served as a missionaries in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. It was there that God challenged Bro. Kidd's heart with the call to international missions. He moved his family to Bolivia where he served with M.S. Arrington and Marvin Loyd to preach to the unreached tribes in the Bolivian jungles. Kidd piloted an airplane over the jungles to bring medical supplies and food where needed. He and Mrs. Kidd made disciples so that the Bolivians could reach their own people for Christ.

In 1982, Kidd was chosen by the churches of the BMA of America to serve as international missions director. He traveled the world mentoring church planters and investing in the lives of BMA missionaries. In 2020, the annual BMA World Missions Day Offering was named in his honor. Millions around the world have been brought to Christ through the ministry of Jerry and Sue Kidd.

Finally, the Missions Legacy Award was presented in memory of Darlene Carey to her sister, Donna. Carey served as a missionary to the Philippines, traveling from village to village, evangelizing, doing women's ministry, establishing Christian kindergartens and assisting church planters in whatever way they needed to help to lead others to Christ. She was the first single woman ever elected by the Baptist Missionary Association of America to serve as a missionary. Sadly, she passed away in an Asian nation at a rather young age in 2019.

Prior to the presentation of her award, Joanna Allen, who with her husband, Wade, also served as a missionary to the Philippines, Jerry Kidd and her sister, Donna, paid tribute to Darlene's life and ministry.

Following her homegoing, plans were made to build a new Christian academy in the Philippines to be named in her honor—The Darlene Carey Christian Academy.

*"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation..."*



▲ Doyle and Linda Moore



▲ Dr. John David Smith and Donna Carey



▲ Jerry and Sue Kidd



▲ Phil and Lajuana Knott

# BMA of America



## BMA of America meets in Waxahachie cont.

Parrish also said that the ministry's video studios are being expanded. The expansion will necessitate providing some warehouse space in the rear of the facility. Churches were asked to pray about helping to provide for the needs mentioned by the executive director.

The fourth objective for Lifeword in 2021 is to reproduce the ministry's website, lifeword.org in multiple languages. Parrish said, "In recent days, lifeword.org has had 110,000 new visitors to the site."

He continued, "Through social media, Lifeword is inviting people to find resources, teaching and help to develop their walk with God."

Parrish was reelected as the executive director of Lifeword.

### BMAA MISSIONS

Dr. John David Smith, executive director of BMAA Missions, said, "Overall, 2020 was a good year in BMAA Global Missions. We stressed all year the need to find new opportunities in new challenges."

The executive director continued, "We currently have 76 American missionary personnel serving in the U.S. and around the globe—36 serving in U.S. church planting and 40 serving internationally."

Smith said, "The thrust of BMAA Global Missions is through our ChangeMaker missionaries. ChangeMakers are missionaries who multiply disciples, leaders and churches right where they are. These are brothers who live in their country of birth (most often) and carry on a ministry of church planting."

He continued, "In many of the 75 countries where BMAA Global Missions has ministry, this group of about 400 live, serve and carry on the ministry."

The executive director said that those at BMAA Missions are praying that the number of American and ChangeMaker missionaries will double in number within the next 10 years.

Dr. Smith was reelected as the executive director of BMAA Missions.

### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The only miscellaneous business presented at the meeting was a motion put forth by this editor. The motion was that the Coordinating Council consult with the arrangements committee, the enrollment and finance committee and the director of conference ministries (Donny Parrish) to determine a more efficient and effective way to plan and carry out the annual meetings of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and present recommendations to that effect at the association's 2022 annual meeting.

The reason for the motion is due to this editor's belief that the planning and carrying out of annual BMAA meetings should be streamlined to eliminate the same work having to be done year after year, the places selected for the meeting should be more appealing and the registration process should become much more efficient.

It is this editor's contention that the schedule of the annual meetings should be more appealing to the younger generation to hopefully engage those within the generation to be made more involved in the association and be blessed by practical ministry opportunities at the meeting each year.

### MISSIONARY COMMISSIONING SERVICE

After the annual meeting was adjourned Wednesday afternoon, a large crowd returned for the BMA missionary commissioning service. New missionaries, who were approved

during the last year, were introduced to those in attendance.

Among new BMAA missionaries are the following:

Christian and Vanessa Martinez (Brashov, Romania)

Juan Fernandez (St. Louis, Missouri)

Tyler and Emily Brantley (Argentina)

Gavin and Haley Roberts (Utah)

Sean and Kendall Pasley (France)

Hannah McClelland (Mexico)



▲ The Martins



▲ Farley Street, Waxahachie worship team leading worship



# reCharge Leaders Oasis

By **NICK JACOBSEN**

*BMA Global Missions Center*

Without a doubt, the ministry is hard, especially during a pandemic. Can I get an amen? Unfortunately, sometimes ministers have to pour from an empty cup. It happens far too often, and if I can be honest, it breaks my heart. Our pastors and leaders deserve better; they need more, which is why we at BMA Conferences are excited to offer reCharge Leaders Oasis to our conference lineup. We want to encourage you to renew, recharge and be re-inspired to serve your church.

reCharge Leaders Oasis will be September 27-29, 2021, at the Doubletree Dallas Market Center. We have arranged with Doubletree a great rate of \$139 a night. The cost of reCharge Leaders Oasis is \$119 per person or \$190 per couple. reCharge includes; three sessions, one breakout session (men's breakout and women's breakout), and a catered dinner with entertainment. We are excited to announce that award-winning artist Ginny Owens will be with us.

You can find out more information at [www.bmaamerica.org/recharge](http://www.bmaamerica.org/recharge).

# National Women's Missionary Auxiliary president's report

By **CHARLOTTE JOHNSON**

Greetings from the National Women's Missionary Auxiliary (WMA). The WMA meeting was held at Heritage, Waxahachie Aug. 3, 2021.

The theme for the meeting was Share the Vision, and the theme's scripture was Acts 26:19-20. Praise and worship were led by Judy Wallace with Linda Strickland at the piano.

Texas State WMA President Johnnie Ross welcomed the ladies to Texas.

Lydia Dunlap, National Miss GMA, shared scripture from 1 Corinthians 12:13-20. Judy Wallace and Charlotte Johnson helped Lydia with her demonstration of being one body.

Judy Wallace led the WMA theme song Called and the opening prayer was led by 1st Vice President Charlotte Johnson.

National President Jodi Rhea called the business meeting to order. The officer's recommendations were as follows:

1. The treasurer disperse funds totaling \$7,333.76 received from the Texas Baptist Missionary Loan Association held under the "Focus Memorial Endowment" evenly between "Missionary Care" and the "Darlene Carey Academy"

2. The treasurer disperse funds totaling \$125.00 being held under "Spanish Printing" to the "Editorial Bautista Publication"

There was a motion and seconded to approve reports in the program booklet as printed. It carried.

Kelly Williams, project promoter, awarded First, Springhill, Louisiana as the highest contributor who gave \$3,613.00 to the project.

The total given to the project of missionary care was \$48,689.20.

The project for 2021-2022 is the Darlene Carey School. The total given to this project, since April, is nearly

\$6,000.00.

The National WMA has given over \$1.6 million dollars to projects all across the world through supporting missions, building projects, publications and youth ministries.

Cindy Allen announced the theme for 2021-2022 as Intentional and theme verses, Ephesians 5:15-16.

Brenda Hornaday installed the officers for 2021-2022 using the theme Sharing the Vision. Officers elected are president, Charlotte Johnson (Texas); 1st vice president, Brenda Hornaday (Texas); 2nd vice president, Cindy Allen (Texas); 3rd vice president, Kelly Williams (Arkansas); recording secretary, Jessica Haden (Mississippi) and Jodi Rhea (Oklahoma); treasurer, Janet Widger (Missouri); assistant treasurer, Sara Buckley (Missouri); media director, Alicia Johnson (Texas); editor, Jackie Ricks (Texas); historian, Tracy Goede (Missouri); director of youth programs, Laurie Hicks (Arkansas); assistant youth director, Katy Nix; GMA/YLA, Hayley Rasco (Texas); Sunbeams Promoter, Sandra Kizer (Texas); assistant Sunbeams, Linda Dertinger, (Mississippi); song leader, Judy Wallace (Arkansas); pianist, Linda Strickland (Arkansas); project promoter, Beth Caldwell (Mississippi); project committee, Diana Morris (Texas) and Connie Reifsteck (Missouri); salary expense committee, Glenda Chamberlain, (Texas), Sherry Laminack (Arkansas) and Pat Duncan (Arkansas); inspiration resource committee, Pat Quesenbury (Texas), Kirby Pool (Texas) and Valerie Fish (Arkansas); advisory committee, Charles Johnson (Texas), David Kizer (Texas) and Randy Rhea (Oklahoma).

Mrs. Hornaday then introduced the conference program. Judy Wallace introduced the keynote speaker, Sabrina Clayton. Special music, Go Light Your World, was sung by Valerie Fish.

Door prizes were given to those in attendance.

Total attendance was 114, with several missionaries in attendance.

The ladies of the BMA are encouraged to join our conference each year, even if you do not have a WMA. All ladies are invited to attend if you have women's ministry in your church.

For more information about the ladies organization of the BMA go to [nationalwma.org](http://nationalwma.org) website. Offerings can be sent to Janet Widger, P. O. Box 23, Salem, Missouri, 65560.

After a delicious catered lunch, the afternoon session reconvened. The following break sessions were offered to the ladies: Share the Vision through Gospel Music by Judy Biggers; Share the Vision through Women's Ministries by Pat Quesenbury; Share the Vision through the Written Word by Jackie Ricks; and Share the Vision through Community Outreach by Penny Jacobs.

Please encourage your ladies to attend the WMA meeting at the National BMA meeting next April. The National WMA officers will be glad to speak at your meetings and you can find their information on the website.



▲ National WMA officers



## The life and legacy of Don Newsom

By **JOHN DAVID SMITH**

*BMAA Missions Executive Director*

Last month, Missionary Don Newsom, who served in the Philippines for 43 years, a fact that requires no narrative and speaks for itself, went home to be with the Lord. A native of El Dorado, Arkansas, Bro. Newsom and his family were sent as BMA missionaries in 1978. Instrumental in inaugurating BMA work on the island of Mindanao, Bro. Don spent most of his ministry on the island of Panay.



His *Gleaner* (now mission:world) articles make it evident that the Lord used Bro. Don in great ways. First of all, his ministry was marked by church planting in both the lowlands and in the mountains. He worked in places like Iloilo, Manaripay, Lublub and other locations that most of us cannot pronounce, much less locate on a map.

However, hundreds of people impacted by his ministry from these little-known (to us) places now have eternal relationships with the God of the universe. Also, he was influential in helping start an estimated 30 churches on Panay, and Missionary Sam Freeman stated that over 20 of those are still very active congregations. Part of church planting is developing leaders, and Bro. Newsom led a Bible institute in Antique for many years to do just that. According to Bro. Sam, almost all of those churches are pastored by men who studied at that institute. Another important part of Bro. Newsom's ministry was helping others to help others. He was known for encouraging and assisting many to attend nursing school and make a difference in communities. The Dorcas House, led by the Newsoms for many years, was a special place for boys and girls who did not have a home.

The following is from Newsom's *Gleaner* article of February 1983: "Our mountain ministry continues to be the most challenging and rewarding I have ever worked with. We just returned from another four-day tour of some of the work. Melvin Meade went with us to help organize two of our mountain missions into churches. We first went to Soppanga. This is about a seven or eight hour walk from where we park the car. As usual, it rained and the trail was very muddy. Seventy members went into the organization of this church."

The ministry of empowering local leaders (ChangeMakers) to carry on ministry has been part of BMA Missions DNA since the beginning. Don Newsom exhausted his life in the mission of God. We rejoice in his legacy that lives on in a vibrant ministry on an island in the Philippines and beyond.

## Just load the wagon

### A praise report from EIM's Shepherd's Bag Ministry



▲ Bro. Rocky Goodwin and his great grandson, Lincoln, with loaded boxes of Shepherd's Bags

By **FONDA NORRIS**

*EIM Shepherd's Bag Ministry Coordinator*

"Don't worry about the mule, just load the wagon." I'm not sure if any of you have ever heard that old saying before, but I have it on good authority that it originated in Alabama. Since Bro. Rocky Goodwin was born and spent his childhood in Alabama, and he's the one that I heard that from, I'll have to say it's true, at least from my perspective.

You may ask what does that have to do with a praise report from EIM's Shepherd's Bag Ministry? That phrase sums up my feelings this year more than any other that I can think of when laboring to get a shipment together in the middle of a pandemic. I have to confess that I personally found myself "worrying about the mule" multiple times throughout this year. Meaning, I have worried about how we would get a shipment assembled with all the restrictions that we have faced and borders closed. There were so many unanswered questions that I did not have the answer for kept surfacing in my mind that I would find myself worrying. Yes, I'm confessing!

But our faithful Father kept nudging us along to "just load the wagon." Although progress was slower than usual, we kept working throughout this year and we officially have finished 16,000 Shepherd's Bags! In my last Shepherd's Bag article, I wrote and asked for prayer for 2021 as I wasn't sure if we could finish enough for a full shipment but God once again has proved Himself as we kept loading the Shepherd's Bag wagon.

The 16,000 Shepherd's Bags that we have just finished are boxed and stored in our shipping warehouse awaiting shipment. At this time, we're not sure when we can ship but God knows and ultimately that He is the only one in control of that. But it is definitely a praise report that enough for another shipment is now complete.

Another praise report is that we were notified last week that the 16,000 Shepherd's Bags that were picked up in the spring are officially on the way to Ghana. Praise again! Join us in praising Him that even in the midst of a pandemic He has allowed EIM to have 32,000 Shepherd's Bags to be used as a tool to preach the gospel to thousands of children this year. Thank you to all who have prayed, given and worked to help us complete these Shepherd's Bags.

As you all know, EIM's Shepherd's Bag Ministry is full time all year long. However, due to the pandemic and with many borders closed please help us pray to know when to begin work on our next container. So much is up in the air right now. Before I begin ordering supplies I must know the correct translation for the Gospel storybook and our John 3:16 Frisbee as well as other details and its times like this that I find myself "worrying about the mule." But praise God we are ready to start back to work "loading the wagon" when God opens the door.

Pray for EIM! We love you all.

# Former missionary to Costa Rica to celebrate 90th birthday

By **GENA EASTERLING**

Tommie Frances Heflin was born to Delma and Aline Marshall in Gary Oct. 5, 1931. She grew up as a farm girl and was a member of the First, Gary. She was saved in a summer revival and baptized in the sawmill pond.

She met her husband, Robert Duane (R.D.) Heflin, from Oklahoma, while attending Jacksonville College. They married Aug. 4, 1950. Over the next eleven years, Duane Heflin served as pastor of several churches in east and west Texas before going to Costa Rica as missionary in 1961.

Duane and Frances had five children, Robert Marshall Heflin, David Duane Heflin, Charlotte Ann Hudler, Darla Gayle Moore and Gena Kay Easterling.

After Duane Heflin's death in Costa Rica Dec 14, 2013, Frances returned to live in the United States in 2014 and has been residing in Fairfield ever since. Her 90th birthday will be celebrated from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. at Calvary, Fairfield Oct. 2. Her family cordially invites you to attend, or send her a card to P.O. Box 134, Fairfield, TX 75840.



▲ **Frances Heflin**

# Jacksonville College: Preparing for the future

By **JOE LIGHTNER, D.Min.**

Since 1899, the purpose of Jacksonville College has been to capture the minds and hearts of students for Christ. God has blessed that purpose enabling the college to make an incalculable impact. The future warns that unique challenges lie ahead for higher education, specifically Christian higher education.

To overcome these challenges, Jacksonville College will develop programming, processes, people, partners and property. This development will require the kind of faith and sacrifice demonstrated in this summer's 52 Day Campaign. The summer campaign was designed to prepare space for beds, classrooms and offices to accommodate the highest projected enrollment in recent history.

Many staff, alumni, partners and churches participated in the campaign to help renovate the following buildings: Collins Hall, Gerald Orr Music Annex, Mary Nell and Summers A. Norman Library, Joe Wright Elementary, C.R. Meadows and the majority of the residential houses. The gratitude expressed by returning students has been rewarding. Jacksonville College is a special place where a student can receive a quality education and experience spiritual transformation. Continued faith and sacrifice will keep Jacksonville College special for the years to come.

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



# Restarting a church that lives up to its name cont.

where folks can say, 'what a unified group of believers there at Harmony Baptist church. Look at how they get along. They may not agree on everything or have the same perspective or may come from different backgrounds, but they get along—they work together as the Body of Christ.' That's where I see this church going—a church that has that harmony in it."

Any materials or publications the church presents has the scripture verse in Romans 12:16—"Live in harmony with one another."

# Free Online Class

**BMA is offering a free online course in the Fall 2021. The course will be eight weeks long and includes various assignments and opportunities to interact with fellow students. Students who complete the course will receive a certificate of completion.**

Free courses are not for credit and do not apply to any degrees. These courses are offered strictly for the educational benefit of the general public. Students will only receive a certificate of completion. Individuals who wish to take courses for credit or pursue a degree should apply for regular semester courses

## Ecclesiastes: Life Under the Sun

- This course is specifically designed for church workers who are Sunday School Teachers, youth workers, deacons, and all church members who want to improve their ability to study the Scriptures to better understand and put into practice the calling of God's people.
- There is ample opportunity for student interaction on the course topics through the weekly forums. Students in one area of the world will be able to interact in class conversation with other students in another part of the world.
- Students do not have to be "computer experts" to enroll in a FREE course. The process is quite intuitive for the Moodle course platform. There is a little technology required. Read about it here.
- Students may discover through this course they want to pursue a seminary degree. Several former FREE students have enrolled in BMA Seminary for degrees after completing the courses.

## DESCRIPTION: Ecclesiastes: Life Under the Sun

This is a historical and interpretative study of Ecclesiastes. Literary structure (outline), suggested purpose of Ecclesiastes, and the historical context are emphasized as means to interpret individual passages.

By the end of the course you should:

1. improve knowledge and understanding of important biblical and theological truths
2. improve the ability to communicate biblical truths in the context of a local church
3. improve leadership skills as required in the ministry of a local church

## TEXTBOOKS

The Holy Bible-Student selected English translation

Bible Study Material from Baptist Expositor Fall 2021: "Ecclesiastes: Life Under the Sun"

You may order this Bible Study Material from: <https://www.baptistpublishinghouse.com/order-curriculum> or call 1-800-333-1442 (Supplemental atlas suggested (not required): Holman Bible Atlas, Broadman and Holman Publishers, ISBN 1558197095)

## Class Schedule

**The class begins on September 1, 2021 and ends October 27, 2021.**

The instructor suggests several from a church enroll together for group encouragement.

**DELIVERY AND TERMS:** This is NOT a self-paced course. The instructor has assigned deadlines for specific assignments as shown in the assignment schedule.

**Professor:** Dr. Tony Cleaver

# Shipwrecked Women's Retreat

By **GLENDAM CHAMBERLAIN**

It's almost here, the Texas WMA Women's Retreat Shipwrecked is slated for Saturday, September 11, 2021. This awesome one-day event will be held in the tabernacle at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp in Gary from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. There will be plenty of room for everyone to social distance as desired.

Gloria Irving is the scheduled keynote speaker. She is a missionary, speaker, teacher and skilled storyteller who travel around the world proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The retreat will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts. Lunch will be provided. Cost for the retreat is \$30. Make your check payable to Cherokee District WMA and mail to Cherokee District WMA, P.O. Box 1633, Jacksonville, TX 75766. Deadline for registration is Sept. 1, 2021.

Kristi Key, Texas WMA 2nd vice president, shares her thoughts on the theme she selected, "In Acts we find Paul on a perilous sea journey as a prisoner. The ship encountered strong headwinds that made it difficult to stay on course. But through it all Paul knew God was with him and had said the ship would wreck but all would be saved. Our lives are like this at times, but through it all we know God is with us and will see us through. The journey may seem slow, and dangerous waters may come upon us, but we need to continue to listen to the ONE who calms the seas. There are difficult times in life when we must have our faith shipwrecked so that we can 'Be still and know that He is God'."

I hope you make plans now to attend this Spirit-filled retreat. To God be the glory!

## **PONDER IT! PICTURE! PRAY ABOUT IT!**

That is the theme of a well-known discipleship program. However, it is also wise counsel for the Texas WMA project for 2021-22. When we hear about a ministry that really gets our hearts racing; that may be God's invitation to join Him in what He is doing. So, if this happens to you lately, Ponder, Picture, and Pray, and if you feel led nominate it.

For a nomination to be considered it must be approved by your local WMA or ladies group. Deadline for submissions is September 15.

Your nominating committee is: Lynda Marsh (cemarsh6@yahoo.com), Christi McDermott (mcdermotts.family@gmail.com), Lynelle Teas (lynellejteas@aol.com) Suggestions for the annual project may be sent to any of these ladies.

## **DISTRICT NEWS**

CHEROKEE WMA met at Afton Grove Baptist Church where the WMA served a delicious meal in the beautifully decorated family life center July 13, 2021. Once we had finished our meal, we went to their Independence Day decorated auditorium for the district program. President Cindy Allen called the meeting to order and the opening prayer was led by Carol Murph. A special in song titled, "Didn't I Walk on the Water," was presented by Annie Williams and Cheryl Richardson, and enjoyed by all.

Rosemary Hallum introduced the speaker for the evening, Ms. Patsy Whitaker, principal at Jacksonville Middle School. Ms. Whitaker is in her fourth year as Principal and gave a very interesting presentation on the voyage of her school through Covid-19 and the challenges it presented.

Being a former coach, she presented facing the COVID-19

challenge as quarters of a ball game. Each quarter presented a different challenge, but their uppermost consideration for all quarters was "keeping the students safe." Having a theme seemed to give the teachers and staff something to rally around.

Last year the theme was Facing It Together, We Can Do Anything. This year's theme is FIERCE-Facing Everything and Rising, Creates Excellence. This fall the campus is planning to return to normal, including the cafeteria and class activities. Mrs. Hallum extended appreciation to Ms. Whitaker for her giving us an overview of her past school year, and presented her a token of appreciation from the District WMA.

President Cindy Allen called for new business which was the presentation of the minutes of the Planning Committee. The following officers were nominated for 2021-2022: President, Cindy Allen; Vice President, Nancy Washburn; Secretary/Treasurer, Lugene Sims; Pianist, Eloise Thomas; Historian, Alicia Johnson; and Prayer Chairman, Alicia Johnson. The floor was opened for nominations for Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, since there was not a recommendation from the floor, this office will remain open.

Other recommendations were: that the 2021-2022 project be one-half for BMA Seminary and one-half for Jacksonville College, with specific projects to be determined later. Cindy Allen will contact each of these schools for project suggestions. The recommended goal is \$2,000.

Meeting places were also recommended: Oct. 19, Mt. Selman; Jan. 11, Cornerstone; April 12, Sardis; and July 12, First, Jacksonville.

The recommended officers and Prayer Chairman were introduced and Glenda Haynes led a prayer for them. Ms. Haynes, from Cornerstone, extended words of appreciation for the hospitality and warm welcome given by Afton Grove. The attendance banner was awarded to First, Jacksonville.

Lugene Sims reported that there were twenty-three WMA ladies, four officers, and three visitors for a total of twenty-six in attendance. There was \$616 received, of which \$516.00 was designated for the project and \$100 for general fund.

Everyone was invited to attend the National WMA Women's Ministry Conference on Aug. 3 at Heritage Baptist Church in Waxahachie.

It was announced that the Texas State WMA Ladies' Retreat will be at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp at Gary Sept. 11. The theme verse is Psalm 46:10. Cornerstone will be taking a bus and it will be available for those who would like to ride, up to 15 passengers.

All were invited to attend the BMA Seminary Dinner, this year honoring Dr. Philip Attebery, held on at Heritage Baptist Church in Waxahachie Aug. 3.

Alicia Johnson read the submitted prayer requests, and closed the meeting with prayer which included those mentioned in the prayer requests.

The local project for October will be cookies for Jacksonville College students during final exams. The number of cookies needed and the date to bring them will be announced at the October meeting.

The next district WMA meeting will be at Mt. Selman on Oct. 19, 2021. There will be no meal and the meeting will begin at 6 p.m. Afton Grove will bring the "words of appreciation."

LIBERTY WMA met at Latch, Gilmer July 10. The meeting was opened by President Betty Stokes with a scripture from Proverbs 22:6; "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Then followed with prayer.

The welcome was offered by Jane Jones, Betty Stokes led in reciting the Motto.

Music for worship in song, during the collection taken for our project, was provided by Debbie Lansdale. The project selected for this year is the Daniel Springs Camp swimming pool and the goal set is \$2,500.

Ms. Johnnie Ross presented the Officer Nominations list of candidates for 2021-22, noting that an additional person will be needed to replace her. List was approved by acclamation, to be voted on in the Business session.

Cindy Allen, national WMA 2nd vice president, spoke on the Texas WMA retreat in September. The theme of the Retreat this year is, "Shipwrecked." She noted that two ladies from Rosewood would be leading break-out sessions and encouraged all who could to attend.

Charlotte Johnson encouraged ladies to attend the National WMA Conference during the BMAA annual meeting in Waxahachie.

Shirley Hoffpauir presented a report on the Liberty District Sunbeams, whose theme was "Incredible." She was recognized for her length of service to the Sunbeams in district, state and national, and for all she does to provide leadership. Thank you, Ms. Shirley, from us all.

Sarah Low narrated the GMA report, along with a video presentation provided by Mellissa Henry who could not be present. Rosewood, Antioch and Fellowship GMAs were in attendance; one of those was Hannah Brister who has recently been named National GMA Song Leader. Hannah is a lovely young GMA lady who treated us to a sample of her talent while the General Fund offering was received.

President Betty Stokes returned to the matter of needing a nomination to the Nominating Committee. Ms. Ava Pool was nominated and approved. The slate of officers was then approved with Bro David Kizer and Bro. Jack Hoffpauir elected to the advisory committee.

Johnnie Ross conducted a lovely installation ceremony with each officer receiving a corsage representing the month of their birth along with a definition of its meaning.

The final total for the current year's project EXCEEDED THE GOAL, \$3,320 at last count. Thank you ladies. New project to be discussed and selected at the next meeting. Dates and meeting places were set: Oct. 9, 2021 Antioch; Jan. 8, 2022 Latch; April 9, 2022 Fellowship; July 9, 2022 Rosewood.

The closing prayer was offered by Bro. Charles Johnson.

A delicious lunch was served in the fellowship hall. It was so good to be able to fellowship again.

*Glenda Chamberlain is the Texas Women's Missionary Auxiliary (WMA) editor. Contact her at gcham33@yahoo.com. For more information about the Texas WMA, visit www.texaswma.com.*



# EVENTS

## INTERIM PASTOR TRAINING

**DATE:** Aug. 24, 2021

**TIME:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch provided for \$10

**PLACE:** BMA of Texas Office Building, 632 Farley Street, Waxahachie

## BAPTIST PROGRESS MINISTRY CONNECTION WORKSHOP: REACHING PEOPLE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES

**DATE:** Sept. 16, 2021

**TIME:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch provided for \$10

**PLACE:** BMA of Texas Building, 632 Farley Street, Waxahachie

## 2021 BMA OF TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING

**DATE:** Nov. 4, 2021

**PLACE:** New Harmony, Tyler

## 2021 NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

**DATE:** Nov. 15-17, 2021

**PLACE:** Chateau on the Lakes, Branson, Missouri

# PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

## AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**PASTOR**—Antioch, Palestine is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to Nichols.Lindy@yahoo.com or call 903-373-1437

**YOUTH MINISTER**—Sand Flat, Grand Saline is seeking a part-time youth minister. He will teach junior high and high school kids on Wednesday evenings 6 p.m.-8 p.m. and Sunday mornings. Please email resume to the attention of Eric Autry to sandflatmissionary@gmail.com.

**PASTOR**—Mt. Calvary, Carthage is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Team, 249 County Road 278, Carthage, Texas 75633 or ritterpd@yahoo.com. TFN

**PASTOR**—First, Palmer is seeking a pastor. Send resume to pastorsearch@fbcpalmer.org or mail to P.O. Box 70, Palmer, Texas 75152. TFN

**PASTOR**—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a pastor. Send resume to jimmysealy@aol.com or to FMBC Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346. TFN

# PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

**KEITH PRATHER** is the new pastor of Pilgrim Rest, Emory.

*\* If you are aware of pastor and staff changes, please let us know at Baptist Progress by emailing us at editor@baptistprogress.org.*

## In Loving Memory



### MERLE FULMER

Merle Fulmer, longtime BMA pastor, passed away Aug. 9. A visitation with the family was held at Lake Ridge Chapel in Lubbock, Aug. 15. An obituary was to be made available on the Lake Ridge Chapel Funeral Home website. Most recently, Fulmer served as pastor of First, McAdoo and before that as pastor of Lake Ridge, Lubbock.



### JOYCE JOANN SKELTON

Joyce JoAnn (Wallis) Skelton, 84, of Winnsboro, passed away Aug. 6, 2021. She served alongside her husband of 54 years as a faithful pastor's wife. Funeral services were at Beaty Funeral Home in Winnsboro Aug. 12.



### VIRGINIA BURKS RHODEN

Virginia Burks Rhoden, 93, of Henleyfield, Miss. passed away on July 4. She was the widow of former missionary William Howard Rhoden, who pastored several churches, served as a missionary in Mississippi, Louisiana, Washington, Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico. She was a retired postal clerk for the U.S. Postal Service. A graveside service was held at the Henleyfield Community Cemetery in Henleyfield, July 15.



### LOUIS JOHN SIMPSON

Louis John Simpson, 82, of Dew, passed away July 12, 2021. Simpson was born September 12, 1938 in Pecos. At 18, he joined the U.S. Army and served from October 1958 to February 1962. After the military, he married Glenda Joy Clary Sept. 9, 1962. He graduated as a lay minister from Jacksonville College in 1965 and became an ordained minister in 1967. He served as pastor of Ward Prairie, Fairfield from 1973 to 1983 and from 2001 to 2018.



## BAPTIST MISSIONARY BMLA LOAN ASSOCIATION

The Baptist Missionary Loan Association (BMLA) offers loans for everything from land and building purchases, to additions, to renovations, to loan refinancing.

### Why consider a loan with the BMLA?

#### We specialize in church building projects.

Since 1953, BMLA has provided loans for churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas. No one understands the needs and goals of BMA congregations and related ministries better than BMLA.

#### We offer competitive rates and terms.

Unlike many commercial lending institutions, BMLA does not charge for closing costs which saves your congregation thousands of dollars.

Furthermore, BMLA has much more competitive rates than we have in several years.

#### Faithful stewardship finances our loans.

The money invested in BMLA by congregations and individuals finance our loans for building projects and land purchases.

#### For more information, visit [bmla.org](http://bmla.org).

If you are ready to apply for a loan, download an application from our website and mail or email it to us. If you have more questions, call us at 972-923-0758.

**We look forward to helping you make your dreams come true!**

**BMLA, P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, TX 75168**  
**[www.bmla.org](http://www.bmla.org)**

## Protect the Children in your Ministry

Reduce risks by improving selection, supervision, and education:

- 1. Use the Six-Month Rule** – don't allow volunteers to be involved until they have been with your church for at least six months.
- 2. Screen All Workers** – investigate prior church membership and volunteer work, check references, and develop an application form.
- 3. Use the Two-Adult Rule** – always have at least two, unrelated adults supervising each room, vehicle, or other enclosed space.

Check out Brotherhood Mutual's Online Safety Library for more child safety resources. Visit [www.BrotherhoodMutual.com/Resources/Child-Safety](http://www.BrotherhoodMutual.com/Resources/Child-Safety).

Contact your local agent today.

Call 844.400.2248 or visit [AmericanChurchGroup-Texas.com](http://AmericanChurchGroup-Texas.com).

Proudly serving the BMA of Texas



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## Interim Pastor Training, Aug. 24, 2021

*Baptist Progress* encourages available preachers with pastoral experience to attend our first interim pastor training Aug. 24, 2021. The training will be led by Jerry Fulton, director/editor of *Baptist Progress*, who has served numerous churches as an interim pastor. The following questions will be answered:

- What is an interim pastor?
- What should be expected of the interim pastor?
- How does the interim pastor make things ready for the next pastor?
- How can the interim pastor connect the church to the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas?
- How much should the interim pastor be paid?

During the training, potential interim pastors will be provided with an assessment survey to use in the church they serve as well as other helpful tools. Those who complete the training will be certified as an interim pastor for the BMA of Texas. All potential interim pastors must have pastoral experience in order to attend the training. The training will be conducted from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch provided for \$10, at the BMA of Texas Office Building at 632 Farley Street in Waxahachie.

Register at <https://baptistprogress.org/intentional-interim/>

NEW HOTEL THIS YEAR  
CHATEAU ON THE LAKE  
415 N STATE HWY 265  
BRANSON, MO

## NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 15-17, 2021

\$135 PER PERSON  
UNTIL OCTOBER 1ST

\$145 PER PERSON  
AFTER OCTOBER 1ST

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER GO TO  
[WWW.BMAAMERICA.ORG/SENIOR](http://WWW.BMAAMERICA.ORG/SENIOR)