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THE INFORMING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRY OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS | AUGUST 2022 | VOL. 109 | NO. 08

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RE:CHARGE CONFERENCE

# Lifeword studio expansion taking shape

### By DONNY PARRISH

Lifeword Executive Director

The long-awaited dream of expanded video production capability for Lifeword is well on its way to becoming a reality. Lifeword has been producing video content for the last five years in what was once audio studios. Lifeword engineers took studios that were built years ago exclusively for audio recording and did their best to restructure them to record video content. Although the studio was very small, it was adequate for Lifeword to take its first step into video production.

Fast-forward five years and the ministry has found itself out of studio room. Internet broadcasting has become the centerpiece of who Lifeword is today. Millions of people from around the world are viewing Lifeword video content via the Internet. The need for video content to reach more people around the world has forced the ministry to seek more studio space.

The logical answer to that problem has been to move into the existing warehouse area and transform it into its originally intended purpose, television production studios. That would necessitate the construction of a new warehouse/work center facility behind the existing structure.

The new BMA Work Center building is under construction as we speak. The facility will be larger than the existing ware-house and will allow for growing BMA ministries like Baptist Medical Missions International and the Christmas Shoebox Ministry to have a larger workspace. Lifeword will use the area to build television sets and other media related projects. There will also be ample storage space for BMA Missions and Lifeword.

The total cost for the new Lifeword Studios and the BMA Work Center is close to \$1.4 million. Almost half of that cost has been raised. "We are looking forward to a great Lifeword Sunday, Oct. 23, to help completely pay for the construction of these facilities. There's never been a day when people needed to hear the gospel more than today," said Parrish. "Lifeword is presently sharing Jesus in 140 languages to billions of people around the world. These studios will help us move into 200 languages in the next five years.

To register for Lifeword Sunday or to make a contribution to the Lifeword Studio Expansion, visit www.lifeword.org or send your offerings to Lifeword, P.O. Box 6, Conway, AR, 72033







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# NAKING PROGRESS

# Baptist Progress Anniversary Offering meets goal

### By JERRY FULTON

Holly Grove, Livingston

Every June, *Baptist Progress* requests contributions in celebration of the ministry's anniversary. This year, *Baptist Progress* marks 110 years in ministry. Churches, groups and individuals were asked to contribute \$1 for every year of ministry. Below is a list of those who gave. We are so grateful for your partnership in ministry. We came awfully close to our goal of \$10,000, and we thank you!



▲ Jerry Fulton

Blackjack, Troup	110.00	Jackson, Joaquin	500.00
Calvary, Trinidad	110.00	Lakeridge, Lubbock	110.00
Calvary, Ennis	110.00	Leggett, Leggett	110.00
Camille Acres, Longview	110.00	Little Mound, Gilmer	110.00
China Grove, Eustace	110.00	Macune, San Augustine	110.00
Cornerstone, Jacksonville	110.00	Mahl, Nacogdoches	110.00
David and Vickie Matthews, Purdon	110.00	Martins Prairie, Anderson	150.00
East Tempe, Livingston	110.00	New Beginnings, Ferris	110.00
Ebenezer Friendship, Pittsburgh	110.00	New Hope, Mineola	110.00
Enon First, Iola	110.00	New Hope, New Waverly	110.00
Enon, Gilmer	110.00	New Hope, Streetman	110.00
Farley Street, Waxahachie	500.00	New Salem, Centerville	110.00
First, Arp	110.00	Olde Tyme, Longview	110.00
First, Blooming Grove	110.00	Pecan, Robert Lee	110.00
First, Cleburne	110.00	Red Springs, Tyler	110.00
First, Crandal	110.00	Rosewood, Gilmer	110.00
First, DeSoto	110.00	Round Praire, Fairfield	220.00
First, Glenn Heights	110.00	Sheppard, Euless	110.00
First, Mcadoo	1,000.00	Slocum, Elkhart	110.00
First, Morton	110.00	South Park, Fort Worth	110.00
First, Palmer	110.00	Suburban Wood, Humble	110.00
First, Rice	110.00	Sunset Baptist Church, Lamesa	150.00
Forest Hill, Amarillo	110.00	Walnut Street, Winnsboro	110.00
Friendship, Mesquite	110.00	Ward Prairie, Fairfield	150.00
Glade Creak, Gilmer	500.00	Weeks Chapel, Jasper	1,110.00
Harmony Odell, Huntington	110.00	Zion Hill, Jasper	110.00
Harmony, Nacogdoches	110.00		

220.00

**TOTAL** 

# Don't miss this upcoming Ministry Connection Workshop!

### Leading the Smaller Church Without Settling for Less

- Led by author, blogger and small church pastor Karl Vaters
- You will learn how to redefine success in ministry, the difference between big churches and small churches, how to discover and use what your church does well, as well as how to find and mentor volunteers in today's and tomorrow's small church.

DATE & TIME: Sept. 13, 2022, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch PLACE: BMA of Texas Building, 632 Farley Street, Waxahachie REGISTRATION FEE: FREE!



9,340.00

▲ Karl Vaters

# BMA TEXAS MISSIONS Your Church's Mission Movement in Texas

# A word from your Missions Office

### By HEITH MITCHELL



You not only provide the salary for your Texas missionaries, but you provide for their care as well. Each July, your missionaries come together for a retreat in order to rest and be encouraged. This year, we were able to include the whole family for the first time. It was a joy to have these families together. There were 83 of us in San Antonio.

We were blessed to be poured into by John David Smith, president of BMA Global Missions and Donny Parrish, executive director of Lifeword. They shared the word and their ministries. Scottlan Stewart led us in worship and handled all things media. He leads worship at Kingdom Chapel Church in Saginaw. Chris Driver does a wonderful job of bringing this retreat every year.

Thank you for caring for your missionaries!





# A word from your missionaries

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

We salute all the churches of the BMA of Texas family with great affection and give thanks for their prayers and their help. I am happy to communicate that God is working in a special way in our mission. We are walking well, we are strong in the



▲ Jamie Henriquez

Lord and are amazed at what He has been doing in the midst of our community for several years.

We prayed for a home of our own where we could gather and God finally answered our prayers. Now we have a building that we can call home and we are working to condition it and make the necessary repairs for its use.

Prayer Needs: May the Lord allow us to continue to serve Him and may He save lost souls in the city of Tomball.



### TIM ALBA-THE BRIDGE IN SEAGOVILLE TIMALBA1986@GMAIL.COM

I had a rough month in June. It can be hard maintaining people and life at the same time. Even though it wasn't my best month in outreach and drive for this plant, the Lord gave me strength to pull through. We had a successful month with salvations and baptisms.

This ministry can be a rollercoaster, but I have found that in the end, God will help us persevere. He is faithful and merciful all the time. Thank you for your prayers, we felt them.



### **BICHITRANANDA SATPATHY—** INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST MISSION, FORT WORTH BICHITRANANDA31@GMAIL.COM

I want to thank you for your financial support and faithful prayers for our mission at Fort Worth. We covet your prayers and financial support. Thank you for all what you do for the sake of God's kingdom.

### **ISAIAS MARTINEZ**— **CONROE MISSION** ISAIASMJ1966@GMAIL.COM

It is a blessing to see the progress of the work when we simply do the things that we have to do. Thank God for every word of comfort and for every training received.

Prayer Needs: We want to have a strong men's ministry in our church, but we need your prayers.



▲ Bichitrananda Satpathy



▲ Isaias Martinez

### FIDEL TORRES— **PLANTING IN DENTON** FIDTOL@MSN.COM

We are grateful to God and to the BMA for giving us the opportunity to be missionaries here in the city of Denton. We are also very excited to see what God will do in this place. To God be the glory!

### **CESAR LEAL**— IGLESIA BAUTISTA MISIONERA DE SAN ANTONIO **CESARCHACIN@HOTMAIL.COM**

Our work with Hispanics has increased considerably due to the boom of migrants in the city. We have been supporting many of them by meeting their needs with food, clothing, footwear and money for travel tickets when going to other cities where they have relatives. Please pray for us that we may be



▲ Cesar Leal

more effective in the work of mercy. Also, some have come to the feet of Christ and are attending our congregation.

Prayer Needs: Pray for the migrants who are arriving and for a permanent place for our church to meet.

### **CHRIS DRIVER— WEST TEXAS MULTIPLICATION NETWORK/ TEXAS MISSIONARY CARE** CJDRIVER316@GMAIL.COM

The great philosopher Iron Mike Tyson once said, "Everyone has a plan till they get punched in the mouth." Well, we've gotten punched in the mouth several times this month, mainly in our remodel efforts. The main punch came when the drop ceiling...well...dropped! We were removing some walls and



▲ Chris Driver

down it came. It turned out to be a pretty expensive punch we weren't expecting. But the work continues and we just had to adjust our plans. We are now shooting for a Nov. 6 launch. But as with everything, God is in the details. And it is going to all work out way better than the plans I could have made on my own. If you'd like to help us take the financial punch from the ceiling, we'd love to have your support. As always, thank you for all you do. We are so blessed to be part of the BMA of Texas family! Y'all hang in there and keep punchin'!

Prayer Needs: Please pray for us as we finish remodeling our building. Also, pray for more connections to our church leadership development and upcoming outreach events.

BMA TEXAS MISSION continued on p. 10

# TBHC FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

# I'm just sayin'

### By JASON CURRY

Welcome to the end of summer. We are all getting ready for school but, before I forget, I want to talk about a summer activity that is important to our family.

My family and I have been teaching my children to swim this summer. It has been exhilarating to see them learn how to swim again. My 10-year-old took to it quickly. He "learns" how at the beginning of the summer each year, but this year was the first time that my now 6-year-old started to learn, and he was truly scared. I worked with him often to help him have confidence in the shallow end. My almost 4-year-old is now swimming without floats!

Each one had a fear, a natural fear of the unknown. Each one had to discover that swimming has its risk but with practice and techniques they could enjoy something great. I think the moment that my kids learned to love it was when Dad first threw them across the pool and splashing in the water, each said "Again! Again!" It was marvelous fun, and they were hooked, and their dad was exhausted.

I truly enjoy swimming but when I'm swimming with my kids it is a time of wrestling, racing and doing what they enjoy. I hope they never forget the time we spent together learning to swim in the pool with family. But most of all I hope they know I love them, and I do more than tell them, I show them.

1 John 4:7 says, "Love one another because love comes from God."

The greatest description of God is that He is love. Not to be ignored is His justice, His righteousness, His holiness and His meekness. Each of His attributes is an important part of God's identity and is why His is not only a deity of power but of grace. I have been overwhelmed anew by the thought that my children's understanding and image of God comes from their perception of their father. I have a great responsibility to live love, give love, and be love to my children. To point them to the one who is truly love.

This explains so much about the children for whom TBHC cares. So many have no father, father figures, or healthy parental role models. If their image of God is given by a father, and they have none, should we be surprised that they struggle to put their faith in Him?

God being love and we are the recipients of that love, I hope that we can work together to help children learn to swim - not in a pool, but in life; to understand how to come up for air, to use our natural buoyancy and to spread our arms out to move forward.

You do that with your generosity. You are helping kids in our care in all our locations to be given a life of stability, discovering that they have self-worth because God made them, and they are on a path of healing. All of this comes from Jesus. Thanks for all you do to make that possible.

God bless you, thanks for helping bring kids home. I'm just sayin'.

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.



# Jacksonville College partners with Fresh Ideas

### By JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE PRESS

Jacksonville College is committed to serving students with excellence. This commitment has compelled the college to partner with Fresh Ideas, a full-service dining company. Dr. Joe Lightner, Jacksonville College President, said, "the dining experience that Fresh Ideas delivers will be a great recruiting and retention tool for our college. They bring expertise, equipment, technology and a redesigned menu and dining space to the table."

Many colleges use third-party vendors like Fresh Ideas for student dining to remain focused on educational programming.

Fresh Ideas has provided dining services across a variety of industries for many years. They currently operate in nine states and serve over 50 colleges. Their Christian values make them an ideal partner for biblically based institutions like Jacksonville College.

The College's executive vice president, Dr. John Mann, said, "Their willingness to assume the College's current dining personnel as their own is an example of these shared values."

Students will be enjoying Fresh Ideas this new fall term.

### 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 bold letters are those honored or remembered from Jul. 1-31, 2022.

### **ENDOWMENT:**

**E ANN PACE:** Karl & Martha Pace **MYRA STOKES:** Bill Stokes

### **HONORARIUMS:**

**ANDREW GARRETT:** Shannon Atchenson

**BROTHER ROY & JUDY PRATHER:** Patricia Cothran

**CLARK KEIFER:** Leon & Johnnie Ross **HANNAH LOW:** Leon & Johnnie Ross

M/M BRADLEY JOHNSON: Leon & Johnnie Ross
M/M CLARK KEIFER: Leon & Johnnie Ross
M/M CORY MCCOWN: Leon & Johnnie Ross
M/M KEVIN PHILLEY: Leon & Johnnie Ross
M/M LARRY HENSON: Leon & Johnnie Ross
M/M TIM LEVENDUSKY: Leon & Johnnie Ross
M/M WESLEY HENSON: Leon & Johnnie Ross

NOELLE PINA: Ann Pina

PALMER ANDERSON: James & Susan Anderson

M/M ALAN LENNOX: Leon & Johnnie Ross

**REBEKAH LOW:** Leon & Johnnie Ross

VBS DIRECTORS & WORKERS: Rosewood Baptist Church

### **MEMORIALS:**

BILLY W KEELING: Billy & Ida Keeling
BRUCE CAPERS: Temple Baptist Church
BUDDY & LULU HAZELL: Cheryl Briscoe

**BUSTER DUNN:** Tony & Melva Conrad; Claude Scally

CARTER FORE: Andy & Nell McCuistion
CHARLES MITCHELL: Gay Mitchell
DOROTHY WRIGHT: Thomas Jeter
EDDIE BYRD: Darinda Metcalf

**ELIZABETH JEFFRY:** Wayne & Linda Beason I D NEEL JR.: Charles & Charlotte Johnson JAMES CORBIN: Stanley & Doris Allen

JOHN WALCOTT: Gay Mitchell JR & CAY GASTON: Brenda Ray KAY WALCOTT: Gay Mitchell

LARRY & ROSELEN BOBO: James Bobo

**LILLIAN JOHNSON:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson

LOVITA LOU OUIMET: James Ouimet

MARGIE WESTER: Temple Baptist Church

MATASHA GOEBEL: Judy Goebel

MAXINE FAULKNER: Latch Missionary Baptist Church

**OBRA HIGHT:** Jimmy & Carla Shipp

PAMELA JEAN ALLEN: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

PAT & PEARL WILLIAMS: Nancy Edwards TERRY BARNHILL: Stanley & Doris Allen

THOMAS JAY: Deborah Jay

**TOMMY MEEKS:** Jimmy & Carla Shipp **TOMMY O BLAKLEY:** Betty Blakley

**W.V. RAY:** Brenda Ray

WILLIAM DANIEL SHAW: Jeff and Jean Anne Brown

# Methods of multiplication matter

### By JOHN DAVID SMITH, D.MISS.

Methods of multiplication matter! Jesus both commanded and exemplified multiplication, so does that mean we can do whatever we want and use whatever means necessary to increase our numbers? That would be a resounding, NO!

First of all, our mandate is not to merely increase our numbers; we are commanded to make disciples (followers). Those are drastically different goals.

Second, we cannot conflate our mission with our methods. Often our methods become the focus to the exclusion of our

Think about "anointed methodologies" emphasized in the past 100 years. Tent revivals were a result of the Layman's Prayer Revival in the 1800s and lasted for a century in various styles. Then it was discovered that television promised even larger crowds, and people preferred air conditioning. Bus ministry was widely used in the 60s and early 70s, but oil prices rose and the use of buses mostly went away. Recently, and still very much utilized, small group ministry (in some form) is probably the anointed methodology.

You get the picture. Methodologies come and go. They can certainly be used by God but could also be driven by unbridled pragmatism (results driven) to living in a theological echo chamber. The common denominator is that our mission goes unfulfilled as we parade down Main Street on the latest and greatest methodological bandwagon.

Perhaps the closest we come in the Word to seeing a merger of mission and methodology is in the command to make disciple makers in all nations! While the Bible does not advocate a specific discipleship platform (which could potentially become another distraction from the mission when reduced to programs and information exchanges), it clearly commands and illustrates discipleship-based multiplication.

Multiplication is an expectation in God's Word. As noted, there is superficial multiplication that is humanly generated and genuine multiplication that is God generated. Jesus, in teaching his disciples, utilized metaphors from everyday life using four primary metaphors: fishing, farming, shepherding, and vine dressing (vineyards). All four of them have various lessons attached, but multiplication is common to all.

Jesus multiplied disciples as the primary expression of his earthly ministry.

Paul spent his ministry carrying out discipleship-based multiplication. In the 33 short years covered by the book of Acts, the gospel advanced from Jerusalem to Syria across Asia Minor into Greece, and arrived in Rome! Paul himself helped plant at least sixteen churches, not to mention the churches his team members planted! Multiplication is the expectation!

Two passages stand out in emphasizing discipleship: John 14 and 1 Thessalonians 2. In John 14 Jesus speaks to his disciples, telling them not to let their hearts be troubled. Jesus comforted them at the news he was going away. He then corrected them when Philip expressed that they didn't know where Jesus was going. Last, he challenged them, saying if they continued what they were doing, they would do greater things than he had done.

In 1 Thessalonians 2, Paul tells believers in Thessalonica he and his team were focused on maturing their faith, serving them as nurturing mothers, personally investing in their lives, modeling the faith, correcting them as loving fathers and

encouraging them to walk worthy of God.

Here is a bullet point list of disciple-making principles from the two passages:

Discipleship demands a personal investment.

Discipleship means at times I help carry emotional

Discipleship means to constantly build foundations on the

Discipleship means to model the way.

Discipleship means to see success in the lives of others who serve the Lord.

Discipleship is intentional, not accidental.

Discipleship sometimes offers a hug and sometimes a

Discipleship has as a goal to make a disciple maker.

Although not an exhaustive list, it is a great picture of how Jesus and Paul carried out the mission to make disciples in all nations. BMA Global Missions is committed to discipleshipbased multiplication. Here is our value statement:

The entire context of the New Testament is one of multiplication. All healthy believers and churches will multiply. The multiplication of disciples is the most important factor in the formula for multiplication.

John David Smith is the president of BMA Global Missions. Contact him at P.O. Box 878, Conway, Arkansas 72033, 501-455-4977 or john@bmaam.com. For more information, visit www.bmamissions.org



# Lifeword Sunday—No borders

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations" (Matthew 24:14).

The gospel has NO BORDERS, God's kingdom has NO BORDERS and therefore, Lifeword has NO BORDERS!

Lifeword Sunday is a day for every church in the BMA to pray for, celebrate, and give to the ministry of Lifeword! The 2022 edition of Lifeword Sunday is scheduled for Oct. 23!

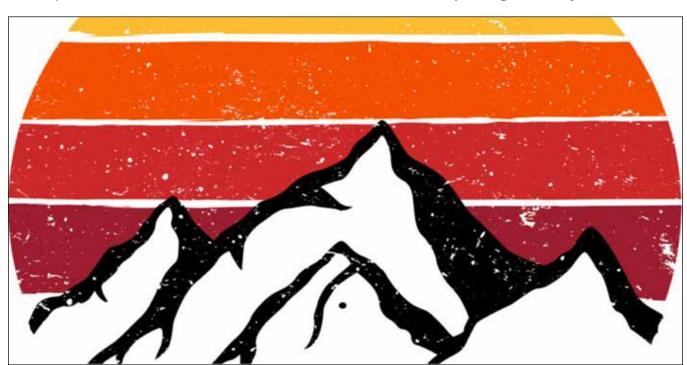
Our mission is to make the name of Jesus known among the nations and to share His gospel of hope to a dying world. We are all invited into a spiritual kingdom. There are no guards, fences, barriers, or restrictions in His kingdom. God's only requirement is faith in His Son as Jesus, our Savior.

Lifeword currently shares the gospel in 135 languages in 125 countries around the world. Our goal is to reach 200 languages in the next 5 years. We are well on our way to reaching that goal. Lifeword never asks for funding over the air - we are totally supported by the generosity of churches and individual donors.

The tools and technology of media are excellent avenues for us to cross borders and cultures to bring hope to people desperate to know Him. Lifeword seeks to share Jesus in the heart languages of those viewing or listening to our message. There is no place we are not willing to go. Our mission is to take the gospel to every tribe, every tongue, every culture, every race, in every nation.

Registration for Lifeword Sunday is now open at www. lifeword.org/lifeword-sunday. Every church who registers will have their pastor entered into the Lifeword Sunday Giveaway which is a free MacBook Air!

We would love the opportunity to share what God is doing through Lifeword. If your church would like to schedule Donny or another team member to come for a visit, you can contact Jennifer at jennifer@lifeword.org.



# HFAITH

# Ministry Adjustments

### By LARRY BARKER

All living things, including your church progress through predictable stages of growth and decline. Churches are living things. The Bible calls the church a body. Colossians 2:19 says, "He doesn't hold on to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, develops with growth from God." A body can be healthy or unhealthy, in shape or out of shape, growing or shrinking, thriving or dying. The lifespan of a church is determined by many factors but is greatly impacted by the strength and foresight of its leadership.

There are many skillsets that are useful to leaders and churches. First, are you listening to the Lord's directions? Is every move you make God-initiated? Second, are you determined to continue and endure hardships as good soldiers of the Lord? Third, are you willing to make whatever changes He instructs you to make? Are you willing for those adjustments and changes to begin with you? In most churches, the growth of the church is directly related to the growth of the leader. God is far more interested in the work He is doing in you than through you. Make sure you are growing as a child of God and as a leader.

Jesus challenges seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3 to renewal and revival. He emphasized the need for consistent Biblical evaluation to assess if the church is on the right track and what adjustments might need to be made. Repentance is key to the process and that requires constant confession of sin in our individual lives and in the life of your church. Are there any barriers or obstacles in your life or in your church that are holding back the manifest presence of the Lord? Many churches have allowed strongholds to be established and to remain that hold back the presence of the Lord.

Revelation 3:17 is very sobering, "Because you say, 'I'm rich; I have become wealthy and need nothing, and you don't know that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked."

Bob Roberts Jr. states this, "There is only one thing worse than God's judgment on the church, and that is His absence from it'

J. Oswald Sanders put it this way, "We are at this moment as close to God as we really choose to be." What adjustments do you need to make for revival to begin in your heart and life? What adjustments does your church need to make for God's manifest presence to return?

In Presence Centered Church, Bill Elliff asks you to consider what kind of letter would Jesus write to your church? What would he point out? "Your humility or your pride? Your generosity or your materialism? Your brokenness or your stubbornness? Free-flowing forgiveness or judgmental unforgiveness? Holiness or immorality? Surrendered, willing service or selfishness? Edifying words or gossip and slander? Unconditional acceptance of others or proud prejudice? A burden for the lost or self-absorbed inwardness? Courage to follow Christ at any cost or fearfulness and timidity?" Go ahead and answer.

Where are you and where is your church in these areas? These are heart issues and must be addressed with a Biblical prescription. Here are five ways God will work on your heart and the heart of your church. Lead your church to becoming others centered by focusing on Philippians 2:3-4. Build courage and Holy Spirit led risk by living by 2 Timothy 1:7. Allow God to mold you into the leader He desires you to be by focusing on 2 Timothy 3:6-4:2. Build up your confidence by trusting in Romans 5:3-5. Then, ask Him to give you a heart for lost people like we see in John 3:16-17.

Most of all trust in the power of the Holy Spirit and His word (Jeremiah 23:29 and Hebrews 4:12-13). Be in the word and increase your time in the scriptures. Without knowing the scriptures and without having the text in your heart (Deut. 6:6) it is very difficult (virtually impossible) for the Holy Spirit to move you to make the right decision. This is especially true during temptation, points of pain, and when conflict is occurring in the church. If your people do not know the Word of God and have the Word of God in their hearts then they might have one hour of inspiration on Sunday morning with seven days of temptation in between.

Preach the Word which is a message of truth and grace. Bill Elliff states well, "Never underestimate the power of persistent preaching filled with truth and grace." He continues, "If you are a pastor, take your preaching seriously and approach it prayerfully. God knows what the people need. Let Him say what He desires." Allow your preaching to be personal and transparent by sharing your struggles and challenges. People relate well to your spiritual growth and journey in the same way you look to those who have gone before you. Do not be afraid to be transparent of how the Word is shaping and molding you.



Your preaching should not be just academic. The goal is not information transfer but life transformation. Paul shared his challenges very openly and you should consider allowing your people to see yours as well. Romans 15:4 says, "For whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that we may have hope through endurance and through the encouragement from the Scriptures." How has your faith increased? What experiences did God use to increase your faith? How have you struggled with forgiveness and what has God shown you about the importance of forgiving others? Be scriptural and be real!

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.



# Healthy Church Solutions.org sponsors Re:Charge Leader's Conference in September

### By HOLLY MERIWEATHER

BMA Global Missions Center

Re:Charge, a pastor and church leaders conference, is coming up September 27-29 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. The Healthy Church Solutions.org team is excited about this opportunity for ministry leaders to break away and get re-energized. Sometimes, to get refocused we need to draw apart alone. Other times we need to be with colaborers and be reminded of the strengthening power of God's Word, the effectiveness of prayer, the encouraging element of iron sharpening iron, and the joy of fellowship and laughter.

We aren't designed to do ministry alone, and Re:Charge aims to be a retreat where leaders can plug in anew, fix our gaze afresh on Jesus, and be reminded there are others who have been where we are and can cheer us on in the race. It's no surprise that pastors and ministry leaders need encouragement, especially over the last two years as we have continued to navigate COVID, decision fatigue, polarized viewpoints of all sorts, grief over many not returning to in-person church, and even the loss of loved ones.

David Kinnaman of Barna Group says, "We started seeing early warning signs of burnout among pastors before COVID. Now . . . pastors are experiencing significant burnout, driving them to seriously consider leaving ministry."

Recent Barna polls state that nearly two in five pastors have considered quitting full-time ministry in the past year, and nearly half of that number are leaders under age 45. Equally alarming is to note that statistic is up nine full points from the beginning of 2021.

Another issue facing the church is the loneliness epidemic, which has only exacerbated over the last two years. Barna states that one in five practicing Christians admits to feeling lonely each day. Comparing Christians to non-Christians doesn't show much of a difference in this saddening trend. In fact, there is also research to show that few men actually have a close best friend.

An awareness of these stats and having conversations with leaders in our work that backs these reports is part of the vision behind hosting Re:Charge Conference. We want

to pour into leaders who are wearing many hats and are weary or getting weary. We want to come alongside these leaders and their spouses and help them have a reset.

David Kinnaman also says, "More than ever, the church needs resilient leaders who are humble, agile, rooted in prayer and who are committed to being healthy as an essential aspect of effective leadership."

We couldn't agree more. Healthy churches require healthy leaders!

This year at Re:Charge we'll worship together with Travis Sellers, hear from seasoned pastor and author Bill Elliff on recharging through prayer, learn through breakouts for guys and ladies, enjoy a buffet meal and entertainment by comedian Brad Stine, have opportunities to explore Hot Springs, attend game nights onsite (sponsored by *Baptist Trumpet*), and soak up some precious fellowship.

For more information and to register today go to https://bmaamerica.org/recharge/. We can't wait to see you there!



### **HEAVEN IS A FREE GIFT!**

It is not earned or deserved. No amount of e ort or good works can earn a place for you in heaven. Why?

Because . . .

### MAN IS A SINNER.

"For all have sinned . . ." (Rom. 3:23) Because of this, man cannot save himself.GOD.On the one hand, God is merciful and does not want to punish us. Yet God is just and must punish sin. God solved this problem for us in the Person of . . .

### **IESUS CHRIST.**

He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and rose from the grave to purchase a place for us in heaven—"the Lord has laid on Him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:6).

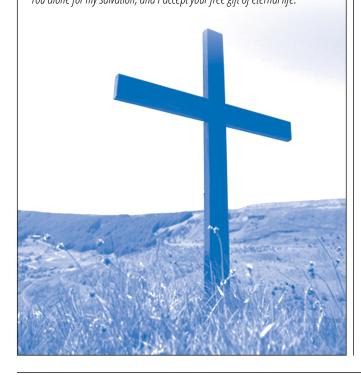
### THE GIFT IS RECEIVED BY FAITH.

Saving faith is trusting in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life. It means resting on Christ alone and what He has done, rather than what you or I have done to get us into heaven. "Believe on (or trust in) the Lord Jesus *Christ and you will be saved"* (Acts 16:31).

### SO MAY WE ASK . . .

Have you received God's free gift of eternal life?The Bible assures us in 1 John 5:13 that we can know we have eternal life.

Do you know for sure that you are going to heaven when you die?The Bible says, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." If you are willing to repent (turn away from your sin and to the Lord Jesus) you can receive the free gift of eternal life by simply praying:Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner and do not deserve eternal life. But I believe You died and rose from the grave to purchase a place in heaven for me. Jesus, come into my life, take control of my life, forgive my sins, and save me. I am now placing my trust in You alone for my salvation, and I accept your free gift of eternal life.



# GOD'S GIFT Everlasting Smiles: Target Ukraine



### By ANGELA RICE

BMA Global Missions Center

The devastation and destruction experienced in the lives of Ukrainians this past year has changed their lives forever. Our prayer is that through Everlasting Smiles, not only will the shoeboxes bring a smile to a child's face but also bring hope to a parent's heart. Seeing their children happy brings a smile to faces and hearts that need it. Through giving out Christmas boxes to Ukrainians this year, we have a great opportunity to share the gospel with families that are in desperate need of hope . . . the hope that is offered through Jesus that helps us build relationships and connect people to our churches.

- Larry and Tammy Wood, BMA Missionaries to Ukraine and Czech Republic.

This year, more than ever, we are excited to send our Christmas shoeboxes. We just finalized with Larry and Tammy Wood that shoeboxes will go to Ukraine and surrounding countries housing Ukrainian refugees. Can you imagine children receiving boxes full of gifts after what they have had to face? Can you imagine how much it will mean to parents who have been through so much sadness to see the excitement in their child's eyes?

In each shoebox, there are many fun things children will enjoy. They are also packed with a lot of love, and many prayers are prayed over them. But the most important thing we can give any child is the opportunity to know Jesus. Our prayer is that through the ministry of Everlasting Smiles, we will open doors for our missionaries to tell families about Jesus and that the Bible inside each box will bring them closer to Him. For more information including packing instructions, visit bmamissions.org/christmas-shoeboxes.

**Donations:** Want to make a donation for us to pack boxes for you? We can do that! The cost of each box is \$25. This includes the box, wrapping, gifts, Bible, and shipping costs.

Send your donation to Everlasting Smiles, PO Box 878 Conway, AR 72033.

**Drop-off information:** We are thankful that we now have four regional drop-off stations for your boxes. Local drop-off stations at churches listed on our website (bmamissions.org/ chiristmas-shoebox) are still accepting boxes, but we have added additional ones. These stations will serve the same purpose as our Conway location: to pack your shoeboxes and get them ready for shipping. Regional stations will deliver your boxes to the Conway office ready for shipping. What a blessing!

Here is a list of regional and local drop-off stations:

BMA America Office, 611 Locust Street, Conway, AR 72034. Contact: Angela Rice, 214-498-3041

Prospect Baptist Church, 1603 Hwy 349, Jonesboro, AR 72401. Contact: Theresa Book, 870-598-4908 or Mike Book 870-598-7232

### **MISSISSIPPI:**

Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 Hwy 15 N. Laurel, MS 39440. Contact: Anderle Foster, 601-344-8656

Fellowship Baptist Church, 992 FM 1520, Pittsburg, TX 75686. Contact David Kizer, 903-767-1151

Please contact your drop-off station and set a drop-off time. This speeds up the drop-off process. We appreciate you so much for your involvement in this ministry. If you have questions, please reach out to Angela Rice, angela@ bmamissions.com or 214-498-3041.



# When Godly women get together great things happen!

### **By GLENDA CHAMBERLAIN**

Don't miss an exciting, gospel-centered, worshipful, engaging experience for women of all ages, at the 2022 Ladies Retreat in Brownsboro. Women from across our great state will gather Aug. 26-27 for "Everybody, Everywhere Needs Jesus' retreat. You'll dive into scripture with keynote speaker Judy Biggers from Arkansas, she'll have you laughing and crying from the stories she'll share. You'll grow in your knowledge of who God is, laugh and fellowship with friends, and leave invigorated to follow God's calling for your life.

Diana Morris, Texas WMA 2nd vice president, will have wonderful workshops for the retreat. Workshops include a roundtable discussion on children's ministry; BMMI Missions; Our Church and Our Community Impact; Christmas Shoebox Ministry; how to study your Bible; plus, fun classes on painting and flower arranging (there is an additional cost to cover supplies for the take-home

Things will kick-off Friday evening at 6 p.m. with fun, informative workshops. The workshops will continue Saturday, beginning at 8:30 am, registration will begin 30 minutes prior on both days.

You have an opportunity to bring items to fill 200 Everlasting Smiles Christmas Shoeboxes. The shoeboxes will be sent to Ukraine refugee centers across Europe. For a complete list of items needed for the shoeboxes go to www.bmamissions.org/ christmas-shoeboxes/. Toothbrushes and activity booklets are already supplied, but many other items are needed.

A fun silent auction will be held to raise funds for South Asia Missions. You'll find treasures to bid on that your friends bring to auction, such as: baked or canned goods, home décor, household items, craft items, jewelry, gift baskets and more. Over 150 ladies will be ready to out-bid you on a fun silent auction, bring your checkbook and let's have a great time while raising money for South Asia Missions.

Retreat will be held Friday evening, Aug. 26 and Saturday, Aug. 27 at Union Hill, Brownsboro. The cost for the retreat is \$45. You can find all the information at www.texaswma.com, click on the events tab. Be sure to register soon by contacting Diana Morris at grammydi1013@msn.com or call

903-288-7575, and then you can pay at the door. Make plans to attend, you will be blessed.

### **DISTRICT NEWS**

Liberty District WMA met at Rosewood, Gilmer July 9. The meeting was called to order by President Teresa Gipson with scripture reading from Colossians 3:14 -16 and an opening prayer.

Welcome was offered by Ms. Roxanne O'Connor. The president led the motto and prayer was then offered by Ms. O'Connor.

The Sunbeams and their sponsors were called on to make their annual presentations. Ms. Shirley Hoffpauir serves as the district Sunbeam director. Their theme this year was "Operation Rescue." The children each recited a favorite verse they had memorized and then the four youngest in attendance sang, "Jesus Wants Me For a Sunbeam." Churches represented included Rosewood, Antioch and Camille Acres. All Sunbeams received awards for their specific achievements. This included two who would be graduating from Sunbeams to GMA and Galileans. Those moving upward received a special scrapbook from Ms. Shirley, which she had prepared for them.

Music for the day was performed by Ms. Johnnie Ross at the piano and Ms. Charlotte Johnson who led in the singing of "Send the Light" while the project offering was received. The offering totaled \$346 and, if my math is correct, we have met the \$2,500 goal. God is good.

The business portion of the meeting included 2022-2023 officer nominations for the district. This motion was accepted as printed with Ms. Roxanne O'Connor being added to the nomination committee. Very few changes were made to the list but as Ann Bergman retires as reporter, your new reporter will be Ms. Bettye Wilson with Ms. Melissa Haley as assistant. Project Promotion Team will be Ms. Sarah Low, Ms. Doris Allen and Ms. Glenice Whitaker.

Prayer was led by Pastor Charles Johnson.

We sang "The Old, Old Story" led again by Ms. Charlotte Johnson and Ms. Johnnie Ross while the regular district offering was taken. Ms. Charlotte put out an urgent plea for help with our State project - the Daniel Springs pool replacement fund. They are in desperate need of funds to replace the pool before the current one collapses and causes a disaster. If anyone can help, it would be very much appreciated. Send your donation to Charlotte Johnson, Liberty District Project, 1044 S. Mimosa Rd., Gilmer, TX 75644

The GMA's annual report came next presented by Ms. Mellissa Henry and Ms. Tami Blackburn.

The theme was 'Whatever is true" and "Be good, noble and true." The young ladies represented Rosewood, Antioch and Camille Acres churches. Each one recited their favorite verse. It was reported several of these young ladies are officers in both Texas and National GMA.

There were eight Galileans present and the Assistant Director. They reported on their camp in June and encouraged parents to bring your boys to attend meetings and to join them.

Ms. Johnnie Ross was in charge of the Installation of Officers. She has selected as the theme for next year, "Survival Compass", with an emphasis on "Search for True North." Each new officer was gifted with a small compass on a key chain.

There were 48 in attendance, banner went to Antioch. Meeting places for the new year was decided: October - Antioch; January - Latch; April - Fellowship/Pittsburg; July - Rosewood.

Closing prayer and lunch blessing was offered by Ms. Charlotte Johnson. The Rosewood ladies served a delicious spaghetti lunch with all the trimmings plus an array of scrumptious desserts.

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.





# Our God Saves

### By JORDAN M. TEW

"Dear Jesus, I am a sinner, save me!" Many men, women, and children have said those words. There is a profound sense of faith and repentance within such a prayer. When people pray like this, they are expressing their desire to be saved by God. The good news is that our God saves.

I am reminded here of the words of the apostle Paul who said, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief (1 Tim. 1:15)."

I also think of the confession of the thief on the cross who acknowledged his sin and expressed his faith in Jesus Christ as he said, "And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom (Luke 23:41-42)." The good news is that Jesus saved Paul and He certainly remembered that thief upon the cross!

Dear believers, may we remember in these dark and trying times that our God saves. He will save the worst of sinners and the "best" of sinners. He will save young and old. He will save black and white. Jesus Christ will save anyone who calls upon His name in faith. The Gospel is a wide net that will catch many souls out of sin and death. The power of the Gospel is the blood of Christ, which is shed to save whosever would believe upon Him. This is the hope of mankind and the driving force of the Great Commission. The proclamation of the Gospel is the primary focus of the local church.

It seems many people seek to complicate the Gospel nowadays by appealing to various systems, labels and ideologies. I must confess, I've been guilty of this myself in days past. However, I believe that we would be wise to focus on the beauty and the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We must preach it to the nations, proclaim it in our churches, and pour it into our homes. May we remember the simple, yet powerful message of the Gospel—our God saves.

Recently, I heard the wonderful testimony of a Sunday school teacher who saw one of his students come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ through studying God's Word using the Baptist Expositor (BMA Sunday school curriculum). The evangelization of the lost and the discipleship of the saved are our two main goals at the Baptist Publishing House. The Bible makes it clear that our God saves. I am thankful for the saving power of God's Word!

If you are reading this and you are not a follower of Jesus Christ, I invite you to confess your sin, turn away from it, and trust in Jesus Christ alone to be your Savior. He will not turn you away. He will welcome you with grace, mercy, and love.

Jordan M. Tew is the executive director of Baptist Publishing House. Contact him at P.O. Box 279, Jacksonville, Texas 75766, 800-333-1442 or baptistpublishing@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.baptistpublishinghouse.com.



# Solomon and Morality

### By JOHN M. ADAMS, D.MIN.

"The Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem. And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven; this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith. I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit. That which is crooked cannot be made straight, and that which is wanting cannot be numbered" (Ecclesiastes 1:12-15).

Have you struggled with misplaced pursuits in life? Does your life lack the meaning and purpose you desire? Hear the words of Solomon, and let them encourage you to place your trust solely in the Lord.

We all desire meaning in life. Often, this search takes us along winding paths filled with satisfaction that shine bright for a time but eventually fades. It's satisfying to see this from reading the pages of this book. We relate to the journey of Solomon because, for so many of us, it is our own. When we attempt to find meaning in the pursuit of pleasure, in commitment to a job, or by intellectual depths, we all eventually find each of these pursuits to be a dead end.

Ecclesiastes shows us a man who lived through this process and came out on the other side with a wiser, more seasoned perspective. Surrounded by the temptation to proclaim life's ultimate emptiness, we find in Ecclesiastes a worldview tempered by experience and ultimately seen through colored lenses. Life is destined to remain unsatisfying apart from our recognition of God's intervention. We must choose whether or not we will place our trust in His sure and able hands.

Scholars, writers even from Wikipedia disagree about the themes of Ecclesiastes: whether it is positive and lifeaffirming or deeply pessimistic; whether it is coherent or



incoherent or insightful or confused, whether the ultimate message of the book is to copy the wise man or to avoid his errors. At times, he "doubted every aspect of religion, from the very ideal of righteousness, to the traditional idea of divine justice for individuals." The Talmud even suggests that the rabbis considered censoring Ecclesiastes due to its seeming contradictions. One suggestion for resolving the contradictions is to read the book as the record of Ecclesiastes quest for knowledge. It is only at the conclusion that the verdict is delivered. (Copied)

The subjects of Ecclesiastes are of pain and frustration. In the morality of Solomon, he meditates pervading the world, the uselessness of human ambition and the limitations of worldly wisdom. The phrase "under the sun" appears twenty-nine times in connection with these observations. This coexists with a firm belief in God, whose power, and life, without the sun, has no meaning or purpose; the wise man and the man who does not study wisdom will both die and be forgotten; man should be reverent ("Fear God"), but in this life it is best to simply enjoy God's gifts.

"Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools; for they consider not that they do evil" (Ecclesiastes 5:1).

Dr. John M. Adams is the executive director of BMAA Moral Action. Contact him at Moral Action -BMA of America, P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, Mississippi 38855 or visit www.macbma.net for more information.



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### BMA Texas Missions cont.

### **RUDY VILLAREAL** SAN ANTONIO MISSION RVILLARREAL1@GMAIL.COM

My wife has had the opportunity to connect with several women and is starting a women's group this month. One connection she made led us to go over for coffee and share the gospel with a lady and her husband. They both grew up Catholic and were unsure if they were to die if they would go to Heaven. They felt



great guilt over their sin and worried about purgatory. As I shared the gospel, they became incredibly joyful to know that because of Jesus' finished work on the cross, through our repentance He is faithful to forgive (1 John 1:9). I shared that we are sinners, but eternal life is a free gift because of Jesus

They are grateful because they have been searching for a church home. They want to know more about God. We also came in contact with an elder and his wife of a huge church that has unfortunately drifted toward liberalism in very obvious ways. They have been praying about what God would have them do, and feel as though possibly meeting us, it is an answer to prayer. They know of several families who are thinking about leaving their church and did not know where to go. We are loving on this family and encouraging them to be bold, but to speak the truth in grace. Thank you for all you do, we love you, and are grateful for your support and prayers!

Prayer Needs: Pray for those we have shared the gospel with and that the Lord will continue to be gracious to send more people. Pray for our women's group that is starting, that women would be blessed and built up in the Lord. Pray that our Bible study gets off the ground this week as well. Pray that the Lord gives me wisdom as I talk with those disillusioned because of progressive teachings in their church. Pray for this area, Helotes, in San Antonio. There is a great need for a Bible-believing, Bible-teaching, Godglorifying church here and our hearts have grown even more burdened for this city. Pray that the Lord sends laborers to partner with us in this ministry.

### **RONNIE MILLS**— KINGDOM CHAPEL IN FT. WORTH MILLS.RONNIE84@GMAIL.COM

The Lord has been so good to us. We continue to press forward in the mission as He has and is sustaining us. We were blessed to take students to summer camp for the second year in a row, and the Lord blessed with six professions of faith and two surrendered to missions.

Prayer Needs: Please continue to pray for our success and a young church family.

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

As the summer comes to an end, we are looking forward to and



Prayer Needs: Please pray for RHC as new students come back from both the seminary and TCU that the Lord would help us faithfully serve them well in the Gospel.

families in the coming months.

**REDEMPTION BAPTIST IN FT. WORTH** 

BRAD@REDEMPTIONHILLFW.ORG

**BRAD HOLCOMB**-

and rhythm this year.

praying over the opportunities we will have over the

next couple of months to show the love of Christ to our

community. Even though the past couple of months have

been filled with challenges, I am looking forward to what lies

Prayer Needs: Pray for us as we work on reaching more



▲ Brad Holcomb

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.





### **ANN PUGH**

Ann Langley Pugh, 88, passed away Aug. 4, 2022. She was born Sept. 16, 1933. Mrs. Pugh was married to Pastor Tommy Pugh until he passed away in 2007. During this time, they served Jesus together at many different BMA churches across Texas and in



New Mexico. Mrs. Pugh served at each location in many different capacities, from pianist to Sunday school teacher to VBS coordinator. She was an integral part of the Women's Missionary Auxiliary. Funeral services were held at Red Springs, Lindale Aug. 7. Donations may be sent to the Texas Baptist Home for Children, P.O. Box 309, Waxahachie, TX 75168 or Hospice of East Texas.

# **2022 RE:CHARGE LEADERS OASIS**

**DATE:** Sept. 27-29, 2022

**PLACE:** The Hotel Hot Springs, Hot Springs, Arkansas WEB LINK: https://bmaamerica.org/recharge/

### **2022 BMA OF TEXAS MEETING**

**DATE:** Nov. 7-8, 2022

PLACE: First Baptist Church, Livingston

### 2022 NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

**DATE:** Nov. 15-17, 2022

PLACE: Chateau on the Lake, Branson, Missouri

### 2023 BMA OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING

**DATE:** April 17-19, 2023

PLACE: Antioch Baptist Church, Conway, Arkansas **HEADQUARTERS HOTEL:** To be decided

**DATE:** July 3-5, 2023

PLACE: Gaylord Texan, Grapevine, Texas

PASTOR—Elwood, Wills Point is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to P.O. Box 536, Wills Point, Texas 75169 or to billypolege@ yahoo.com or call Billy Polege at 214-536-5795.

ABS DIRECTOR—The Association of Baptist Students at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches is seeking a director of student ministries. It is a part-time position and membership in a local church is requested. If you are interested send resume to Absnac.210@gmail.com.

PASTOR-Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden (Alba) is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to jesmith\_1956@yahoo.com. 10/22

YOUTH PASTOR/MINISTER—New Harmony, Tyler is seeking a fulltime youth director/minister. Send resume to the church at 10251 FM 724, Tyler, Texas 75704 or to Russ Jackson at rgjackson63@ vahoo.com. TEN

YOUTH/STUDENT MINISTRY—Afton Grove, Jacksonville is seeking a biblically qualified candidate. This is a bivocational position. We are looking for a minister with a heart for God, a heart for students and who is ready to plunge into the work. The candidate will love the Lord and love and lead our students in a growing relationship with Jesus. Please send your resume to Eddie Richardson at fasteddie999elr@amail.com. TEN

PASTOR—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a pastor. Send resume to 148jimmysealy@gmail.com or to FMBC, Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346. TEN

# **Pastor&sta**

HERSHALL GARNER is the new pastor of Bethel, Orange.



▲ Ronnie Mills



▲ Robert Lee



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### For more information, visit bmla.org.

If you are ready, you may apply for a loan online at bmla.org. 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 425, Waxahachie, Texas 75168 www.bmla.org

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