

Baptist Progress

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Changes coming for BMA of Texas annual session

By **JERRY FULTON**

Baptist Progress Editor

When the BMA of Texas meets for its annual session at Farley Street, Waxahachie in November, the meeting will be different than those before. BMA of Texas officers and department directors have decided to start the meeting a day early in order to include the *Baptist Progress Ministry Connection Conference* as part of the annual session.

The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 14 with a celebration video of what the Lord has done through the BMA of Texas during the 2015-2016 associational year. President Wes Pratt, pastor of Northside, Conroe, will deliver the president's message that coincides with the meeting's theme, *Follow Jesus, Focus on Others* prior to the Ministry Connection Conference that will begin at 2 p.m.

Exciting speakers including Jerry Jolly, pastor of Fairview, Jonesboro, Ark.; Dr. John Bisagno, former pastor of First, Houston and Jonathan Falwell, pastor of Thomas Road, Lynchburg, Virginia, will preach throughout the day. A question and answer session concerning general ministry topics will be included in the day's events, with Jolly, Bisagno, Falwell and others serving on the panel.

National recording group, *Brian Free and Assurance* will sing at 3 p.m. and perform a full concert at 7 p.m.

The BMA of Texas WMA will meet Tuesday morning, Nov. 15. The annual leadership conference will be held at the same time, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. This year's leadership conference will focus on Hispanic ministries in Texas.

Later in the day, there will be breakout sessions on web/social media, pastoral health, church revitalization and missional churches. Reports from departmental leaders will be briefer than normal and include exciting videos.

The evening session will include a concert by the Jacksonville College Choir and the annual message, preached by David Snelson, pastor of Landmark, Cushing. A missionary commissioning service for BMA of Texas Missions will be held at the conclusion of the meeting.

Worship and workshops will be the highlight of the 2016 BMA of Texas Annual Session. All churches are strongly encouraged to send messengers. It's going to be a great time!



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Changes coming for *Baptist Progress*

By **JERRY FULTON**

The newspaper industry has seen a lot of changes over the past 15 or so years with the advent of the Internet. The way people communicate has changed drastically with advances in technology—email, texts, websites and more. Newspapers across America have experienced large decreases in their amount of subscriptions, reduced the number of times they publish and some have even closed.



▲ Jerry Fulton

To add to the new way of communicating, paper and postage costs have continued to increase. With the changes in communication and the cost of paper and postage, adjustments have to be made. The old adage is true, “Money doesn’t grow on trees.”

For years, Baptist Progress has appealed to our readers to switch from a print subscription to an email subscription. With email subscriptions, there is no paper or postage costs, and with email subscriptions costing less, the subscriber, churches on the church plan and Baptist Progress all benefit.

In an attempt to encourage more readers to switch to an email subscription, we are now offering a two for one deal. All current mail subscribers who wish to try the email subscription can receive our publication by mail and email, with no extra charge for the email subscription.

Also, to cut costs, Baptist Progress trustees will recommend that Baptist Progress move from printing two 12 page issues per month to printing one quality 16 page paper per month. Of course, those who subscribe by email will still receive news alerts, the Ministry Connection newsletter, e-News Updates and more news.

If you wish to receive up-to-date news, almost as it happens, your best option is to become an email subscriber. Email subscriptions deliver the paper digitally, as it appears in print.

Pastors are urged to lead their church plan subscribers to switch from print to email subscriptions now. Again, current print subscribers may also try the email version of Baptist Progress for free before switching to an email subscription.

Other changes will be made to our budget in order to save money in the 2016-2017 associational year. If approved, changes will become effective following the BMA of Texas Annual Session in November.

Baptist Progress

MINISTRY • CONNECTION

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCE

Baptist Progress Ministry Connection Workshops

Intentional Interim Pastor & Pastor Search Team Training

WHEN: Thursday, August 25; 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: BMA of Texas Building, Waxahachie

WHO: Dr. Mike Smith, president, Jacksonville College, Jacksonville

Transitioning to Small Groups

WHEN: Thursday, Sept. 22, 2016; 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: BMA of Texas Building, Waxahachie

WHO: Dr. Blanton Feaster, education pastor, Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie

Understanding Generations

WHEN: Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016; 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: BMA of Texas Building, Waxahachie

WHO: Jerry Burnaman, manager, Baptist Missionary Loan Association

Baptist Progress Ministry Connection Conference

Baptist Progress & Ellis-Hill Baptist Association Ministry Connection Conference

WHEN: Monday, Nov. 14, 2016

WHERE: Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie

WHO: Brian Free & Assurance in Concert;
Speakers include Jonathan Falwell, John Bisagno and Jerry Jolly

To register for any of the workshops or the conference above, please go to <http://www.baptistprogress.org/registration.html>, email editor@baptistprogress.org or call 972-923-0756. The conference and all workshops are free, but registration is required. Seating is limited, so reserve your place today!

BMA of America News

The National Brotherhood's Projects

By **RICHEY HESTER**

National Brotherhood Editor and Promoter

Hello to all the Brotherhood men. I hope all is well with your Brotherhood ministry. I pray that our Brotherhoods will grow and spread the Gospel to many men in our communities. The National Brotherhood took on two BMA projects for 2016. They are The Moral Action Agency and The Galileans. I have talked with Dr. Adams of Moral Action. He said they took in many great offerings from the Freedom Sunday offerings. He said offerings are still coming in. The Lord has blessed Dr. Adams and The Moral Action Agency and I ask that we continue to pray for this Agency of the BMA. On May 25-27, 2016, Dr. & Mrs. Adams went to the Watchmen on the Wall National Briefing in Washington, DC. This is presented by the Family Research Council and Tony Perkins. While in DC, Dr. Adams talked with many Senators and Representatives about the importance of putting God back in America. He is planning another trip to Washington, DC to attend the National Prayer Breakfast in February. He has spoken at many local association meetings and will be doing some revivals. He asked that we continue to fund Moral Action.

On June 7-10, 2016, the Galileans attended National Galilean Camp in Gary at Daniel Springs Camp. Campers from Arkansas, Mississippi, & Texas enjoyed their time there. A total of 102 Galileans attended camp this year. Braedon Martin of Bethel Baptist Church in Fulton, MS was selected as Mr. Senior Galilean. Mattox Hendricks of Bethel Baptist Church in Fulton, MS was selected as Mr. Junior Galilean. At the camp they elected new officers. They are President-Cole Crystal/Arkansas, 1st Vice President-Braedon Martin/Mississippi, 2nd Vice President-Jonathon Moore/Arkansas, Secretary-Matthew Burrows/Arkansas, Music-Maverick Hendricks/Mississippi, Historian-Seth McGee/Arkansas, & Pastor-Scott Calvin/Arkansas. These officers will meet at end of July in Ponca, Arkansas. I ask that we all pray for these young men. I ask that all the Local Brotherhoods support the National Brotherhood. God Bless!

Comparative Religions

By **DR. PHILIP ATTEBERY**

BMA Theological Seminary Dean

Who wouldn't want to know more about the many religions out there today? So many people have so many ideas that it's difficult to keep them straight! One religion says this; another says that – sometimes it is just "opposite of what I grew up with!"

BMA Seminary has good news for those who want to explore the other religions and compare them with Christianity. Good news for those who want to learn to distinguish between Christianity and other world religions. This fall our free course will explore many of the new religious movements as well as the older world religions.

This course compares tenets of Christianity with those of major world religions and domestic cults such as: Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Shintoism, Taoism, Judaism, Islam, Mormonism, Christian Science, Seventh Day Adventism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Scientology, and other religions world-wide. Dr. Tony Cleaver will serve as professor for the class.

The course will begin on September 5th and last eight weeks.

TEXTBOOKS

The Holy Bible – Student selected English translation

Handbook of Religion: A Christian Engagement with Traditions, Teachings, and Practices – Terry C. Muck, Harold A. Netland, and Gerald R. McDermott, Baker Academic (ISBN 978-0-8010-3776-4)

Please follow the link below to fill out the registration form.
<http://bmats.edu/other-educational-opportunities/free-courses/>



Lifeword Community Radio reaches unknown village with the gospel

Lifeword
MEDIA MINISTRIES



▲ **Open Door Baptist Church Lifeword Community Radio station, Pandan, Philippines**

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

Lifeword Media Ministries

In early 2014 Open Door Baptist Church in the Filipino village of Pandan began a Lifeword Community Radio station with the help of Lifeword Asia-Pacific. Pandan villagers immediately loved the station, which broadcasts from 5 a.m. until 9 p.m. and provides the only radio service in the area. After several months on air, Lifeword began receiving calls in response to the programs from a place no one had never heard of—a place called Melendrez. Only four miles from Open Door, the village of Melendrez was unknown to the people of Pandan until they called with requests for more information on the Bible.

As soon as they could, Open Door's pastor and a deacon visited the village, bringing transistor radios to distribute and estimating that there were 90 households and 500 hundred people in Melendrez. After that initial visit, they planned to return during Christmas of 2014 and meet more of the people who had been listening to Lifeword.

Loaded with gifts from EIM (Evangelistic International Ministries), the young people from Tanguib Baptist Church in Bacolod City and Open Door Baptist Church in Pandan played games and shared the gospel with the children during the trip. This was the first time they had been visited by any Christian group, and the first time these children ever heard a Bible story or received a Christmas gift.

Pastor Pete (Pedro Etabag, director of Lifeword Asia-Pacific) said, "It is amazing what these small radio stations can do. Even though the signals do not travel a long way, they go places we have never been and reach people we have never met. Open Door Baptist Church was organized in 1978, but this nearby village was not known until the church at Pandan started its radio station. What a great way to reach people and plant churches. Our goal and challenge in the coming years is to use the LPFM Radio (Lifeword Community Radio) to reach more places and then start a mission that will eventually become a church. To God be the glory!"

The work in Melendrez continues to this day with an extension class held every Saturday by leaders at Open Door Baptist Church in Pandan. More young people and adults have been saved and are attending their Sunday worship services as well. Responses to the church's Lifeword broadcast continue, but since they have no available workers to start a new church, new believers attend Open Door Baptist Church. Pastor Pete says that he and other leaders are praying for the Lord to provide trained workers for a church plant in Melendrez. Please join Lifeword in that prayer as well.



Just for Pastors

15 productivity tips for pastors

By **BRANDON HILGEMANN**

The work of ministry is never done. There is always more you could do. More people you could meet with. More sermons to write. More emails to answer. More outreach opportunities.

More. More. More.

Productivity matters for pastors. You will never be able to do everything, but the Bible encourages us to be wise and make the most of our time.

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:15-16 ESV).

Pastors and others who work in ministry will be held accountable for how well we steward the time God has given us.

How are you doing with that?

I have not always been the most productive person. However, in my years of ministry, I have learned a few things along the way that have benefited me.

I wish I had known and practiced these productivity tips earlier. I hope they will help you as well.

1. PRACTICE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

Without exception, begin your day with time in God’s Word and prayer. Disciples are disciplined. You cannot lead your people spiritually if you are spiritually empty.

Prayer and time in the Word is productive. God will always accomplish more in you and through you than you could ever do on your own.

2. EXERCISE REGULARLY

Exercise is proven to increase productivity, especially as you age. You will have more energy. You will feel happier. And you will be healthier.

Exercise also boosts creativity. Pastors must be more conscious of their physical health, and better stewards of the bodies God created for us.

3. DELEGATE, AUTOMATE, OR ELIMINATE?

Look at all the things you have to do this week. Ask, “Can this be delegated, automated, or eliminated?” If you can delegate it, send it someone else’s way. If you can automate it with technology or a template, do that.

If you are honest, a lot of things simply do not need to be done. If it’s a recurring task from a church program or meeting that doesn’t advance the mission of the church, eliminate it. Just say “No.” Stop doing it, and do the things that produce the most fruit.

4. DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITY, NOT TASKS

By far, one of the most productive thing you can do is delegate. You cannot do everything yourself. Don’t even try. You need a team of people and volunteers working together. But many pastors delegate poorly. They just give people a task to do.

Nobody wants to be given someone else’s to-do list. Leaders want responsibility. If you want to build leaders (and keep leaders), you have to give them authority and let them lead. When you delegate to someone, give them responsibility for a certain area.

Be clear with them what the desired outcome is, give them boundaries as needed, and then step away. Don’t tell them exactly what to do or how to do it. Just tell them what they are responsible for, and let them lead. Only come alongside to help if they are struggling or are not achieving the desired outcome.

5. AUTOMATE YOUR APPOINTMENTS

Use a tool like Calendly to set appointment blocks in your schedule. You pick the times when you will be available to meet. People can then look at your open time slots, and book themselves.

This saves the hassle of multiple emails back and forth trying to set a date and time for the meeting. Instead, you just send them a link to your Calendly calendar. The appointment will automatically appear



on your calendar. This is a game-changer for counseling appointments or any other meetings with church members!

6. SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS WITH YOURSELF

If you do not fill your schedule, others will fill it for you. Schedule the most important things first. For example, if you need a few hours every Monday morning to work on your sermon, make a standing appointment for sermon prep every Monday.

Then, when people ask if you can meet at that time, you can look at your calendar and say with integrity, “Sorry, I have an appointment at that time. How about...” Think of all the things you need to do every week, month, or quarter and block time for it.

7. MAKE A DAILY TO-DO LIST

Take Jesus’ advice. Do not worry about tomorrow. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Have a place to write down all the things you need to do in the future. I use Wunderlist.

Constantly looking at this huge list is

overwhelming and unproductive. So each day, write down the 5 most important things you need to get done today. Accomplish these things first. Then, if you have time, move on to other tasks.

8. SET A TIMER FOR YOUR TASKS

Think about how much you get done when you only have a short time to finish it. Setting a timer forces you to focus and work fast. Many people swear by this technique.

Give it a try. Set a timer for 25 minutes and see how many emails you can answer before the buzzer. Think of it as a game, and you will get a lot more done with a lot less wasted time.

9. ONLY TOUCH AN EMAIL ONCE

How many times have you read an email, and clicked the “mark as unread” button? This is procrastination at its worst. You don’t want to write a response, or you don’t know the answer to the question, so you push it off until later. You waste a ton of time re-reading the same email and thinking about it too long.

JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE continued on p. 5



Just for Pastors

15 productivity tips for pastors cont.

Make a rule to only touch a message one time. Do not check your email, unless you plan on answering it. When you do, answer immediately even if the answer is brief. If the response will take too long to write, call the person or set a meeting.

10. GET MORE SLEEP

In our world of smartphones and computer screens, it is easy to stay up late reading one more social media post, answering one more email, or binge watching another show on Netflix. But we cheat ourselves when we cheat sleep.

Sleep is proven to boost productivity. It gives you more energy, increases your brain function, helps you stay more focused throughout the day, and helps you stay emotionally healthy. God created sleep for a reason.

11. TAKE A SABBATH

Working every day is a sin. We wouldn't break any of the other Ten

Commandments. So why do pastors frequently break this one?

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work" (Exodus 20:8-10 ESV).

Clear your schedule one day a week for absolutely nothing. Enjoy your family and activities that give you life. No, Sunday does not count. We all know that pastors do not rest on Sundays. God commanded us to rest for a reason.

12. DRINK COFFEE IN THE AFTERNOON

If you get enough sleep, you shouldn't need an energy boost first thing in the morning. What you need is energy in the afternoon. In fact, research backs this theory based on natural cortisol levels.

Most people start to hit a wall in the afternoon between 1:30 and 5 p.m. That is when a cup of coffee will have the optimal

effect. So find the time of day you are at your worst and drink your coffee then.

13. ORGANIZE YOUR OFFICE

How much time do you waste looking for things? A cluttered office is a cluttered mind. If you cannot see the surface of your desk, you need to get organized. If your computer files are all dumped on the desktop or random folders, you need to get organized.

Create a system, organize your files, throw away things you don't need, and keep your space tidy and clean. You will have less stress, feel better, and get more done working in an organized environment.

14. DON'T GO ALONE

Lead like Jesus. Jesus walked with his disciples everywhere. Every ministry opportunity was also a teaching opportunity. Don't go places alone. Disciple people as you work together.

Always be inviting others to come with you when you have errands, hospital visits, leadership conferences, go out for lunch, or whatever. You will accomplish the task and build a disciple at the same time.

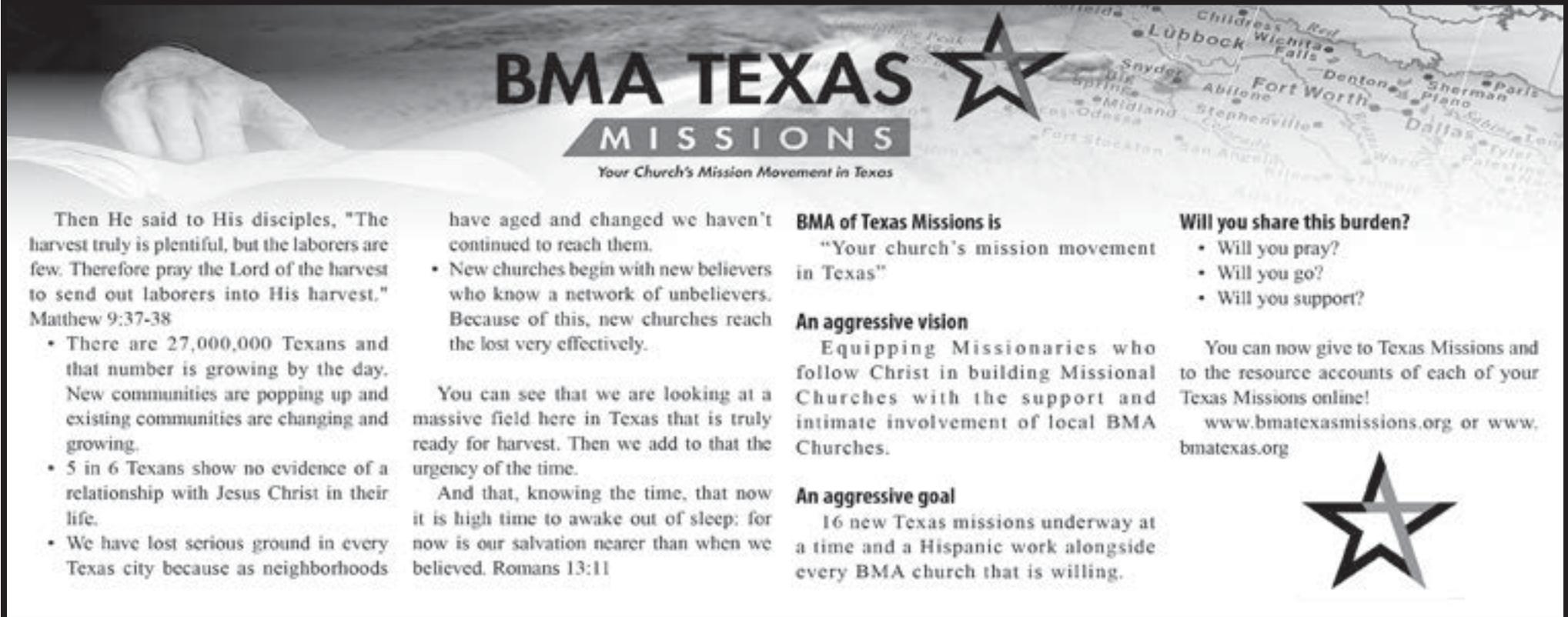
15. PREPARE FOR THE NEXT DAY AT THE END OF EACH DAY

At the end of your day, write down the 5 things you will accomplish the next day. This way, your mind is already prepared for what needs to be done. When you get to the office in the morning, you can hit the ground running.

Also, tidy up your office. Put things back where they belong. File or throw away any loose papers. This will eliminate distraction in the morning because you will come back to an organized and clean space.

These are some tips I have learned, but I am still learning.

Have you tried any of these?
This post was originally published at ProPreacher.com.



BMA TEXAS

MISSIONS

Your Church's Mission Movement in Texas

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Matthew 9:37-38

- There are 27,000,000 Texans and that number is growing by the day. New communities are popping up and existing communities are changing and growing.
- 5 in 6 Texans show no evidence of a relationship with Jesus Christ in their life.
- We have lost serious ground in every Texas city because as neighborhoods

have aged and changed we haven't continued to reach them.

- New churches begin with new believers who know a network of unbelievers. Because of this, new churches reach the lost very effectively.

You can see that we are looking at a massive field here in Texas that is truly ready for harvest. Then we add to that the urgency of the time.

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. Romans 13:11

BMA of Texas Missions is

"Your church's mission movement in Texas"

An aggressive vision

Equipping Missionaries who follow Christ in building Missional Churches with the support and intimate involvement of local BMA Churches.

An aggressive goal

16 new Texas missions underway at a time and a Hispanic work alongside every BMA church that is willing.

Will you share this burden?

- Will you pray?
- Will you go?
- Will you support?

You can now give to Texas Missions and to the resource accounts of each of your Texas Missions online!

www.bmatexasmissions.org or www.bmatexas.org



Texas Baptist Home for Children

Camille Acres, Longview adopts Texas Baptist Home as project

By **EDDIE MARSH**

Texas Baptist Home President

Camille Acres, Longview took Texas Baptist Home for Children as the project for their Vacation Bible School. The funds they raised will go toward school supplies for the children. They sent the beautiful poster on this page that they used during the week.

When we received this I could not resist the opportunity to take a picture with some of our staff standing behind this beautiful poster.

A big word of thanks goes to each church who took the Texas Baptist Home for Children as their project this summer. We are honored by your kindness and confidence.



SOAR 2016 goes global

By **JONATHAN WILSON**

Discipleguide Director of Marketing

On July 6-8, 2016, thousands of students rallied together at SOAR 2016 in Dallas, Texas to learn about God's heart for the nations. Speaker Clif Johnson described God's purpose in blessing His children. Johnson told the students, "You have been blessed to be a blessing to the nations."

Each session was filled with worshipful singing, challenging videos, and biblical teaching. In addition, students received hands-on mission experience in the Global Village exhibit area where they experienced the gospel transforming lives in China, packed Christmas shoeboxes for third-world children, learned about human trafficking, and more. As one student explained, "This week I learned that my life has a purpose greater than myself. I've got to find a way to get involved in God's purpose!"

Over twenty-five students surrendered to missions and five surrendered to ministry during the conference. Many more made professions of faith in their group time.

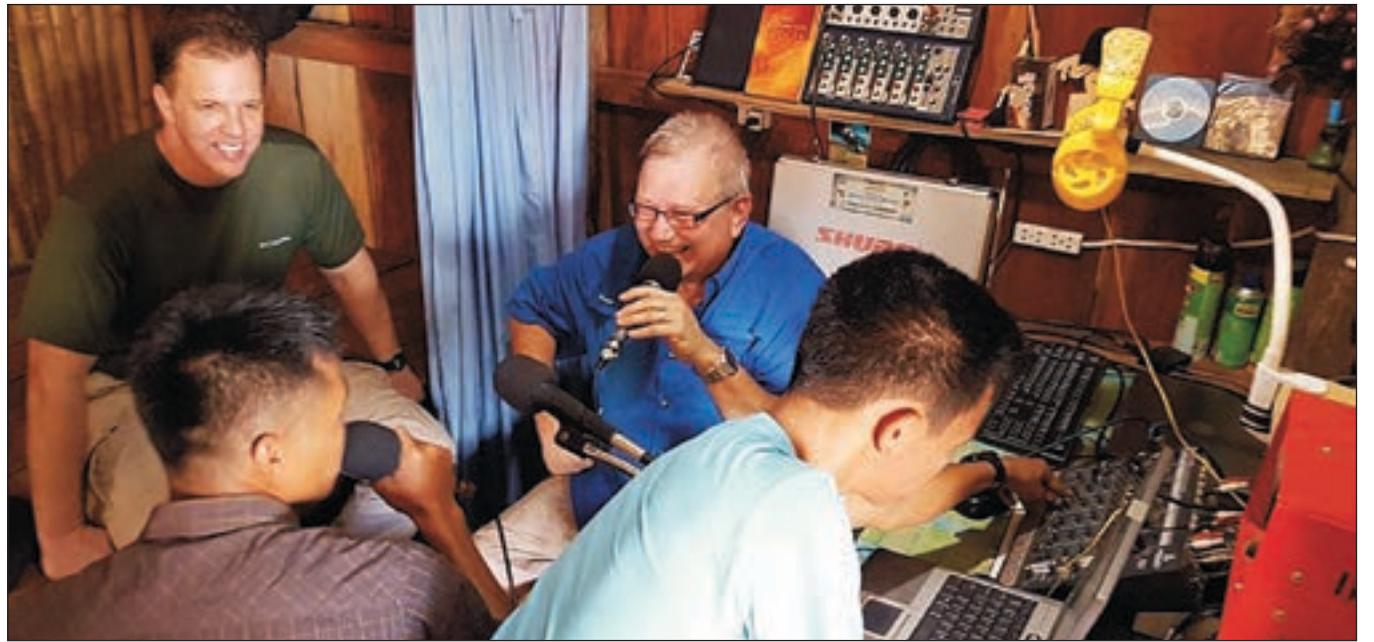
SOAR 2017 will be July 5-7 at the Gaylord Texan Resort with the theme of "Selfless: Love God, Love Others." More information will be released soon at gosoar.com. Also follow @SOARConference on Social Media and download the SOAR Conference app to get all the latest news.



Manara Mountain ministry



▲ LCR Manara—Bro. Berto baptism



▲ LCR Manara—Andrew, Steve, Rick



▲ LCR Manara training by Pete (charging station visible)

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

Lifeword Media Ministries

There are seven billion people in the world today. Two billion of them can hear a Lifeword broadcast through traditional Lifeword “broad”-casting and Lifeword Community Radio “three-to-five-radius”- casting. Covering more territory and more languages is Lifeword’s continued prayer through those gospel programs.

During the 2016 Lifeword Sunday/Walk season, Lifeword Community Radio will be highlighted in the 2016 LWS video and on T-shirts. LCR has been an incredible tool for local communities, churches and pastors to use for outreach, discipleship and teaching. On a recent trip to the Philippines, BMA Productions and Lifeword team members were able to witness a community in the Manara Mountains dedicated to serving and ministering to surrounding villagers...and even multiplying itself.

Pastor Pete (Pedro Etabag, Lifeword’s Asia-Pacific director) and his assistant Pastor Jhun (Santos, Pastor Pete’s son-in-law) drove the team into the mountains two hours from Bacolod City to see the village where LCR station manager Pastor Andrew (Orquita) broadcasts two hours of programming, including twenty minutes of Bible teaching, every day. Pastor Andrew lives on site at the radio station and pastors a church several miles away, but it’s his father-in-law who pastors the

church (Manara Grace) there. What was once Pastor Mario Baroma’s rice storage building has become the radio station, thanks to the efforts of Pastor Pete and his team who made the difficult journey to build and bring power to it.

Radio Manara 90.7 FM advertises one of their most fruitful outreaches during the broadcast: a free battery- and phone-charging station. People come from several kilometers away to use this service, and while they are waiting for their devices and batteries to charge, Pastor Mario of Manara Grace Baptist Church asks them to gather together so he can share the gospel with them.

In the neighboring village of Sinalsagan, a man named Roberto heard about the free charging station, carried his car battery (on his shoulders) that helps to light his home at night and made the twelve kilometer trip that would change his life. While waiting at the station Pastor Mario shared the gospel with him and won him to the Lord. Very excited to share the good news, he then invited Pastor Mario to come to his home and tell his family and relatives about how Jesus died for their sins. Families at Manara Grace began ministering to Bro. Roberto’s family, and they became faithful church members there.

When Pastor Pete received a solar panel, Manara’s power

source for their charging station, he attached it to Bro. Roberto’s home in Sinalsagan. The new charging station is now Sinalsagan Mission, a place where people come to wait for a charge and hear the gospel. The people of Manara had been challenged by their pastor, Bro. Mario, to minister to their neighbors, and thanks to Lifeword Community Radio, they have answered that call to ministry. Pastor Pete says he and his leaders are training “potential leaders (young and old) so they can minister to this new mission that will eventually become a church someday. I never thought that the Low Powered FM radio will do such tremendous job in opening missions and even follow up the believers in a daily basis. I don’t think a missionary can do that alone. LPFM radio is one of God’s important tool to help us spread the Gospel in a wider scale. Help us pray that we can install more of this in many more villages. PRAY, GIVE AND GO!”

On Oct. 23, Lifeword Sunday, be a part of this and other life-changing ministries of Lifeword Media Ministry by registering your church (lifeword.org/lifewordsunday/), planning for Lifeword Sunday and/or a fundraising opportunity for your church. Pastors, if your contribution is sent in before December, you will be a part of the Dec. 14 drawing for a 60-inch TV. For more information, contact holly@lifeword.org.

Church Health

Welcoming Guests

By LARRY BARKER

There has been much discussion and disagreement about welcoming those outside the church into “our” services. The “seeker” service was especially attacked and now many seem to be on the “consumer” bandwagon. While there can certainly be a lot of disagreement about how all of these things should look, it seems there ought to be more common ground based on the church’s purpose rather than focusing on debating the minor details. Here are a few things to ponder as you decide whom you will welcome as guests and how you will welcome them.

First, all must be welcomed. We need genuine and authentic churches that realize that all of us are broken and desperately need to be fixed. Adrian Rodgers said, “We are not a showcase for saints but rather a hospital for sinners.” If not careful, even if unintentional, we can give the air of the Pharisee in Luke 18, “God, I thank you that I’m not like other people...” Then he begins listing all of “their” sins. Several churches advertise that they are a church for people with hurts, habits, and hang-ups! Shouldn’t we all?

One of our church plants states it this way in their core values, “Everybody belongs---people of every color, shape, personality, and story. We believe the church ought to be a home for people of every age, ethnicity, and socio-economic background. We ought to be able to befriend and do life with people who are unique and different than we are.” If our doors are not open for all to attend then we must ask ourselves why our doors are open at all? Luke 14:23, “Go out into the highways and lanes and make them come in, so that my house may be filled.”

Second, guests should be honored as special. The members and the regulars should treat them as the special guests that they are. If they want our seat, they can have it. If they want our parking space, they are welcome to it. If they want on the end of the row, more power to them. We want to greet them with more than a smile and a handshake. We think more highly of them than we think of ourselves as the scripture teaches. We want them to know that they are loved and we are going to roll out the red carpet treatment for them.

We know that in God’s word we are commanded to love our neighbors as ourselves. We also are told that we are to recognize and consider others as more important than ourselves. If we are not careful we can begin to feel entitled because of how long we have been a member and believe that gives us certain membership rights. Listen to what Paul says in Rom. 9:3, “For I could wish to be cursed and cut off from the Messiah for the benefit of my brothers, my own flesh and blood.” Certainly we can give up a few of our fringe benefits for our guests.



Third, let them know that Jesus loves them and so do you! People are longing to know that they are loved and cared for by others. They seem to know that they are not living their lives in a way acceptable to God without us even telling them. Many times I have been told, “You don’t want me coming there, the roof will cave in!” It didn’t! “Your church doesn’t want somebody like me coming there!” Yes, we do because all of us are broken and all of us need God. Another core value of the church plant mentioned above is, “We will do whatever it takes, short of sin, to bring more people to Jesus.”

People are looking for others who genuinely care for them regardless of whether they are in agreement and for those who will love them even when they challenge what we believe and stand for. Regardless of how they dress or look we want to build a bridge to them so that they might realize how much God really does love them. Someone has said, “If you are going to be a bridge, you have to be willing to get walked on!” We need to help others not expecting anything in return. We welcome our guests desiring to help them any way we can so they might know that they are loved for who they are!

Lastly, build a culture of hospitality! Build and train everyone to be on the outlook for guests and to serve them any way they can. Offer to sit with them if they are by themselves. Be ready to show them where they need to go

and help them get acquainted when you get them there. Open the door, share a smile, give them your seat, or whatever other way you need to in order to show them how thankful you are that they decided to attend. Don’t worry about whether they came for the right reason or not because they probably didn’t. Remember, many of us attended initially for the wrong reasons.

People will engage churches for many reasons but they usually stay for one reason; relational connections with Christ and His people. A good friend of mine has said many times, “They may come because of the excitement but they will stay because they are loved.” Once again, if we are not careful, we can seem to only be interested in them for what we can get from them and what they can do for us by boosting our attendance and helping our offerings. Instead, let’s show them what Jesus can do for them and how we can serve them.

Healthy churches welcome their all of their guests!

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.





Auxiliaries

By SHARON COLE

The Sunbeam Houseparty was a success again this year held at Jacksonville College, July 15-16, 2016. The theme this year was "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." A total of 52 Sunbeams and counselors enjoyed a journey to foreign lands "by plane" and all had their passports stamped as they traveled to India, Philippines, Bolivia, France and Honduras. Several churches, districts and individuals were responsible for giving each traveler a guided tour of each country.

We want to especially thank the cafeteria ladies for cooking our meals. Dr. Mike Smith, president of Jacksonville College, always makes us feel welcome and introduced some international students attending the college. We enjoyed singing songs using the rhythm instruments brought by Mrs. Vera Koonce and accompanied by Mrs. LaVerle Spurgeon on the piano. Flags of certain countries and states were carried as the children walked around singing: "Win the Children."

This year's project was Sunbeams in Mexico, raising \$1,149.07 for funds to help churches with Sunbeams program. The following officers were elected for 2016-2017: President-Caleb Kizer; Adult-Sandra Kizer; Secretary-Gene Mathis; Asst. Shawn Norris; Treasurer-Shera Clair; Song Leader-Rebecca Orr; Reporter/Historian-Cayden Koonce; Asst.-Caleb Moy; Adult-Dera Moy; Project Promoter-Lillie Phillips; Adult-Melissa Henry; Asst.-Leila Traylor; Adult-D'Andra Traylor; WebMaster-Alicia Johnson; Advisory Council-Shera Clair, Shawn Norris, Shayna Hall. This coming year's project for 2016-2017 is the BMAA Academy School in India. Next year's theme will be:

"Jesus, Man of Miracles." The theme song will be: "Jesus Is Our Superhero."

Does your church have a Sunbeam program? Or, do you know of other churches in your district that need help organizing? Contact our Texas Sunbeam Promoter who will gladly help in any way you need her: Mellissa Henry, lissadawn3@att.net, 1008 Donald Dr. Longview, TX 75604, 903-472-9920. It is important to plant the seeds of salvation into our children at a young age and teach them God's Word and how to serve Him.

DISTRICT NEWS

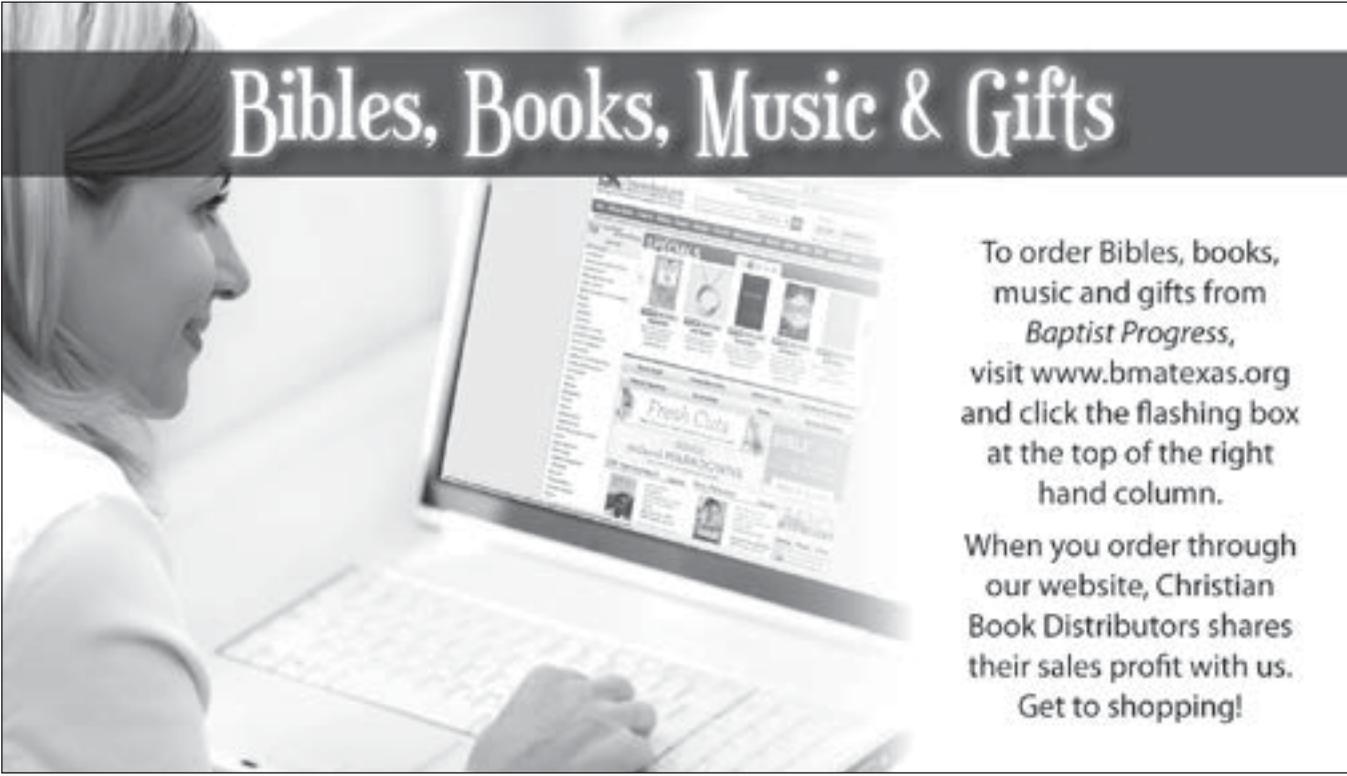
Cherokee District WMA met at First, Jacksonville July 12, 2016. The evening started with a meal of salads prepared by the host church and desserts prepared by Afton Grove, Jacksonville. The outreach for this meeting was Christmas Shoe Boxes. A total of 76 boxes were collected. President Rose Bowen called the meeting to order and after opening exercises, special music: "Sweeter As the Days Go By," was presented by Carol Murph, Lara Smith and Patsy Boyd. Johnnie Ross, Texas WMA 2nd Vice President, reminded everyone of the Women's Retreat being held at Cornerstone, Jacksonville, Sept. 17, 2016. The theme is "Open Homes, Sweet Times, Open Hearts." The installation of officers was conducted by Jannet Autman as follows: President-Cindy Allen, Vice President-Rose Bowen, Secretary/Treasurer-Carol Shine, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer-Shirley McNally, Pianist-Eloise Thomas, Historian-Carleen Thompson. New President, Cindy Allen spoke about what each church can do to help with

the upcoming Women's Retreat. Afton Grove received the attendance banner. A total of 42 were present with 4 visitors. The next meeting will be held at New Summerfield Baptist Church.

Liberty District WMA met at Rosewood, Gilmer, Saturday, July 9, 2016. President Glenda Chamberlain called the meeting to order with a quote from 1 Chronicles 28:20. A total of \$5,305.37 has been collected to date for the tractor project. It was announced that all ladies who wish to participate are welcome to come to Union Hill, Brownsboro Aug. 13, 2016 to make aprons as a fundraiser for the Texas WMA project: a front-end-loader with mower tractor for Jacksonville College. Our district GMA, Sunbeams and Galileans joined the group to receive their annual awards/certificates and promotions. The Sunbeam theme this year was "Mountain Expedition" and they sang: "Go Tell It On The Mountain" to a very appreciative audience. Mrs. Johnnie Ross, Texas WMA 2nd Vice President, installed the new officers and everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch. Liberty WMA will meet at Enon Baptist Church, Gilmer, Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016.

THE TRACTOR SHED SHOPPING SPOT

Ladies, we need your help stocking the Tractor Shed with products to sell! Our project this year is helping purchase a tractor for Jacksonville College and we will be raising money for this project during our Texas Ladies Retreat on Sep. 16-17. We will have our aprons and T-shirts, but would love your items also. Some have suggested jewelry, baked/canned goods, wreaths, candles, ornaments, stockings, etc. What about some of your Pinterest projects? We would also accept items that are not homemade. Some ladies sell items such as beauty products, cleaning products, kitchen baking items, etc. and they would like to donate also. Whatever God might lead you to donate, please feel free to give, but remember, only give God your best and we will not accept well used items like HUSBANDS! We recently had our first Apron Sewing Day and will have our second on Saturday, Aug. 13, at 9 a.m. at Union Hill, Brownsboro. If you are interested please contact Diana Morris at grammydi1013@msn.com or 903-288-7575 so we will know how many to prepare lunch for. You may also set up your own Apron Sewing Day at your church as some have done.



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



EVENTS

AUGUST 25, 2015

Baptist Progress
Ministry Connection Workshop:
Intentional Interim Pastor &
Pastor Search Team Training
WHEN: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
WHERE: BMA of Texas Building,
Waxahachie
WHO: Jerry Fulton, editor,
Baptist Progress, Waxahachie

SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

Texas Women's Retreat
WHEN: 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
WHERE: Cornerstone Baptist Church,
Jacksonville

SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

Pastor Robbie Caldwell's Anniversary
25 years as pastor of New Harmony, Tyler
50 years in the Gospel Ministry
WHEN: 11 a.m. with lunch to follow
WHERE: New Harmony Baptist Church,
Tyler

SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

80th Anniversary Homecoming
WHEN: 9:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
WHERE: Woodland, Gilmer (6049 FM 3358)
WHO: Message by Clayton Dyess
(Dinner at noon in the Fellowship Hall.
Singing by Clayton Dyess, C.L. Nelms
& others, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

Baptist Progress
Ministry Connection Workshop:
Transitioning to Small Groups
WHEN: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
WHERE: BMA of Texas Building,
Waxahachie
WHO: Dr. Blanton Feaster,
education pastor,
Farley Street Baptist Church,
Waxahachie

OCTOBER 20, 2016

Baptist Progress
Ministry Connection Workshop:
Understanding Generations
WHEN: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
WHERE: BMA of Texas Building,
Waxahachie
WHO: Jerry Burnaman, manager,
Baptist Missionary Loan Association

OCTOBER 31, 2016

BMA of Smith County
WHEN: Supper at 6 p.m.,
Meeting at 7 p.m.
WHERE: First Baptist Church,
Omen

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

PASTOR—Center Hill, Oakhurst is seeking a pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 190, Oakhurst, Texas 77359 or chbcpastorsearch@gmail.com.

MUSIC/YOUTH—New Salem, Henderson is seeking a bivocational music/youth minister. Send resume to Chris Proctor, 1105 Moore Street, Jacksonville 75766, chris.proctor@bmat.edu or call 903-284-9023. ^{9/7}

YOUTH/STUDENT MINISTER—New Beginnings, Venus (Johnson County) is seeking a bivocational youth/student minister. Send resume to Pastor Brian Merchant, 628 Cordes Drive, Venus, Texas 76084, pastorbrianmerchant628@gmail.com or call 817-291-6727.

FAMILY PASTOR—Calvary, Fayetteville is seeking a family pastor. Send resume to Kirk Shelton, 1410 N. Porter Road, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72703, pastorkirk@icloud.com or call 479-442-4634.

YOUTH/STUDENT MINISTRY—Calvary, Jacksonville is seeking a youth bivocational youth pastor. Send resume to Michael Mathis at mathi1314@gmail.com or call 903-625-0776. ^{8/3}

ASSOCIATE/STUDENT MINISTRY—LifeHouse Fellowship, Wills Point is seeking to fill the position of Associate/Student Ministry. This is a full time position, part-time possible. Send resume to Tammy Cunningham, P.O. Box 1486 Canton Texas 75103, or lifehousefellowshipnew@gmail.com. For information or questions you can call Mike Stone at 903-279-5868. ^{TFN}

PASTOR—Opelika Missionary, Brownsboro is seeking a pastor. For more information, call 903-469-3692 or 903-515-2288. ^{TFN}

YOUTH—First of Cross Roads, Athens is seeking a full-time youth minister/associate pastor to develop and oversee a program for youth to win the lost to Christ and help Christians mature in Him. Additional responsibilities include aiding the pastor in his duties. Parsonage available. For information or to apply, contact Frank Upchurch at lindaupchurch15@gmail.com. ^{8/3}

PASTOR—Enon, lola is seeking a bivocational pastor. Parsonage available. For information, call 281-731-7850. ^{TFN}

PASTOR—Ashmore, Loop is seeking a pastor (full-time or bivocational). Send resume to Ashmore Baptist Church c/o Tom Ingle, PO Box 346, Loop, Texas 79342, ashmore4u@outlook.com or call Tom Ingle 806-928-8843/Loyd Halbrooks @ 806-759-2095. ^{TFN}

PASTOR—Myrtle Springs, Quitman is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Myrtle Springs Baptist Church, 2185 FM 2225, Quitman, Texas 75783. ^{TFN}

PASTER & STAFF CHANGES

ROBERT CULPEPPER is the new youth pastor at Calvary, Ennis.

TERRY PREWITT is the new youth associate at Calvary, Ennis.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR MARVIN LOYD

The family of Marvin Loyd invites you to celebrate his 80th birthday Saturday, Aug. 27, at First Baptist Church of Cave Springs located at 322 South Main Street, Cave Springs, Arkansas 72718. A come and go reception will be held from 1 - 4 p.m., and a basket will be provided for cards, notes and favorite memories, but no gifts, please. If you're unable to attend but would like to send a card, please send to Marvin Loyd c/o Stella Pimentel, 1880-B South Pleasant Street, Springdale, Arkansas 72764. Please feel free to call me with any questions at 479-305-0521.

CHURCHES IN REVIEW

JULY 17, 2016

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Calvary, Ennis	39	53	
First, Blooming Grove	205		
First, Omen	35	59	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	17	40	
Harvest, Lufkin	55	60	
Jackson, Joaquin	75	139	
Little Flock, Lufkin	11	14	
New Harmony, Tyler	320	430	2 by letter, 1 by baptism
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	43	49	
Rosewood, Gilmer	119	218	2 by baptism
Round Prairie, Fairfield	89	197	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	22	40	2 by letter

JULY 24, 2016

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
First, Blooming Grove	203		
First, Omen	36	65	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	20	36	
Harvest, Lufkin	35	50	
Jackson, Joaquin	66	118	
Little Flock, Lufkin		29	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	16	21	
New Harmony, Tyler	263	348	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	40	43	
Pine Brook, Tyler	34	48	
Piney Creek, Kennard		42	
Rosewood, Gilmer	130	224	2 by letter, 1 by baptism
Round Prairie, Fairfield	89	197	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	21	49	

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

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Sunday School Lessons

Colossians: Completion

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: August 21, 2016

TEXT: Colossians 1:9-20; 2:9

Colossians 2:10 well summarizes the thrust of the powerful little epistle to the Colossians; “And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.”

GETTING INTO THE BOOK

Paul’s letter to the Colossians was one of the “prison letters” This church, as was all the churches in which Paul ministered (although 2:1 indicates he had never visited Colosse) was very dear to his heart. Evidence points to A.D. 60 or 61 being the time of the writing of this epistle. Epaphras, the leader of the church, traveled quite a distance to seek out counsel from Paul because of the false teaching in the church. Jewish legalism (2:16) Oriental Mysticism (2:8) along with Greek philosophy. The church was exposed to components of the same demonic New Age Movement that our society has been inundated with today. The devil has no new tricks — he just repackages them for a later date.

The main theme of Colossians was to unmask false doctrine and to, once and for all, establish the preeminence of Christ and His sufficiency in all things.

His preeminence is showcased in the fact we are “strengthened with His might” (1:6); delivered from the power of darkness; (1:13); redemption through His blood (1:14); He is the Head of the church; (1:18) — just to name a few.

Paul assures the Colossians that the believer in Christ is complete in Him alone and

lacks nothing because “in Him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily” (2:9)

The content of the book can be broken down into at least three major sections: 1. The supremacy of Christ; 2. the believer’s submission to Christ; and (3) refuting false doctrines being taught, along with instructions on Christian living.

APPLICATION

Once we realize the supremacy of Christ in our lives, we will begin to understand that all fullness, all joy, all purpose for living is totally in Him. We need not seek perfection anywhere else — in movements of man, pop-psychology, materialism, or a need to be elevated in life. We are complete in Him. We also learn that faith in Christ alone brings eternal life — not works, or family heritage.

CHALLENGE

In your day-to-day living, before you make your own human reasoning and devices preeminent, stop for a moment, and reflect on the blessed truth from Colossians, that because you are “complete in Him, He is the sole Source to help you make all decisions, or form right opinions. Because you are “complete in Him” you have the God-given ability to draw from His wisdom.

Paul Gauntt is the pastor of First, Palmer. He served for a number of years as the BMA of Texas Department of Church Ministries director. He has served several churches as pastor, and is a correspondent and featured article writer for Baptist Progress. Contact him at pop.gauntt@gmail.com.



1 and 2 Thessalonians 1: Reunion and Reassurance

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: August 28, 2016

TEXT: I Thessalonians 2:19-20; 3:11-13; 4:13-18, 2 Thessalonians 1:3-7, 2:1-5

Thessalonica (Therma which means warm springs) was a very important, strategically located seaport city on the edge of the Aegean Sea. In the Roman Empire, it became the capital of Macedonia. It was a center of commerce, and was a self-governing community and possibly had enough Jews to warrant having a synagogue. (Acts 17:1)

Paul had at least three purposes in mind when he wrote the first epistle to the Thessalonians. He wanted to encourage the Christians there who were making good progress in their new faith. He also wanted to correct misinformation about himself and his fellow missionaries that some of his critics in Thessalonica were circulating. Finally, he wrote to give additional instruction that would contribute to the Thessalonians’ spiritual growth.

A major portion of 2 Thessalonians was dedicated to debunking the troubling false doctrine about the coming of the Lord.

Obviously a false teacher sent a letter to the church, forging Paul’s signature (2:2) telling them that the coming of the Lord had already taken place. The church was fearful they had missed the rapture.

Paul then launches into what this writer believes is one of many evidences in scripture of the validity of the pre-tribulation rapture, saying the day of the Lord will not occur without a “falling away.” Many interpret this

to be a great apostasy in the last days. But all throughout the church age, apostasy has abounded. Juxtaposing the phrase “falling away” with verses 4-8, it appears to be a “catching away” (i.e. the rapture of the saints)

In the immediate verses to follow, Paul explains that the man of sin, who is obviously the antichrist, sets himself up in the temple (2:4) “shewing himself that he is God.” This is the abomination of desolation Christ mentions in his Olivet discourse (Matthew 24:15) and it can only occur after the church is gone. There is a force which withholds the antichrist from being revealed (2:6) That would be the presence of the Holy Spirit in the world through the New Testament saints. The antichrist is being restrained from his onslaught on the world (2:7) but after that restraining Force is removed, the “wicked” will be revealed. And that wicked one will be destroyed by the Word of the Lord when He comes back at the end of the tribulation period to set up His Millennial Kingdom. (Revelation 19:19-20)

PAUL’S WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Paul admonishes the Thessalonians to “stand fast” (2:15) and that Christ, Himself, loves us and has “given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace” (2:16) He says “the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.” (3:2) He also promised that the Lord would “direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.”

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STRATEGIC PLAN

By **DR. MIKE SMITH**

Jacksonville College President

When I assumed the office of President of Jacksonville College in November 2011, I first spent time personally meeting each employee. These individual listening sessions were planned to discover needs for the college from each employee's perspective. Second, I visited with students and surveyed them regarding what they perceived as pressing needs for the college. Third, I formed a Strategic Planning Committee made up of staff, students, and trustees.

The following is a result of those three months of strategic planning:

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

Statement of Faith: A deep faith in God is the foundation of Jacksonville College. The college believes that no education is complete until a student understands who God is and how to relate to Him through His Son Jesus Christ. Doctrinal beliefs influence all that the college does and teaches. Jacksonville College recognizes certain basic tenets of the Christian faith. The following are basic doctrinal distinctives but not exhaustive of all our beliefs:

- The Bible is the inerrant, infallible word of God and is the final authority in all matters of belief and practice.
- There is one and only one living and triune God. He is Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the Universe.
- Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation, Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
- Man is the special creation of God, who created us male and female.
- Salvation is the gracious act of God through faith in Jesus Christ and Him alone.
- Believers are to mature in the faith through discipleship and serve God and others through a New Testament Church.
- Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth. Christ will judge all men according to His will.

The Bible is the authority. Jacksonville College's doctrinal expressions are found in

(1) Baptist Missionary Association of Texas Doctrinal Statement (Jacksonville College is owned and operated by the BMA of Texas)

(2) Southern Baptist Convention Baptist Faith and Message 2000 (Jacksonville College is affiliated with the SBTC)

Goals:

1. Provide a Christ-centered, quality education that prepares students for further educational endeavors.
2. Perpetuate a distinctly Christian environment in every dimension of college life.
3. Promote lifelong learning for students, faculty, staff, and community.
4. Pursue our vision for growth in enrollment, operations, endowments, and capital improvements.
5. Produce students who are equipped for Christian servant leadership in the global community.

If you are an alumnus, you should be encouraged by this Strategic Plan, for it is a roadmap that directs our college as the founding fathers intended. If you are a student trying to choose a college, you should consider Jacksonville College, an institution with a clear purpose and a strategic plan to fulfill that purpose.



▲ The New Harmony Baptist Church youth stayed in a JC residence hall July 11-14 while they attended four days of evangelism training. Pictured above are the students and sponsors in the JC library. Leading the training were BMA Seminary Dean Dr. Philip Attebery (pictured on the left), and his wife, Stephanie (on the right).



▲ JC employees prepare one of the student houses for painting.

fall semester 2016

AUGUST 17 TO DECEMBER 6

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

Online application for admission is available for new students, and current students may register for classes online.