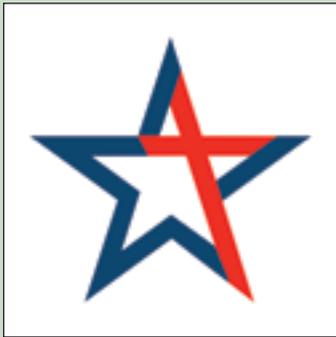


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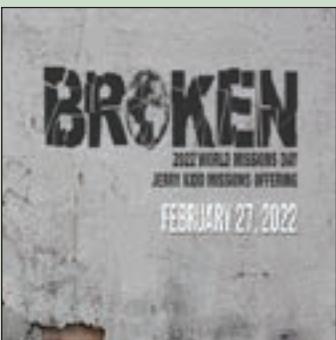
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*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6*

*Merry Christmas*

**HEITH MITCHELL**, BMA of Texas Missions director

**JERRY FULTON**, Baptist Missionary Loan Association director & Baptist Progress director/editor

**JOE LIGHTNER**, Jacksonville College president

**JASON CURRY**, Texas Baptist Home for Children president



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# MAKING PROGRESS

## A glorious Christmas awaits us

By **JERRY FULTON**

This year, I will experience the sixth Christmas without my parents. In 2015, the Lord called both of my parents home within one month and three days of each other. We knew my mother's homegoing was imminent, but my dad's passing caught us off guard.

Since that time, the holidays and other special occasions have not been the same. Whether literally or figuratively, there are two empty chairs at the table each year. Knowing this will always be the case as long as I live on earth, I, like so many others, have to make the most of the situation and move on with life.

However, because I know where my parents are and I know that one day I will join them there, the Lord has given me something to which I can look forward. One day, I will experience a wonderful Christmas in Heaven. A glorious Christmas awaits me, and not only me, but all who have placed their faith in Christ.

I have no idea what Christmas is like in Heaven or if it is even celebrated there. I suspect that more than Christmas, life every day will be a celebration of the fact that God loved the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son to save the sins of all who would believe. His resurrection will surely be the celebration in which we will take part.

Perhaps, like me, you have loved ones who are awaiting your arrival in God's Heaven. Can you imagine how it will be to once again see the faces of those from whom we have been parted for so long? How great it

will be to sit with them around God's table and rejoice over the incredible salvation we share in Christ! Will we talk about old times, will we look forward to the eternity we will have with each other, or will our focus just be on Jesus? I do not know, but I am looking forward to it!

It could be that some reading these words have experienced the death of a loved one this year and will for the first time be spending Christmas without him or her. God bless you! I know how it feels. As you grieve, I encourage you to remember that the death of your loved one, if he or she died in the Lord, is not the end of the story.

Someday soon, a glorious Christmas and/or daily celebration of God's love for us all will be experienced by us all in God's Heaven.

Until then, make new memories, love harder, forgive more easily and look forward to what our great God has in store for those of us He has called to be His children—the ones He will soon call home to be with Him and our loved ones who are already there!

Merry Christmas!



▲ Jerry Fulton

### See details and register for 2021-2022 *Baptist Progress*



#### The Coaching Workshop

DATE & TIME: Jan. 25, 2022, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with lunch

#### Moving Past Stuck: Creating a Plan for Church Growth

DATE & TIME: March 8, 2022, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch

#### Leadership Community

DATE & TIME: May 3, 2022, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch

#### Pastoral Health Summit

DATE & TIME: June 7, 2022, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch

#### Interim Pastor Training

DATE & TIME: Aug. 17, 2022, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch

#### Leading the Smaller Church Without Settling for Less

DATE & TIME: Sept. 13, 2022, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch

#### Register for any or all workshops by visiting

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Resources > Ministry Connection Workshops.

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE. DON'T HESITATE TO ASK!

# BMA TEXAS

## MISSIONS

Your Church's Mission Movement in Texas



### A word from your Missions Office

By **HEITH MITCHELL**

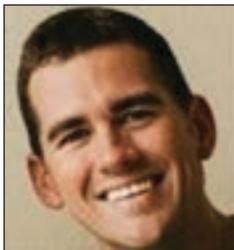
On behalf of your missionaries, mission staff and myself, we hope you have a merry and meaningful Christmas and a happy New Year. I pray that God works mightily in your life and in the life of your church as you focus on the gift of Christ's coming and the new start of a new year. Let's not waste this holiday season. Let's reflect and commit to walk with God and to be faithful to his mission.

Merry Christmas!

### A word from your missionaries

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

We've been talking a lot at our church about worshipping God as Creator and learning by His grace to embrace our limitations as creation. This has led my family and I, as well as our people to rejoice in God's limitlessness and for us to release things in life over which we have no control or responsibility.



▲ Brad Holcomb

**Prayer Needs:**

Please pray the Lord provides older, godly men who can serve as elders.

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

We are coming to the end of another year of missionary work. During December, we will reflect on what we were able to achieve and what God allowed us to have, while at the same time, look forward to the challenges of the new year. We are enthusiastic about serving in the area where we have been assigned to minister the Word of God so that we can positively impact the community in which we reside. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



▲ Cesar Leal



**ROBERTO MARCELLETTI—**  
**ANTHONY DRIVE MISSION, ENNIS**  
**ROBBYYPATTY@HOTMAIL.COM**

My dear brothers and sisters of the BMA, may the grace and love of God reign in your homes remembering the reason for the season.



▲ Roberto Marcelletti



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

Thank you very much for accepting us as an integral part of the BMA during your annual meeting. It was an honor to have been introduced to the association.



▲ Isaias Martinez

**Prayer Needs:**

Continue praying for the growth of the work in this place and for the opening of new points of discipleship.



BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p. 4

# BMA Texas Missions cont.

**TIMOTHY ALBA—**  
**THE BRIDGE, SEAGOVILLE**  
**TIMALBA1986@GMAIL.COM**

I have learned that our goal as churches, no matter what season you are in, is to stay missional. In this season we are all in, we can all agree that our world needs leaders who will encourage our members to stay focused on mission. It can be tempting to try and rekindle how our churches used to operate, but we are in a different season. We have to be more active than ever to gain the lost for Christ. In these dark times we are the light that brings the Good News to our communities. We are God's voice in a world spinning out of control. We must all stay diligent and persevere no matter what challenges we face each month. Jesus said there would be challenging times but he also said that he would be with us no matter what happens.



▲ Timothy Alba

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray that God continues to give us wisdom.

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

As we enter the season of Christmas, let's spread the joy of Christmas to the world.

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray for the Christmas event for the university students and refugees that God would work in their lives as we attempt to share the message of Christmas.



▲ Bichitrananda Satpathy

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

I want to thank every church of the BMA of TX family, for your prayers and support. The Lord continues to do great things among us. Souls are being saved and lives are being transformed.

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray for Oscar Paniagua, a church member who is sick with COVID.



▲ Jaime Henriquez



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

WE still do not feel like we are impacting our city. We have the "hope of the World" in Jesus, but not sure how to reach into the city with that hope. Pray we are wise and God blesses our efforts.



▲ Mike Watt

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

God continues to be good to us. Even though the past few months have been difficult, I am confident that we see God at work in our church family, and there are so many for us to share the love of Christ with in our community. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for the days ahead.



▲ Robert Lee

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray for opportunities to share the love of Christ with our community this Christmas season.

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

3 John verses 7-8 says, "For they have gone out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth." I had a chance to share about BMA Texas Missions with one of our churches in McAdoo. As I shared all that God is doing in the BMA of Texas, I couldn't help but be reminded of these verses. As one of your missionaries, sent out for the sake of the Name, I just want to say thank you. Thank you for your support and your prayers. The last couple of months have been amazingly wonderful! We've seen several people come to Christ, significant growth in our new members and believers, and a desire to share what they're learning with others. I couldn't ask for anything more! But a lot of big transitions are on the horizon for us so please continue to pray for us. Thank you so much for being fellow workers in the truth.



▲ Chris Driver

**Prayer Needs:**

Please pray for the Sunday morning group we will be starting soon. Please pray for favor in securing a building that we can call home. Please pray for more open doors for the gospel. Please pray for our new believers.

**KINGSLEY NDUKA/  
 ADEREMI BADRU—**  
**LIGHT HOUSE MISSION IN HOUSTON**  
**KINGEDU700@GMAIL.COM/  
 REMIBADRU44HOPE@YAHOO.COM**

Thank you for all your support.

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray for us that our evangelistic outreaches and efforts will be productive and that God will send us men and women who will serve with us.



▲ Kingsley Nduka



## Why Not Sunday School?

By **JORDAN M. TEW**

*Assistant to the Director*

For the last several decades, churches have changed their approach to Sunday school on a nearly constant basis. Some have even concluded that Sunday school is no longer relevant or needed in today's world. In many churches, Sunday school was the first ministry cut when COVID arrived, and many of those classes remain vacant. Despite all of this, I would like to ask you to consider this question: *Why not Sunday school?*

If you were to sit down to come up with a plan on how to get your church family together for Bible study, prayer, and ministry, then you would likely come up with something that looks a lot like a Sunday school class. I do not believe Sunday school has become outdated or ineffective. However, I do believe that many of us have given up Sunday school and have forgotten how much potential it has for impacting our local churches.

Here are some ways to reinvigorate your Sunday school ministry:

**1. Stay focused on the Bible.** People who attend Sunday school classes ought to be learning the Bible and growing in their relationship with the Lord. While enjoying coffee and donuts can be a great part of Sunday school, we need to make sure our people are feeding upon God's Word.

**2. Start a new class.** You may start a family class where whole families can attend together. Others may split a large class into two new classes. Another idea is to put younger women with older women and younger men with older men as seen in Titus 2. Each church has different needs, so plan accordingly for your church.

**3. Fellowship!** Plan a breakfast fellowship for the beginning of each new Sunday school quarter. Schedule an activity for your class such as bowling, minigolf, barbecue or simply grabbing lunch together after church. These serve as great opportunities to build relationships with others and invite lost people to church.

**4. Minister together.** God's people have an inherent desire to serve God and other people. The Sunday school class is a great avenue to do both! Your class may adopt a shut-in or bring food to someone who has recently had a baby. Your class may volunteer for a specific need around the church or work together to support a missionary. The possibilities are really endless.

**5. Make it about more than Sunday.** Be friends with your Sunday School "classmates" outside of Sunday morning. Pray for each other. Text each other. Eat a meal together. Study God's Word together. Be a part of one another's lives.

Why not Sunday school?

*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.*





## I'm just sayin'

By **JASON CURRY**

Merry Christmas everyone! Let me say that the Texas Baptist Orphanage's director J. F. McClung was a go getter! He had a heart for this ministry and had established some of the methods of connections that we continue to use today for fundraising. He traveled across Texas and back again on trains and on horseback and cart. He had "improved" travel when he got an automobile, but his first big trip was fraught with hard times due to snow.

He also established a June picnic where churches were able to see what they were supporting and experience what needed their help. This picnic is one of the things that led to many events that have helped keep TBHC going.

Christmas is a time of year that we depend on the generosity of our churches as well as individuals. We know financially how well we can care for kids the rest of the year based on the giving that occurs in December.

It may have been no different in years past. Bro. McClung's doctor continued to give him instructions concerning his bad heart to which McClung responded that he already knew he had a "bad heart" from reading God's Word. "Examine me, O LORD, AND <sup>[a]</sup>prove me; Try my mind and my heart" (Psalm 26:2).

I did not know McClung's heart condition, but God did. His condition demanded he give everything he could for children. And he gave it all. I think the Lord tested him and tried him if we could all be found so faithful. I pray a legacy that is passed down is not one of accomplishments but of character. That God finds me faithful despite my "bad heart."

In 1920, McClung stepped down at the association meeting on his seventieth year of life, knowing he did his very best. He was a funny and sarcastic man that I know must have had a big heart for TBHC kids.

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.*



## An expression of everlasting love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend, or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from Oct. 1-31, 2021.

### ENDOWMENT:

**E. ANN PACE:** Karl & Martha Pace

### HONORARIUMS:

**CHARLES & CHARLOTTE JOHNSON:** Larry & Rolanda Barton, James & Debbie Murphy, Stanley & Doris Allen

**BRO. BRIAN & MARY MAUK:** Larry & Rolanda Barton, Stanley & Doris Allen

**FRED & CAROLYN MORROW:** Forest Hill Baptist Church

**LARRY & LYNN PFEFFER:** Jerry Null

**SHELLEY WOOD:** Verina Farris

### MEMORIALS:

**DOROTHY ALLEN:** Temple Baptist Church

**DALTON BASS:** Jed & Glenice Whitaker

**WALTER BECKER:** Dennis & Ilona Myrice

**CEFUS & BARBARA BENNER:** Tony & Lisa Sinclair

**GARLAND BLACKBURN:** Jed & Glenice Whitaker

**CHARLOTTE BLACKMON:** Brenda Mewborn

**DALE BLANTON:** James & Debbie Murphy

**LARRY & ROSELEN BOBO:** James Bobo

**MARLIN BROWN:** Jed & Glenice Whitaker

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**MIKE DRENNAN:** Stanley & Doris Allen

**JON FERGUSON:** Caleb & Jami Davidson

**DEBRA FLOWERS:** Ruth and Joe Mahoney

**STEVE FOWLER:** John & Dora Barnett, John & Dora Barnett

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memorials-honorariums

**United Thanksgiving Offering**

Thank you for participating in the  
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Please send your offerings to  
**BMA of Texas, P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, TX 75168.**

# Crossroads, Rowlett—Expanding God's Kingdom one relationship at a time



By **PAUL GAUNTT**

*Baptist Progress Correspondent*

According to the website of Crossroads Church of Rowlett, the congregation operates on a very simple, easily understood, biblically based mission. And that mission is to reach Rowlett and expand the Kingdom of God, one relationship at a time.

The values which Crossroads has adopted are equally simplified and easily understood—God's Word, growth, connect, serve and celebrate.

The lead pastor, Jason Collins, expands on the mission of the church as she carries out her part of the Great Commission.

"Too many churches are structured where everything rests on the shoulders of the pastor, and we're not wired that way," Collins said.

He continued, "We could not have grown if we didn't legitimately leverage incredible needs into leaders (in the church) who are not paid."

Collins went on to say that around 250 people in the church, participate in a leadership conference each year, and each have leadership positions in Crossroads and it's not the illusion of leadership where menial tasks are given away, but the leaders are engaged in highly significant ministries.

The pastor said that a question was posed in a new members class recently, concerning how the church was pulling the ministry off with such a small staff.

Collins said, "It's not us — our men's ministry has a team that is all volunteer that is spectacular — it's true of our women's ministry and it's true of a ton of other ministries," the pastor said.

The pastor continued, "I guess one of the reasons we've grown is that It's all about activating people's gifts and letting them live into what God has created them to be."

He said when people are engaged in their own ministry, a whole new ministry dynamic comes into play, because they not only are fulfilled in their ministry, but are overjoyed in telling others about it.

"They are not excited about the service they saw, but they're excited about the ministry they're doing," Collins said.

He stated, "People want to share the testimony of what they are doing, so the more we activate people and equip

them for ministry, they can't help but talk about it. They get excited about what God is doing in their lives and they want to share it. They're not spectators—they are participants."

In other interviews people ask the pastor what he is doing right, and he answers, "You are asking the wrong guy this question. I'm not the key to what God is doing here. It is first of all, God's church—it's in His Name—He is doing it. Why He's chosen to bless us I don't know—that's up to God."

In response to why the Lord is blessing the church, Collins has an unusual spirit humility and self-deprecation, and is always desiring to give God the glory, and deflect all accolades to others who have ministries in the church.

"I always tell people that when we have staff meetings, I may be the least skilled person in the room," he said.

Collins continued, "The other staff have a passion for the Lord, for equipping people, and are just great at their jobs, and they just do it—and it make my job easier."

Another key to the growth of Crossroads, is that she is "super invested" in the community with multiple school partnerships, Chamber of Commerce, and the lead pastor sits on the board of a group for the city, which lends support during disasters.

"We focus very much on doing things to bless people outside the walls of our church," he said.

The pastor continued, "From a budget standpoint, this is one thing I teach on—if you want to value your community, it's got to be built into the budget. If we're going to be missional, it's got to be built into the budget. It's not going to happen by accident. And so, for us, we are a 50/50 church."

Collins explained, "This is a goal we set six years ago to live in—for every dollar that comes in here, 50 percent is to be used for staff, building, lights and for personnel. The other 50 percent has to be used in ministry or mission—it has to impact somebody else."

He said, "The church wants to impact the community to the point that she would constantly ask the question, 'If Crossroads were to stop existing, would the community notice?'"



▲ Jason and Kristal Collins

# Crossroads, Rowlett cont.

“We want to be just that engrained into our community, and we are working on that,” Collins said.

He continued, “At the end of every service, we say, ‘Church you are not dismissed; you are sent.’ We want to always leave the services with that mentality.”

In answer to the question of future vision for his church, Collins said their goal as a church, is not to encourage people to just be a part of the larger crowd, but to be involved in discipleship groups—groups of three to five men, or three to five women, regularly meeting together, in the word together, challenging each other and doing life together.

“We didn’t invent this. This was lived out in the Book of Acts and throughout the New Testament. It’s not our idea—it’s the Bible,” he said.

The pastor continued, “I have been meeting with a group of men Tuesdays at 7 a.m. for the past two years, and they challenge me as much as anything else, and I’ve needed them. Like there’s probably been times over the past two years during COVID that those were the guys that kept me sane and moving forward. I’ve needed them, and so I believe I’m a better husband, a better father and a better pastor a better friend because of how those guys have challenged my life.”

He noted that the ideology behind this ministry, which is straight out of scripture is that if every person in the church will do this, every marriage, home, the way people spend their money, their time, and how people view their workplace, will be changed. They will view their workplace as a place where God has sent them on mission.

The preaching ministry in the church involves preaching straight from the Bible. Collins preaches expository messages through books of the Bible, but will also preach sermons on relational issues—and messages dealing with pastoral care, such as grief, suffering, pain, and other needs.

Jason and Kristal Collins each lived in multiple locations while growing up, but both ended up in Grand Prairie where they met while attending South Grand Prairie High School. They met Oct. 14, 1993 and were high school sweethearts. The couple married in January of 1998. Today they have three children, Zach, 20; Kaitlyn, 18; and Addison, 14. Both Zach and Kaitlyn are presently attending University of North Texas in Denton. The couple has also been foster parents to eight children, and presently have a one-year-old and a two-year-old.

Kristal has, for the past five years, been director of Central Ministries for the church.

“For any teams we have, I just make sure they have what they need—teams like men’s ministries, women’s ministries, security, welcoming committee, and others,” she said.

She also leads the teaching teams, which coordinates the worship services by insuring that all music is coordinated with the subject matter for the messages and the entire services. This planning happens six weeks in advance of the service.

“We want to take a complicated passage and make it simple for everybody, whether they are exploring Christ for the first time, or whether they have been walking with Him for 40 years,” the pastor said.

Collins explained that the discipleship plan of the church carries over into the youth and children’s ministries.

“We don’t call it children’s ministry, but family ministry,” he said.

He noted, “Our objective is not only how we teach kids,

but more importantly, how do we equip parents to disciple their kids?”

Student ministry is not to be a separate part of the church as is customary in many churches. Although 80-100 youth will be involved in the Wednesday night program at Crossroads, they are an integral part of the main worship services. The church avidly promotes intergenerational ministry.

While the pastor believes that numbers represent souls and that the church is not to be fixated on attendance, the growth of Crossroads over the past few years has been nothing short of phenomenal. The church has an 8 a.m. service mainly for people whose health is compromised, and masks are encouraged. The 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services are full. Pre-COVID, attendance on Sundays averaged approximately 800 people. According to the pastor, that number has probably increased today. But the number that is most significant is the number of professions of faith and baptisms the church has experienced over the past six years.

“We had an amazing response several weeks ago with 29 people giving their lives to Christ! Their baptism bring the total number of professions of faith to 402 in the past six years,” Collins said.

In addition to lead pastor, Jason Collins, and Kristal Collins, Wes Barnett is the teaching pastor with oversight to student ministry. J.D. Lowrie serves as a teaching pastor over young adult ministries, ages 18-35. Tricia Steele leads early childhood, and Titus Brown oversees elementary. Amy Burch serves as office manager-finance/administration. Roman Browning is director of creative arts. The longest tenured staff, Nate Lynch, is worship leader.

Collins said his goal was to utilize other teaching pastors thus giving him 40 Sundays each year to preach, but he noted that he as of now, may be preaching 30 times. In keeping with his passion to give ministry away, he is very comfortable in giving away some of his time in the pulpit for other teaching pastors. He also preaches occasionally in the church’s Hispanic service and has worked with Ashraf Sara of Northside, Garland with Arab ministries.

In response to future building programs, Collins said they are not interested in utilizing the entire 15-acre church property for larger buildings, but to sink a significant amount of money into relation-building facilities.

“We actually like the size of the church now—we feel connected,” he said.

The pastor added, “We have plans to develop this land, but want to invest in sports facilities, perhaps housing for displaced families and mission housing.

Crossroads was established by Kelby Mullins in 1994, who continues to serve in Crossroads as an elder today. His vision was to reach people who didn’t look like typical churchgoers. They started out in a shopping center. Later, they purchased land on Chiesa Road in Rowlett and built a pavilion without walls. Over time, Mullins stepped down, and Kent Cox took the role as lead pastor in 2002. In 2015, after a year-long search, the church called Collins to be the new lead pastor.

For further information about the church, log on to their website, [www.crossroadsrowlett.org](http://www.crossroadsrowlett.org). The church is located at 7900 Chiesa, Rowlett, Texas

# The Jade Jarrett Foundation One boy’s Kingdom legacy

By **CHRIS DRIVER**

*Baptist Progress Correspondent*

“It’s not what you take when you leave this world behind you. It’s what you leave behind you when you go.”

Those words are more than just a catchy line from a Randy Travis song. Those words are the truth of a life well lived for God’s Kingdom, especially when that life only spanned 13 years.

Jade Jarrett was born Nov. 14, 1991, and left this life in a tragic car accident on June 10, 2005. But packed into those 13 years was a ton of athletic talent, a great big smile that matched his great big heart, a maturity that was well beyond his years and a love for Jesus Christ that opened his heart and life to everyone he met.

Jade was the grandson of longtime BMA pastor and church planter, Charles Burdett. His grandfather had a tremendous influence on Jade’s life as well as his faith that helped Jade develop a passion for Jesus Christ and the gospel that rivaled that of his grandfather. Even at his young age, Jade had a huge Kingdom impact on his friends and classmates, even leading several of them to Christ before he was called home to be with the Lord.

But Jade’s Kingdom impact did not stop when he was called home. Inspired by his grandson’s love for Christ and for the gospel, Charles started the Jade Jarrett Educational Foundation. Its intent has always been to help equip young men who share Jade’s passion for the gospel. Through the Jade Jarrett Educational Foundation, scholarships are given to ministry students with a heart for evangelism who have plans to attend one of our BMA institutions of higher learning.

God doesn’t waste things. In the gospels, He refused to waste broken pieces of bread after He fed the multitudes. Throughout history, He has refused to waste the suffering and sacrifices made by His people. And He has been faithful not to waste the tragedy of Jade’s death. His Kingdom legacy is carried on by faithful and godly men like our current BMA of Texas president, Ryan Burchett.

When asked about the impact of the Jade Jarrett Foundation on his ministry, Burchett said, “The Jade Jarrett scholarship provided necessary funds for continuing my education. The Lord calls His people, and especially His ministers, to ‘be diligent to present yourself approved by God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.’ (2 Tim. 2:15). This scholarship helped make it possible for me to pursue that.”

Jade Jarrett gave his life to Christ when he was 7-years-old and he spent the rest of his life telling the world he knew about the God he loved. The foundation that bears his name is committed to making sure that legacy of love and commitment to Jesus Christ and the Great Commission lives on in the lives and ministries of those who receive his scholarship. The legacy could include you!

This year, the Jade Jarrett Educational Foundation would like to expand its giving to include three (3) \$2,500 scholarships for the 2022 school year. If you or someone you know is planning on attending one of our BMA schools and would like to apply for a scholarship, please contact Chris Driver at [chris@bmatexas.org](mailto:chris@bmatexas.org).



▲ Jade Jarrett

# News of America



## SOAR 2022: What's your ministry story?



By **NICK JACOBSEN**

*BMA Conference Manager*

What's your ministry story?

My story begins in Tacoma, Washington, where I was born and raised to non-church-going parents. Don't get me wrong, they were great parents, but we didn't go to church as a family. When my friend, Garrett, and I would ride our bikes all over our neighborhood, we always passed a little light blue church set off the road, Grace Missionary Baptist Church. Since neither of us grew up in church, we decided we wanted to see what it was all about, so we went to church one Sunday.

A few years later at the age of 16, it was in that little church that I was saved. The following year I felt a stirring, a calling on my life, and after talking to my student pastor and pastor, I surrendered my life to ministry. Unsure of what exactly that meant, I said yes to God.

In August of 2000, I boarded a plane for Little Rock, Arkansas, to attend a small Christian college and study ministry that fall semester. I enjoyed Central Baptist College (CBC) so much that I spent five years getting a bachelor's degree in Bible with an emphasis in student ministry. Once I finally graduated, I was hired by a church—Park Place Baptist Church—to work with students. Park Place Baptist Church

allowed me to minister to students as a vocation, and I loved it.

God would eventually lead me down another path just a few years later that I never anticipated. He opened a door for me to work in media production, and after a few years at a television station, God led me to work at Lifeword. For the past 14 years, I have worked at Lifeword/BMA.

In the past few years, I have thought a lot about God's call to the ministry: I was just 17 years old and had no clue. Some say I still don't!

Is God still calling young people to ministry?

Are we giving those young people an opportunity to serve?

Are we encouraging students to give their lives to ministry?

At SOAR 2022, we will spend the week looking at God's calling on our lives and how He wants us to serve His church. I believe God calls us ALL to serve. Some serve in leadership roles as pastor or student pastor, but all are called to serve.

Are you cALLED?

**SOAR Student Conference: June 29 – July 1, 2022, Hilton Anatole - Dallas, Texas**

**Lowest price since 2015: \$100 per person.**

## Master's Builders offer services to Rosewood, Gilmer



By **NELDA MALONE**

*Master's Builders at Rosewood, Gilmer*

Eight Master's Builders began an electrical job for Rosewood, Gilmer Nov. 8. They ran 7,000 feet of wire in the new building which will house six classrooms and a fellowship hall. Thank you to Bro. Charles Johnson and the men from Rosewood, who helped. Also, thank you to the ones who fed our group while they were there. All went well and our part of that job was completed in two and one-half days.

The Master's Builders family plans to meet for our annual retreat at Daniel Springs Encampment Jan. 11-15. It will be so good to be together again!

Our first job of 2022 is planned to be in Haskell, Arkansas, at Celebration Feb. 28. We will help with building a new sanctuary for this church.

If you have questions about The Master's Builders ministry, please contact Eddie Sikes at 470-462-1675, Mike Green at 972-935-3877 or David Axe at 903-918-0720.

Like us on Facebook at "The Master's Builders" and follow us as we work.

## Broken: World Missions Day 2022 – February 27

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

*BMA Global Missions Center*

We live in a broken world full of broken people.

We know that.

We see that.

We say that.

Jesus did, too.

Matthew 9:36 says, "But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd."

Jesus was moved with compassion for the broken. Missions happens when we are burdened for broken people. It was in our brokenness that Jesus found us, loved us, and saved us.

The story of missions is the story of people—missionaries—who are burdened for people, burdened enough to go, burdened enough to sacrifice their lives for the lives of others.

The harvest is plentiful, and we need laborers. But laborers are birthed out of a burdened and broken heart for the lost and weary and scattered.

Our vision and impact in reaching the world will never be bigger than our burden for broken people. That's the catalyst to missions. That's the heart of missionaries.

We indeed live in a broken world full of broken people, but does that "move us with compassion?"

May we be burdened for broken people during this World Missions Day season and every day.



# BMA of America



## National Senior Adult Conference held in Branson



By **NICK JACOBSEN**

*BMA Conferences Manager*

In November, BMA Conferences held its annual National Senior Adult Conference at Chateau on the Lake in Branson, Missouri. It was the first venue change in over 13 years, and it did not disappoint.

Last year's conference was canceled out of an abundance of caution due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was so good to gather again, see familiar faces, hug old friends and attend a great conference. Kirk Shelton, pastor of Calvary, Fayetteville, Arkansas, preached; Travis Sellers, worship pastor at Antioch, Conway, Arkansas, led worship and Lauren Talley and Brian Free and Assurance provided two fantastic concerts. To top it off, conference goers enjoyed an evening on the Showboat Branson Belle.

Planning for the 2022 National Senior Adult Conference is already underway, and Richard Smith, pastor of Farley Street, Waxahachie, has agreed to be the conference pastor for the week. Bro. Richard is a fantastic preacher

everyone will enjoy. Travis Sellers, who did such a great job this year that he left us wanting more, has agreed to return and lead worship.

We have lowered the registration price to \$125 per person, another drop in price since 2018. Our goal is to continue lowering the registration price as attendance grows. Doing so will make the conference more affordable, all while providing a fantastic conference for our attendees.

Mark your calendars for the National Senior Adult Conference at Chateau on the Lake Nov. 15-17, 2022. More details coming soon, so check out our website, [bmaamerica.org/senior](http://bmaamerica.org/senior) to stay up to date.

## BMA of America president resigns



By **JEFF SWART**

*BMAA Coordinating Council Chairman*

The Coordinating Council has received a letter from Justin Rhodes resigning as president of the BMA of America. First vice president Clif Johnson has agreed to fill the position of president, and second vice president Charles Johnson has agreed to fill the office of first vice president, for the 2021-2022 associational year.

## Christian Founders of America

By **JOHN M. ADAMS, D.Min.**

*Proverbs 1:7... "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction."*

The blessing of wisdom is the blessing of God. The invitation of wisdom is the invitation of God. Many believe that God invited the early American founders overwhelmingly to raise Christ as the leader of America.

That mindset was held widely among the founders—George Washington, John Adams, Daniel Webster, Benjamin Rush, Samuel Adams and on and on.

### THE BIBLE

THE AMERICAN FRONTIER opened up between 1776 and 1850, American colonists first expanded out as far west as Appalachia, then pushed the frontier to the Mississippi River. By 1850, American pioneers pushed the edge of settlement to Texas, the Southwest, and the Pacific Northwest, seeking cheap land and inspired by the belief that they had a "manifest destiny" to stretch across the continent (The Patriot Bible).

In 1835, Alexis de Tocqueville, a French historian, traveled America as it was coming into its own as a nation. He wrote down his observations in Democracy in America. This classic book provides unique insights into what made America such a rapid success, which clearly he believed to be Christianity and the Bible.

The voice of the Bible is "whosoever will may come" (Revelation 22:17).

That Bible invitation of wisdom is open not just to a chosen few but to all. God loved this new nation and it was settled in the love of God.

### EDUCATION

In a great culmination of writings and historical opinions, American schools, colleges, and universities loved the Word of God.

Harvard University, founded in 1636 by the Puritans, adopted the "Rules and Precepts" of the university that stated: "Let every student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life." John 17:3 says, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

Most of America's oldest universities were started by preachers and churches. Harvard, William and Mary, Yale, Princeton, King's College, Brown, Rutgers, and Dartmouth were founded by Christian preachers and church affiliations.

Yale College was established in 1701 with a stated goal that "every student shall consider the main end of his study to wit to know God in Jesus Christ and answerably to lead a godly, sober life."

William and Mary was founded in 1693 to supply the church of Virginia "with a seminary of ministers" that the "Christian faith may be propagated." Princeton had as one of its founding statements: "Cursed is all learning that is contrary to the Cross of Christ." – Copied

### CHRISTIANITY

To be open and correct, all the Founding fathers of America were not Christians (true believers in Christ); they were not. But the Christian teachings from the Bible were great influences on the culture. Christ's words had a profound effect on the homes, families, and political leaders of that day.

The Baptists sent out their "farmer-preachers." As was true of the Methodists, the Baptists developed systems that made it easy for committed laypeople to enter the ministry and to be deployed quickly where the greatest opportunities were. Most of their preachers had little education and were poorly paid, but they were in touch with the pioneers' lives. With an emphasis on the need for a personal conversion and salvation from sin through faith in Jesus Christ, these ministers spread the Gospel far and wide.—Copied

This conviction today that is attributed to Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia is so needed today:

"It cannot be emphasized too clearly and too often that this nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religion, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ."



*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](http://www.macbma.net) for more information.*



# Auxiliaries

## Texas WMA looks forward to a blessed 2022

By **GLENDAM CHAMBERLAIN**

Texas WMA elected Kristi Key as the new president at the Texas WMA meeting held Nov. 4, 2021. Kristi lives in Eustace and attends Old Bethel, Canton, where her husband is the pastor. They have five beautiful girls, one son-in-law and one soon-to-be son-in-law. Kristi is an oncology nurse of 24 years!



▲ Kristi Key

Kristi commented, "I'm excited about what I believe the Lord will do through ladies across the BMA of Texas this year. My prayer is to encourage ladies within our churches and to stimulate more excitement and a desire for fellowship and growth in Christ. I want to see you and ladies of your church at some of the events Texas WMA will be planning throughout the coming year. I pray you will join in our efforts to support missions, mentor young ladies and children and serve our churches, all while growing in your relationship with the Lord."

Join with Texas WMA supporting our newly elected project for the coming year, Missions in South Asia. A couple of the 2022 upcoming events Texas WMA is excited about are a spring ladies retreat in Lubbock on March 11-12 and a fall retreat in the East Texas area. Watch for upcoming newsletters, email, Facebook and be sure to check out [texaswma.com](http://texaswma.com) for more information.

If you have any questions or need information, please contact Kristi or any of the officers listed on [texaswma.com](http://texaswma.com). The officers are available to speak at ladies' events across the state or to help your ladies group in anyway necessary, we are here to minister to you and your ladies, please let us know how we can help.

Texas WMA wishes you a blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

### LAKERIDGE WOMEN'S MINISTRY IN LUBBOCK

*SHINE* is a Women's Ministry at LakeRidge, Lubbock. The ladies of *SHINE* met for a one-day ministry event Nov. 6. The theme for the event was "Facing Your Giants and Letting Your Light Shine." Charlotte Johnson, national WMA president, was the keynote speaker.

Officers for 2021-2022 LakeRidge *SHINE* Women's Ministry are Rhonda Severin, president; Barbie Reynolds, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president; Vonda Grun, 3<sup>rd</sup> vice president, and Abbey Houston, secretary.

A delicious barbeque lunch was enjoyed by everyone, with scrumptious fruit cobblers served for dessert. The room was buzzing with chatter and laughter as everyone enjoyed a time of fellowship.

Barbie Reynolds, with Bonny McRae on the keyboard, led a special time of worship in song. Barbie also presented the ladies with a moving rendition of King of Kings, a beautiful song by Hillsong.

Mrs. Johnson spoke about "Facing Your Giants: David and Goliath" (1 Samuel 17). She asked the ladies if they were facing any giants today such as health issues, loss of a loved one, financial difficulties, marriage issues, etc. A sheet of paper with pictures of stones was given to each lady.

Charlotte said, "Giants come in different forms, but they all have something in common, they rob us of our peace and joy."

She asked the ladies to write down some of the giants they were facing on the stones.

She commented, "God will show you the 5 stones to use: they are prayer, the Word of God, gratitude, worship and praise." 1 Samuel 17:45 says, "David said to the Philistine, 'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty.'"

Charlotte said, "When we focus on giants—we stumble. When we focus on God—our giants tumble. Lift your eyes to Jesus!"

Christ said in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Mrs. Johnson spoke of several ways we can be the light to others in the darkness of this world: share your testimony, serve others, volunteer, volunteer, volunteer. She presented each lady with a round prism, which reflected the light beautifully in every direction of the room, and she challenged the ladies to let their light shine everyday in their home, church, school and

community.

Charlotte reminded the ladies that God will fight our battles for us. Romans 8:31 says, "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

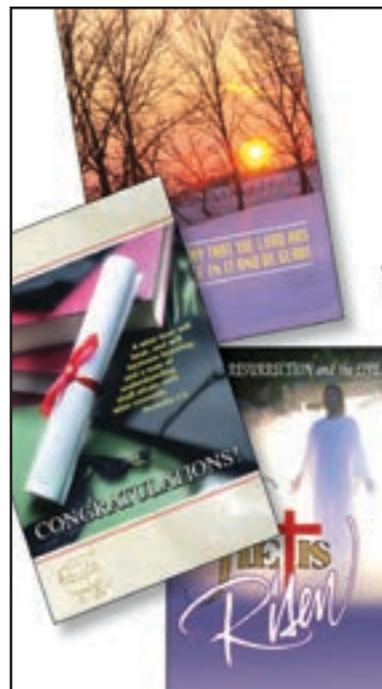
She said, "Never forget who you belong to. Always depend on God's deliverance, and to always face the giants in the name of the Lord."

At the close of the meeting Charlotte asked if the ladies would like to throw their stones onto the stage. One-by-one the ladies who wrote their personal giants on the paper rocks, smashed it into a tight ball and threw it onto the stage, releasing it right into the hands of Jesus, completely giving it to Christ, knowing He will fight the battle for us. You could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit, and burdens being lifted, as each stone was thrown. Praise the Lord.

### SEND IN YOUR NEWS

This page is dedicated to our Texas BMA Auxiliaries. It is inspiring to others to read about the work your ladies group, Sunbeams, GMA and Galileans are doing. You are invited, and encouraged, to send articles of interest to be included on this page. I would love to hear from you.

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



## Every Sunday Bulletin Service

To order bulletins from *Baptist Progress*, contact us at 972-923-0756 or visit [www.baptistprogress.org](http://www.baptistprogress.org). You may also email [editor@baptistprogress.org](mailto:editor@baptistprogress.org) for more information.

*Baptist Progress*

# EVENTS

## 2022 BMA OF AMERICA MEETING

**DATE:** April 18-20, 2022

**PLACE:** University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield, Missouri

## 2022 SOAR STUDENT CONFERENCE

**DATE:** June 29-July 1, 2022

**PLACE:** Hilton Anatole Hotel, Dallas

## 2022 RE:CHARGE LEADERS OASIS

To be decided

## 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

# PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

## AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**PASTOR**—Attoyac Missionary, San Augustine County is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, attoyacchurchsa@yahoo.com or 600 FM 3316 San Augustine, TX 75972. <sup>122</sup>

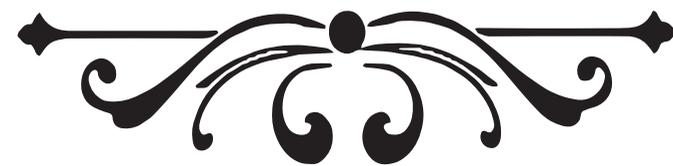
**PASTOR**—First, Palmer is seeking a pastor. Send resume to pastorsearch@fbcpalmer.org or mail to P.O. Box 70, Palmer, Texas 75152. <sup>TFN</sup>

**PASTOR**—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a pastor. Send resume to 148jimmysealy@gmail.com or to FMBC, Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346. <sup>TFN</sup>

## AVAILABLE MINISTERS

**EDDIE BALLARD** is available to serve for pulpit supply. Contact him at 936-635-4195.

## In Loving Memory



### RICKY GLEN RICKS

Ricky Ricks, 49, of Mineola, son of Pastor and Mrs. Jackie Ricks, went home to be with the Lord Nov. 26, 2021. He was a member of Mt. Pisgah, Mineola, where he enjoyed singing. Ricky enjoyed working on cars, riding his tractor, riding motorcycles and playing with his grandchildren. A funeral service was conducted at Mt. Pisgah, Mineola Nov. 30.



### KATHRYN "KATHY" LEE CASHION

Kathy Cashion, wife of Grady Cashion, pastor of First, Blooming Grove, 63, of Blooming Grove went home to be with the Lord Nov. 23, 2021. Kathy grew up in Avalon and graduated from Avalon High School in 1975. She went on to marry the love of her life Grady Cashion and they were married for almost 47 years. She helped with the family-owned service station before becoming a pastor's wife. A funeral service was conducted at First, Blooming Grove Nov. 27.



### JUANITA SARRATT

Juanita Sarratt, 93, wife of Elmer Dyrll Sarratt, longtime BMA pastor, went home to be with the Lord, Nov. 19, 2021. She had a passion for music and loved to play the piano or sing her favorite hymns. In her spare time, she enjoyed sewing, reading and crafting. She and Bro. Sarratt were married 77 years. A funeral service was conducted at Friendship, Mesquite Nov. 26.



## Get ahead of 2022 weather!

Before severe weather hits and we experience another hard season, take time to check whether your team has done all it can to minimize winter hazards.

Let us come alongside and review your insurance needs.

Contact your local agent today.

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

Proudly serving the BMA of Texas



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# pastor & staff changes

**JASON FISHER** is the new worship/family pastor of First, Rice.

**TURNER HARPER** is the new assistant pastor of First, Rice.

*\*If you are aware of pastor and staff changes, please let us know at Baptist Progress by emailing the editor at [editor@baptistprogress.org](mailto:editor@baptistprogress.org).*



The year 2021 has been special for Jacksonville College. After serving the College faithfully for the last ten years, Dr. Mike Smith retired as President of Jacksonville College. Upon Smith's retirement, the College's trustees facilitated a search for a new President that led to their unanimous appointment of Dr. Joe Lightner.

The immorality of today's culture is a reminder of the relevance of our College's vision to capture the minds and hearts of students for Christ. To steward this vision, Dr. Joe Lightner is leading the College to develop programs, processes, people, partners, and property accordingly. This development will help position the College toward the future and prepare us for the students that God will send twenty years from now. God is already blessing this development. This past summer we launched the 52 Day - Rebuilding For Fall campaign to help renovate our campus. God blessed the campaign by enabling the College to make improvements to many of our buildings. We are already preparing for next summer's 52 Day Campaign.

While preparing itself for the future, the College is presently managing challenges related to COVID-19. The virus has made the work of the College more difficult. We are grateful for our churches whose generosity allowed us to complete a successful Fall Semester despite the pandemic. Jacksonville College is influencing the future by training students who will someday shape it. Thank you for your continued support and generosity toward our mission.