

Baptist Progress

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THE INFORMING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRY OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS | FEBRUARY 2021 | VOL. 108 | NO. 02

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AND SACRIFICE



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HISPANIC MISSIONS

BMA Texas Missions names Todd West Pastor Connections Coordinator

By **JERRY FULTON**

Baptist Progress Director/Editor

The trustees of BMA Texas Missions approved the request of Heith Mitchell, BMA Texas Missions director, to employ Todd West as pastor connections coordinator during their December meeting. West will represent the BMA of Texas by meeting with pastors one-on-one as well as planning retreats across the state to bring pastors together, all the while promoting a unifying vision and identity for the state association.

According to the constitution and bylaws of the BMA of Texas, the director of missions is also tasked with serving as the executive director of the state association. His duties include coordinating quarterly meetings of department directors, regularly communicating the vision, purposes and plans of the departments with the churches through *Baptist Progress*, personal visits and other means, as well as other responsibilities. West will assist Mitchell in fulfilling those duties.

Mitchell said, “We are pleased to have Todd serve as pastor connections coordinator because he has established already so many relationships with pastors across the state through preaching revivals and the training workshops he has provided. Anyone else would be years behind in building relationships because he would have to make brand new connections with pastors. Because Todd already has relationships in place, and has already invested several hours in BMA Texas Missions through coaching and training, he can hit the ground running.”

It is the state missions director’s desire that the Lord use West to reach out to pastors who are in isolation and burdened for fellowship.

Mitchell stated, “A lot of churches are no longer a part of a local association. Therefore, a number of pastors do not have the means of interacting with other brothers in the ministry. Todd will help in this area.”

The plan is for West to perform his duties on a six-month trial basis, six days each month while continuing to serve as pastor of his church in Arkansas.

Currently, West serves as senior pastor of



▲ **Todd West**

Mt. Pleasant, Plumerville, Arkansas as well as director of Todd West Ministries—a ministry in which he coaches pastors and church planters from various states, trains groups of pastors and church planters and strives to be a pastor to pastors.

West, who has preached scores of revivals, crusades and conferences in Texas and throughout the United States said, “My years of itinerate ministry have opened doors to build

friendships with many pastors and families, and I’m looking forward to what the Lord has in store for me in my new ministry role in Texas.”

In addition to serving as pastor at his present church and as director of Todd West Ministries, West served as senior pastor of Oasis Church in North Little Rock, Arkansas from 2002 to 2019 and director of Todd West Evangelistic Ministries from 1996 to 2002. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Monticello.



WWW.BMATEXAS.ORG



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MAKING PROGRESS

Next Ministry Connection Workshop scheduled for March 23

By **JERRY FULTON**

The next Ministry Connection Workshop, *Gospel Impact Through Community Involvement*, will be led by Jason Collins, lead pastor of CrossRoads Church in Rowlett March 23, 2021. During the workshop, Jason will show you how to connect your church with your community in a way that expands the Kingdom of God. Jason and CrossRoads have enjoyed great success in this area. The workshop will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided for a cost of \$10. It will be conducted at CrossRoads Church, 7900 Chiesa Road in Rowlett. To register, visit <https://baptistprogress.org/ministry-connection-workshop-form> or call me at 972-923-0756.

NEW WEBSITES FOR BAPTIST PROGRESS AND BMA OF TEXAS

I am excited to inform you that *Baptist Progress* and BMA of Texas have debuted brand new websites (baptistprogress.org and bmatexas.org). On the *Baptist Progress* website, you will find resources, advertising information, subscription information, our publishing schedule and archives. The BMA of Texas website includes a calendar of events, information about the various ministries of the BMA of Texas, personnel and position ads, a link to give your offerings online, a list of and maps to BMA churches and other BMA links.

Thanks to Matthew Prather, pastor of The Bridge, Waxahachie, and trustee of *Baptist Progress*, for building the websites for us.

NEW APP FOR BAPTIST PROGRESS

Thanks to our office manager, Justin Owens, *Baptist Progress* now has an app for your smartphone or tablet. Please download our app in your app store and keep up to date on news and our ministry happenings.

THANK YOU OAK HILL, GILMER

In the last couple of issues of *Baptist Progress*, I stressed the fact that *Baptist Progress* is now much more than just the official publication of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas. We are the informing and equipping ministry of the BMA of Texas.

A few months ago, I requested that churches help us in providing Ministry Connection Workshops and other resources to pastors, church staff and church members by giving above the amount paid in Church Plan subscriptions each month.

Oak Hill, Gilmer informed me recently that they have decided to do as I requested. Thank you Oak Hill, Gilmer and Pastor Billy Byrd for giving an offering above your Church Plan subscription costs each month to *Baptist Progress*. We appreciate your partnership in ministry. Any church that gives at least \$25 above their Church Plan subscription costs each month will receive a 10 percent discount on all advertising.



▲ Jerry Fulton

2021 BMA OF TEXAS MEETING DATE CHANGED

Due to the positive feedback we have received from those who attended the one-day 2020 BMA of Texas Meeting, and in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the BMA of Texas Coordinating Committee voted to change the meeting dates for the 2021 BMA of Texas Meeting to a one-day only meeting Nov. 4. The meeting will be held at New Harmony, Tyler. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.



Every Sunday Bulletin Service

To order bulletins from *Baptist Progress*, contact us at
972-923-0756 or visit www.baptistprogress.org.

You may also email editor@baptistprogress.org
for more information.

Baptist Progress

BAPTIST MISSIONARY BMLA LOAN ASSOCIATION

Facts for your church to consider before building

By **JERRY FULTON**

There are plenty of factors that go into choosing the building for your needs. A list of items to consider before building are below:

1. ELECT A BUILDING COMMITTEE

The building committee ensures that the goals of the new church construction align with the church's vision and mission statements. The church building committee takes responsibility for establishing the budget, and hiring of the architect, contractor, builder or design-build team.

It is imperative that the committee regularly communicate the progress of the new church construction to the congregation. A monthly update from the committee would probably be best.

2. DETERMINE THE GOALS FOR YOUR NEW CHURCH BUILDING

The success of a church building project requires the congregation to identify the specific goals for the new building. Polling church members as to what they feel the current church space lacks is a good idea. Understanding what is missing in the existing building space helps the building committee establish the goals for the new facility.

3. SETTING THE BUDGET FOR YOUR CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT

The church building committee must establish a realistic total budget for a church building project. The cost of future operations and maintenance should also be considered.

4. NEW CHURCH BUILDING DESIGN IDEAS

Many new churches are smaller buildings that serve the immediate neighborhood and community. Also, new church designs include more indoor and outdoor community spaces where people can connect between services; connections that encourage people to take part in the church community.

5. SECURITY CONCERNS WITH NEW CHURCH CONSTRUCTION

In light of recent church shootings and other attacks, including security considerations in your new construction design is essential. The church building design should include defensive strategies to protect the church members, pastor, church staff, and worship teams, in the event of an attack.

6. CHOOSING WHERE YOUR BUILDING WILL BE ERECTED

Church leaders can often get overwhelmed when searching for the perfect site for their new church. Several principles for evaluating and comparing potential locations include location, adaptability, parking and price are important things to consider.

7. RESEARCH BUILDING AND ZONING CODES FOR THE NEW CHURCH BUILDING SITE

Before selecting a building site for your new church construction project, always check the zoning codes, building codes and street and utility requirements.

If your church is ready to secure a loan with the Baptist Missionary Loan Association, download an application from our website (bmla.org) and email it to jerry@bmatexas.org or mail it to BMLA, P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, Texas 75168. More information about the loan process can be found on our website, or you are always welcome to give us a call at 972-923-0758.

Jerry Fulton is the director of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association. Contact him P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, Texas 75168, 972-923-0758 or jerry@bmatexas.org. For more information, visit www.bmla.org.



Kellar Notes available for download

By **TONY CLEAVER, D.Min.**

The lecture notes on Romans compiled by Dr. Gerald Kellar are available for download from BMA Seminary Kellar Library. The hosted Kellar Library site is https://bmat.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=59534673. These notes were used by Dr. Kellar in his early days of teaching at BMA Seminary. They are typewritten, many years old, but are in PDF form and provide a good copy. They may be read using Adobe Acrobat or any good PDF reader.

His daughter, Jerrie Sue, and son-in-law Tony Cleaver, found them as they were cleaning out some papers in their home where the Kellars spent their last years. The notes will be beneficial to both preachers and Bible teachers. You are encouraged to make use of this great resource from one of the stalwarts of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Dr. Gerald Kellar is the only individual who served as president of each of the educational institutions of the BMA. His last service was as president of Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel, Mississippi.



▲ Dr. Gerald Kellar

GOD'S GIFT

HEAVEN IS A FREE GIFT!

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

MAN IS A SINNER.

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

JESUS CHRIST.

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

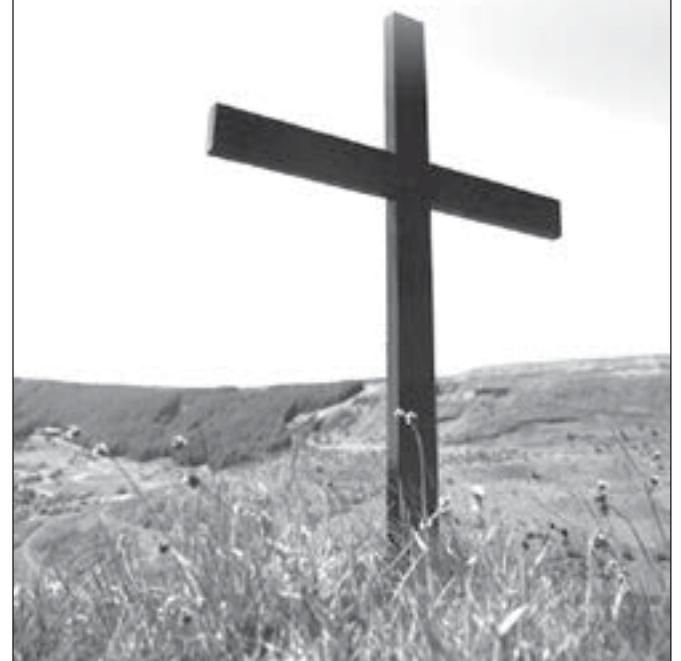
THE GIFT IS RECEIVED BY FAITH.

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

SO MAY WE ASK . . .

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

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



BMA TEXAS

MISSIONS

Your Church's Mission Movement in Texas



A word from your Missions Office

By HEITH MITCHELL

God still can and He still is! He has saved 24 souls through the efforts of your missionaries this month. He is still about His mission. Remember how He ended his instructions to his church in The Great Commission, "I am with you always till the end of the age." Brothers and sisters, that promise is alive today. Christ is with us and empowers us to carry out His mission.

Your missionaries are about that mission. They are faithfully persevering through trials just like each of you. That perseverance is being and will be rewarded. We must persevere until we know how to adjust or reach the other side of this pandemic.

BMAT family, we love you. It is a joy to serve you and serve beside you. Thank you for your faithful support in prayers and giving. If we can assist you, we want to. We have training you can come to or we can bring your way. We can partner with you or share with you. Let's partner for the Kingdom and pursue...

PROJECT 2029

100 New Churches/10 years

- That we see an aggressive multiplication movement of churches who make disciples, equip and release leaders and start churches for the glory of God and the advancement of his Kingdom mission
- That each new mission begins with a plan to begin three new churches in their first 10 years
- That pastors and churches of the association be encouraged and equipped to start new churches
- That we connect, evaluate, identify and train new prospective church planters

I would love to come and share Texas Missions with your church or association. I have open dates and look forward to hearing from you.

A word from your missionaries

WESLEY BURKE—

REDEMPTION BAPTIST MISSION, NACOGDOCHES
WESLEYDAVIDBURKE@GMAIL.COM

Thank you for your prayers brothers and sisters of the BMA of Texas.

Prayer Needs:

Pray for a young man you can call D. He is struggling to believe the gospel, but I trust God's work through our efforts in evangelizing him weekly through Bible reading together.



▲ Wesley Burke

CESAR LEAL—

NEW MISSION IN SAN ANTONIO
CESARLEAL2002@YAHOO.COM

We need to influence the Hispanic population by generating trust and eradicating people's strong fears for COVID-19. God has enough power to heal, even to eradicate this deadly virus, but we submit under His will when He exercises his sovereignty on this earth.



▲ Cesar Leal

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

Pray that we can lead our people with vision. We want to help our people see the Cross-Work Church that can be here in 400 years and not just what we have in front of us. The harvest and the harvesters matter. Please pray for our upcoming marriage seminar.



▲ Mike Watt

MATTHEW PRATHER—
THE BRIDGE MISSION,
MIDLOTHIAN/WAXAHACHIE
MATTHEW@DISCOVERTHEBRIDGE.COM
DUAL SUPPORT BMAA/BMAT

We started this year with a series called, Run to Win. We talked about how running to win looks like running toward Him. Through this series, we have focused on discipleship and the importance of our walk with Christ being stronger at the end of 2021 than it was at the beginning.



▲ Trevor Cowan

Please continue to pray for us as we try to lead people from where they are to where God wants them to be. We continue to reach and minister to those that are far from God. One man, in particular, stands out to me this month as he is now going to church for the first time in his life. Please pray for him and many others like him to accept Jesus as their personal Savior. Thank you for your continued support and prayers during this challenging time for churches.

Prayer Needs

Pray for us to lead well this new year.



▲ Matthew Prather

ROBERTO MARCELLETTI—

ANTHONY DRIVE MISSION, ENNIS
ROBBYYPATTY@HOTMAIL.COM

Culture of discipleship through the gospel is the vision God has given me. This is not achieved with events but a persevering and patient work that takes a long time. The new followers of Jesus from the beginning are injected into their DNA the vision of doing the same with other people and these new disciples are placed in new works as they did in Acts 14.



▲ Roberto Marcelletti



JAIME HENRIQUEZ—

FUENTE DE VIDA ETERNA MISSION, HOUSTON
DAIRYJENY@YAHOO.COM

Greetings, BMA family! All of the members of our mission send our warm hugs from a distance. We are happy to share with you what is happening in our mission. The Lord continues to move in an awesome way. The body of Christ is growing spiritually and discipling the new believers.



▲ Jaime Henriquez

Prayer Needs:

Pray for the unity of our congregation and for our own building for the services.

BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p. 11

JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

Women's Basketball Team Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Saturday, Jan. 16	Scrimmage (LSU Eunice vs Ranger)	Jacksonville, TX	Noon
Saturday, Jan. 16	Scrimmage (Jacksonville vs Ranger)	Jacksonville, TX	2:00pm
Friday, Jan. 22	Jacksonville vs LSU Eunice (Tourney)	Jacksonville, TX	2:00pm
Friday, Jan. 22	Blinn vs Murray State (Tourney)	Jacksonville, TX	4:00pm
Saturday, Jan. 23	Blinn vs LSU Eunice (Tourney)	Jacksonville, TX	2:00pm
Saturday, Jan. 23	Jacksonville vs Murray State (Tourney)	Jacksonville, TX	4:00pm
Tuesday, Jan. 26	Texas Christian College	Jacksonville, TX	5:30pm
Friday, Jan. 29	Jacksonville vs Cisco (Tourney)	Jacksonville, TX	5:00pm
Friday, Jan. 29	Hill vs TBA (Tourney)	Jacksonville, TX	7:00pm
Saturday, Jan. 30	Cisco vs TBA (Tourney)	Jacksonville, TX	2:00pm
Saturday, Jan. 30	Jacksonville vs Hill (Tourney)	Jacksonville, TX	4:00pm
Wednesday, Feb. 3	Paris	Jacksonville, TX	5:30pm
Saturday, Feb. 6	Kilgore	Kilgore, TX	2:00pm
Wednesday, Feb. 10	Panola	Carthage, TX	5:30pm
Saturday, Feb. 13	Bossier Parrish	Jacksonville, TX	2:00pm
Wednesday, Feb. 17	Coastal Bend	Beeville, TX	5:30pm
Saturday, Feb. 20	Blinn	Jacksonville, TX	2:00pm
Wednesday, Feb. 24	Tyler	Tyler, TX	5:30pm
Saturday, Feb. 27th	Bye		
Wednesday, March 3	Trinity Valley	Jacksonville, TX	5:30pm
Saturday, March 6	Paris	Paris, TX	2:00pm
Wednesday, March 10	Kilgore	Jacksonville, TX	5:30pm
Saturday, March 13	Panola	Jacksonville, TX	2:00pm
Wednesday, March 17	Bossier Parrish	Bossier, LA	5:30pm
Saturday, March 20	Coastal Bend	Jacksonville, TX	2:00pm
Wednesday, March 24	Blinn	Brenham, TX	5:30pm
Saturday, March 27	Tyler	Jacksonville, TX	2:00pm
Wednesday, March 31	Trinity Valley	Athens, TX	5:30pm
Saturday, April 3	LSU - Eunice	Eunice, LA	2:00pm
TBA	Regional Tournament (All Teams In)	Jacksonville, TX	TBA



▲ Spring Dean's List

SPRING DEAN'S LIST:

Name
 Alvarez, Angelica
 Amador, Leslie
 Ayad, Hibel
 Barlow, Kyah
 Beathard, Debra S.
 Bernudez, Clarissa F.
 Berwanger, Kaitlynn A.
 Bosquez Pineda, Crisethian
 Brakenhoff, Daphne
 Briones, Ishina
 Christensen, Ryan
 Cueter, Emily M.
 Bari, Jaliyah
 Ferriolo Sarubbi, Miguel
 Gamberino, Miguel
 Garcia, Gabriel A.
 Gonzalez, Britney K.
 Gooding, Dillon
 Hayes Jr, Keldrick
 Hernandez, Biririana M.
 Hodge, Jaiyah M.
 Ito, Noriyuki
 Key, Sincere
 Lavender, Kylee
 Leguizamo, Adela
 Lewis, Isaac S.
 Machado, Victor
 Hafra, Maryana
 Marques Demetrio, Andrei
 Martin, Brianna K.
 Niemietz, Caitlyn
 O'Neal, Phillip L.
 Pascual, Ylissia Belle
 Proctor, Cole L.
 Quintana, Ana L.
 Romano, Alberto
 Romero, Reul
 Smith, Drew A.
 Story, Tristan M.
 Threlfall, Lucy
 Tinsley, Brian
 Villalobos, Paulo
 Walker, Sophie Mary
 Rhona
 Watson, Jonathan M.
 Wilde, Daniel S.
 Zuniga, Laila C.

PRESIDENT'S LIST:

Name
 Bello, Diego
 Berwanger, Katherine A.
 Best, Summer A.
 Chaparro, Maribel
 Chavez, Isaac
 Cuatete, Deena S.
 Davis, Meagan M.
 Delgado, Edwin P.
 Duran, Maria Cristi R.
 Pagan, Victoria N.
 Frazier, Caden T.
 Frazier, Jennifer R.
 Galvan, Galilea
 Giron, Nancy
 Hernandez, Fabiola
 Johnson, Jamarcus J.
 Malcomb, Zachary D.
 McCune, Grayson M.
 McGuire, Kayleigh
 Meza, Anjel L.
 Mobley, Jeremiah K.
 Montero, Norberto
 Morgan, Grace E.
 Mueller, Rani
 Muldowney, Ashley B.
 Muldowney, Katie L.
 Niemietz, Cecelia A.
 O'Connell, Jacob M.
 Ramirez, Raylee D.
 Ramirez, Zaid O.
 Shelton, Daniel J.
 Skidmore, Mason R.
 Strube, Philipp
 Teplicek, Cami A.
 Torres, Michael
 Vasquez Bellina, Luis
 Alberto
 Wallace, Danielle Y.
 Wilburn, Ashlyn S.
 Zoeller, Kira



▲ President's List

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 for Children, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from Jan. 1-31, 2021.

ENDOWMENTS

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

HONORARIUMS

EDDIE BOOTH: John Thiele
CHUCK BOSTON: Joan Hartsfield and Ruth Class
CARLINE: Billy J. Speaks
MARGIE MCVAY: Pat & Marilyn Patterson
HELEN MOBLEY: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
KARL & MARTHA PACE: Carrie Walker; Kelly Penick
MIKE STEPHENSON: Robert & Jean Jacks
CLAUDIE THOMPSON: Jerry Null
KENNA & KALLIE WALLACE: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
LEE & WHITNEY WALLACE: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
CEMANTHIA WILSON: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
DEBBIE G WILSON: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
DREW WILSON: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
JAMES & CRYSTAL WILSON: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
JOHNNY & PATRICIA WILSON: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
HOWARD & JUDY WILSON: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
NINA L WILSON: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
RODNEY & CHRIS WILSON: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
VICTORIA WILSON: Jerry & Debbie Wilson
WILLIAM & EMELDA WILSON: Jerry & Debbie Wilson

MEMORIALS

BRO. TERRY DON ADAIR: Twila Reynaud; Sandra Lohman; Travis & Mary Everitt; Janet Howell; Grace Missionary Baptist Church, Ben Wheeler
JERRY ADAMS: Brent & Tammy Swanner
AGNES ALEXANDER: Arnold Alexander
J.P. ALSBROOKS: LC & Jennetta Whitehead
HELEN ANDERSON: Steven Anderson
BELLE ARRINGTON: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
JERRY LOYD ASHLEY: Caleb & Jami Davidson; Jimmy & Carla Shipp;
BOOTSIE BARNES: Nedra Young
HURBERT & DOROTHY BARRON: Bobby & Sandra Wells
SCOTT BAXTER: LC & Jennetta Whitehead
LARRY & ROSELEN BOBO: James Bobo
JOEL BRILL: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
MR. & MRS. L.E. BRUMMETT: Pat & Marilyn Patterson
STEVE CHANDLER: L.C. & Jennetta Whitehead; Jacob, Nikki, Alexis & Baby Jacob Jr.; Gina & Brian
BOB CLARK: Andy & Nell McCuiston
GWEN CLARK: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
KENITH & BEVERLY CLINE: Kevin & Pamela Cline
GEORGE CONN: Oma Conn
EMILY HYMER CULPEPPER: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

MEMORIALS continued on p. 7



I'm just sayin'

By JASON CURRY

TBHC was established in 1910 by the BMA of Texas and has been loved on by those churches ever since. The citizens of Waxahachie wanted the orphanage in their town, so they offered to help get the orphanage started. The mayor, J. Alderdice, promised a great relationship between the city's people and the orphanage and shared his thoughts at an assembly celebrating the grand opening of the first of many of TBHC's builds.

"As the years come and go and the institution extends its accommodations and widens its influence for good it will confer a great favor on us by giving us a chance to answer one of the highest calls for benevolence. We thank you for lending your assistance in the development of our people in the highest order."

Even in days gone by, there was a commitment to care for the fatherless that permeated Ellis County. Alderdice also spoke to the needs that our organization would face and said that "our county will see that such calls are headed."

Our agency has survived world wars, a Great Depression,

and many challenges that could have seen us shut our doors many times over if not for the people of the BMA of Texas churches and the people in the communities around us.

We are honored by that heritage of care and commitment from so many to see TBHC continue to honor our purpose, *Glorifying God by Caring for Children*.

Colossians 3:23 says, "and whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." TBHC seeks to do our best because our best is not for even the kids, but it is all in service to God Almighty!

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.





Want your *Baptist Progress* issues to arrive faster and save money at the same time?

To receive each issue of *Baptist Progress* approximately one week earlier, switch your mail subscription to an email subscription!

In addition to receiving each issue by email, you will get our e-News Update between issues. News alerts are also emailed periodically. The cost of an email subscription is \$18 (\$6 less per year than mail subscriptions).

So...faster delivery, more news, less cost...

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
Make the switch, email us today at editor@baptistprogress.org!

2020 United Thanksgiving Offering

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving each year, BMA of Texas churches are asked to receive the United Thanksgiving Offering (UTO). The UTO benefits each department of the BMA of Texas including the Baptist Missionary Loan Association, BMA of Texas Missions, *Baptist Progress*, Jacksonville College and TBHC. We usually wait a few

months before reporting the total given to make sure each church, couple or individual has had enough time to mail in their offerings. The directors of each BMA of Texas department thank you for participating in the UTO campaign and for your partnership in ministry as we seek to reach Texas with the gospel. The UTO total is reported below:

Allen, Wesley	125.00	Leggett, Leggett	300.00
Antioch, Gilmer	565.00	Liberty Baptist Association	1,200.00
Antioch, Palestine	1,400.00	Liberty, Henderson	500.00
Beacon Hill, Waco	1,000.00	Little Flock, Lufkin	100.00
Beacon, Bryan	360.00	Macedonia, Etoile	500.00
Beech Grove, Jasper	1,500.00	Macune, San Augustine	1,800.00
Bethel, Port Arthur	195.00	Magnolia Spgs., Magnolia Spgs.	500.00
BMA of Smith County	1,000.00	Mahl, Nacogdoches	780.00
Buena Vista, Tenaha	50.00	Massingill, Kent & Karla	100.00
Burchett, Ryan & Lindsie	50.00	Matthews, David & Vickie	200.00
Burnaman, Nancy	1,000.00	Morgan, Larry & Elizabeth	200.00
Calvary, Arlington	350.00	Murrey, Gary & Pamela	100.00
Calvary, Carthage	100.00	Mt. Calvary, Carthage	395.00
Calvary, Fairfield	3,542.48	Mt. Lebanon, Grand Saline	200.00
Calvary, Jacksonville	105.00	Mt. Pisgah, Mineola	3,130.00
Camille Acres, Longview	500.00	Mt. Selman, Bullard	93.91
Central, Aspermont	1,564.12	Myrtle Springs, Quitman	350.00
Clark, Cathy	100.00	New Hope, Mineola	1,500.00
Clover Hill, Quitman	100.00	New Hope, New Waverly	300.00
Collins, Linda	50.00	Northside, Garland	335.00
Cornerstone, Jacksonville	310.00	Northside, Garland	435.00
Damascus, Corrigan	100.00	Oak Hill, Gilmer	500.00
Dodds, Barbara	500.00	Old Home, Joaquin	289.00
Ebenezer Friendship, Pittsburg	531.00	Old Tyme, Longview	1,000.00
Eighth Avenue, Teague	535.00	Palmer, Howell	25.00
Enon First, Iola	20.00	Pecan, Robert Lee	1,834.00
Farley Street, Waxahachie	1,403.68	Pilgrims Rest, Emory	500.00
First Missionary, Cleburne	250.00	Red Springs, Tyler	1,890.00
First Cockrell Hill, Dallas	70.00	Reeves, M. Scott	100.00
First Missionary, Morton	50.00	Rocky Hill, Huntington	249.00
First Missionary, Terrell	385.00	Rose Hill, Mineola	330.00
First of Providence, Livingston	1,530.00	Rosewood, Gilmer	3,000.00
First, Bardwell	500.00	Round Prairie, Fairfield	1,500.00
First, Beckville	250.00	Sand Flat, Grand Saline	1,500.00
First, Blooming Grove	2,000.00	Sand Prairie, Normangee	1,500.00
First, New Summerfield	55.00	Sardis, Henderson	50.00
First, Palmer	1,500.00	Sardis, Waxahachie	50.00
First, Rice	890.00	Shady Grove, DeBerry	105.00
Forest Hill, Amarillo	500.00	Shady Grove, Purdon	150.00
Forest Hill, Quitman	1,725.00	Sheppard Drive, Euless	1,020.00
Freestone, Teague	185.00	Soda, Livingston	200.00
Friendship, Jacksonville	409.30	Stacy, Bryan	4,400.00
Friendship, Mesquite	105.00	Sunset, Lamesa	500.00
Glade Creek, Gilmer	1,500.00	Temple, Mexia	550.00
Hamm, Ray & Suzanne	200.00	Turner, Kimberly	100.00
Hathcock, Roy & Terri	5,000.00	Walnut Street, Winnsboro	1,380.00
Heritage, Waxahachie	765.00	Ward Prairie, Fairfield	250.00
Holly Grove, Livingston	300.00	Weeks Chapel, Jasper	1,000.00
Iglesia Bautista Centro De Vida	300.00	Williams, John or Mary	600.00
IMPACT @ Bethel, Dallas	350.00	Wilson, Eric	35.00
Jackson, Joaquin	416.00	Winterfield, Pickton	250.00
Jones, Jerry & Sally	100.00	Wolf, Margaret	25.00
		TOTAL	\$73,957.49

Memorials cont.

DEBBIE: Billy Speaks

REV. FRANK & DORIS DILL: Ross & Ellen Dill; Andy & Sylvia Dill

TERRI DOTSON: Larry & Debbie Starnes

ROXIE DUNCAN: Victory SS Class @ First Baptist Church, Carthage

GLEN FRAZIER: Larry & Linda Stout

TOMMY FRAZIER: Larry & Linda Stout

JEROME HALE: Larry & Judy Poe

ACIE HENIGAN: Emma & Kirk Burleson

BILLIE JACKSON: Ward Prairie Baptist Church, Fairfield

DONNIE JOHNSON: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

DAVID JUNKIN: Doyle & Patti Junkin

LAVERN KRUTZA: Friendship SS Class @ First Baptist Church, Carthage

FENLEY MAGNESS: Michael & Carolyn Vestal

TRAVIS MASON: Tommie Mason

ROY MERRILL: Latch Missionary Baptist Church, Gilmer

JOHNNY MILLER: Jed & Nona Dockery

CHARLES MITCHELL: Gay Mitchell

RAY M MOBLEY: Jerry & Debbie Wilson

BRO. MICHAEL MOORE: James & Linda Sockwell

MARGIE MORTON: Emma & Kirk Burleson

J.D. & MABLE JO ODOM: Henry & Renesia Wilburn

LOVITA LOU OUIMET: James Ouimet

DR. DALE REED: Emma & Kirk Burleson

JACK SETTLES SR.: J.L. & Reba Smith

DOROTHY B. WRIGHT SEXTON: Probitry SWD LLC; Jerri Schooler; Van & Fredda Schooler; Thomman's Jewelry (Roberta); Steve & Beth Holtz

PEGGY SIMONEK: Larry & Linda Stout

JOYCE STANDFIELD: Brenda Ray

ANITA SUTTON: James & Debbie Murphy;

JIMMIE TIDWELL: Emma & Kirk Davidson

BRO. DANNY TRIMBLE: Caleb & Jami Davidson; Ron & Lourita Coe; Brent & Tammy Swanner; Dianne Ferrell; Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Duane & Charlotte Turner; Chris Bingham; Richard & Bobbie Mauk; JL & Reba Smith; Jon & Lena Williamson; Danny & Renae James; Colby & Whitney Dickson; Brian & Mary Ann Mauk

REBA WETZEL: Larry & Linda Stout

LENA FAY WHITTAKER: Charles & Charlotte Johnson; David Johnson; Brian & Mary Ann Mauk

BUFORD WILLIAMSON: Caleb & Jami Davidson; Brent & Tammy Swanner; Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Jimmy & Carla Shipp

JAMES E WILSON: Jerry & Debbie Wilson

W.S. & LULA WILSON: Jerry & Debbie Wilson

BOBBIE WINTTERS: Jerry Null; Red Springs Missionary Baptist Church

JOHN WOLCOTT: Gay Mitchell

NANCY WRIGHT: Mary Stamper

Honorariums and memorials may be mailed to TBHC, P.O. Box 309, Waxahachie, Texas 75168. Please do not mail TBHC honorariums and memorials to *Baptist Progress*.

memorials-honorariums

A labor of love—and sacrifice

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

Baptist Progress Correspondent

In late summer of 2020, Buddy and Taffy Johnson sold their home in Waxahachie, their truck, and other personal effects, in order to travel to Ecuador for a task with which they are very familiar—mission work.

Ecuador is a small country with a population of 18 million, and located north of Peru and south of Columbia in South America.

“Not far from where we live, you can stand with one foot on the northern hemisphere and one foot on the southern hemisphere,” Johnson said, noting that although the Equator is known as the hot spot of the world, their home, which is in the mountains at an altitude of 10,000 feet has a constant, mild temperature year-round.

“There are no seasons here—and where we live, the temperature ranges from 50 to 75 degrees all year long,” he said.

The mission work in Ecuador was the vision of Trevor Morris, who had been pastor of Union Hill, Brownsboro. He spent two years making contacts and gathering a group to begin a work in the 400,000-population city of Cuenca in the mountains of Ecuador. After returning from Ecuador, Morris worked for Burton Oil Service Operations. On the morning of July 13, 2017, he lost his life in a plane crash. He had just departed Tyler for Midland when the crash happened. It was just a couple of months before he was to turn 40 years of age.

Morris had been working with Buddy and Eric Johnson in getting the mission started in Ecuador.

“We had been in and out of Ecuador since that time working with the group,” Johnson said. “We knew that if somebody didn’t volunteer to go work in the mission, we were going to lose it.”

Johnson said a lot of people in Cuenca were disillusioned with their churches, and gravitated to the new BMA mission.

“We had a two or three-night workshop of doctrinal

studies with the group,” said Johnson. “We were studying the doctrine of the security of the believer one night when some of the people became angered at the discussion and 27 of them walked out.”

One of the issues at hand was the fact that the pastor of the church, who had come from a Pentecostal background, had never been scripturally baptized. One night during a meeting of 12 men in the church to study Bible doctrine, the pastor began to weep and told the group that he was taught all his life that a person was first saved and then the Spirit came later.

“We got permission from the mother church to baptize the pastor and ordain him,” Johnson said.

Another issue in the church was the marital status of many couples. Some had not been properly married.

“It is a big problem, and so we determined that we wanted to do it right, and have couples to be scripturally married,” he said.

The Johnsons invited a couple to their home for a meal each week, and during one of the visits, they were able to lead the wife to the Lord. Many others have accepted Christ as a result of the ministry of the church.

When asked what his long-range goals were, Bro. Johnson said that his top priority was to get the Cuenca church stabilized and equipped to plant many other churches. The church’s name is It’s for You Jesus Baptist Church.

The Johnsons began their missionary work in Mexico in 1973, and after 27 years, 53 churches and groups were planted, with the flagship church being Primera Iglesia Bautista of Huejutla, Mexico. When they returned to the states in 2000, Buddy was invited back to the church he had left in 1973 to become missionary—Hillcrest, Texarkana.

For 10 years, Johnson has served as the Hispanic field coordinator for the BMA of America.



▲ Buddy and Taffy Johnson



▲ Buddy Johnson leading men in Bible Study



▲ The Johnsons hosting a meal in their home

Hispanic missions—a ripe field

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

Baptist Progress Correspondent

For several years, the BMA Texas Missions has launched into an aggressive, intentional Hispanic missions outreach. Arnulfo Maldonado, the Texas Hispanic coordinator, offices at the BMA of Texas Building in Waxahachie, and told Baptist Progress of his vision for evangelizing Texas' ever-growing Hispanic population, and planting churches.

"My goal is to plant 100 Hispanic churches in 10 years," Maldonado said. "I only have 87 more to go."

Arnulfo did not just begin church planting upon entering into the work of the BMA of Texas in 2003. He was already doing it, having planted a New Testament church in Mexico, and one in Florida.

Raised in Matamoras, Mexico, Maldonado came from a large family and was the 9th of 10 children. He surrendered his life to the gospel ministry in 1993, and his entrance into the BMA happened when he joined up with Creeks End Church of Spring, (formerly Spring Forest—a BMA of Texas missions plant) in the Houston area, where Dean Renfro was pastor.

Arnulfo is married to Elizabeth, and they have four sons, David, Abner, Eliezer and Gazer.

When asked about his vision, he said, "The most important thing now is to enlist preachers, or just good church members who would be interested in planting churches."

He also desires to see local churches, and local associations come forward and become involved in planting Hispanic churches. The mission of the work is clear—"Equipping missionaries who follow Christ in building missional churches with the support and intimate involvement of local BMA churches." Maldonado envisions each new mission planning to begin three new churches in their first 10 years.

"Missions is in our name—it's in our DNA," he said.

One very significant component in his missionary movement is to promote fellowship and promoting and serving one another. Arnulfo also believes that discipleship (one-on-one training of young believers) is an absolute must in the planting and nurturing of new churches.

He has a strong, unwavering belief that as local churches, a spirit of sharing is essential if church planting is to be successful.

"For example, I'm beginning a new church—your church has two excellent pianists—so give me one," he said, emphasizing the truth that church planting is not a network of many "lone wolves" isolating themselves and doing their own individual work, but rather a partnership—a collaboration between, and among churches and church planters.

"We have many activities that promote this partnership—like our "Hombre/Hombre" ministry where we meet annually for retreats, fellowship and training at Daniel Springs, and have quarterly meetings for pastor and church fellowship."

The collaboration even includes members from different mission churches, boarding a bus and attending the Texas state association or even the national association together.

"We have gained the use some equipment with the help of Lifeword, which enables us to have the sessions of the BMA meetings to be translated in real time to non-English speaking Hispanic people," Maldonado explained.

Texas BMA director of Missions, Heith Mitchell, extolls the work of Maldonado.

"Arnulfo works hand in hand with us, focusing on the Hispanic work—he exclusively engages with first generation church people—meaning non-English-speaking people, as opposed to second generation—children who have learned the language," said Mitchell. "He has proven himself to be a church multiplier and planter—having personally planted several churches. He lovingly works to bring everyone to the table."

The following is a list of church start-ups sponsored by the ministry of the Texas Hispanic Coordinator. Jaime Henriquez, Fuente de Vida Eterna in Houston; Martin Juarez, First Baptist, New Caney; Santos Lopez, New Hispanic Plant in Port Arthur; Gamalier Luna, Celebration Church, El Paso; Roberto Marcelletti, Hispanic Plant in Ennis; Neptaly Molina, Iglesia Bautista Mission, Nacogdoches; and Isaias Rojas Osechas, Victoria en Cristo in Spring.

For further information, or if you wish to financially support BMA Texas Missions and the Hispanic work, or if you have a burden to see such a work started up in your area, contact Heith Mitchell at hmittell@bmatexas.org 972-923-0757, or contact Arnulfo Maldonado at arnulfo@bmatexas.org.



▲ Arnulfo Maldonado



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Lifeword and the mission of God



By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

BMA Global Missions Center

Four years ago, when the Lifeword Cloud was being conceived and implemented, Executive Director Donny Parrish gave team members their roles in its development. An exciting time for all of us, we prayed for God's guidance and favor as his plans became a reality. Thankfully, Donny is not just a vision caster; he's also a "pray-er." And pray we did . . .

Looking back at that time period of the unknown, we can see how God worked in incredible ways including the addition of a team member, Director of Internet Broadcasting and Digital Strategy Jon Dodson, who had many years of experience in marketing, website management, and digital strategy. He brought many new ideas to the table and knew that the success of a ministry included both video and print content. That meant someone would need to manage the daily blogs published on lifeword.org.

With guidance and advice from Jon and the Lifeword team, I am honored to be that person. There was a lot

to learn in the months before Lifeword went live in September of 2018. So, I began assembling a talented team of people that includes more than just professional bloggers and writers. That team also includes ministry leaders, stay-at-home moms, pastors, church planters, retirees, missionaries, BMA staff members, counselors, and high school and college students. Currently English-only, Lifeword's blog will soon include more languages, meaning more people reached with the gospel.

Jon says, "God has truly blessed Lifeword.org with an amazing team of writers that daily produce gospel-centered content. Blogging has allowed Lifeword.org to daily publish content that search engines absolutely devour and visitors continue to love to read more and more.

"Of the 574,000 visitors to Lifeword.org in 2020, the main blog page at lifeword.org/blog was the number two most visited page in the website. Given current trends, Lifeword.org will receive over 1.5 million visits in 2021 and the blog articles will undoubtedly continue to

deliver glory to our God and the good news of the gospel to our visitors.»

Spreading the gospel couldn't be more critical right now, and the purpose of all Lifeword blogs is to point non-believers to Christ and encourage believers to action. Our BMA state papers have begun including Lifeword's blogs in their publications, and we appreciate their help in promoting them.

"Your Lifeword team desires to equip you to minister online to your friends," Jon Dodson says. "Help Lifeword.org spread the gospel and share the amazing content – blogs, video, audio, Bible study lessons and much more—that God is allowing us to produce. To share Lifeword.org blogs on your social media accounts, simply go to lifeword.org/blog/, click on a blog title then on any of the social share buttons you'll see below the blog title to start sharing now. All of us at Lifeword.org hope the blogs are a blessing to you and to your personal ministry online as 'We Tell the Story' together."

Have you registered your church for World Missions Day?

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

BMA Global Missions Center

There is still time to let us know you are planning to celebrate global missions on Feb. 28 or any day you choose. When you go to <https://bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday/> to register your church, we will send your pastor a free BMA Missions polo. You can also order or download posters, bulletin inserts, a promotional guide and a World Missions Day video featuring four of our more than 500 ChangeMakers from around the world.

On the website, you can also order GO.DISCIPLE.PLANT.REPEAT T-shirts. That is our theme for this year, and it is God's global mission for His church. This theme defines who we are and what we do in BMA Global Missions. We send missionaries to make disciples and train leaders to plant churches in their own countries. Serving in over 72 countries around the world, these ChangeMakers are national church planters and missionaries who have dedicated their lives to that mission.

Please join us on World Missions Day as we CELEBRATE God's global mission, PRAY for the ChangeMakers who GO.DISCIPLE.PLANT, REPEAT and GIVE to the Jerry Kidd Missions Offering on World Missions Day.





Daniel Springs Camp update

By **JASON PREWITT**

Exciting things are happening at Daniel Springs Camp as we anticipate a busy spring and summer. We are so excited about summer 2021 and the amazing opportunities God has in store for all of us to be a part of sharing the amazing message of salvation.

February is busy as we continue to accept applications and interview for our summer staff positions. This is one of the biggest blessings each year, seeing high school juniors and seniors and college students come from different walks of life to explore the possibility of investing in summer ministry at Daniel Springs. Over the last 5 years, it has been an amazing journey to see how God has brought together some great young adults to invest in each other, campers, adult sponsors and then to watch their personal relationship with the Lord be strengthened. This summer adventure starts as a group of individuals and as the summer progresses, develops into lifelong friendships.

Plans and details are being worked on for the March Missions Month. March is set aside for individuals and groups to come and work on projects at the camp. No matter if it is just you, your family, a small group or a large group we would love for you to come and spend time with us at the camp and help us continue to make Daniel Springs Camp a place where people meet and grow in their relationship with each other and the Lord. These projects vary from construction, demolition, minor and major repairs, cleaning, sorting, painting, power washing and many other projects. If you want to come by yourself or bring a group of any size, we would love to see you.

I know many are wanting more details about what our summer schedule is going to look like. We are currently working out the details of the health and safety guidelines we have to follow. We will hopefully have this information ready to begin sharing with you near the middle of February.

If you have any questions about March Mission Month, have a student that would like more information about being a summer staffer, or have questions regarding the summer schedule, feel free to contact us by phone at 903-685-2433 or email us at info@danielspringscamp.com.

Jason Prewitt is the director of Daniel Springs Baptist Camp. Contact him at P.O. Box 310, Gary, Texas 75643, 903-685-2433 or info@danielspringscamp.com. For more information, visit danielspringscamp.com.



BMA Texas Missions cont.

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

We at Anchor, Austin thank you for praying for us and supporting us, as we continue to serve the communities around us. Pray that we have more opportunities to be more effective in spreading the gospel in this part of the state. Our vision is to be a multi-ethnic congregation of believers anchored and maturing in Christ with discipleship as our heartbeat.

Prayer Needs:

Continue to pray for Anchor, Austin. Pray for those we are already ministering to, that they would mature in their faith. And, pray for our ongoing outreach ministry specifically to unbelievers.

ISAIAS ROJAS OSECHAS—
CHURCH PLANT IN SPRING
ISAIAS.ROJAS299@GMAIL.COM

Thank you for your support in this difficult stage due to the pandemic. We appreciate the coaching, training, financial support and prayer support you provide.

Prayer Needs

Pray that God will keep us healthy in the face of the attacks of the pandemic and give us more wisdom for the great challenges of these end times, to promptly reap the great harvest.

GAMALIER LUNA—
NEW MISSION IN EL PASO
GAMALUGA@HOTMAIL.COM

Friends, stay firm. If you need to talk to someone you can call me. I'm at your service at 915-274-8679.

Prayer Needs:

Pray for our vision and our family.

RONNIE MILLS—
KINGDOM CHAPEL MISSION, SAGINAW/
NORTH FORT WORTH
RONNIE@KCHAPEL.ORG

BMA family, I wish wholeheartedly that I could express my thanksgiving in person for all of your prayers and support as I battled COVID in the hospital. I want you to know the Lord has shown me great mercy and answered your prayers in bringing me home to my family. Thank you also for our church family who is doing well, who also persevered through this challenge for us. We love you all and we're looking forward to pressing on with that in which the Lord has tasked us.

Prayer Needs:

Please continue to pray for our church as we continue the work in the Lord here in Saginaw. We are in the process of raising some new leaders, and we would love your prayer. Also, we're trying to figure out unique ways to reach our community that will meet specific needs while bringing the gospel to those in need. Please pray over this, that God would open doors for us.

NEPTALY MOLINA—
IGLESIA BAUTISTA MISSION, NACOGDOCHES
NRMOLINA23@GMAIL.COM

Biblical Passage: Philippians 3:10-14; 2 Timothy 4:7,8).

In these Bible passages, the apostle Paul had concrete goals—to know more about Christ (v. 10), to lose the world in order to win Jesus Christ (v. 8) and to follow the target to reach the purpose he wished to achieve (v. 14). To sum it up, his goal was to fight the good fight, finish the race and keep the faith (2 Timothy 4:7-8). This for me is also a goal that I have for 2021. This represents the four pillars on which I rest to let God do His work through me in the Renacer Baptist Church of Nacogdoches.

Prayer Needs:

Pray that the Lord will help me to follow in the footsteps of Paul, in fulfilling these steps in my ministry at this time.

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

When I think of all the amazing churches in the BMA of Texas, I'm reminded of how Paul felt about the church in Ephesus. Paul wrote, "For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers" (Ephesians 1:15-16). As your missionaries, we are deeply aware of your faithfulness to us. And like Paul, we can't thank the Lord enough for you, your support and your prayers, especially during this difficult season that has posed so many uniquely complicated challenges. In spite of it all, we press on here in west Texas. I'm thankful for the leadership groups God has given me to lead and I'm especially excited that one of my leaders has started his first discipleship group. That's what it's all about! Please continue to pray for us. We will definitely continue to give thanks for you.

Prayer Needs:

Continue to pray for persons of peace in the towns of west Texas.

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

God has been very faithful to us, even in the tough times. Although the past month or so after the holiday season has been challenging, I am encouraged to see God provide for some great opportunities to reach out into our community in the coming months.

Prayer Needs:

Pray for continued opportunities to demonstrate the love of Christ to families in our community.

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.





February is WMA Enlistment Month

By **GLENDA CHAMBERLAIN**

The Lord has blessed us with a new year to anticipate reaching out in His love to ladies in our families, churches and communities. While we are still advised to avoid large gatherings due to the COVID pandemic, the Lord is willing and able to provide us opportunities to share the gospel and minister to the spiritual and physical needs of ladies all around us. The message of the wonderful song, "People Need the Lord," has never been more critical than now.

The goal of our emphasis in enlistment for WMA and our ladies' groups is more urgent than ever. Our focus is to create a spirit of love in welcoming ladies to join us in prayer, Bible study and ministry. A key aspect of making this outreach successful and effective is to make it

intentional. This means calling on the guidance of the Holy Spirit in creating prayer teams, Bible study partners and ministry plans and asking Him to go before us in seeking the ladies we can reach.

We are blessed with many ways to communicate, whether by phone call, cards and letters, social media, meaningful gifts and in person whenever possible. What matters most is that the love of the Lord shine through in our words and deeds.

Our WMA motto speaks of several qualities the Lord desires to cultivate in us, so that these are what people see in our lives. Four of these are faith, godliness, kindness, and charity. May the Lord lead us as we incorporate these into

our outreach this year.

He has given us a wonderful promise that we can stand upon, and also share with ladies all around us, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

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



Will you help us update your church information?

I'm John Meriweather, director of operations for the BMA of America. A key service we provide our association is a database of information on all of our churches and ministries. We publish this information in an annual directory, and we use it to ensure that your church and your pastor are included on any communications from our association and its various departments and ministries. Information is critical to helping us communicate and stay connected.

I am personally asking for your help to ensure we have the most current and accurate information on your church.

FOUR EASY WAYS TO REVIEW AND UPDATE CHURCH INFORMATION

- **MAIL:** Use last year's survey that was sent in August to make any necessary changes to what we currently have on file. Send it to BMA America, PO Box 1188 Conway, AR 72033.
- **PHONE:** Contact Heather Pantoja at 501-508.2261 or heather@bmaamerica.org if you do not have that survey but would like one.
- **EMAIL:** Download a church information survey here: [2021 Church Information Survey.pdf](#). Email the completed survey to heather@bmaamerica.org or mail to BMA America, PO Box 1188, Conway, AR 72033.
- **ON-LINE:** Fill out a survey online at www.bmaamerica.org/blank-church-survey-form/



Thank you!

John Meriweather
501-499-6810
john@bmaamerica.org

EVENTS

BAPTIST PROGRESS MINISTRY CONNECTION WORKSHOP: GOSPEL IMPACT THROUGH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

DATE: March 23, 2021

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

PLACE: CrossRoads Church,
7900 Chiesa Road, Rowlett

2021 BMA OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: April 19-21, 2021

PLACE: Farley Street Baptist Church,
Waxahachie, Texas

BAPTIST PROGRESS MINISTRY CONNECTION WORKSHOP: CONFLICT—CAUSES AND CURES

DATE: June 10, 2021

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

PLACE: Jacksonville College,
105 B.J. Albritton Drive, Jacksonville

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

DATE: Sept. 16, 2021

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

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

2021 BMA OF TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING (CHANGE OF DATE)

DATE: Nov. 4, 2021

PLACE: New Harmony, Tyler

2021 NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

DATE: Nov. 15-17, 2021

PLACE: Chateau on the Lakes,
Branson, Missouri

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

PASTOR—Lighthouse, Payne Springs is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to P.O. Box 142, Eustace, Texas 75124 or shirleyrawlinson46@gmail.com.

PASTOR—New Bethlehem, Cut and Shoot is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to 14630 Millmac Road, Conroe, Texas 77303 or nbbc2112@consolidated.net. ⁶²¹

PASTOR—Calvary First, Mesquite is seeking a bivocational senior pastor. Send resume to Mike Lampkin, 1001 Walford Drive, Forney, Texas 75126, mike_lampkin@att.net or call 214-862-4406. ⁶²¹

PASTOR—Lakeridge, Lubbock is seeking a senior pastor. Send resume to Karen Isaacs, 4601 82nd Street, Lubbock, Texas 79424, psc@mylrbc.org or call 806-771-0514. ⁵²¹

PASTOR—Keltys First, Lufkin is seeking a full-time lead teaching pastor. Send resume, ministry philosophy, and any sermon links to jobs@keltys.org or to P.O. Box 3043, Lufkin, TX, 75903, Attn: Pastor Search. Visit keltys.org/pastorsearch for more information and a job description. ⁷⁷⁴

PASTOR—Antioch, Carthage is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Pulpit Committee, Scott Dyer, 442 County Road 1081, Carthage, Texas 75633, sedyer57@gmail.com or call 903-690-4819. ⁷⁷⁴

PASTOR—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a pastor. Send resume to jimmysealy@aol.com or to FMBC Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346. ⁷⁷⁴

AVAILABLE MINISTERS

CHRIS PRICE is available for pulpit supply. He is a member of Mt. Calvary, Carthage. Contact him at 903-203-4958 or pastor.chris.price@gmail.com. ³²¹

Church news

OAK HILL, GILMER—Daniel Medina preached his first message and the church voted to license him to the gospel ministry Jan. 17. The church hosted a meal for family, friends and guests following the service. Bro. Medina came to the United States unable to speak English as a young boy in the 6th grade. He was saved at Oak Hill on Easter Sunday, 2019, and made known the Lord's call on his life Jan. 3. He is married with three children.



▲ Daniel Medina, with his wife, children and parents

In Loving Memory

LELAND CALLAWAY

Leland Callaway, 90, of Magnolia, Arkansas passed away Feb. 4. He pastored Trinity, Magnolia for 36 years; University, Nacogdoches for eight years and served on staff at Jacksonville College. He served in the gospel ministry for more than 70 years. Graveside services were held Feb. Memorials may be made to Trinity Baptist Church, PO Box 1213, Magnolia, AR 71754.



HARIUM HARRIS

Harium C. Harris, 76, of Grand Saline, passed away Jan. 17. Services were Jan. 24 at Eubank Funeral Home in Canton. Bro. Harris served several churches in east Texas as pastor and was active in the Baptist Missionary Association.



He retired from the pastorate after serving 50 years in the gospel ministry.

RANDY SCHOENROCK

Randy Schoenrock, 59, son Pastor and Mrs. James Schoenrock, passed away Jan. 14. For a time, he served on staff at Park Avenue, Searcy, Arkansas. A private graveside service was held in his memory. Memorials may be made



to Blake's Run, c/o Community Life Church (<https://clifec.com/give/>). Blake's Run is an annual race established in the memory of Randy's son, Blake, to honor his desire to tell the world about Jesus.

pastor & staff changes

RYAN BURCHETT has resigned as pastor of Northside, Garland to become pastor of Walnut Street, Winnsboro.

MIKE FISHER is the new pastor at Enon, Gilmer.

CHARLIE WOODARD has retired as pastor of Lighthouse, Payne Springs.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

All believers need to grow

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: March 7, 2021

TEXT: Acts 18:22-28

THE HOOK

The best-case scenario for a pastor/church relationship is for the man of God to be well seasoned and able to expound the Word and grow the people. However, it seems some churches have a special designation from God to lend experience, encouragement and nurturing to a young, unseasoned man. After all, preachers have to start out somewhere—somehow. In addition to the many seasoned pastors and mentors who nurtured me, the great people of Enon, Iola—my first pastorate—taught this young, unworthy preacher boy much more than he could ever impart to them. It is most encouraging to read about a man like Apollos, who sometimes stumbled over doctrinal issues, and to have a loving, grounded-in-the-faith couple to take him aside.

THE BOOK

1. Paul revisits the people (verses 22-23). It is engrained

into the DNA of a God-called pastor to revisit people whom the Lord once placed in his watch-care through the years. There is a bond which is inexplicable. Once a pastor ministers the Word to people, marries them, buries them, leads them to the Lord and walks in and out among them, they are permanently in his heart. If the student takes nothing else away from this week's lesson, please understand the close, supernatural, loving bond between the pastor and the church. Paul's revisiting of Caesarea, Antioch, Galatia, and Phrygia, was much more than just a sentimental journey—his interest was in how strong the people had become in the word and their relationship with Christ. It is very gratifying to a pastor to see how ministries that succeeded his own, effectively built upon that ministry.

2. Paul has help in training and discipling a young preacher: Pastors need help. They cannot shoulder the ministry load on their own. Apollos was a young, intellectual man from Alexandria—a city which was known throughout the region as the epicenter of higher education. He possessed all the right traits of a God-called preacher. He apparently had a great delivery, he preached Jesus, he

was bold and he was “fervent in spirit.” But he was only versed in John's baptism. Paul's close friends, a couple named Aquila and Priscilla, took Apollos aside privately, discreetly, lovingly and in a non-threatening way, and corrected his doctrinal stance. It is a wonderful thing when seasoned members of the church, rather than publicly humiliating a young preacher, takes him aside privately.

3. The result. Paul's ministry was multiplied through young men he discipled, like Apollos. Apollos was welcomed and encouraged when he traveled to Achaia, and he became a great, bold, eloquent disciple-maker.

THE LOOK

I believe this account of the confrontation of Apollos with Aquila and Priscilla, teaches us much more than a young man being corrected, but also reminds us to be loving and discreet when we interact with God's man—especially a young man who needs instruction and encouragement. It is comforting and reassuring to see the wonderful “crop” of younger men of God who have been raised up to take the reins in our work today.

The truth continues to spread

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: March 14, 2021

TEXT: Acts 19:1-10

THE HOOK

Belief in, and knowledge of true Bible doctrine is absolutely essential if one is to follow Christ. The hellish teaching, “it doesn't matter what one believes just as long as they are sincere,” or “we're all working together to get to the same place” is about all many so-called “Christians”—and church-goers know. It is imperative that we know, believe and practice the truth of God's Word, especially in these latter days of falling away from the faith, men and women being lovers of self, and other earmarks of apostasy. Know what doctrines your church upholds—if they teach any other doctrine other than Jesus Christ as the only Way to eternal life, flee that “church” as quickly as possible.

THE BOOK

1. Paul was faced with people's ignorance of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit (verse 2). It was at the moment that Paul corrected their thinking by notifying them of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. It wasn't that they rejected the Spirit, they simply didn't know. So, they gladly received Paul's instruction, and were set on the right path.

2. Paul was faced with the people's misunderstanding of the baptism of John (verse 3). Paul discovered that many people, who

had a knowledge of Jesus as the Messiah, had not witnessed the empowering of the Holy Spirit, which occurred in Jerusalem during Pentecost. They were still resting in the baptism of John when they should have remembered that John declared the One who would come after him.

3. Paul was faced with the apostasy of hardened hearts (verse 9). Some were hardened and disobedient. It is one thing to have a pliable, teachable spirit and heart toward knowing the truth, but not being versed in true doctrine, but it's another thing to have a blatant, rebellious, hardness of heart. “Many are called, but few are chosen.” What was Paul's reaction? He withdrew from them, and took his teachable disciples, and spent his time with them in a lecture hall, owned by a man by the name of Tyrannus.

In God's kingdom on earth, it is “working smart” to invest one's life discipling true believers. But scripture indicates that it is a waste of time to try to coax hardened hearts into the truth. Jesus said, according to Matthew 10:14, “And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, as ye go forth out of that city, shake off the dust of your feet.” Also Matthew 7:6 says, “Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.”

THE LOOK

The famous quote by Henry Blackaby comes into focus here. “Find out where God is working and join Him.” Blackaby cites

John 5:17, “...My Father worketh hitherto, and I worketh,” and John 5:19, “...The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do.” God is not interested in you beating your head against the wall, trying to convince a hardened heart, where the Spirit is not working. But invest in those whom the Lord is calling—and softening with the gospel.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

Competition and opposition

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: March 21, 2021

TEXT: Acts 19:11-41

THE HOOK

It should be no surprise that the forces of Satan will rise up against the miraculous works of God the Father. Someone once said, “If you arise in the morning and are not confronted by the devil, then it is evidence that you are going in the same direction.” I believe that it is no coincidence that a man of God, who is experiencing a mighty work of God upon his life and ministry, suffers a fall, and resigns in shame. Such was not the case with Paul—he remained strong in the Lord in the face of satanic opposition.

THE BOOK

1. The legitimate work of God (verses 11-12). One who is well versed in scripture and has a close relationship with Christ, can readily identify God’s moving. The power of the

Spirit of God upon Paul’s life was unmistakable. Evil spirits could not withstand the power of Christ upon Paul’s life.

2. The fake deeds of the religious charlatan (verses 13-16). The seven sons of Sceva, who espoused the works of the devil, while seeking to identify with Jesus, Whom Paul genuinely knew, were no match for the forces of darkness. When they confronted the demon possessed man with their fleshly efforts, they were quickly overpowered and defeated. They did not have the power of Christ in them. And their being sons of one who was a Jew and a chief priest, was to no avail. Like Hophni and Phinehas, just being sons of Eli the priest, did not qualify them to be spiritual leaders in the Temple (1 Samuel 2).

3. Religion for monetary gain (verses 24-41). It is shameful to say, but religion was a lucrative industry during the Apostle Paul’s time, and it is no different today. Many so-called evangelists and mega-church leaders have

made a fabulous living promoting religion and preaching a prosperity gospel. In Paul’s day, the goddess Diana, the goddess of fertility was worshiped in Ephesus. A silversmith, Demetrius, amassed great wealth by crafting silver trinkets as shrines to Diana. So naturally, Paul’s genuine gospel of Christ threatened to diminish Diana, and wreck the industry. Verse 30 reveals that the followers of Diana came against Paul.

THE LOOK

This lesson truly illustrates Jesus’ great declaration in Matthew 10:34-36, “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household.” The gospel of peace has come to the world, and it brings peace to all who receive it, while it clashes with the condemned.

Leaving disciples

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: March 28, 2021

TEXT: Acts 20:1-31

THE HOOK

There is enough information and inspiration in Acts 20 for a pastor to spend months delivering a series in it. A careful study of this chapter causes us to come away with a fresh new insight as to what must be possessed in the heart of a pastor, missionary or any other faithful Christian today. We see in Acts 20, an Apostle Paul who was laser-focused on spreading the word over as much ground as possible, to labor with passion and tears—to set things in order in each of the (at least) 18 different locations where the work had been established, and to win people to Christ. To become more aware of Paul’s experience in ministry in the first century, as juxtaposed to the lavish, soft environment we have experienced in western culture during these 20th and 21st centuries, should bring an overwhelming sense of unworthiness and shame because of all the myriad of influences that have impaired our vision of the Lord’s service—His church - and His mission.

THE BOOK

1. The missionary route. From an examination of the map, it is estimated that Paul and his company traveled, (by ship and by foot) on his third missionary journey, at least 700 miles, visiting Antioch, Phrygia/Galatia, Ephesus, Macedonia (twice) Greece, Philippi, Troas, Assos, Mitylene, Samos,

Miletus, Cos, Rhodes, Patara, Tyre, Ptolemais, and Caesarea. It was essential that Paul and company cover a vast area in establishing the New Testament work on earth. Today, God chooses to lead His servants to remain for a few months or years at a location—some minister in six or seven locations over several states during a lifetime, while He places some in one location for 30, 40, or even 50 years. Regardless of whether it is the first century, or the 21st Century, we should have no less the laser focus on God’s kingdom than the Apostle Paul did.

2. The perils (verse 3). Paul was continually “dogged” by the opposition of the Jews. We are promised of perilous times in the latter days as well.

3. The communion (verse 7). The disciples were faithful to observe the feast of unleavened bread each week, always remembering Christ’s shed blood and broken body for the remission of sin (1 Corinthians 11:26).

4. The long sermon (verse 9). A young man named Eutychus, dozed off during Paul’s sermon delivered on the third floor of a building and literally fell to his death. Some theorize that the many oil lamps took much oxygen out of the room, causing Eutychus to become drowsy and fall asleep. The incident could be interpreted as an interruption of God’s message—or it could have served as a vivid object lesson

of God’s power, when Paul fell upon the young, dead man, and announced that “his life is in him” which brought great comfort to the company (verse 10).

5. The heart for ministry. Paul served (a) with all humility, tears and temptations (verse 19); (b) Paul’s words were profitable and ministered grace (verse 20); (c) Paul was non-partisan (verse 21); (d) Paul was driven, by faith (verse 22); (e) Paul was dependent on the Holy Spirit to guide him (verse 23); (f) Paul had a total disregard for his own life but only to finish well (verse 24); (g) Paul’s conscience was clear concerning his witness (verses 26-27); (h) Paul’s final mandate to the servants he is leaving behind (verses 28-31).

THE LOOK

May God help each of us, His servants, to follow Paul’s example by having that same laser focus—the same fervor for God’s kingdom’s work.

Paul Gauntt served for 16 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.





Dear churches,

We are looking forward to seeing you and your girls at the 2021 Texas GMA Houseparty! It is going to look a little bit different than what we are all accustomed to, but we're excited about these changes and we hope you will be too. Here are the details:

Saturday, March 20, 2021

**10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sign-in starts at 9:30 a.m.**

\$25 per person (includes T-shirt)

**Rosewood Baptist Church
8260 Arrowwood Road, Big Sandy**

As you might have noticed, our Houseparty will be a one-day event this year. We will have a morning session, lunch and an afternoon session. Lunch will be provided by Rosewood.

We kept as many of the important elements in the schedule as possible, as well as most of the fun ones! We will not have a formal Queen coronation, but Queens will be recognized during the afternoon program, along with all the other girls who have passed a step in the last year. This means that Queens will not need to bring their formal white dress, but they are welcome to wear their crown and other accessories with a Sunday dress if they desire! Miss and Junior Miss GMA participants are encouraged to wear Sunday church attire (along with their sashes) for when they are recognized during the afternoon program. Dresses or skirts cannot be shorter than four inches above the knee. Attire is casual for all sessions for anyone not participating in the afternoon program. All program participants are invited to wear Sunday attire but such attire is not required.

Our theme will be a 2-in-1 of sorts. Since our 2019-2020 officers worked so hard to plan last year's Houseparty, they will lead the morning session with the "We Won't Be Shaken" theme. In the afternoon, our newly appointed 2020-2021 officers will lead with the 2021 theme (to be announced)! The officers will have a variety of items, including homemade ones, to sell at Houseparty to raise money for the project.

Officer surveys, Miss and Jr. Miss GMA surveys, registration/T-shirt forms, project money, and all other paperwork will be due by March 1, so don't wait! These forms and all other information pertaining to the Houseparty can be found on our website www.texasgma.org. Click on the Houseparty link at the top right. Also, be sure to download and print the project coloring sheet for your girls to help encourage them to raise money for the project!

Even if you do not have the GMA program currently at your church, if you have girls between 4th and 12th grade, give them the opportunity to come and have fun, meet new people and most importantly, worship the Lord with girls their own ages.

If you have any questions, you can reach us by using the Contact Us form on our website (click the Contact link at the top right). Please join us in praying that this Houseparty will bring glory to God!

In His Service,
Texas GMA Officers