

# Baptist Progress

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## BMA of Texas representatives meet with Southern Baptists of Texas Convention to plan for November meeting

By **CHARLES JOHNSON**  
*Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer*

Four representatives from the BMA of Texas, Teel Witt, Wes Pratt, and Charlotte and Charles Johnson, met with representatives of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC) Jan. 27 at Champion Forest Baptist Church (CFBC) in Houston. The purpose of the meeting was to plan our state convention/association.

After touring the expansive facilities of CFBC for the purpose of determining logistics for each group's meeting needs, a sit down discussion was held to determine a tentative schedule of events. The BMA of Texas will meet Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 10 and 11. The BMA of Texas meeting should be done with business by noon Wednesday to avoid exiting during rush hour. The SBTC business meetings are Monday night and Tuesday. They also hold a Bible (preaching) conference on Sunday night and Monday to which the BMA of Texas is invited.

Both groups will meet for a combined worship service beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the main worship center. The plan is to feature the Jacksonville College Choir and Texas Baptist Home for Children during this service since these two ministries are common in support. The worship session will feature preaching from a BMA of Texas speaker and one from a SBTC representative.

The state association of the BMA of Texas will meet in a chapel adjacent to the main worship center. The facility will hold over 300. It will also serve as the meeting site of the Women's Missionary Auxiliary meeting. A nearby choir rehearsal room houses over 200 and will be used for our annual leadership conference. Spacious entrance foyers will be utilized for displays from our departments and varied ministries.

Charlotte and I went to Houston on Monday prior to the planning meeting to explore the area. We were able to locate the church very easily with only one turn necessary after leaving I-45 on the extreme north side of the city. Hotels are within a reasonable driving distance from the church building. Food venues are plentiful, and Charlotte has already located great shopping spots. (Sigh!) More detailed information will be provided later.

The associational and convention Baptists in Texas parted ways over a century ago. Our conservative theology and common goals for winning Texas to Jesus have reunited us in purpose during the present generation. Please make plans now to attend the historic meeting on Nov. 10-11, 2015.



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# Church Health

## Limiting Beliefs

By LARRY BARKER

Whenever you see God's people struggling, as you read the scriptures, it is usually because of their lack of faith. We all have beliefs that limit us. Matthew 19:26 says, "But Jesus looked at them and said, *With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.*" (HCSB)

Limiting beliefs exist in our heads because we have chosen to look outward in fear at our situation instead of looking upward in faith at our Savior. Michael Hyatt teaches that there are basically three areas these limiting beliefs impact our lives.

**First, we have limiting beliefs about ourselves.** This is where we say, "I could never \_\_\_\_\_!" You fill in that blank.

**Second, we have limiting beliefs about other people.** This is where we say, "I'm never gonna trust anyone ever again because \_\_\_\_\_!" Once again you fill in the blank. In *Limitless Life*, Derwin Gray says, "When you and I focus on how we've been done wrong, we do not focus on how we've been done right by Jesus!"

Michael Hyatt says, "Nothing can [stall] your future like getting stuck in the past." Did you know the only place the past still exists is in your mind? A recent quote I saw said, "Your future does not equal your past." We must move past our memories of

grief, grudges and even past glory. The apostle Paul challenges us to forget those things that are behind and press forward.

**Third, we have limiting beliefs about the world in which we live.** We recognize it when we say things like, "These are the last days." "There's nothing we can do about it!" Please don't forget about 1 John 4:4 which says, "*You are from God, little children, and you have conquered them, because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*" (HCSB)

We must realize that all things are possible through God. People aren't holding you back, nor are your finances holding you back. Your job isn't holding you back, nor are your circumstances holding you back. What is holding us back is our lack of faith.

Tony Evans says it this way, "Faith is acting like it is so even when it is not so in order that it may be so simply because God said so." John 14:13-14 says, "*Whatever you ask in My name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.*" This is not a name it and claim it theology but is based upon two truths that determine how our prayers are answered. Does it further God's kingdom (in my name) and does it glorify Him?

Does your church believe what Jesus said regardless of what has happened in the past or what has not happened? Do you believe what Jesus said regardless of what limiting beliefs are swirling in your head about yourself, others and the world? We must be willing to wait in prayer with a "disciplined refusal" to move forward or act before God acts. But we must also be willing to step out in obedient faith when God says go. What is it God is wanting to do in your church and through your church in 2015?

What should we as a church do to move forward in faith?

**First, write out your core values.** What you value determines what you do. If you say you value people who do not know God and are far from Him, then you will be doing something about reaching them with the gospel. The problem is that we are long on talk and short on action. If you say you value lost people but never share your faith then you really do not value them. You cannot keep doing the same things (or not doing) and expect to get different results.

**Second, make goals for the new year.** Have you as a church sat down and written out what you are asking God to do through your ministry in 2015? Have you written out your own personal goals? Research tells us that just writing down your goals means there is a 42 percent greater chance they will happen. But they also must have a deadline. Dave Ramsey says, "A goal without a deadline is just a dream!"

**Third, ask God to do it.** Will the goals you feel God has laid upon your heart and your church further His kingdom and will they glorify Him? James reminds us in God's word that we have not because we ask not! Are you asking God to redeem and save your neighbor, friend, co-worker or family member? Are you asking God to do above and beyond anything you could ask or think according to His power not your limiting beliefs?

Healthy churches refuse to allow limiting beliefs to keep them from moving forward in obedient faith.



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Larry Barker is the operations director for North American Missions. For more information or to contact him, visit [www.bmamissions.org](http://www.bmamissions.org).





# Family Matters

## Roadblocks and Obstacles

By DR. TRAVIS PLUMLEE

We all have them. Sometimes they are huge problems. Sometimes they are situations that present themselves to us that we must solve and work out. It could be what seems like insurmountable financial mountains. It might be a roadblock to enjoying life because of some health issue. There could be a family problem that just overwhelms us. It is like running into a brick wall, obstacles and hurdles to have to jump over and mountains and walls to climb.

In this old broken world on earth, all humans will have to face these from time to time. Some folks seem to move from one obstacle to the next. As Christians, we know we have the power of God to see us through this. Yet, it is during these times that we truly see that none of us have faith the size of a mustard seed.

**We know God's promises.** We have read them in the Bible so that our brain has learned these truths. But when you are overwhelmed by all you have to do. We fail to live out the truths. We resort to worry.

Mountains and roadblocks in life can also lead to a host of other feelings such as frustration, stress, anxiety, depression, anger or even bitterness. It may just be the inability to move ahead. We can get so overwhelmed by what lies before us, that we just sit there frozen and immobilized. The task before us seems daunting. We say, "I can't do this, I don't have the time, the know-how, the energy or the money."

**Where you see roadblocks and mountains, I see a plan.** God has a plan for every single human. It is amazing that He has had this plan for you since before you had one day on earth (Psalm 139:16). Sin and humanity broke the world. That is why we have problems. Yet, God still has a plan for you. He always loves you when you are in Christ (Romans

8:38, 39). He will see you through this. He will deliver you. He is your helper and strength (Hebrews 13:5-6).

This is not impossible with God (Philippians 4:13). This mountain you face is not insurmountable with God. He can handle it. He can take you over the mountain, remove it or blast right through it. Our Savior can move the mountains. He can remove the mountain of doubt, worry, family problems, health or financial issues. He can remove a mountain of stress so that you can get all that work done that has to be done, but right now is overwhelming you. He cannot only remove it, but He can give you peace through it (Philippians 4:7).

Read carefully now: God loves you. You are His child. He wants you to be successful for His glory. These troubles can bring Him glory and that is what we are created (Revelation 4:11). Your faith can be strengthened. You won't get a big faith, because none of us have faith the size of a mustard seed, but a purer faith to trust God in all things. You will have the faith to let God have something and to leave it at the cross of Jesus. No, none of us like the hurdles of life. But God can use these times to show His love, mercy and devotion to us and that grows our faith. This is a good thing.

When you get to one of these times in your life, it is important to take a little time to assess the situation looking at it through the lens of scripture. I said to take a little time. That does not mean to withdraw into a shell and sit and obsess on something for days on end. I would suggest getting off by yourself for an hour or two, maybe an afternoon of fasting and praying. We all know the first place to start (Matthew 6:33-34).

• **Seek God first in prayer.** If you need direction in your life or wisdom on what to do; ask God for it and He will give

it generously (James 1:5). Don't do what you think is best (Proverbs 3:5-6). And I always find it helpful to seek godly advice (Proverbs 1:5).

• **Don't ask someone who isn't close to God.** Don't ask a friend or co-worker who offers a suggestion from some daytime talk show host, or ask someone who does not have an active prayer and church life. Seek godly counsel. This helps you get out of the funk. It helps you with other possible ideas. Often times, it can result in other people being enlisted to help you in your struggles.

• **One of the worst things to do when you face hurdles and roadblocks is to just sit.** You are frozen in fear and spend all your time complaining how you don't have time to do something instead of moving ahead on what you can do. Don't eat the whole cow at once. Start small, eat one bite at a time, take on small chunks of the issue and have a gradual and steady accomplishment. Rome was not built in a day, and God is not always a microwave of miracles.

Sometimes, God chooses to go slow to build in us something He desires. Come on now. Don't give up. God has never left your side. He never will. He will see you through this. It is not a mountain that can't be conquered. It is part of a plan that is coming together for God's glory!

*Dr. Travis Plumlee is a full-time professional speaker and leads Family Ark Ministries. He is national board certified as a therapist/specialist in various areas of human behavior. For more information or to contact him, visit [www.travisplumlee.com](http://www.travisplumlee.com).*



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# From the Editor

## Three ways *Baptist Progress* can help your church

The goal of *Baptist Progress* is to keep you informed about what the Lord is doing through our association of churches, especially the departments of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas. We also aim to assist you and your church in life and ministry. A list of services we provide are below. If we can ever help you or your congregation to be more effective in your service to the Lord, please call on us.

**Every Sunday Bulletin Service**

Does your church subscribe to a bulletin service? If so, consider switching from your current service provider to *Baptist Progress*. We offer a wide selection of bulletin designs and services. Visit <http://www.bmatexas.org/bulletin-service.html> for prices and sizes. Custom designs are available upon request. Contact us at [editor@baptistprogress.org](mailto:editor@baptistprogress.org) or call 972-923-0756.

**Bibles, books, music, gifts and more**

Personal Bibles, pew Bibles, offering envelopes, Lord's Supper supplies, Christian books, music, gifts and more are available through the BMA of Texas website, [www.bmatexas.org](http://www.bmatexas.org). Click the flashing box on the homepage, shop and place your order. Be sure to click the box first!

**Advertising**

Would you like to invite people to your church's next special event—homecoming, concert, revival, seminar workshop? If so, advertise in *Baptist Progress*. Visit <http://www.bmatexas.org/advertise.html> for advertisement information, send us an email or call.



▲ Jerry Fulton

**Editor's Note: We apologize that we omitted Friendship, Hemphill from the list of churches that contributed to the United Thanksgiving Offering in our last issue. Friendship, Hemphill gave \$792.20.**

## 2015 Baptist Progress Publishing Schedule

Publication Date	Deadline to Submit Copy
Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2015	Monday, Feb. 09, 2015
Wednesday, Mar. 04, 2015	Monday, Feb. 23, 2015
Wednesday, Mar. 18, 2015	Monday, Mar. 09, 2015
Wednesday, Apr. 01, 2015	Monday, Mar. 23, 2015
Wednesday, Apr. 15, 2015	Monday, Apr. 06, 2015
Wednesday, May 06, 2015	Monday, Apr. 27, 2015
Wednesday, May 20, 2015	Monday, May 11, 2015
Wednesday, Jun. 03, 2015	Monday, May 25, 2015
Wednesday, Jun. 17, 2015	Monday, Jun. 08, 2015
Wednesday, Jul. 01, 2015	Monday, Jun. 22, 2015
Wednesday, Jul. 15, 2015	Monday, Jul. 06, 2015
Wednesday, Aug. 05, 2015	Monday, Jul. 27, 2015
Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2015	Monday, Aug. 10, 2015
Wednesday, Sep. 2, 2015	Monday, Aug. 24, 2015
Wednesday, Sep. 16, 2015	Monday, Sep. 07, 2015
Wednesday, Oct. 07, 2015	Monday, Sep. 28, 2015
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015	Monday, Oct. 12, 2015
Wednesday, Nov. 04, 2015	Monday, Oct. 26, 2015
Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015	Monday, Nov. 09, 2015
Wednesday, Dec. 02, 2015	Monday, Nov. 23, 2015
Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2015	Monday, Dec. 07, 2015
Wednesday, Jan. 06, 2015	Monday, Dec. 21, 2015

Note: All copy (articles, news, ads, etc.) must be received by Baptist Progress no later than 5 p.m. on the deadline date to be included in the next issue.

## EVENTS

### FEBRUARY 26, 2015

BMA of Texas Administrative Committee Meeting  
@ Texas Baptist Home for Children  
10 a.m.

### MARCH 12, 2015

Liberty Association Texas Baptist Home Rally  
@ Coffeerville, Ore City

### APRIL 20-22, 2015

BMA of America Annual Session  
@ University Plaza Hotel  
and Convention Center  
Springfield, Missouri  
Headquarters Hotel: University Plaza Hotel

### MAY 14, 2015

Liberty Association BMMI Rally  
@ Concord, Gilmer

### AUGUST 13, 2015

Liberty Association Lifeword Rally  
@ Cross Roads, Pittsburg

### OCTOBER 11, 2015

Liberty Association Annual Meeting  
@ First, Judson  
Begin at 3 p.m.  
First Session Speaker—Charles Johnson  
Dismiss for Supper at 5 p.m.  
Begin second session at 6 p.m.  
Second Session Speaker—Randy Stracener

### APRIL 25-27, 2016

BMA of America Annual Session  
@ Gatlinburg Convention Center  
Gatlinburg, Tennessee  
Headquarters Hotel: Glenstone Hotel

## PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

### AVAILABLE MINISTERS

**ELDON BUSENITZ** is available for pulpit supply or to serve as interim pastor. He has 46 years of experience as a pastor, with a passion for clear, practical Bible teaching. He is a member of Heritage, Waxahachie. Contact him at 214-399-9520.

**JIM CRUMP** is available for pulpit supply and revivals. Contact him at 903-918-3260.

### AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**PASTOR**—First, Judson is seeking a pastor. Send resume through their website, [www.fbcjudson.com](http://www.fbcjudson.com) or mail to P.O. Box 53, Judson, Texas. Judson is on the north side of Longview, located at 2038 FM 1844.

**PIANIST**—First of Providence, Livingston, needs a pianist for the worship services. Call Mark Moore, song leader, at 936-327-1529.

**PASTOR**—Grace Temple, San Angelo is seeking a full-time senior pastor. He will also oversee associate pastors and child development center. Send resume to Pat Jackson 7809 CR 339, Christoval, Texas 76935, email [pwjack@aol.com](mailto:pwjack@aol.com) or call 325-651-7875.

**PASTOR**—Grace Missionary, Tacoma, Washington, about 35 miles south of Seattle, seeks a bi-vocational pastor. The church pays a housing allowance that covers housing and utilities. Attendance on Sunday mornings is about 60 and there are excellent volunteer staff who lead a youth group of about 20. The music program consists of hymns and praise music lead by a band with guitars, keyboard, piano, bass violin and drums. Tacoma is a large city with opportunities to expand. Please contact Terry Holcombe [atjacquelyn13@comcast.net](mailto:atjacquelyn13@comcast.net).

**YOUTH**—Sardis, Henderson is seeking a bivocational youth pastor. Send resume to [jaccalmom@yahoo.com](mailto:jaccalmom@yahoo.com) or to the church at 13174 CR 4187 South, Henderson, Texas 75654, or call 903-854-4521. <sup>1/21/15</sup>

**PASTOR**—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346 or to [jimmysealy@aol.com](mailto:jimmysealy@aol.com). <sup>TFN</sup>

**YOUTH**—South Park, Fort Worth is seeking a director of youth ministry. For information about the position and to submit a resume visit [fortworthbaptistchurch.org/YouthDirectorSearch/](http://fortworthbaptistchurch.org/YouthDirectorSearch/). <sup>TFN</sup>

## OBITUARY

### BRENDA KAY RICKS

Brenda Kay Ricks was born May 9, 1967 in Palestine. She died in hospice care on Jan. 22, 2015 at the age of 47. Brenda was preceded in death by grandparents, Horace H and Allie May Ricks and Elmer Caskey and Dora Bell Caskey, and a brother, brother Donald Wayne Ricks. Brenda is survived by her parents, Thomas and Jackie Ricks of Mineola and Betty Ann Mitchell of Houston; son, Charles Ricks of Mineola; daughters, Elizabeth Ann, Carolyn Allie-Mae and Ricki Dell Ricks of Mineola; brothers Ricky Ricks and Casey of Mineola and C.T. Ricks and Emily of Tyler as well as numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. Brenda left her family and friends much sooner than expected and she will be missed. Memorial services were Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Macedonia, Mineola with Bro. Thomas Ricks officiating.

## CHURCHES IN REVIEW

### JANUARY 18, 2015

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis		87	
Cedar Creek, Teague	17	22	
Ebenezer Friendship, Pittsburg	25	43	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	473	565	2 By Letter, 1 By Statement
First, Omen	42	74	1 By Baptism
First, Palmer	43	48	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	21	36	
Harvest, Lufkin	20	25	
Jackson, Joaquin	78	143	
Little Flock, Lufkin	15	20	
New Harmony, Tyler	264	351	1 By Baptism
New Haven, Dallas	16	42	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	47	60	
Pine Acres, Gilmer	38	66	
Pine Brook, Tyler	28	88	1 By Letter, 2 By Statement
Rosewood, Gilmer	113	190	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	19	43	1 By Statement
Temple, Mexia	40	52	
Woodland, Splendora	37	45	

### JANUARY 25, 2015

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	65	102	1 By Baptism
Cedar Creek, Teague	17	21	3 By Letter
Farley Street, Waxahachie	467	577	3 By Baptism, 3 By Letter
First, Blooming Grove	216		1 By Statement
First, Palmer	38	67	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	21	36	
Harvest, Lufkin	10	15	
Jackson, Joaquin	64	127	
Little Flock, Lufkin	10	15	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	34	50	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	14	16	
New Harmony, Tyler	267	352	2 By Letter
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	56	62	2 By Baptism
Rosewood, Gilmer	128	218	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	25	38	
Temple, Mexia	45	55	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	16	19	

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



### Want to Make a Gift That Keeps Giving?

The BMA Foundation provides that opportunity. Your gift is never spent, it is invested and only the earnings are used to support any or all departments of the BMA of America as you specify. Your gift keeps giving until the Lord returns. You may make a cash contribution or contribute through your estate plan. Checks should be made payable to BMA Foundation and mailed to P.O. Box 1188, Conway, Arkansas 72033. For more information, call the BMA Foundation office at 501-329-6891.

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## Security

By **MIKE SMITH**  
*Jacksonville College President*

Maintaining a safe, secure campus for our students and staff at Jacksonville College is a priority. We cannot be a “soft” target for those who seek to hurt either our students or employees. Potential offenders need to know that if they attempt to harm anyone on our campus, they will meet with formidable resistance. We must and will protect our JC campus.



▲ **Mike Morse**

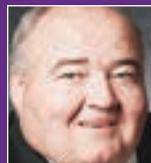
Prior to 2013, Jacksonville College contracted with a private firm for its security needs. The hiring of Mike Morse as Director of Security provides us with in-house security. Mike’s team of security officers provides 24 hour protection for Jacksonville College.

Mike has a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University. He is a certified NRA Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor, Level III Private Security Dual Instructor, and Texas Concealed Handgun Instructor (DPS). Mike has served as Chief of Security and Facilities at Lon Morris College, Lieutenant with Sam Houston University Police, member of the S.W.A.T. Unit of the Mesquite Police Department, and Chief of Police with the Huntsville Police Department. Because Mike is a certified instructor, Jacksonville College is able to offer classes to our staff and the community in “concealed handgun license” and “security training.”

Mike married Nancy, former JC Bookstore manager, 44 years ago. They have three children and four grandchildren and are active in their local church, teaching Sunday School and serving on various committees.

Mike says, “I serve at Jacksonville College because God has sent me here. There were several circumstances that happened within just a few months which led me to finding a home and service at the college.”

*Dr. Mike Smith is the president of Jacksonville College. Contact him at [msmith@jacksonville-college.edu](mailto:msmith@jacksonville-college.edu) or 903-589-7106. You may also visit the Jacksonville College website, [www.jacksonville-college.edu](http://www.jacksonville-college.edu)*



## Jacksonville College Named a Finalist for \$100K Grant from STANLEY Security

Jacksonville College has been announced as a finalist in STANLEY Security’s TOGETHER FOR SAFER SCHOOLS Grant Program. Jacksonville College could win up to \$100,000 in STANLEY Security installed products and services to help secure students and facilities within the campus environment.

Now through February 13, students, faculty, administrators, parents, alumni, and fans of Jacksonville College are encouraged to vote for the College daily using three different methods:

- 1) Visit the online voting website at [www.stanleysaferschools.com](http://www.stanleysaferschools.com) and search for Jacksonville College.
- 2) Send the text message “jackson” to 334455.
- 3) On Twitter, use hashtags # STANLEYSecurity and # jackson. Tweets must include both hashtags to count.

STANLEY Security awards the top two schools with the most votes in each of three size categories. Jacksonville College is in Category 1 and has a chance to receive a \$100,000 grant with first place or a \$25,000 grant with second place, so please remember to vote daily via the Internet, text message, and/or Twitter.

Jacksonville College could win \$100,000 with your vote!

<b>WEB</b>	<b>TEXT</b>	<b>TWITTER</b>
		
Vote for Jacksonville College at <a href="http://www.stanleysaferschools.com">www.stanleysaferschools.com</a>	Send text message “jackson” to 334455	Use hashtags # STANLEYSecurity and # jackson (Tweets must include both hashtags.)

**STANLEY Security**  **TOGETHER FOR SAFER SCHOOLS Grant Program**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Jaguar Talent Show

Thursday, February 5 from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. in Buckner Chapel

### Homecoming 2015

February 6-7

For details visit <http://www.jacksonville-college.edu/#!homecoming/c24zb>

Contact: Alumni Liaison Neatha Cagle at (903) 589-7143, [ncagle@jacksonville-college.edu](mailto:ncagle@jacksonville-college.edu)

### Jag Mania: Campus Visit Event for High School Seniors

Saturday, February 21, 2015

Cost: \$15

High school juniors must obtain special permission to attend from Sandra Clay, Director of Admissions, at [admissions@jacksonville-college.edu](mailto:admissions@jacksonville-college.edu).



## Alumni and Ex-Students HOMECOMING

February 6-7, 2015

Recognizing the classes of  
1945, 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005

**The Class of 1975 is having a 40-year class reunion lunch at noon with an afternoon of activities on Friday, February 6 prior to the scheduled Homecoming events.**

**Contact Carolyn Barnette (913.515.2521 or [cfbarnette@gmail.com](mailto:cfbarnette@gmail.com))**

**or Brenda Carder Hutchins (214.789.0754 or [brenda@allaboutdetails.net](mailto:brenda@allaboutdetails.net)) for more information.**

## Lifeword Turns Fifty

By STEVE CRAWLEY

“Surely, we have only to read the front pages of our newspaper or hear the newscasts to know that our nation is in crisis times, and we feel that the greatest help that we could give our own America is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Until men know Jesus in an intimate way by receiving Him as Personal Savior and being transformed by His grace, we cannot expect to see civil justice. Truly, America is one of the greatest and most needy mission fields of the hour, and I am persuaded that unless we give our best to make Jesus known to our own country that the liberty, peace and prosperity we know today will not endure long.”

Although this sounds like a call to action for today’s Christians, it was actually written 50 years ago by Harold Morris, a promotional worker for the association and missionary to Brazil until his health forced him stateside. In September of 1965 Bro. Morris began a Saturday afternoon radio broadcast, “to make Jesus known to the multitudes of our own land.”

The 30-minute broadcast was over radio station KSTL 630 “on the dial in St. Louis, Missouri,” and within a month, a Kansas City broadcast had begun. In a letter to the *Gleaner*, Bro. Morris thanked Trinity Baptist Church in Florissant, Missouri; their pastor Ashford Conrad; the Cane Creek Association; and W.H. Newman of Chambers Park Baptist Church in St. Louis “for their liberal support for this program.” In November of 1965 Bro. Morris named his program *The Harvest Gleaner Gospel Hour*.

From two radio broadcasts in English to 48 different formats, 34 languages and 110 countries, Lifeword has continued to obey that Great Commission calling. We are celebrating this anniversary by also thanking churches and individuals who have made this unique media ministry possible.

In our new electronic newsletter, we will continue the story of Harvest Gleaner Hour/Lifeword and try to mention some of the other significant supporters throughout 50 years. If you would like to read more of how God has

continued to bless us and to be informed about Lifeword Sunday/Walk for the World, current project initiatives, prayer requests, praises, and changed lives, please send an email to [holly@lifeword.org](mailto:holly@lifeword.org) and we’ll add you to our list of subscribers.

We would love for you to partner with us as an active social media missionary and support partner. Our free, one-page newsletter also helps you understand more about how you can do just that. Christians do not want to be the “frozen chosen” (Brandon Cox *Rewired*).

Steve Crawley is the executive director of Lifeword Media Ministries. Contact him by email at [steve@lifeword.org](mailto:steve@lifeword.org). Visit [www.lifeword.org](http://www.lifeword.org).





# Ministry Tip

## 15 ways to take care of guest speakers

By **CHUCK LAWLESS**

I am privileged to speak in dozens of churches each year. Most churches take good care of me, but some churches go the extra mile. When that happens, it's fun to tell others about a congregation that is thoughtful and thorough in their approach toward guest speakers.

As your church considers guest speakers, here is a sample list of steps these churches have taken:

Following up with correspondence to clarify expectations. Most of the invitations I receive come via email. It always helps when a follow up includes details about the assigned topic (if there is one), travel, lodging, speaking time limitations, and media possibilities.

Asking about honorarium and expenses up front. I do not have a set honorarium expectation. I do assume, however, that a church that invites me to speak will cover my expenses. Not having that conversation ahead of time—preferably at the church's initiative—puts the speaker in an awkward position of wondering.

Contacting me directly—often via a phone call from a leader—to contextualize the assignment. I like to approach my opportunities missiologically—that is, I want my approach to meet the specific context of the church. That's easier to do when someone gives me details about recent sermon topics, current needs, and future plans prior to my preparation.

Providing a specific point person. The process is always easier when I or my assistant communicates with only one person. The level of confusion is almost always directly proportionate to the number of people involved in the planning conversations.

Offering a choice of lodging. One church gave me these options: a hotel, a church member's home with a “hotel-style” guest room, or the home of a church member interested in missions. My preference is almost always a hotel room, but I am grateful when the church discusses options with me prior to making lodging decisions.

Inviting my spouse to come. The church that makes that offer affirms my wife's partnership in my ministry and makes it easier for me to accept the invitation. One organization with whom I've worked—an organization with budget challenges—offers to cover my wife's expenses in lieu of providing a speaking honorarium. I take that offer so my wife may be with me.

Sending prayer cards prior to my arrival. It means something special when I receive prayer notes prior to my time with the church. A card that says, “Dr. Lawless, we're praying that God will do mighty things” is incredibly encouraging.

Providing a specific host while I'm at the church. Too often, I arrive at the church wondering who will meet me



there. The day is much easier if a host greets me, takes me to the proper place, and guides me throughout the event.

Verifying data before introducing me. Internet data and bio information are not always accurate. For missionaries serving in dangerous areas, providing a full written or recorded introduction may be risky. In other cases, pronunciation of names is difficult. Confirming the information first will help avoid embarrassing situations later.

Giving a personalized gift basket. Many churches provide a gift basket with water, snacks, and a local souvenir. The churches I remember most are those who provide a basket with my favorite beverages and snacks. To know they sought that information ahead of time is humbling and affirming.

Sending flowers to my spouse. When I'm away from home for several days, imagine my wife's surprise when the church sends flowers to thank her for her support. We do not have children at home, but I am aware of churches that provide small gifts for children as well.

Guaranteeing speaking time. If a speaker is invited to speak for 45 minutes, the best churches make sure that time is available. To invite a speaker but then reduce his/her time is disrespectful.

Guarding “down time” in the schedule. Most speakers want to be accessible as needed, but we usually need breaks (especially those of us who are introverts). Giving us time to rejuvenate without feeling guilty for having “alone time” will

make us better speakers.

If providing an honorarium and expenses, giving separate checks for tax purposes. Record keeping is never fun, but it's much easier if the church clearly differentiates the payments.

Offering a follow up report. After we prepare, pray, and present, seldom do we hear how the Lord may have used our efforts beyond the event itself. A simple email report sometime later can provide much needed encouragement and inspiration.

What other ways would you recommend to take good care of guest speakers?

Chuck Lawless currently serves as Professor of Evangelism and Missions and Dean of Graduate Studies at Southeastern Seminary. You can connect with Dr. Lawless on both Twitter and Facebook.

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*Thom S. Rainer serves as president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources. Among his greatest joys are his family: his wife Nellie Jo; three sons, Sam, Art, and Jess; and seven grandchildren. Dr. Rainer can be found on Twitter @ThomRainer and at facebook.com/Thom.S.Rainer.*



# Mission Life

By **JERRY BURNAMAN**

The first month of 2015 is passed, and almost before we blink an eye, six months will have passed. It's imperative that we persevere in those plans we have made to be effective in the Lord's work. This is a good time to ask ourselves, "How am I progressing toward my projected goals? Do I need to add some goals or change some that I've already written down?"

Here is one objective that should be a constant activity in the lives of Christians and the local church—evangelism. We should think about it daily, plan, pray and make every effort to reach the lost souls in the community or city where our church is located.

Dr. Lee Scarborough (1870-1945), a pastor, evangelist, and seminary professor, was so burdened for souls he couldn't keep quiet. Here is what he preached one night in a Texas oil town: "Oh, you have a passion for oil, for making money...! You have had a passion for building a town. Now, I want you to get a burden for the lost in this city. You have men and women going as straight to hell as these drills out here are going to the bowels of the earth for oil... We have got to pray and straighten up our lives and be burdened for the lost... 'He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him' (Psalm 126:6). God help us to go in and win this city for Jesus Christ."

Someone may ask where do we start and is there a pattern for us to follow? Yes, we have a biblical pattern and Paul's life ministry is an example.

## Consider His Methods

Paul's theory of complete evangelism was that he should become all things to all men, that by all means he might save some (1 Corinthians 9:22). Paul used every conceivable method that was worthy. Churches today may well beware of those who say there is only one method.

Paul was always a perennial, persistent and persuasive soul-winner through personal man-to-man interviews. He sought to win to Christ every type of person whom he met in his journeys. He dealt personally with such people as a Roman proconsul, a dissolute king, a fraudulent sorcerer, a demon-possessed girl, a lovely matron and her household, a jailer, a runaway slave, a Greek physician, many bright young men, ladies of high social standing, Greek philosophers, rulers of synagogues, a professor, sailors on ships and soldiers in the army of Nero.

Again, Paul was a virile, versatile, and dynamic evangelistic preacher. Mass evangelism was also one of his major methods.

He preached the gospel and held forum discussions in the synagogues. He preached on the streets, on shipboard, before kings, in school buildings, in the face of a howling mob, in prison, in the Athenian market, and on Mars' Hill amid the classic temples of ancient Greece. Every type of sermonizing is found in the biblical descriptions of his preaching. His sermons were textual, topical, expository, historical, hortatory, didactic, devotional and apologetic.

Furthermore, the apostle practiced evangelism through teaching, through home prayer meetings, through miracles, through letter writing, through collecting money, through disputation, and even through his vocation of tent making. Sometimes he traveled alone, and sometimes he was the leader of an evangelistic party. He was master of the technique of visitation evangelism. He was a man of fervent and incessant prayer.

## Present His Message

Basically the evangelistic preaching of Paul was doctrinal in its message. His doctrine was built on four cornerstones, namely:

- The deity of Christ as the chief cornerstone.
- The inerrant truth from God in the Scriptures.
- The universality of the gospel for the Jew and Gentile alike.
- The church as the divinely ordained organization for the propagation of the gospel.

Building upon the structure of great doctrines, Paul appealed to men in every worthy manner. Relentlessly he condemned the Gnostic heresy as he proclaimed Christ as the "fullness of the Godhead bodily." Zealously he fought the Judaizers in order that the gospel might be open to Gentiles as well as Jews. He appealed to men to repent of their sins and to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. He wept with the weak, he taught the uninstructed, he encouraged the wavering, and he championed the underprivileged.

The personal application of the gospel which Paul preached with such evangelistic zeal in no way eliminated or contradicted his application of the social teaching of Christ. He exhorted his converts to recognize every virtue included or implied in the command of Christ for one to love his neighbor as himself. Paul applied the gospel to home life, to family relations, to economic justice, to slavery problem, to race prejudice, to Christian attitudes toward a pagan state authority, and to all other causes of personal enmity or social strife.

Yes, Paul set the standard of evangelism for all succeeding generations by not stopping when the personal application of the gospel had won men to discipleship in Christ. Nor did he stop with applying the gospel to social conditions of that day. He sought to conserve and perpetuate the results of his soul-winning. He organized his converts into churches. He visited and revisited the churches, trained the converts, directed the ordination of ministers and deacons, and admonished his followers in doctrine and morals. He personally trained young ministers to take up the torch of evangelism when it should fall from his failing hand.

The methods and the message of Paul must be more and more the methods and message of twenty-first century Christians and churches if we are to win people in great number to Jesus Christ. Make evangelism a top priority in your church's ministry.

—Adapted from Roland O. Leavell's book, *Evangelism, Christ's Imperative Commission*.

*Jerry Burnaman is the executive director of State Missions and the Baptist Missionary Loan Association. Contact him at [jerryburnaman@yahoo.com](mailto:jerryburnaman@yahoo.com) or 972-923-0757.*



## Bibles, Books, Music & Gifts

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# Auxiliaries

## Calling all ladies

By SHARON COLE

Ladies, you are being called; called by the Lord and called by ladies in your church who need you. Are you involved in WMA? If your church does not have a WMA, your Texas WMA officers would be glad to come to your church to help organize it for you. Just contact the president, this editor or any other officer. Women's Missionary Auxiliary is a ministry; an extension of the church to aid in benevolence to the sick and needy, hospitality and encouragement to the bereaved, spiritual strength to each other through Bible Study, promoting church fundraising projects and most of all, supporting our missionaries.

WMA is not just for middle age or older women who have very little else to do. It is for young women, too. Young ladies out of high school, out of GMA/YLA, out of college, your vitality, energy, enthusiasm and new ideas are needed to contribute to WMA. If you have Jesus in your heart, you have something in common, no matter what your age.

Many women work during the day when most WMA groups meet. The established WMA groups need to be active in seeking all the ladies of the church. Perhaps you can make some schedule changes or create a new group in the evening for those who cannot attend during the day. If we expect all ladies to want to be part of WMA, we must show it, not just talk about it.

We are a busy culture, but we usually manage to find time for what we really want to do. Yes, our daily schedules may be important, but we, as ladies, need

refreshment and encouragement. We need to be with other ladies, share ideas and learn how we can be a blessing to others. That's part of what WMA is. In every church there are women who just feel like they don't fit in. Perhaps they are new to your fellowship and have not been encouraged enough. If you just can't find another time to meet for the majority, ask these ladies who work at a public job to be on teams.

One that is essential is a **Prayer Team** with a leader who is sensitive to the needs of the church. She could prepare a list of all ladies of the church so each one on the team could have a copy and know who to call when the need arises for special prayer. Then these special prayer concerns need to be shared with the Pastor. Your ladies who are homebound most of the time or in nursing homes could be on this committee. They can certainly pray and can, if able, use the telephone to contact people.

A **Hospitality Team** can organize groups to minister to those who are bereaved, sick or in the hospital, need child care, or just need someone to listen. The possibilities are endless for this group. The Pastor would be able to help you know where the needs are the greatest.

A **Creative Team** could make welcome baskets for new people in the community. Choose ladies who have artistic abilities in drawing and decorating bulletin boards, arranging flowers for the sanctuary, making crafts in VBS and gifts for people in the nursing homes.

Probably every church has ladies who enjoy talking and never run out of things to say. These ladies are ideal for a **Contact Team**. They could make personal visits to newcomers and anyone who might need someone to talk to. This is one of the most effective tools for enlistment in WMA or any group in the church. This team could divide the church membership list between them and be responsible for calling or contacting those on her list. People need to know they are wanted and cared about. This team would be an asset to any pastor.

Since "Missionary" is our middle name, there needs to be a **Missions Team** who keeps up with all the missionaries through reading articles in the BMAA magazine: *Mission:World*, *Baptist Progress*, [www.bmaamerica.org](http://www.bmaamerica.org) and [www.changedintexas.com](http://www.changedintexas.com). This team could, with the help of the pastor and ask missionaries on furlough to visit your church. All of these ideas are not absolutely necessary for a church to have a good WMA, but they are good ways to spark interest and give ladies opportunities to serve the Lord.

Sharon Cole is the editor for the Texas WMA. Contact her at [S9Co@aol.com](mailto:S9Co@aol.com). For more information on the Texas WMA, visit [www.texaswma.com](http://www.texaswma.com).



## Get real by Valarie Fish

By CHAROLETTE JOHNSON  
National WMA 3rd Vice President

Nobody likes a fake. Even in our society, we despise counterfeit things. Everybody wants the real thing. I love the classic story of the *Velveteen Rabbit*. In the story of the Velveteen Rabbit, the bunny desires to be real to the little boy. Why does he desire to be real? Because it means that he is truly loved and cherished by the little boy. Being real doesn't happen to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or have to be carefully kept. But once you are real, it lasts always. "Does it hurt?" asked the Velveteen Rabbit. The truth answer is sometimes it does hurt to become real. In Valarie's book, *Get Real*, she shares lessons on the following topics: Real Salvation, Real Love, Real Purpose, Real Faith, Real Surrender, Real Forgiveness, Real Worship, Real Growth, Real Power, Real Service, Real Religion, and Real Family. The lessons show that it takes strength to become a true follower

of Christ. The Lord loves us so much and sometimes our growth causes trials and tribulations which are painful. Like the Velveteen Rabbit, there are scars that can be the result of our journey. The bunny is so loved by the boy that his fur wears off, he loses his shape, and his whiskers were "loved off." As you travel on the journey through this book, we pray that you will become real in every aspect of your life for Christ. In the story, the true love that the little boy and bunny share is powerful. The bunny does become "real." Is it enough simply to say we're real, or should we be able to see we're real? Travel with Valarie through these lessons and become "real" in your daily walk with the Lord. Purchase this book today from Valarie Fish, P.O. Box 66, Emerson, AR. 71740, phone...870-299-2890, or email [dvfish@swish.coop](mailto:dvfish@swish.coop). The price for the book is \$10.00 plus shipping.

### District WMA News

WOOD COUNTY WMA met Jan. 10, 2015 at Mt. Pisgah, Mineola, with 36 present and President Jackie Ricks calling the meeting to order. Mt. Pisgah received the attendance banner and the special offering at this meeting went to Jacksonville College for purchase of paper products for the cafeteria. The district Sunbeams and GMA presented the program directed by National GMA Promoter, Jayna Williams. Those participating were: Whitney Woodruff, Jr. Miss GMA; Kaitlyn Keel, Texas Miss GMA, Texas 1st Vice President; National Media Chairman and Corresponding Secretary and other GMA members. The Jacksonville College Rally will be Feb. 16, 2015 at Hubbard Chapel, Quitman. The District WMA Tea Party will be 10 a.m., March 28, 2015 at Hubbard Chapel. The theme will be a Hawaiian Luau. The guest speaker will be Kristi Key, Texas GMA Promoter.

# Sunday School Lessons

## The justice of God

By GARY HOUSE

**DATE:** February 8, 2015

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 17:22-31

**THE LESSON IN BRIEF:** God will justly reward the righteous and punish the wicked. Rejoice in Jesus Christ because God is just and deals justly with us.

*"That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"* Genesis 18:25

*[He is] the Rock, his work [is] perfect: for all his ways [are] judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right [is] he.* Deuteronomy 32

*"Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments:"* Nehemiah 9:13

**God Is Just—What does it mean?** The justice of God means that He is right in who He is and what He does. The fact that God is just means that He can and will judge between right and wrong and He will administer justice in accordance with His standards. Justice is the rendering to everyone that which is due. He is always right in every action. In other words, God never does wrong. God is fair and impartial. It also means that He hates the ill-treatment and oppression of people and of nature, which He has created.

Many times in the Bible God is pictured as a judge. The Bible says that He will one day judge the world. Many shy away from the thought of God as a judge because the examples of justice that we see on earth are flawed. Some judges are corrupt and, even when their intentions are good, they can make mistakes. However, the fact that God is just assures us that when He acts as a judge, He will administer justice perfectly. His ability to do this involves other aspects/attributes of His character, including His ability to discern the truth in every situation and see into the hearts and minds of men, His wisdom, strength, authority and moral character in establishing what is right and wrong.

A God who did not care about the difference between right and wrong and did not judge humanity for acting one way or the other would not be an admirable being worthy of our love or trust. The fact that God is just and will judge between right and wrong gives ultimate moral significance to our lives and makes us accountable for our actions.

**God is the Just Judge.** What does this mean for us? It means that our actions on earth and our attitudes toward God will ultimately be judged. This is a very serious concern since we have all fallen short of God's perfect standards and we must pay the penalty for those shortcomings (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23).

Fortunately, we also know that God is a God of mercy. In His mercy, He has provided a way for us to be reconciled with Him and to meet His standards. He has provided a substitute who was willing to pay our penalty if we are willing to accept that arrangement. He did this through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ, who died to **God Is Just—If God is just, why do we see so much unfairness on earth?** Where we see injustice on

earth, it is at the hands of men, not of God. God has given men free will, but most men do not exercise it responsibly or in a way that lines up with God's character as a just God. The time will come when God will judge the world and the people in it. He will dispose of evil and injustice and He will punish those who have turned away from Him and His standards. However, in His wisdom, He is not doing that yet. The Apostle Peter tells us that God is waiting because He is patient and wants everyone to have an opportunity accept His Son's sacrifice rather than paying the penalty that justice requires for their sins (2 Peter 3:9).

**How Should We Respond to God's Justice?** Error exists in our world today in the form

of tolerance. We have adopted the philosophy of live and let live. The only problem to this utopia is that God's justice demands a verdict. If we fail to tell others about a hell to shun and a heaven to gain, they will miss the greatest blessing of eternity. Paul took God's message to the people of Athens in Acts 17:22-31. Hear what Paul had to say about tolerance.

**God's justice deserves attention.** Athens was the intellectual and philosophical center of the world, during Paul's day. In the spirit of boldness, Paul stood in the midst of the people and proudly proclaimed God's message. He applauded them for their intellectual pursuits, but pointed out that they had missed the most important ingredient of all—God (Acts 17:22, 23). The apostle Paul wanted them to experience God's power (verses 24, 25) and to know God's provision (verses 26, 27) and to be aware of God's justice (verses 28-31).

**God's justice demands repentance.** As Paul pointed out, the only response to God's justice is for *"all men everywhere to repent"* (Acts 17:30). The Bible speaks of God being angry with the wicked. His anger is not a selfish temper like human anger. God's anger is the revulsion of His holy nature against any form of moral or spiritual evil. His anger against sin caused Him to pronounce the death penalty upon humanity. However, it was His love for sinners that caused God to give His only Son as a sin offering by which sinners are saved. God never gets mad. He acts justly.

**God's justice anticipates judgment.** Unless the sinner responds, judgment comes. This is as much a fact as the sun coming up in the east. The lost sinner will face eternal separation from a loving God, while the saved sinner will know God's chastisement upon his or her life.

Have you responded to God's justice? One day the Bible declares that *"at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth."* Philippians 2:10

**Significant points** from the Compass Lesson by Dr. Harold Henderson.

Holiness is who God is; Justice is what God does.

God is not a harsh God but a just God.  
God never gets mad or acts unjustly.  
His judgment is always according to truth.  
He does not change His principles according to the way He feels about people.

## The love of God

By GARY HOUSE

**DATE:** February 15, 2015

**TEXT:** Ephesians 2:1-10

**THE LESSON IN BRIEF:** Respond to the love that comes to you personally from the God who is love.

This week, the world celebrates Valentine's Day, a day meant to express love for others. Everyone wants to be cherished. But human devotion isn't always dependable. We can be thankful that God's love is quite different. God does not love us just because we are good. He loves because He is love and He chooses to love.

**The Definition of Love.** What is the real meaning of love? *"God is Love"* 1 John 4:8

God's love is intrinsic to His nature. The Bible says that God is the source of love. 1 John 4:7

It also reveals that love is not only one of the Creator's fundamental character traits; He is love in His very being (1 John 4:8). Love is the most basic attribute of God. All the other ones emanate from His love. Let's look at a few principles that describe God's amazing affection for people.

**God's love is universal.** He has compassion on both believers and unbelievers.

**God's love is unconditional.** Unlike earthly affection, His love doesn't fluctuate. The Father doesn't care for us more when we have pleased Him or less when we have failed or sinned. The Lord's love springs from clear reason and deliberate choice (Deuteronomy 7:6-8).

**God's love is sacrificial.** Jesus Christ surrendered His life on the cross so that we might have eternal life and enjoy fellowship with God while we are still living on earth. Jesus' motivation was love for mankind. *"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."* John 15:13

**God's love is contagious.** When we walk in close fellowship with Christ, God's love flows through us to those around us. The Holy Spirit fills us so that we can extend unconditional love to others (Rom. 5:5). *"The one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him"* 1 John 4:16

**God's love is Active.** Love with words alone is insufficient. To be genuine, deeds must accompany love. If not, then the words are hypocritical. Note these three acts of God's love.

Because of His great love, He allows Himself to love sinful people; this is what we call grace (Ephesians 2:4-8).

He also pours his out his love and into believers; this is called mercy (Romans 5:2-5).

Our Lord shows his love toward His children at all times; this is adoption. *Hereby we perceive the love of God, because He laid down his life for us."* 1 John 3:16

"But God commendeth his love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

**The Love of God Demonstrated.** Ephesians 2:1-10 expresses God's love in action. God's love should cause

all of us to be grateful because He loves us even when we are unlovely and unloving in return.

**God's love forgives.** Paul reminds the believers of their previous condition before experiencing God's love (Ephesians 2:1-3). They were spiritually dead without any hope at all. Their motives and desires were selfish. The devil had blinded their spiritual sight. In that lost condition, they were under God's wrath and judgment.

Do you remember what life was like before you accepted Christ? A moment of reflection on that question should revolutionize your worship.

**God's love saves.** After living in darkness, Paul tells the church at Ephesus that *"God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us" and that the Lord has "quickened us together with Christ"* Ephesians 2:4, 5

How were they saved? God reconciled them to himself because of His great love. He came seeking them and not the other way around. The same is true in our lives. He is the seeker; we are the receivers.

**God's love accepts.** How deep is the love of God? His love is so deep that He is preparing for us an eternal home with Him (Ephesians 2:6, 7). God not only told the Ephesians, but us as well that He loves us. Still, His love does not stop there. He proves His love by accepting us into His family and by allowing us the privilege of living with Him throughout eternity.

**God's love improves.** The Lord specializes in taking broken lives and restoring them. Yet, He does more than restore them. God uses His craftsmanship to build completely new lives (Ephesians 2:8-10). Paul reminded the Ephesians of God's great love for them to motivate them for ministry. Allow God's love to motivate you to serve Him all the days of your life.

**God's love is personal.** Although He loves the multitudes, He also has enough love for individuals. Remind yourself often that God loves you. Receive His unconditional love and then pass it onto others. Experiencing and sharing God's love is a privilege that God extends to everyone.

**God is love.** How do we know? John 3:16 says it perfectly, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* Aren't you glad that our omnipotent and omnipresent God is also a God who loves?

**God is love.** Have you ever experienced His love in your life? Allow God's love to heal your hurts, restore your joy, dispel your fears, and rid you of unbelief.

Gary House is the writer of the Sunday school lessons for Baptist Progress. Most recently, Bro. House served as pastor of Tundra Baptist Church in Canton for 13 years. Contact him at [Tundraparson@aol.com](mailto:Tundraparson@aol.com).



# Spring DiscipleKids Topics Announced

The two units of the spring quarter of DiscipleKids will focus on the life of Christ and our responsibility to be a friend to all people we come in contact with.

In "Like No Other: The Life of Christ", kids will discover Jesus, the name above all names, and hear God's purpose for sending His Son to the world. They will trace Jesus' last days on earth through His triumphal entry, death on the cross, resurrection, and ascension to heaven.

In "Being a Friend", children will examine individuals in the Old and New Testaments who extended love and friendship to those around them, especially in difficult circumstances.

To order DiscipleKids, or to learn more, go to [discipleguide.org](http://discipleguide.org) or call 1-800-333-1442.



# Compass Spring Quarter to Focus on Christ

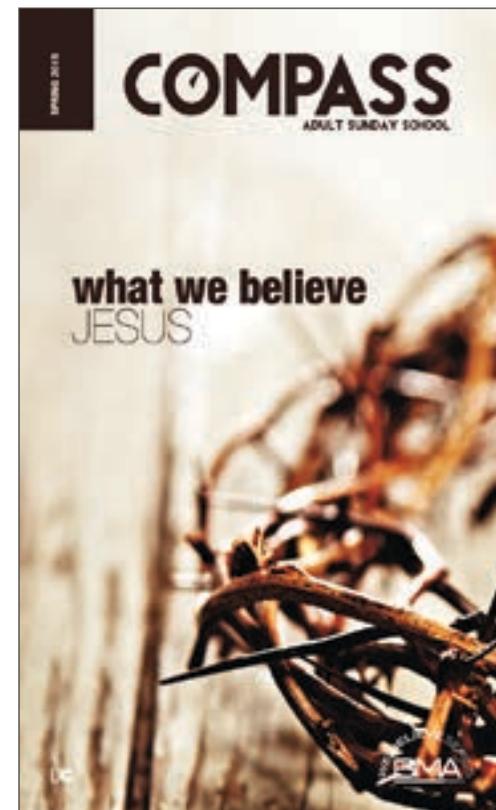
The spring quarter of Compass adult Sunday school literature will be entitled *What We Believe: Jesus*. Written by the late Dr. E. Harold Henderson, these lessons on the doctrine of Christ will challenge and inspire participants throughout March, April, and May of 2015.

After Christ's resurrection from the dead, two apostles traveled along the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13). As they walked, Jesus drew near and walked alongside them. Interestingly, the two apostles did not recognize Christ (v. 16). In the midst of their conversation, Jesus revealed His identity to the apostles through scriptures. Luke 24:27 states, "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."

All Scripture points to Christ! Jesus is the focal point of the entire Bible from beginning to end.

Following Christ's example on the road to Emmaus, this quarter's lessons intend to expound the Scriptures in order to reveal a biblical understanding of Christ.

The lessons begin in Genesis, weave through the Psalms and Prophets, navigate the Gospels, and investigate the writings



of the apostles to present a full picture of Christ from the beginning to the end of Scripture.

For more information or to order Compass, visit [discipleguide.org](http://discipleguide.org) or call 1-800-333-1442. Ordering for the spring quarter begins February 1.

# State Missions director speaks to Liberty Association

By **CHARLES JOHNSON**  
Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer

The Liberty Baptist Association held a workers' meeting at Cherokee, Gilmer Jan. 15. Fifteen churches were represented at the session with Greg Miller, Liberty Association moderator, presiding over the business meeting. The messengers approved a recommendation from the aged ministers' committee to add a pastor's widow for monthly support. The association now gives monthly supplemental support to seven widows of former pastors.

The meeting was a rally for BMA of Texas Missions. State Missions Director Jerry Burnaman was the guest speaker. He provided information on various mission points located in various points in the state. He told of two new potential mission fields opening in Tyler and Tatum.

After a question and answer session, Bro. Burnaman preached a message, "What Are You Thinking?" with scripture references from Philippians 4 and Romans 12. He challenged the audience to keep their minds centered on advancing the work of the Lord.

Following the meeting, the Cherokee congregation provided refreshments in their fellowship hall. The next Liberty Association meeting will be March 12 at Coffeerville, Ore City. The rally will be for Texas Baptist Home.

**LAKE HIGHLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**LADIES RENEWAL CONFERENCE**  
1500 College Street 903-885-9188  
Sulphur Springs, TX 75482  
donnyberry65@verizon.net

featured speaker  
**Laura Marsh Kanaykina**  
"SERVING GOD: In Times Like These"  
Saturday, March 28, 2015  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Teaching sessions and catered lunch.  
This will be a time of spiritual renewal with fun and fellowship with our sisters in Christ.

Bring a friend!  
We hope to see you there.

**NO NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED**

Registration Coupon

Send to Lake Highlands Baptist Church, P O Box 441, Sulphur Springs, TX 75483, along with check for \$15.00 before March 18th. After that date, cost will be \$20.00

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

HOME CHURCH: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Northside Baptist Church**  
**Conroe, Texas**  
Presents:  
**Senior Adult JOY Fest!**  
with  
**MARK LOWRY**  
and Stan Whitmire

**Thursday, March 12, 2015**  
10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Tickets \$25.00

Special Guests:  
Kingdom Dogs  
Chordbusters (all ladies barbershop)

Call (936) 756-4630 to purchase tickets!