

Baptist Progress

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It's Time to Make Your Reservations



By BMAA COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS

The 2020 session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America will meet April 27-29 at Farley Street, Waxahachie. The church and hotels are looking forward to our meeting there. Please make your reservations early. Call the local hotels directly to make your reservations. Local telephone numbers are included below. You must identify that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Also, when making your reservations, be sure to let them know you want rooms in the block for the BMAA that begins on April 26. Your stay does not have to include the night of the 26th, but that will make sure you get the BMA block rate.

The Fairfield Inn and Suites will serve as our headquarters hotel for the annual meeting in Waxahachie.

Fairfield Inn & Suites, 2020 Civic Center Lane: (Single/Double, \$135 per night, Rate

Code: BMCQ; King, \$135.00, Rate Code: BMCK; King Suite, \$155, Rate Code: BMCX). Telephone reservations: 972-937-8886. Reservation cutoff date is March 15, 2020.

In addition to the headquarters hotel, additional facilities are available in the area. Following is a list of properties that have blocked rooms for the BMA meeting.

- **Best Western Plus**, 1701 North Highway 77: (Single/Double, \$119.99; Queen/King, \$129.99). Complimentary hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: 972-938-1600. Reservation cutoff date is April 12, 2020.

- **Comfort Suites**, 131 RVG Plaza: (2 queen suite, \$109.00; King suite, \$109.00; for more than 2 people in the room, not including children, there will be an additional \$15.00/person charge). Hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: 469-517-1600. Use

Group Code: BMAA. Reservation cutoff date is April 12, 2020.

- **Hampton Inn**, 2010 Civic Center Lane: (Double Queen: \$139.00; King standard, \$129.00). Hot breakfast daily. Telephone reservations: 972-923-0666, EXT 0. Reservation cutoff date is April 1, 2020.

- **Holiday Inn Express & Suites**, 984 North US 287 Bypass: (Single King, \$139.99; 2 Queen, \$139.99; King Suite, \$169.99). Use Group Code: BMAA 2020. Telephone reservations: 972-938-3300. Reservation cutoff date is March 1, 2020.

- **La Quinta Inns & Suites**, 311 Stadium Drive: (Standard room, \$104.00). Hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: 972-937-5525. Reservation cutoff date is April 12, 2020.

All room rates quoted above are subject to all local taxes.



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Joshua 24:15

By **DR. JOHN M. ADAMS**

Moral Action Executive Director

“Choose you this day” is the cry from these pages. “Choose whom you will serve” is the demanding statement of Joshua 24:15. The people of that era answered and said “God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods” verse 16. Moral choices then is the cry confronting 2020 Christian believers and church congregations.

THE SO-CALLED CELEBRATION OF MODERN MUSIC AND MEDIA

Coming out of the 1960’s, 1970’s and 1980’s a small group of dissidents spread vulgarity (curse words) and sexual slang and that began to spread this type of vulgarity in music and media until 2020 it has become the norm.

Just like flood waters and devastating fires will change the physical environment, this heavy storm of immoral words and sexual immoral slang has and is sweeping the American landscape. It is rapidly changing college, school, church and home life. The ugly, vile and lack of tactful words confronts our Christian children; so may we parents, grandparents, teachers and preachers employ wholesome words. We can help stop this escalating breakdown. We (all) know of these words, without calling them in this forum.

American political commentator Joe Klein gave an analysis of the decline of moral values in America:

“It is impossible, of course, to pinpoint the precise moment when moral relativism became acceptable public policy—but in the sixties, the structures of moral authority were systematically removed from the poorest neighborhoods. A series of legal judgments made it harder for teachers to discipline their students and for housing projects to screen their tenants; the cop on the beat was seen as an occupying force and removed. The moral consequences of programs like welfare were never considered. Instead of nurturing virtue, popular culture celebrated intemperance—and intemperance, pointed out 200 years ago, may addle the rich, but it devastates the poor.

The enormous costs brought about by this conflict have brought great hardship and compounded the problem for those involved in intervention and rescue.”

THE ANALYSIS OF THOSE WHO SUPPORT THIS MORAL DOWNFALL

Jeremiah 2:9 “Wherefore I will yet plead with you, saith the Lord, and with your children’s children will I plead” (2:11). “Hath a nation (America-my emphasis) changed their God’s, which are yet



no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit.”

Simply recognizing the source of moral downfall that motivates the other side will not give Christian churches and its people victory in the culture wars, but it is an essential first step in preparing for the battle. The first task in any conflict is to “know your enemy,” and as we come to understand the forces that are arrayed against us, and as we recognize the trail of disaster in their wake, we will be better prepared to make our voices heard and to make a real and lasting difference for the kingdom of God.

Today’s world, especially America and the Western world, is turning away from God and desiring to eliminate His name. Most churches in Europe, Australia and America are empty. Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Spain, Great Britain and Canada have all legalized same-sex marriage or same-sex unions. So many of these countries have become not only non-Christian, but in many areas, actually anti-Christian.

“Many elements in the U.S. are hard at work both covertly and openly for the total secularization and paganization of America “according to the late Adrian Rogers. One such group that we identify with the downfall of morals is the A.C.L.U. (American Civil Liberties Union). They are working to tear down the Godly and moral foundation of America. They are just one of many such organizations.

Here are some official A.C.L.U. policy positions. They support:

1. legalized child pornography,
2. partial birth abortions,
3. legalized prostitution,
4. adoption by lesbians/homosexuals,
5. publicly funded profane art,
6. legalized polygamy,
7. they oppose legalized school prayer,
8. they have opposition to police drug searches, and the
9. A.C.L.U. opposes Christian home schooling and on and on in the moral and spiritual downfall.

May we born-again believers in Christ approach Heaven with prayers for the churches and members who desire a godly life. The A.C.L.U.’s major goal is a tolerant secularized U.S.A. where religious speech is not only silenced but punished. (Several quotes are with permission from the ACLU vs. America published by Alliance Defense Fund).

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Handle it! Handle it!

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

Pastor of First, Palmer

Many of you remember the late 1970s sitcom, “Carter Country,” set in a sleepy little town where Victor French played the chief of police, Roy Mobey—and the boisterous mayor, Teddy Burnside, played by Richard Paul. You probably remember the mayor’s trademark phrase, which became a universal byword, “Handle it! Handle it!”

Let me tell you of a long-time missionary who was not afraid to use the term. For several decades, the late Paul Robinson was missionary to Nicaragua, and was used mightily of God in building a significantly strong and large work there. In fact, there was a time, a few years ago, when the mother church he planted was the largest in the entire Baptist Missionary Association, attendance-wise, averaging over 1,000 people each week.

He built the church on the cell principle—which, in some cultures, may not work well, but in Nicaragua, it was highly successful when it came to outreach, and plugging people into ministry.

Although I never heard him actually say that Ephesians 4 was his theme scripture, I know that on at least two different occasions, he preached an entire series of services in a church where I had been pastor, using Ephesians 4:11-13—in which Paul addressed the format for ministry of the New Testament—apostles, prophets, evangelists and pastor-teachers. He emphasized the fact pastor/teacher was a combination office, meaning that the pastor’s primary function in the body is to teach, to feed and to lead. In a pastor’s conference at Colonial, Lubbock in the early 1990s, keynote speaker Robinson, utilized that same passage as he ministered to pastors and church leaders.

The results of such a ministry will be manifested in the following way: Paul shared with me once how he planned a journey, which was to last for many weeks. He, along with a couple of other servants of the Lord, set out for an excursion up into some remote villages of Nicaragua. I was struck by the message he left behind for the mother congregation. This is not verbatim, but in essence, he told his congregation, “We

will be gone for several weeks. If anyone is sick, or if anyone dies, you handle it.”

That spoke to my heart on many levels. I gleaned from that (1) people had been effectively trained enough to handle the ministry; (2) the pastor was secure enough in his own skin to delegate such ministry, and trust them to carry it out.

I have to honestly confess that as I have sought to minister in churches, I would periodically become inundated with such thoughts as, (1) They called me here to perform, and to delegate responsibilities is to shirk my own responsibility. (2) Someone else who performs the ministry, might upstage me. I might work myself out of a job. The reality is, people in the congregation can minister in ways the pastor cannot. Some of the best ministry a pastor can perform is to give opportunities to others to share the load.

Looking back, I realize how petty, faithless and narcissistic it was to have such an attitude.

It is the ministry of the pastor-teacher to train people to do what he does. That way, if it results in his working himself out of a job, then the same God Who led him there, is the One who will lead him to greater opportunities. And if the pastor-teacher works himself out of a job, that is a sure sign that the ministry has been highly effective. Also, if the pastor leaves, or dies, or “goes haywire” the ministry of the church will carry on, since the church does not totally depend on the pastor to shoulder the load.

Sadly, many times, we pastor-teachers are co-dependent on our positions in the church, and feel that no one else should be doing what we are mandated to do. We are addicted to getting our strokes from people “needing” us. It’s a terrible trap in which to fall—but I’ve been there—and pastor, you probably have too.

Pastor, my prayer for you—as well as myself, is, to disciple and train our people—through feeding the flock the Word, and modeling ministry to them. Then, if you must be gone for an extended period of time, you can say, with all assurance to your congregation, “Handle it! Handle it!”



“Life was hard and I was ready to just give up.” Reflecting back to the dark days, he and Mama had experienced on the Oklahoma Prairie, my 91-year-old daddy’s mind was clear and his voice strong as he shared his story with me. It was never easy he said, but farming was what he loved and wanted to do. Even the Great Depression didn’t diminish his positive outlook. He had some cows and chickens which provided food. Mama did her part too—scrimping, saving, stretching resources—and together they remained hopeful. But not for long.

In 1930, a drought brought new fears and failures, resulting in the famous Dust Bowl. All of nature seemed to change. The top soil (and whatever had been planted) turned loose. Caught up in the wind, it swirled around and took flight . . . destination unknown. With the ferocious power of a tornado, the air over Daddy’s farm was filled with thick, dark menacing clouds of dust; unlike a tornado, it didn’t strike the target and leave. It rolled in and stayed put, hovering heavy over their little farm and changing their lives dramatically. The wind blew continually so that everything was always covered in dust! With zero visibility walking from the house to the barn to tend his animals was not only difficult but dangerous. Planting a crop was out of the question; still Daddy refused to throw in the towel.

In the middle of these dark gloomy days, a beautiful blue-eyed, blond baby boy was born in December 1932 bringing a bright ray of sunshine into the home of this weary, discouraged couple. What a delightful child, a picture of hope and happier days ahead. This too would not last. When he was two years old he had pneumonia. The swirling dust outside found its way into his lungs and this precious little life was gone.

Dark clouds of grief descended upon this young family as they faced the reality of their loss wondering if they would survive. They didn’t have long to wonder. Five months later, Mama would deliver another baby boy who would live for only two hours. Losing two babies in less than five months was almost more than they could bear. No doubt they thought they could not go on but they did.

Finally, the dark clouds of the Dust Bowl were lifted and the Great Depression ended. Broken hearts from losing two babies were mended. I believe God used all of these devastating experiences for His glory. I know their story. Numerous folks were brought into their home because they had no other place to go. Mama and Daddy served God through His church in many different ways, but orphaned and disadvantaged children became their “calling.” They gave all they had to this ministry for as long as they could.

Knowing my parents’ story has been an encouragement and a strong example for me so I recently wrote my own personal salvation experience, along with spiritual markers (people and events) that have been important to my spiritual growth. It’s biblical. “Tell the Lord’s works to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation” (Joel 1:3). That same message is found in Psalm 78:4b-7. As we welcome this New Year, let’s share God’s love and faithfulness to us with everyone we meet—especially with our children and grandchildren. It will be a legacy of hope they will cherish!

Pat Quesenbury has been active in ladies’ ministry for years. She is a pastor’s wife, mother and active member of the Women’s Missionary Auxiliary. Contact her at pquesenbury@gmail.com.



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CHURCH HEALTH

Relationship matters

By **LARRY BARKER**

Normal vision is described as 20/20 and means that you can see what an average individual can see on an eye chart when they are standing 20 feet away. It literally is seeing things out in front and ahead of you. You go to an eye doctor to determine how good or bad your vision is and what needs to be done for you to see well. With this New Year and decade, the time is now for us to do the necessary work to envision His future for us. What do you see that the Lord desires for you to do in and through your church in 2020?

Make sure that you do an honest evaluation of the spiritual health of your church. Two great dangers for any church is an unwillingness to assess the condition of their ministries and then an unwillingness to take the necessary steps for change to occur. What is your present reality? Your church is not meant to just survive but rather to thrive and vibrantly carry out the Great Commission in your community and context. What areas are you strong in and where is your church challenged the most?

Take some time over the next several weeks to prayerfully work on your ministry and consider what might be the next steps towards your preferred future. Even if your church is doing well and you believe it is quite healthy where can you improve and what do you need to tweak and improve? Begin to plan how you can make your preaching, prayer, worship, ministry, discipleship, outreach and fellowship better. No matter how well your ministry is functioning and your systems are working there are always ways to make them better.

How can you improve your preaching and teaching? Are you consistently delivering a meal that is worth showing up for? Are you feeding the flock in a way that explains the passage in the context of what it is actually saying then applying it to their lives? Are you putting the time in for proper preparation? What needs to change in the New Year if you are not? What do you need to stop doing in order to deliver messages that convey the essence of what God is leading your church to do out of His word? What tools or training do you need to look into to get better?

How are you doing in the area of prayer? Is there a focus on intentional intercessory prayer for your church, church leaders, ministries and your community? What could you do to formulate a recommitment to a deliberate and systematic approach to involving everyone possible in

a season of prayer? Ask God to raise up prayer warriors that would champion a call back to “effectual fervent prayer” throughout your congregation. Leonard Ravenhill said it well, “Prayer is not preparation for the battle; it is the battle.”

How could you improve your worship? Work hard at focusing your church on being centered on God. Develop a plan to challenge your people to participate in worship privately and corporately. Do you have a daily Bible reading schedule for the entire church and have you considered teaching them how to S.O.A.P. journal? When your people are worshiping daily the Sunday worship will be an overflow of their hearts. Prayerfully think through how you can systematically get everyone into the Bible more and challenge them to offer themselves as living sacrifices.

Are you making disciples? Do you see evidence in your church of disciples being developed to the third and fourth generation according to 2 Timothy 2:2? What is your 20/20 Vision for developing a clear discipleship pathway? Have you trained and developed disciple-makers who know how and are willing to invest in consistent intentional discipleship? Without a system and pathway, normally, discipleship will not happen. Take time to think through a discipleship system that can always answer this simple question; “What’s next?”

Are you engaging the community around you? Are you working hard at exeging your culture to discover how you can best love, serve and build relationships with them? What is your community like socially, economically, physically, and spiritually? The apostle Paul was very aware of his surroundings and the emotional and spiritual climate where he was ministering. Do the homework of observation (What do you see with your eyes?), conversation (What do I hear with my ears?) and implementation (What should I do with my hands?).

How is your fellowship? Is there a climate of cooperation and a willingness to help encourage one another to love and good deeds? Are the relationships shallow and on the surface or are they continuing to go deeper? In our individualistic society we must continue to get better at real relationships that encourage trust, transparency and vulnerability. *A pastor friend recently said to me, “Truth travels best on the tracks of relationship.” Work hard at building a Matthew 18:15-20*



culture where you do not talk about one another but to one another.

20/20 vision will require prayerful planning and a determination to take the steps necessary to move your church from its present reality to its preferred future. It is not easy but it is well worth the journey. Take time to think through how you as a church can develop better systems that will improve assimilation, spiritual growth, discipleship and multiplication. Now is the time to work “on” the ministry through prayerful planning and dreaming because soon we will be focused again on working “in” the ministry.

Mission

Vision

Strategy

Team

How are you handling the preaching of the word?

How are you connecting and engaging with your community?

How are you focusing on and developing a prayer culture?

How will you disciple those God entrusts into your hands?

Larry Barker is the pastor of Cornerstone, Jacksonville. He also serves as the operations director for North American Missions. For more information or to contact him, visit www.bmamissions.org.





INSIGHTS *for* PASTORS

The price of leadership

By **DR. ALLEN TILLEY**

Not counting politicians, no one receives more criticism than pastors. One of my vacation joys is visiting another church and not having to worry about the temperature of the building, if the service started or ended on time, or if a word was misspelled in the bulletin. Although my church isn't critical, most pastors are more thin-skinned than they admit. The truth is, we don't like criticism. To keep from pretending criticism doesn't exist or that it doesn't hurt, let me share some steps for dealing with criticism.

Step one: Determine if the criticism is warranted. To be transparent, I make lots of mistakes, although I make every effort not to offend anyone. When I was a child, my father would tell me that it takes a real man to admit when he is wrong. Pastors are sinners just like everyone else. When I blow it, I own it. Then I do everything possible to right the wrong, seeking forgiveness and reconciliation from those I've hurt.

If the criticism is undeserved, I try to find out why I was criticized. Often, the critic had the wrong information or misunderstood me. Sometimes, people have a bad day and need to vent. Unfortunately, pastors are easy targets. If I can't resolve it, I move on and let God take care of it. I spend very little time defending myself. My supporters don't need it, and my critics won't believe it.

Step two: Pray for critics. I don't know what's going on in their lives. I don't know their hurts and struggles. The most important thing I can do is pray for their spiritual welfare. Honestly, only God can change a critical heart. I can't do that. Instead of gossiping or seeking revenge, my time is best served by interceding on their behalf.

Step three: Recognize that criticism comes with the position. If you lead, you will be criticized. If you don't want to be criticized, then don't lead. While being a pastor can be exciting and rewarding, it also comes with challenges and pain. Since Jesus was mistreated, why should I be any different?

Step four: Know criticism doesn't last forever. Instead of reacting defensively, keep the long-term perspective. A volcano doesn't erupt forever. Sooner or later, it settles down, and everything returns to normal. It's the same with criticism. Most often, critical comments are hastily made and then forgotten. Hanging



onto hurts never helps your ministry. Let them go.

Step five: Keep pride under control. When I was a younger pastor, I was insecure, thinking that criticism undermined my authority. Now that I'm older and little less foolish, I know that criticism is good for me. Most of the time, people's criticism are constructive words intended to make me a better pastor and preacher. Leaders should always look for avenues of growth, especially when faced with challenges.

Step six: Remember the cross of Jesus. No matter how hurtful my criticism, it will never compare with the pain Jesus experienced on the cross. The sinless Savior suffered and died for my sins. I should be ashamed of myself when I act like my world is falling apart because

of petty criticisms.

The price pastors pay for leadership is criticism. Instead of giving up, lead effectively so you can prove your critics wrong. In the end, both of you will win.

Dr. Allen Tilley is pastor of First Baptist Church of Carthage, Texas. He has over 30 years of pastoral experience, and God has continually blessed his ministry with dynamic spiritual and numerical growth. Contact him at allen@firstbaptistcarthage.com.



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, "Whoever 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.

OBITUARIES

BOBBY THORNTON

Funeral services for Col. Bobby C. Thornton, 86, of Tyler, were Dec. 18, 2019 in the chapel of Jackson's Burks Walker Tippit Funeral Home, in Tyler, with Dr. Edwin Crank and Gary Doss officiating. Col. Bobby Thornton passed away Dec. 15, 2019 in Tyler. He was born Feb. 16, 1933 in Raleigh, Mississippi to the late Tom B. and Minnie Ishee Thornton. He received his Master's Degree in Theology and served in the United State Air Force for over 24 years as a chaplain. Prior to serving in the military, he pastored many churches in Texas and Mississippi. Along with his ministries, he enjoyed many hobbies, including, golf, racquetball and running. He also had a passion for gardening. He was formerly a member of Rose City, Tyler and most recently had attended New Harmony, Tyler. He was preceded in death by his son, Jeffrey Lynn Thornton.



DEWARD MULLEN

Bro. Deward Mullen, 91, of Fairfield, passed away Dec. 25, 2019 in Arlington. He was born Sept. 1, 1928 in Fairfield to Clinton and Lucy Mullen. He graduated Fairfield High School where he lettered in baseball and football. He served his country in the Korean War, used his G.I. benefits to attend Jacksonville Baptist College and Stephen F. Austin University where he received his degree in history, prior to attending seminary where he established his lifelong love of learning and sharing the Word of God.



On Nov. 13, 1953, he married the love of his life, Margie Nell Davis Mullen, also of Fairfield, and who proceeded him in death. For 60 years, their marriage was a true partnership pastoring churches throughout Texas in Nacogdoches, Crockett, Arlington, Pickton, Huntsville and Frankston.

He is survived by his brother, Perry Clois (Buddy) Mullen, of Fairfield; sisters, Mary Lois Estes, of Crandall and Nova La Flowers of Fairfield; his

children, Jerry and Margaret Mullen, Nina and Randy Burgett, Reba Bateman, Lola Hampton and Dana and Gigi Mullen, as well as 20 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. In addition, he leaves behind a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and an untold number of close friends upon whose hearts and lives he left an indelible mark.

Deward, known to most as simply D, was a fearless man of God first and foremost. Among his many accomplishments, beyond increasing the Kingdom of God upon the earth, D was an avid hunter, fisherman, domino savant and the truest of friends.

A funeral service was held Dec. 28 at Calvary, Fairfield.

LARRY POARCH

Bro. Larry Blake Poarch, 79, went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Jan. 9, 2020. He was born in Sardis Dec. 15, 1940 to Aubrey Blake and Doris Mae (Marshall) Poarch. He graduated from Bardwell High School in 1958. On July 16, 1960, he married his sweetheart and helpmate Patricia Ann Smith. Bro. Poarch worked in the insurance field for many years, farmed and served as a pastor. He was the pastor for many years of Calvary, Ennis. He enjoyed all sports, especially basketball. His family was the light of his life and they all held a special place in his heart.



Bro. Poarch is survived by his wife of almost 60 years, Patricia Poarch; daughters, Phyllis Matous and husband, Joseph; Lisa Easton and husband, Paul and Jennifer Watson and husband, Dennis; son, Andrew Scott Poarch and wife, Chaney; 21 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; one sister, Janis Mahone and husband, Earl; sister-in-law, Gudrun Poarch and a host of extended family and friends.

A celebration of his life was Jan. 13, 2020 at 2 p.m. in the J.E. Keever Mortuary Chapel with Bro. James Patterson officiating.

If you choose to make a donation in Bro. Poarch's name, please consider Scottish Rite Children's Hospital or St. Jude's Children's Hospital in lieu of flowers.



Contact BMA Foundation Executive Director Charles Attebery for more information.
charles@bmaamerica.org or call 501-472-2183

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- Cash
- Stocks and bonds
- Life insurance policies
- IRA Rollovers
- Bequests



BMA of America Missions helping the Philippines following typhoon

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

BMA of America Missions

On Dec. 2, Typhoon Kammuri brought damaging winds and heavy rain to the Philippines after making landfall in the Bicol region, about 240 miles southeast of Manila. The Category 4 storm affected approximately 250 families from BMA Philippines churches in that region. Widespread power outages have displaced storm victims, resulted in a lack of work and is affecting their livelihoods.

BMA Philippines and local BMA churches in Bicol are helping coordinate and carry out the response to the affected area. If you would like to donate to these individuals and families in need of assistance you may give online at <https://bmamissions.org/disasterrelief/> (Designate “Philippines” in Add a Message.) or send to BMA Missions, PO Box 878, Conway, Arkansas 72033.

Thank you for your steadfast support of BMA Missions.

Liberty Association hosts Missions Rally

By **CHARLES JOHNSON**

Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer

Liberty Baptist Missionary Association held a rally for International and North American Missions on Dec. 12 at Fellowship, Pittsburg where Bro. David Kizer is pastor. There were 12 churches represented.

Following a business session directed by moderator Michael Pool, Dr. John David Smith, executive director of BMAA Missions, brought an inspiring message from Philippians 1:3-6 titled, “We Partner Generously.” He noted three points stressed by the Apostle Paul: people are more important than possessions, partnerships are more effective than personal agendas, and purpose is eternal, not temporary. He summarized by challenging all believers to give our best because God has given us heaven’s best in love, life, light, grace and mercy.

Dr. Smith reported the BMA of America now has missionaries in 81 nations of the world. There are more BMA missionaries on the field now (over 600) than at any time in our existence. The number of missionaries has doubled in the past five years. He casted a vision of doubling this number in the next five to eight years.

Slides were shown and brief reports were given on BMA mission works in the following regions: Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Angola, Jordan, India, Central Texas, Costa Rica, New Guinea, Cuba and Portugal.

A generous offering was received from the churches for BMAA Missions. The host church provided a delicious buffet meal for the messengers and guests following the meeting. The next meeting of Liberty Association will be Jan. 23, 2020, at Glade Creek, Gilmer. This will be a rally for Jacksonville College and will feature a concert by the Jacksonville College Choir.

“Room, Attention! A Chaplain is in the area!”

Chaplain Bobby Thornton passed away on Dec. 15. Allow me to take a moment to remember and honor this great Patriot and Disciple of Christ.

My title is a variation of a line from the Movie, “A Few Good Men” where a soldier of lower rank recognizes and shows respect to an officer of higher rank who was present in the room. Chaplain Thornton served his country and his Lord with honor, professionalism, pride and enthusiasm.

I had the honor of wearing a military uniform during some of the same years. After he retired and became the Director of the BMA Chaplaincy, I was one of his chaplains for whom he cared. Then when he felt it was time for him to step away for that mission I was honored to take his place for several years.

Those who have never served in the military can’t fully understand the culture, tradition and bond involved in that tight structured and crazy organization. Nor do many grasp the skill, determination and sense of Calling it takes to work as a Chaplain in such an environment. Chaplain Thornton was a strong leader, a talented preacher and excelled as an Air Force Officer, attaining the rank of Colonel. He had to have the ear, pen and heart of Commanders he worked for to ever be promoted in such a competitive and political system during the days of the Cold War.

Chaplain Thornton had a passion for serving the Lord and his country. That passion was so strong it came across as anger at times, but he made it clear where he stood and how serious he took his job and his duty. At the time of his retirement, with his skills and experience he could have easily crossed denominational lines and led a large congregation or faith based organization. He served well. We were blessed to have him as a pastor, leader, chaplain and brother in Christ.

His compassion and zeal went out to the needy and helpless. Chaplain Bobby also served in the Army in his early years as an enlisted person. This made him sensitive to the lowest of ranks and for those who had no voice in the system. He spoke for those who couldn’t speak and that is much of the job of the Chaplain and the disciple of Christ.

May the sacred work of Chaplain Bobby Thornton continue into eternity. Lord comfort and bless his life long partner in ministry and service, Dovie.

I come to attention and salute a great Chaplain!

David R. Norvell,
Chaplain (LTC) US Army (Retired)

ChangeMaker in Bolivia

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

BMA of America Missions

BMA ChangeMakers are all “cut from the same cloth”.

What they have in common is a dedication to and passion for church planting and discipleship that has changed countless lives. Their mission is pointing people to the cross of Jesus Christ, and they can be found all over the world speaking hundreds of languages in forty percent of the world’s 196 countries.

Just ask Bro. Buddy Johnson, long time BMA missionary to Mexico and DCPI (Dynamic Church Planting International) trainer. He has the same passion, and he knows and has literally walked alongside countless ChangeMakers through the years.

Bro. Buddy has been profoundly affected by their ministries and loves to tell their stories. Like the story of Regino Acuña Cossio:

Bro. Acuña is a Bolivian ChangeMaker now ministering, along with his family, in Paraguay. For Bro. “Nino,” as he is called, it all began in 1969 when he was eleven years old. At a BMA youth camp, a local pastor, Roger Aguirre, preached a message that prompted his salvation. Bro. Jerry Kidd was a missionary in Bolivia at the time, and he began mentoring young Regino. Later, Brothers Marvin Loyd, Larry Hendren and Jimmy Swindoll were his co-workers and further prepared him for mission work.

What a powerhouse of men to learn from and be discipled by!

In the years that followed, Bro. Nino became the director of the Bolivia Bible Institute after the death of Swindoll. In addition, he coordinated pastors’ conferences, marriage conferences, church planting training, and other meetings and events. Johnson describes him as “a humble, hard-working preacher who has a passion for our Lord’s kingdom work. His wife Celia and their three children are also quiet, humble believers.”

In 2010, God began to stir Bro. Nino’s heart toward the country of Paraguay. Bro. Nino shared this burden with Bro.



▲ I to r—Andres Tinoco, Regino Acuña Cossio, Huber Aliaga, and Richard Oscanoa

Buddy Johnson and other Bolivian pastors, and in 2013, after much prayer, BMA mission work in Paraguay became a reality.

Bolivia no longer has American missionaries, but there are indigenous BMA personnel in the ChangeMakers who continue to plant churches there. And it all began through the calling of an indigenous pastor, Bro. Nino, to serve his people group in both Bolivia and Paraguay.

The “cloth” that he and other ChangeMakers have been cut from has become a beautiful tapestry since 1950 when the Baptist Missionary Association was born. Seventy years of steadfast global mission work has produced so many ChangeMakers that it is almost impossible to count.

World Missions Day is dedicated to these faithful servants whose faces you will likely never see, but who are the lifeblood of BMA Global Missions. On February 23, will you celebrate with us - your BMA Missions team - and BMA churches throughout the country? For more information and to sign up to participate in World Missions Day 2020 go to <https://bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday/> or email eli@bmaam.org.



A word from your Missions office

By **HEITH MITCHELL**

Happy New Year! I enter 2020 with real anticipation. I can't wait to see what he will do in and through your missionaries. December blew me away with over 50 souls saved! I don't know all that God will do, but I know he will be faithful. He will be faithful to His mission, His church and His Word. He will provide for His disciples as they "Seek first the Kingdom of God."

Join us in laboring and praying for:

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

We would love to share with your church about what God is up to and show you how you can be involved. We have tools we can provide you to help you become a partner in church planting. Reach out to us.

A WORD FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES

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

Thank you for praying for us and supporting us this month. It is a blessing to see new people receive.



▲ Isaias Rojas Osechas

**WESLEY BURKE—
REDEMPTION BAPTIST
MISSION, NACOGDOCHES
WESLEYDAVIDBURKE@GMAIL.COM**

We plan to preach the gospel, worship in song, take the Lord's supper, recognize elders, constitute and covenant together and therefore become a church in the eyes of great God and King on Feb. 2, 2020. Please pray for us as we draw near to this date.

Prayer Needs:

Pray my trust and faith in the Lord will be strengthened in this waiting season.



▲ Wesley Burke

**JAIME GARCIA—
IGLESIA BAPTISTA NUEVA VIDA MISSION,
GILMER/MESQUITE**



▲ Jaime Garcia

JAIME.GARCIA2911@GMAIL.COM

Glory to the Lord because his message of The Good News has reached our Hearts and we enjoy peace with God through His Son Jesus Christ. This message of peace must continue to be announced to all people. All humanity completely needs to know that we have hope, but how, then will they invoke the One in whom they have not believed? And how will they believe in the One of whom they haven't heard of? And how will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach if they are not sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who proclaim peace, of those who proclaim good news!"

Prayer Needs:

I always want to thank you for your Prayers and I need you to help me pray that as a pastoral family, we will set a good example and that even when some people treat us badly, we will continue together to do the Lord's Work.

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

I am excited and optimistic about what God is doing and will do here in Nacogdoches. We had a Christmas dinner with the American Church and Hispanics combined. We had a large group.

May this 2020 the Lord crystallize his plans, the gospel advances, the Hispanic and American families answer Jesus' call with his gospel, and with the new missionary in Lufkin that gives me the strength to continue working on his work. God bless you.

Prayer Needs:

1. For the spiritual life of the missionary pastoral family Molina Perdomo
2. My culmination in theological studies
3. I want you to pray for a young woman named Narcisa Medina. She will have surgery. Pray that God will do a miracle.
4. For the 2020 plan in Nacogdoches and Texas

**JAIME HENRIQUEZ—
FUENTE DE VIDA ETERNA
MISSION, HOUSTON**

Pray that the Lord opens doors for spreading the Good News of the gospel.



▲ Neptaly Molina



▲ Jaime Henriquez

**SPENCER SIMPSON—
REDEEMER'S LOVE MISSION, HOUSTON
SPNCRSMPSN@GMAIL.COM**

We have been seeing a lot of spiritual growth this past year, and we are excited to see what the Lord is going to do



▲ Spencer Simpson

through our church in southwest Houston in 2020! Thank you for your prayers and support that encourages and allows us to bring the gospel to this area of Houston.

Prayer Needs:

Please pray for wisdom and the ability to be an encouraging shepherd. Also pray for the continued commitment of our members and that they would be taking discipleship seriously and actively reaching our community.

**CESAR CANTU—
INTERN AT THE CARPENTER'S HOUSE MISSION
CESARCANTU42@GMAIL.COM**

Zechariah 4:10, "Do not despise small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand."

All too often, the work which begins does not look like the finished product. As a matter of fact, it shouldn't. Our confusion lies in the similarities, we want the beginning to look and feel like the end product. When things start small like the seed, the end result which can be a flower or a tree look nothing like that seed. Turns God will take in our lives can frustrate just because the growth takes on a whole new meaning. Lets just begin and allow God to form what He wills in the process.

Prayer Needs:

Pray for our move to West Columbia, that it be a smooth transition whenever it comes.



▲ Cesar Cantu

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

Pray for us as we kick off this new year. We will be focusing the first two months teaching on our disciple-making process. Pray that we would be a body that is not just hearers, but does!



▲ Mike Watt

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

2020 is here! God has been good to The Bridge in 2019. We continue to make progress in our mission field. We are continuing to see people saved, people get involved in our small groups and new guests each week. We are looking forward to what God has in store for 2020. Here are a few ways that you can pray for us this year. Pray that



▲ Matthew Prather

BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p. 9

BMA Texas Missions cont.

we see people saved each month this year. Pray that we start new small groups this year. Pray for the leaders that we need to continue to see the kingdom advanced. As always, continue to pray for me and my family as we lead The Bridge Church. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. We are excited about what lies ahead in 2020.

Prayer Needs:

Pray we see more souls saved in 2020.

CHRIS DRIVER—

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

We finished 2019 well, and 2020 is already off to a great start! We already have several trainings set for west and central west Texas to help motivate and equip our churches and pastors to embrace planting churches as well as partner with our existing plants. This is a biblical and critical step to seeing God reach the small towns in west Texas. Please pray for these churches. I really believe 2020 is going to be a big year where we see God do more than we could ask or think!



▲ Chris Driver



▲ Cliff Robertson

CLIFF ROBERTSON—
CARPENTER'S HOUSE MISSION—
LAKE JACKSON/CLUTE

DRCLIFFROBERTSONJR@GMAIL.COM

God is good! He is providing a new playground for the kids. He allowed us the opportunity to sponsor a concert with Carman on Jan 10.

We are involved in our own AWAKENING 2020—a personal revival to lead us into the new year!

Prayer Needs:

We are in the midst of Awakening 2020. We, as a church, are in a different kind of revival. We are meeting everyday this week... to pray, to deal with tough topics, to reorganize small group discipleship. The revival begins in our hearts, as we seek to grow in Christ. Pray for us, as we seek to take this next step with Christ!

CRISTIAN MARTINEZ—

GRACE HARVEST BAPTIST MISSION, LUBBOCK
CRISTIAN.LMBC@GMAIL.COM

During the month of November and beginning of December, we clarified what it means to commit to a local church as a member that uses his/her gifts for the building of the church and the evangelization of the world together.

Clarifying what we believe doctrinally, what is the mission of Christ we seek to follow in this city, and encouraging commitment to a local church can have the effect of attendants that are moved to serve Christ more faithfully and others that decide not to commit to this doctrine, group of people, and mission. Please pray for God to accomplish His perfect purpose in



▲ Cristian Martinez

the lives of those who have met regularly with us and those we have ministered to. With all that's happened, there is still twice as much to do. We are aiming to start two small groups in the third week of January. Before that happens, we are going to have a couple different vision meetings in the community to share who we are, what we're doing and how people can get involved. It will be an opportunity to invite those that we are building relationships with to officially connect with the church and start to be apart of what God is doing with Starting Point Church. As you pray for us, please start praying now for these events coming in January and the people we are hoping to reach.

RONNIE MILLS—

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

BMA Family, we are so excited about 2020, and we ask that you continue to pray for us as we start off the New Year in our new location! It is our desire to grow at the Lord's rate this year, and that we are a blessing to our community.

One of our current needs, right now is chairs. We have a goal of 150 chairs, and so far within our ability we've raised money for 80. If you would like to partner with us and feel led in this way to support us, please reach out to me at ronnie@kchapel.org.



▲ Ronnie Mills

BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p. 11

BMA of TEXAS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
USING YOUR EDGE
APRIL 27 2020

BMA Baptist Missionary Association of Texas.

TBHC SPONSORING FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

FIRST RED OAK HOSTING life... on purpose



“We Won’t Be Shaken”

By **GLENDAM CHAMBERLAIN**

Texas GMA Houseparty is almost here! The GMA officers invite all girls 4th through 12th grades to join them at the Texas GMA Houseparty March 13-14, 2020. The girls will discover that if they stand on the firm foundation of faith, “We Won’t Be Shaken,” which is the theme, based on Luke 6:48-49.

Houseparty will again take place at the Conference Center at Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment in Gary. You’ll find all the registration information online at www.texasgma.org, plus Houseparty details, forms, project information and more.

The registration fee is \$25 per person and you must register by Feb. 15. Even if you don’t have a GMA program at your church, you are invited. Give your girls the opportunity to come have fun, meet new people and most importantly, worship the Lord with girls their own age. Hope to see you there! For more information contact Mrs. Kendra Verhelle at 903-284-8583.

FEBRUARY FOCUS ON ENLISTMENT

Happy New Year to all our WMA auxiliaries! This new year of opportunities for service is well underway in Texas WMA! We are so thankful for the blessings of 2019 and prayerfully anticipate a wonderful year in 2020.

Mrs. Maeva Thompson, Texas WMA first vice president, notes “February is our designated month to emphasize enlisting and welcoming new ladies into our ladies ministries throughout our churches. While this is always a team effort, I encourage us to personalize our outreach with love and a warm welcome to each individual lady we have not yet reached. These ladies may be a member of our church, or they may be a friend or acquaintance in our lives who may not yet even be saved, or have not yet experienced the blessing of participating in a ladies ministry.”

There are many ideas for effective methods of outreach. These include special events such as home fellowship gatherings, teas, informative hand-outs including gifts such as devotional booklets/calendars, and even outings planned for the ladies of your church to interesting places or venues. Important factors to remember are the need to provide childcare for our event, and to consider the schedules and potential needs of the ladies we are reaching.

The most important and key component in an outreach event is to saturate the planning with prayer, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in reaching the hearts of the ladies the Lord has brought into the scope of our ministry. Our theme in Texas WMA this year is “Sweet

Hour of Prayer”. Prayer is such an appropriate theme for our outreach efforts. If ladies who are prospective members of our auxiliaries can sense in our fellowship a strong devotion to prayer and a lifestyle of seeking the Lord and walking with Him, they will be drawn by the authentic and genuine fellowship that we want them to find in our ladies’ ministries.

Incorporating prayer and scripture in the events we plan for enlistment is the most powerful witness we can give. Suggested scriptures to use in this year’s enlistment outreach are Philippians 4:6 and Psalm 42:8. As we pray for the Lord to go before us in every word and effort, we know that we are most compelled to action by the spiritual and physical needs of the ladies we long to reach. May they see Jesus in us as we reveal to them that His love lives in our hearts!

NEW CLASSROOMS NEEDED AT MARTHA JOHNSON SCHOOL

The Martha Johnson School in Huejutla de Reyes, Hidalgo, Mexico is the Texas WMA project for the coming year. The school has outgrown their current facilities and is in need of new classrooms.

You can make a difference in the lives of students by giving to this project. Please be in prayer for ways your WMA can help build the classrooms that are so desperately needed.

Send your offerings to: Jo Strong, 149 NW Suzanne Terrace, Burleson, Texas 76028. For more information please contact Diana Morris, Texas project promoter at 903-288-7575 or at grammydi1013@msn.com. Mrs. Morris would love an opportunity to share more information about the school and their needs at your District WMA meeting.

DISTRICT NEWS

LIBERTY DISTRICT—On Jan. 11, 2020, the Liberty District WMA met at Antioch, Gilmer. The meeting was called to order by President Betty Stokes who spoke about an article on New Year Resolutions and suggested that reading the bible, attending church, praying for God’s help, etc. would be better than the usual yearly resolutions. Ms. Ava Pool welcomed those in attendance. President Betty Stokes led the WMA motto. The ladies sang “Called” the alternate WMA song.

Ms. Elizabeth Midkiff offered the prayer for the Project Offering and for BMA Missionaries Sara and Tommy Rose. Their mission work in Mexico is the current project. The amount collected for their mission

“El Arco in Santiago de Queretaro” was \$1,732.

Ms. Belinda Caudle introduced the guest speakers: Sara and Tommy Rose. She recalled seeing Sara as a child coming from Mexico. She affirmed that their lives show that God has called and equipped them.

Sara showed a short video of Queretaro, Mexico, stating that this modern city is totally different from the area she was familiar with while growing up in Mexico. At age 13, her family moved from Mexico to Texarkana into a different lifestyle. Her father became a pastor; she was home-schooled for a year before going into high school. During this year she grew very close to God. After graduation she attended and graduated from Jacksonville College where she met Tommy. She never thought she’d be going back to Mexico in her lifetime. But God had different plans for the couple, they live in Queretaro where they share the Gospel and build relationships. She encourages us all to build Godly relationships and be intentional when witnessing.

Three ladies from Antioch presented special music, “We’ll Sing Until the Whole World Hears,” accompanied by a music video.

Tommy Rose showed photos of their family and spoke on the Queretaro area, comparing it to Dallas in size and appearance. Their church meets in a gymnasium for Sunday services and in various homes throughout the week for bible studies. He asked for prayer for several couples whom they have met and led to the Lord and especially for a group in a women’s rehab center where they held bible studies and introduced some craftwork for Christmas ornaments. Sara is praying for a women’s ministry to develop and their church ladies to be leaders in working with the rehab group. Ms. Maeva Thompson offered the right hand of appreciation to both.

Bro. Charles Johnson offered the closing prayer and blessed the food prepared by the Antioch, Gilmer ladies, which of course, turned out to be delicious Mexican meal.

Our next meeting will be April 18 at Rosewood, Gilmer.

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.



TEXAS BAPTIST HOME FOR CHILDREN

I'm Just Sayin'

By **JASON CURRY**

This year, I am hoping to take you on a journey and glimpse into the lives of a foster and adoptive family. The things people say innocently and sweetly can sometimes hurt our children's ears. I hope to help you say things that will uplift instead of detract. Let's explore one of the questions I am asked all the time. "Do you have children of your own?"

The answer to this question always seems to baffle people. "Yes, all of my children are my own." Almost verbatim, they come back with "well you know what I mean." And I say "Yes, and I want you to know what I mean. All of my children are my own." The term biological and adopted are important keywords to say it is simply factual.

So, when you ask me, "Do you have children you have adopted?" I simply say "yes." Now is this the case with every family? No. But my children want to belong and if, even for an instant, my adopted sons ever thought that my biological children were more "my own" than they were, it would devastate them. So, my terminology is important to me. Because being identified as my children is a privilege only a few will ever claim.

They belong to me and I belong to them. They are my own.

When we consider belonging to God, I can't think of a better example than 1 Corinthians 3:23 which simply says that we belong to God and God belongs to us. The way we live our lives is because we are God's children. We are uniquely gifted with the relationship that, though open to all, few may know because of devotion to other things or beliefs. This is a father loving his children as only God can and you and I get to be His very own.

This year, we are celebrating 110 years! It also marks the start of our five-year plan and we need your help. We need a few people to prayerfully consider increasing their gift to help us reach our goals for caring for kids. Our goal is to have 2,000 children cared for by the end of our five-year plan. We need your help to build your ministry to reach the children who need it most! I'm just sayin'.

Jason Curry is the president of the Texas Baptist Home for Children. Contact him 629 Farley St, Waxahachie, TX 75165, 972-937-1321 or jcurry@tbhc.org. For more information, visit www.tbhc.org.



BMA Texas Missions cont.

Thank you for all your blessings, and prayers! Happy New Year! Prayer Needs:

We started the New Year out with a series that is geared around financial giving, and so we are hoping that our people will receive it, and live it out.

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

Brothers and sisters pray for each other to remain faithful to the call God gave us.

Prayer Needs:

Pray that God will give us my wife and my passion and faith.

JESSE HALES—
RESIDENT INTERN IN ROUND ROCK
HALESJESSE@GMAIL.COM
DUAL SUPPORT BMAA/BMAT

With everything that has been going on, it's hard to believe that we've only been ministering here in Round Rock for 2 ½ months. We have been pouring ourselves into certain parts of the community to make a positive impact for Christ and to deepen relationships we are trying to build with people. In all the ministries that I've been blessed to be involved with in the past, I've never seen meaningful connections made as fast as they have been happening here, and only God can do that. Just yesterday a teacher stopped to thank me for all the church has done and to tell me that our church was "the talk of the town." Although I think her statement was pretty inflated (Round Rock is a big town), it excites me to hear Starting Point

referred to as "our church," or "that church" and have people stop me to remind me of their upcoming surgeries or update me on their relatives.

With all that's happened in the last 2 ½ months, there is still twice as much to do in the next 2 ½. We are aiming to start two small groups in the third week of January. Before that happens, we are going to have a couple different vision meetings in the community to share who we are, what we're doing and how people can get involved. It will be an opportunity to invite those that we are building relationships with to officially connect with the church and start to be apart of what God is doing with Starting Point Church. As you pray for us, please start praying now for these events coming in January and the people we are hoping to reach.

CHRIS MINDI—
RESIDENT INTERN, LEANDER
CRISTIAN.LMBC@GMAIL.COM

Please pray for my family (baby girl to be born), my school, our small group families and most importantly for wisdom and strength in navigating and prioritizing all the aspects of my life.

Heith Mitchell is the director of BMA of Texas Missions. Contact him at P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, TX 75168, 972-923-0757 or hmitchell@bmatexas.org. For more information, visit www.bmatexasmissions.org.



An expression of everlasting love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home for Children, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from Dec. 1-31, 2019.

ENDOWMENTS

MYRA STOKES: Bill Stokes

DUSTIN COE: Ron & Lourita Coe

HONORARIUMS

PALMER AND HOLLIN ANDERSON: James & Sue Anderson

MINNIE ATKINSON'S BIRTHDAY: Minnie Atkinson

DANIEL & FAY BAKER: Jerry Null

GAYLYNN BEASON: Wayne & Linda Beason

EDDIE BOOTH: John & Belinda Thiele

THURMAN CAGLE'S 90TH BIRTHDAY: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

CHUCK CARSNER: L.O. Hallonquist

RUSTY & DENISE COKER: Jim Ouimet

LOUISE DUFFEY: Ron & Lourita Coe

ESHELMAN/BOLLEN FAMILY: Jean Eshelman

GRANDCHILDREN- JAKE, DAVID, ANNIE, MAGGIE

KAYE & CLAYTON SWINDOL: Bro. Don & Lorraine Swindol

RETA HALLONQUIST: L.O. Hallonquist

BERTHA HAMMOCK: Jerry & Donna Shannon

HUCHALA FAMILY: Jean Eshelman

CAMERON LEIGH JOHNSON: Donna Johnson

BRO. CHARLES & CHARLOTTE JOHNSON: Elizabeth Stokes; Larry & Rolanda Baryon

ROB & TOMMIE KEITH'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

MURIEL KUYKENDALL: Jon & Sharon Shannon

JUNE & JACK LOYD: Ron & Lourita Coe

MARGIE MCVAY: Pat & Marilyn Patterson

MY FAMILY: Earlene Crenshaw

OUR TEACHERS AND OFFICERS: Rosewood Baptist Church

KARL & MARTHA PACE: Carrie Walker

SHANNON RIGGINS: Mike Brown

SFA MEN'S BASKETBALL WIN OVER DUKE: Jed & Glenice Whitaker

TBHC: Robert & Jeannine Fletcher

TBHC CHILDREN: Berry & Muriel Kidwell

TBHC HOUSE PARENTS FOR THEIR DEVOTION TO THE CHILDREN: Clyde & Lois Williams; Logan Williams

JENNIFER WALKER THOMAS: Edwina Walker

DUANE & CHARLOTTE TURNER: Ricky Thompson; Christopher Thompson

MEMORIALS

MR. & MRS. ALBERT BARTEK: Leonard Haag

ED & LOIS BRUMMETT: Pat & Marilyn Patterson

BUFFIE: Larry & Lilla Benefield

LORENE BURNS: Jan Holcomb

ORVAL CALDWELL: Milton & Glenda Griffith

CYNTHIA CHANDLER: Myrtie Langford

RYDER CHANEY: Glen & Carolyn Saxon

KATIE CONNOR: William, Christa & Laura Beth Connor

DONALD COOPER: Billie McKelvey

SUE DANIEL: Glee Huston

JEANETTE DERRETT: Glenda Lilly

REV. WILLIAM & DORIS DILL: Thomas & Ellen Dill

CECIL DOWNEY: Carlie Downey

SONNY & JANIE DUNAVANT: Margaret Wolf

TERRY ENGLAND: Jed & Glenice Whitaker; Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Travis & Audrey Shipp

AUBREY & PAULINE GANDY: Jerry & Virginia Gandy

MEMORIALS continued on p.14

memorials-honorariums

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

The Good Samaritan

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

DATE: February 2, 2020

TEXT: Luke 10:25-37

THE HOOK

Notice the irony of this parable—and ask the class to list instances of such ironies, which appear in the Word. (1) Poverty-stricken Smyrna being richer than the affluent Laodicia; (2) God choosing Moses, a man who could not talk, to lead the Israelites out of bondage; (3) Young David, the only one who had courage to smite Goliath; and now (4) a most unlikely Samaritan who rendered aid to the Jew who was robbed and left by the roadside, rather than the men who represented “religion.”

THE BOOK

1. A trick question (verse 25). The “lawyer” posing the question to Jesus was known as a religion scholar, who was not interested in inquiring about eternal life, but rather to “trip Jesus up.” One who represents darkness delights in seeking to expose any indiscretions about light. But it was to no avail to anyone who would

challenge Jesus.

2. A brilliant retort (verse 26). Possessing all the deity of the Father, Jesus was perfect in His ability to control the narrative of any conversation with a Pharisee. “What does God’s law say?” “How do you interpret it?” Jesus always answered a question with a question.

3. A Pharisee who was well versed in the Word (verses 27-28). “Love the Lord with all your heart, and love your neighbor as yourself,” he replied. Jesus returned the remark with accolades. “Thou hast answered right.” Jesus was never condescending His replies or mannerisms. But He was always right.

4. A lawyer searching for a loophole (verse 29). Lawyers make good money searching the law books for precedents and loopholes. But this lawyer came up short when conversing with the Savior. “Who is my neighbor?” He likely wanted the definition of “neighbor” to be those who were worthy of his time and presence. The following parable was not the answer the Pharisee was looking for, but in no uncertain terms did Jesus explain to him the meaning of the word “neighbor.”

5. A parable (verses 30-37). Jesus explained to this

lawyer that one’s neighbor is not necessarily someone who is liked by society. The neighbor cannot necessarily pay recompense for the good deed rendered. This Samaritan understood this and went ahead. But the two supposed representatives of God, did not, and refused to render aid. A priest who performed acts of worship in the Temple — and a Levite who was of the priestly tribe. No, it was a Samaritan. Samaritans hated Jews, and vice-versa. Note the disciples’ reaction to the Savior reaching out to a Samaritan woman in John 4:1-42. Also, notice the rejection of Jesus by the Samaritans, and James and John (Sons of Thunder) wanting to retaliate (Luke 9).

But the most unlikely Samaritan was the one who rendered aid, giving the poor Jew from Jerusalem, needed first aid, and financing his stay in the inn. The Samaritan was the true, genuine neighbor.

THE LOOK

If you ask God in earnest, He will give you the opportunity to show such compassion to someone who is looked down upon by society, and who cannot repay you.

Zacchaeus

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

DATE: February 9, 2020

TEXT: Luke 19:1-10

THE HOOK

Our study this week presents another one of those ironies — a rich man coming to Christ. “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, that a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 19:23). Zacchaeus was not only rich, but hated throughout the community. He was a tax collector which, like all tax collectors, overcharged the citizenry grossly and lived lavishly. Our lesson is a study of Zacchaeus’s conversion.

THE BOOK

Three observations about Zacchaeus (verses 2-4). (1) he

was the leading tax collector; (2) He was wealthy; (3) He was hated; (4) He was short of stature.

The Curiosity (verses 5-6). Zacchaeus was likely drawn to want to see Jesus out of curiosity. But while Zacchaeus was curious, Jesus was calling. The diminutive little man was filled with joy at the summon of Jesus. John 6:44, “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.” Zacchaeus was called by the Savior, and he joyfully came to Him.

The Call (verse 7). The Savior’s critics were in full force. Jesus went to be a guest at Zacchaeus’s house. Jesus commonly experienced push-back by the formal religionists because He dared to sit down to a meal with sinners. “I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:32).

The Change (verse 8). One who formerly oppressed people and gouged them of their money was now willing to give half of his possessions to the poor, and to reimburse taxpayers four-times what he had taken from them. The law only required restitution plus one-fifth (Leviticus 6:1-5). A heart Jesus changes, not only changes destinations, but attitudes toward worldly possessions. Jesus declared that “salvation had truly come to this house.”

THE LOOK

We can be comforted in the truth that all we can do is introduce people to the Savior, but it is the Savior who changes that heart. We can also be reassured in the fact, we could do nothing to save ourselves—salvation is totally a work of Christ.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

The ten minas

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

DATE: February 16, 2020

TEXT: Luke 19:11-27

THE HOOK

Today's lesson takes me back to an old Fannie J. Crosby hymn written in 1876, "Will Jesus Find Us Watching?" Especially the second verse: "If at the dawn of the early morning, He shall call us one by one,

When to the Lord we restore our talents, will He answer thee, 'Well done?'"

What is a mina? Most credible dictionaries render a mina as 1/60 of a talent or 60 shekels. One source states that half of an Israeli mina would be worth approximately \$7.21 in today's American currency. The Amplified Bible says a mina was equal to about 100 days' wages or nearly \$20 in Jesus' day. To invest these in the days of Christ was to see a significant yield in interest.

THE BOOK

Jesus was doing far more than just explaining how one could invest wisely, but He was giving a metaphor of the urgency of being faithful during the time period between Christ's first and second advents, also known as the Church Age.

1. The Nobleman: A picture of Christ in verse 12.
2. The 10 servants: A picture of Christ's disciples in verse 13.
3. The Citizens: A picture of the Jewish nation, which rejected the Nobleman in verse 14. The Jews have rejected Christ as the Messiah.
4. The return of the Nobleman: The return of Christ to set up his reign during the Millennial Kingdom in verse 15.
5. The yield in the investments indicates the authority of each servant in the Kingdom of Christ.
6. The term "well done" indicates the words Jesus declares to His faithful servants at the Judgement Seat of Christ. Also, the amount each collected seemed to determine the authority

each would have in the Kingdom of Christ. Note in verse 17 the similarity with the verbiage of Paul's reference to the Bema Seat in 2 Corinthians 5:10.

THE LOOK

This parable should urge the saved in the church age to be faithful followers of Christ, and promoters of His Kingdom, looking ahead to that glorious day when we shall be with Him during the Millennial reign. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5 that works done in the flesh for man's glory rather than Christ's, would be consumed as "wood, hay and stubble." But works rendered to bring glory to Christ alone, would be put to the fire and come out as "gold, silver and precious stones." Scripture says the former will be "saved, yet so as by fire"—saved by grace, but nothing to show for a wasted life. This brings another hymn to mind, written by Charles Luther in 1877, "Must I Go, and Empty Handed." The chorus says, "Must I go, and empty-handed, must I meet my Savior so? Not one soul with which to greet Him, Must I empty-handed go?"

On the road to Emmaus

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 2020

TEXT: LUKE 24:13-35

THE HOOK

As you ponder this account of two disciples of Christ having an encounter with Him, and not knowing Who He was, does it not remind you of the numerous times you have experienced His hand upon your life, and it was sometimes years later when you recognized it? For reasons, which we do not understand, God the Father chooses to sometimes work incognito in our lives. The refusal to reveal Himself is often to temper and strengthen the faith of His children. His name is not even mentioned in the book of Esther, and yet His fingerprints are all over it. He had a divine purpose for this.

THE BOOK

1. These disciples could not be indifferent to the works of Christ (verse 14). They were rehearsing the phenomenal

events, which had just happened.

2. Jesus' anonymity was for a divine purpose (verses 15-24). To temper and strengthen the faith of two who were downtrodden because this, their Hope of eternity was gone.

3. Jesus chides Cleopas and his friend for their lack of faith (verses 25-27). They had momentarily forgotten that the events were spoken of by the prophets, and that His death was essential for His return to His former place of glory.

4. Even in their non-recognition of Jesus, there was something about Him that drew them to Him (verses 28-29).

5. Jesus acted as though He were going to continue on and therefore not impose on their hospitality (verse 28). But they insisted that He stay. Jesus tenderly calls, but He doesn't force Himself. Their response was a demonstration of faith.

6. A picture of communion (verse 30). Fellowship with Christ by observing the elements, which depict His body and blood.

7. Jesus' presence caused rejoicing (verse 32). "Did not our hearts burn. . .?" This should be the spirit and response of the church every time she comes to the Lord's Table.

8. An encounter with Christ causes one to not be able to refrain from telling of Him (verses 33-34).

THE LOOK

The presence of Jesus in a life, (1) is life-changing, (2) fosters overwhelming joy and (3) a desire to share Him with others.

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



MEMORIALS from on p.11

- LOIS & HESTER GIBSON:** Janice Dore
VALERIE GRADNEY: Marilyn Jean Simpson
MR. & MRS. LEON HAAG: Leonard Haag
ARLIS HART: Ineta Archer
MELVIN & DARLENE HARRELL: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
DONALD HARTLEY: Dickey & Kathy Hartley
JOHN HEATH: Jerry & Donna Shannon
LOIS MARIE HODGES: Woody & Glynda Shultz
HOYT HOPKINS: Virginia Hopkins
ROBERT JACKS: Jean Jacks
JEFF: Donald & Jacquelyn Cox
JERRY, DWAYNE & ANGELA: Muriel Kuykendall
HALEY RENAE JOHNSON: Donna Johnson; Leora Johnson
J.R. & FLORENCE JOHNSON: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
JOE MAX JOHNSON: Leora Johnson
DAVID JUNKIN: Doyle & Patti Junkin
J.R. KENMORE: Joy Linton
MAELETA LANGFORD KEEL: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
NANCY KIKER: John & Brenda Beeler
JESSE KUYKENDALL: Muriel Kuykendall
MR. & MRS. KUYKENDALL: Muriel Kuykendall
JACLYN LANDRUM: Gary & Jean Landrum
SHARON LASHER: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
ELVIN & DOROTHY LAWSON: Darlene Mageors & Family
KEVIN LEWIS: Sandra Lewis; Linda Lewis
ROY LEWIS: Linda Lewis
BRYON LUNA: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
BILLIE SUE MARTIN: Terry & Sharon Martin
CODY MAUK: Mike & Sondra Moore
ANN MAXWELL: Marilyn Jean Simpson
BRO. & SIS. VIRGIL MAYES: Veda Womack
JOYCE MCDONALD: Vicki Sconce
MYRNA MISHLER: Temple Baptist Church
CHARLES MITCHELL: Gay Mitchell
PAUL & JEARLENE MIZE: Jerry & Sheree Mize
BETTY MULLINAX: Jana Saunders
MY PARENTS: Muriel Kuykendall
BAYLEE NUNNERY: Wayne & Linda Beason
TROY & DOROTHY NUTT: Jerry & Donna Shannon
MABLE & J.D. ODOM: Henry & Renesia Wilburn
LOU OUIMET: Jim Ouimet
CAROLYN POLASEK: Brent & Judy Besler; Gail Turnipseed; Larry Jackson; R.E. & Naomi Bullin; Hurst Family Supply; Joyce Polasek; Gail Glenn; Bill Price; Pamela Legan; Fifth Street Baptist Church; Judi Bell; Neta Hicks
BOBBY G. PRESLEY: Charles & Portia Gordon
GENEVA PYNES: Duane & Charlotte Turner; Welson & Lana Sparks
JOY REED: Marie Terry
LINDA ROGERSON: Mel & Sharon Caldwell; Milton & Glenda Griffith
PAULINE SHANNON: Jerry & Donna Shannon
MR. & MRS. G. DEAN SOAPE: Patti Moore
BUCK SPENCER: Jed & Glenice Whitaker
WANDA JOAN TIDWELL: Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Rosewood Baptist Church
LETHA THOMPSON: Temple Baptist Church
H.T. 'BUBBA' TREADWELL: McCown Enterprises
FENDLEY TUCKER: Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Ronald & Kathryn Kline; Larry & Sherry Finney; Cleta Shine
MRS. VONNIE, MY SWEET FRIEND: Jeanette Dorman
SAM & JO WHITE: Jerry & Sheree Mize
PAT & PEARL WILLIAMS: Nancy Edwards
JOHN WOLCOTT: Gay Mitchell
MARY WOLFINGTON: John Wolfington
EUGENE & OMEGA WOOD: Lynn Wood



MONEY WISE

BAPTIST MISSIONARY
BMLA
 LOAN ASSOCIATION

By **JERRY BURNAMAN**

For an organization to function at a level of effectiveness, it's necessary to have a clear purpose. The purpose of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association of Texas is specifically defined in our charter: To financially assist churches and missions by making loans to purchase property, build new buildings or remodel existing buildings.

The BMLA has been a ministry of the BMA of Texas churches since 1952. Your loyalty of support signifies that you value the ministry. Presently we have 255 investors and our total assets are \$14.5 million.

How did we get here? In about 2005, we had \$5 million in assets. One church had almost \$1 million in the BMLA designated to build a Family Life Center. One day the pastor called and said they were securing plans to build and wanted to receive the funds in increments as needed. We set aside the funds and at the completion of their project, we had about \$4 million in assets.

This ignited my attention, and the attention of our trustees. At our next trustee meeting we discussed the possibilities of encouraging individual, associations, churches and auxiliaries to invest funds with the BMLA.

One trustee said, "We need to get to work and find more investors."

Another trustee said, "I know someone who may be interested, and some family members."

Several more made similar statements, and I knew of some potential investors. We began working, talking, promoting the BMLA through *Baptist Progress* and association meetings. At first, the growth was small, then the funds increased dramatically. For several years, our assets increased \$1 million or more per year. This is how we've come to where we are now.

On behalf of our faithful trustees. We thank you for your generous support. I personally appreciate all our investors, and count it a great honor to serve as manager of the BMLA of Texas.

We're about 15 days through January. I pray, and encourage you to pray, that our churches will grow healthier and need new facilities or remodel existing ones. We can assist them in making their vision become a reality by offering financial assistance. We have money to loan and I'm praying we will make three or four loans this year.

If you feel led or impressed to invest in the BMLA, there are four ways to invest:

An Investment Certificate of \$1,000 or more that pays 2.5 percent interest, compounded quarterly.

A Share Account that pays 2 percent, compounded quarterly. This is similar to a bank savings account, and the initial investment can be as little as \$5.

Also, a few churches have invested with interest free accounts to help with providing funds to loan.

Some give a gift. There are churches that have the BMLA in their budget.

If you would like more information about the BMLA, call me at 972-923-0758. Perhaps you prefer a visit from me to present our ministry with your church or auxiliary. I'm available at any time; call me at the number above.

Jerry Burnaman is the manager of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association. Contact him at 972-923-0758 or jerryburnaman@yahoo.com.





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EVENTS

BMA OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: April 27-29, 2020

PLACE: Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas

BMA OF TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: November 16-17, 2020

PLACE: Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas



Upcoming Events

SPRING 2020

Classes meet January 13-May 6
January 9-10: Placement testing and registration

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

PASTOR—Center Hill, Oakhurst, located off of Highway 190 in Oakhurst, is seeking an experienced bi-vocational pastor. Send resume to chdcpastorsearch@gmail.com or call 936-662-7831. ^{3/20}

INTERIM PASTOR—Mount Olive, Scurry is seeking an interim pastor. If interested, please call 972-935-2428.

PASTOR—Central Baptist Church, Lancaster is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. If interested, please email resume and contact info to mloafman@cisid.org. ^{TFN}

PASTOR—Westside, Nacogdoches is seeking a pastor. Send resume to dgmounger@att.net. ^{1/20}

PASTOR—First, Jacksonville is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 210 Philip Street, Jacksonville, Texas 75766 or email to reception@firstjax.org. ^{TFN}

PASTOR—Central, Mineola is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 602 N. Line, Mineola, Texas 75773 or email to ccburke43@gmail.com. ^{TFN}

PASTOR—Beacon Hill, Waco is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to jmpossey73@gmail.com or mail to P.O. Box 9080, Waco, Texas 76714-9080. ^{3/20}

PASTOR—Hill Creek, Whitehouse is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Chairman of Pastor Search Committee, 17636 Summer Place, Whitehouse, Texas 75791. ^{TFN}

CHURCHES in REVIEW

December 22, 2019

| CHURCH | SS | WORSHIP | ADDITIONS |
|-----------------------------|-----|---------|-----------|
| Glade Creek, Gilmer | 17 | 36 | |
| Jackson, Joaquin | 73 | 119 | |
| New Hope, Mineola | 77 | 173 | |
| Olde Tyme, White Oak | | 57 | |
| Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden | 48 | 78 | |
| Rosewood, Gilmer | 121 | 204 | |
| Sand Prairie, Normangee | | 75 | |
| Security Calvary, Cleveland | 30 | 39 | |
| Simmons Hill, Diana | 37 | 44 | |

December 29, 2019

| CHURCH | SS | WORSHIP | ADDITIONS |
|-----------------------------|-----|---------|--------------|
| First, Palmer | 34 | 66 | |
| Glade Creek, Gilmer | | 31 | |
| Jackson, Joaquin | 58 | 87 | |
| New Harmony, Tyler | 269 | 296 | 1 by baptism |
| New Hope, Mineola | 57 | 105 | |
| Olde Tyme, White Oak | | 37 | |
| Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden | 30 | 42 | |
| Security Calvary, Cleveland | 26 | 38 | |
| Simmons Hill, Diana | 27 | 34 | |

January 5, 2020

| CHURCH | SS | WORSHIP | ADDITIONS |
|--------------------------------|-----|---------|-------------|
| First, Palmer | 45 | 69 | |
| Glade Creek, Gilmer | 18 | 29 | |
| New Hope, Mineola | 73 | 134 | |
| Olde Tyme, White Oak | | 45 | |
| Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden | 42 | 67 | |
| Rosewood, Gilmer | 134 | 225 | |
| Sand Flat, Grand Saline | 48 | 67 | |
| Sand Prairie, Normangee | | 46 | |
| Security Calvary, Cleveland | 24 | 36 | |
| Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill | 15 | 19 | 1 by letter |

January 12, 2020

| CHURCH | SS | WORSHIP | ADDITIONS |
|-----------------------------|-----|---------|-----------|
| First, Palmer | 42 | 74 | |
| Glade Creek, Gilmer | 18 | 33 | |
| Jackson, Joaquin | 63 | 88 | |
| New Hope, Mineola | 86 | 153 | |
| Olde Tyme, White Oak | | 43 | |
| Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden | 46 | 71 | |
| Rosewood, Gilmer | 126 | 263 | |
| Sand Flat, Grand Saline | 41 | 75 | |
| Sand Prairie, Normangee | | 52 | |
| Security Calvary, Cleveland | 32 | 50 | |
| Simmons Hill, Diana | 33 | 35 | |

Please join us for an introduction to

The Multiplication Workshop

The Multiplication Workshop is focused on equipping you to train every believer to become a disciple maker with the understanding that you build and grow churches by making disciples.

When: February 18, 2020 – Tuesday 9am-4pm (lunch provided)
Where: Missions Office (632 Farley Street, Waxahachie, Texas)





JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

Jacksonville College Celebrates 120th Anniversary at Homecoming 2020

By Randy Decker

Jacksonville College Director of Alumni Relations

The story of Jacksonville College is rich with evidences of divine sustenance and intervention. From its founding to today, God's provision has been clear and His blessings have been undeniable.

After the organizational meeting of the East Texas Educational Society in March of 1899, an eighteen-acre building site was purchased for Jacksonville College in July, and less than a week later, the Secretary of State approved the charter for Jacksonville College. By September, thirty-four students were enrolled in the College and taking courses in the rented upper story of the Templeton building on South Bolton Street. By December, the three-story brick building known as "Old Main" was completed, and classes were moved to that location. Old Main no longer stands at Jacksonville College. It was torn down to make room for more buildings and more students. God has sustained the College through difficult times, and He has blessed us with faithful supporters whose gifts and service have made it possible to offer a distinctly Christian education to many generations of students. Jacksonville College has seen much growth and many changes over the years, but the mission remains the same: to provide a quality education from a biblical worldview that challenges minds, transforms lives, and equips students for servant leadership and lifelong learning.

On Feb. 7-8, 2020, Jacksonville College will host its 120th anniversary celebration at Homecoming. This year offers a special opportunity to look back at the legacy of Jacksonville College and look forward to its future. The executive committee has been hard at work to provide opportunities to celebrate the history of our alma mater, renew deep and meaningful relationships, and form new friendships.

This year the business meeting and primary music time will

be moved to Friday evening, Feb. 7 at First Baptist Church in Jacksonville. This year's program will feature Dr. Jason Aultman, JC alumnus and pastor of Antioch Baptist Church of Conway, Arkansas. We will also recognize alumni who attended Jacksonville College in the years ending in 0 (1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2010, 2020). Following the Friday night gathering at First Baptist Church, we will meet on Jacksonville College's East campus for a Homecoming bonfire, thanks to the planning of Director of Student Life Mirtha Eckles.

Saturday morning's celebration at 10 a.m. in Buckner Chapel will be reserved for awards and presentations. The morning program will include the presentation of a brief video on the history of Jacksonville College. The video will be provided by the Barnwell Anderson Chapter of the Walter Prescott Webb Society together with the Cherokee County Historical Society. Homecoming Royalty honored this year will be the Kellar-Laird-Carroll Chapter of the Jacksonville College Alumni Association. The program will conclude with our traditional singing of the *Hallelujah Chorus* and the *Jacksonville College Alma Mater*.

It is our hope to dismiss the Saturday morning program by 11:15 so alumni have plenty of time to reconnect with friends at their chapter luncheons. Refer to the Homecoming schedule of events for additional information about chapter luncheons, basketball games, and other details about the celebration.

For more Homecoming 2020 information and updates, visit the alumni web page at jacksonville-college.edu/alumni. For the most current information, make certain the alumni association has your current email address. Contact Jean Galyean at jgalyean@jacksonville-college.edu.

Jacksonville College Homecoming 2020 Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- 11:30 a.m. Alumni Lunch in JC Little Cafeteria - \$5 per person
- 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. JAG Store Opens (Weatherby Building)
- 6:00 p.m. Gathering of the Jags in the First Baptist Church Family Life Center (210 Philip Street, Jacksonville, TX)
Alumni Registration and Reception
Light Snacks, Displays, and Fellowship
- 7:00 p.m. College Updates
Alumni Updates, Reports, & Brief Business Meeting Program – Dr. Jason Aultman
- 8:30ish Bonfire - College Campus East

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. JAG Store Open (Weatherby Building)
Commemorative and Spirit Items and Gifts
- 9:30 a.m. Alumni Registration in Buckner Chapel
- 10:00 a.m. Jacksonville College 120 Years Celebration in Buckner Chapel
College and Alumni Updates
Historical Video - Historical Societies
Recognitions and Awards
Alumni Chorus
- 11:30 a.m. Chapter Luncheons
Kellar-Laird-Carroll:
First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
Bearden-Bonner-Gaylor:
Craft Baptist Church Family Life Center
Anderson-Orr-Small: To Be Arranged
Crank-Ross: To Be Arranged
- 4:00 p.m. Curtis Carroll Field House/Gymnasium
Women's Basketball Game:
Lady Jags vs. Tyler Junior College
Presentation of Homecoming Court Between Games
- 6:00 p.m. Curtis Carroll Field House/Gymnasium
Men's Basketball Game: Jaguars vs. Blinn College

FEBRUARY 7-8

Homecoming
2020

CELEBRATING 120 YEARS!