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What it means to truly be broken



BY JOHN DAVID SMITH, D.MISS.

BMAA Missions Executive Director

As we build toward World Missions Day 2022 and its theme, *Broken*, let's consider what lessons we learn from Jesus and brokenness? Philippians 2:7 explains the connection between the two: "... rather, he made himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men."

The first part of this verse literally means that Jesus emptied himself. The second part is that He became a servant. In this divine act of the incarnation where God became flesh, these two

actions help us understand brokenness and its absolute necessity in fulfilling the mission Christ has given us.

We must be broken to the point that we empty ourselves of personal goals and ambitions and embrace the mission of Christ to truly give all...like Christ.

The first Christ-like essential in brokenness is an attitude of casting off all self-sufficiency and self-promotion. The second essential is all about action. He became a servant. Brokenness reflects

a deep relational dependence on God where self is put aside. Brokenness is also unbridled service to God and others in and through His mission.

Incarnational missions demand brokenness, and brokenness is evidenced in our emptiness and servanthood. During this World Missions Day 2022 time of emphasis, our prayer is that you would seek a deep relational dependence on God and wholly embrace his mission.

The Jerry Kidd Missions Offering will be received by churches Feb. 27, 2022.



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MAKING PROGRESS

How you can make your pastor's job a joy

By **JERRY FULTON**

The Hebrew writer recorded in Hebrews 17:7 and 17, *“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation... Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”*

According to verse 17, one day, your pastor will stand before the Lord to give an account of what happened on his watch as the overseer of your church. You should want to live in such a way that when the time comes for your pastor to stand before the Lord, he may speak of you with joy, not grief. So, how can this be done?

News of the church's faithfulness to Christ was all that the apostle John needed to be encouraged. He wrote in 3 John 1:4, *“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”*

Your pastor watches out for your spiritual well-being. When you live in a way that is not pleasing to God, like the father of a wayward child, it breaks the heart of your pastor. Pastors are hurt deeply to see people ignore the counsel of God they share in sermons and Bible lessons.

Not only do you hurt your pastor by ignoring God's Word, you hurt yourself, and you miss the blessing of living the abundant life Christ came to give you (John 10:10b). The word “abundant” in the Greek is *perisson*, meaning “exceedingly, very highly, beyond measure, more, superfluous, a quantity so abundant as to be considerably more than what one would expect or anticipate.” So, the abundant life that Jesus provides is a life far better than you could ever imagine, a concept reminiscent of 1 Corinthians 2:9: *“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”*

A Christian's life should revolve around “grow[ing] in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

Nothing will make your pastor happier than for you to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. Obviously, doing so requires being keenly aware of how scripture instructs one to live. Spending time in God's Word, in prayer and involvement in a local church are absolutely imperative.

Friend, godly pastors are worth their weight in gold. They are usually overworked and underpaid. They bear greater responsibility than medical doctors as Hebrews 13:17 states—they must one day give an account of their ministries before God.

First Peter 5:1-4 points out that they are not dictators, but lead by their example and by their teaching (1 Timothy 4:16) in humility of heart. And like Paul, they are like nursing mothers who truly love their “children” and are willing to give themselves for their flock and rule with gentleness (1 Thessalonians 2:7-12; John 10:11). They are characterized by sincere devotion to the Word and to prayer (Acts 6:4) so that they can rule in God's power and wisdom and impart to the flock spiritual meat to make them healthy and vibrant Christians (1 Timothy 5:17).

In conclusion, live right! Do the right thing! Imitate the life of Christ as well as the life of faith your pastor lives before you, remembering that when his life comes to an end and he stands before the Lord, he might mention your name. If he does, do you want your pastor to report that it was his joy to serve as your pastor or that the way you lived was a tremendous burden to him? This is certainly something you should consider. And if you are not living a life of obedience, repent and begin doing so today.



▲ Jerry Fulton

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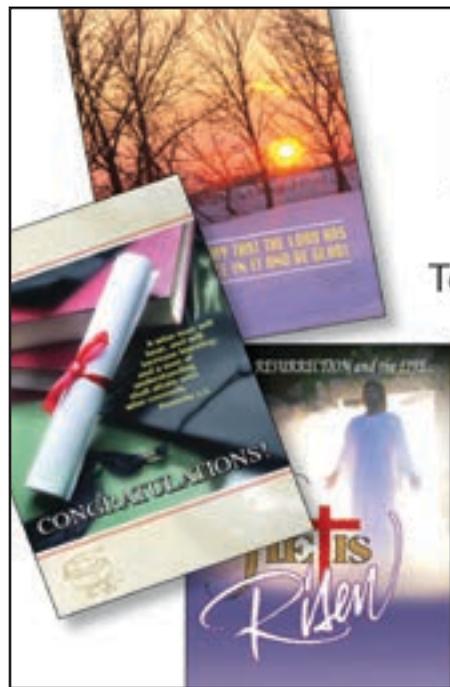
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Baptist Progress

News of Texas



Ellis-Hill Baptist Association changes name, invites new churches to join

Last October, the Ellis-Hill Baptist Association changed its name to the North Central Texas Baptist Missionary Association. The association, no longer comprised only by churches in Ellis and Hill Counties, recognized that the name had ceased to describe the local association. Over the past several years, churches from outside of the two counties, including churches in Dallas County and Navarro County joined the association.

The local association also recognized the fact that there are some churches in the area who do not have a local association to belong to or are not active in their current associations due to distance or other reasons. So, the choice was made to change the name.

Each third Thursday, the pastors of the association meet for lunch with guest speakers from various ministries at a local restaurant. If you are a pastor or staff member who lives in the north Central Texas area and are not involved in a local association, you are invited attend. This month's meeting will take place at Cancun's Ameri-Mex Restaurant, located at 2000 Corporate Parkway in Waxahachie at 11:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 20.

If you plan to attend the lunch, please let Dr. Kerry Moore know you are coming. He may be contacted at fbcdesototx@gmail.com.

Liberty Association hosts missions rally

By CHARLES JOHNSON

Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer

The Liberty Baptist Association held a rally for International and North American missions at Sovereign Life Fellowship, Longview with eleven churches represented, Dec. 17. Following a welcome by associate pastor Wayne McKay, association moderator Billy Byrd brought a timely devotional from Isaiah 59:12-14 emphasizing "Justice is turned back."

Liberty yearbooks for 2021 were distributed to the churches. Danny Hailey, pastor of Pine Acres, was recognized as a new pastor in the association. During the business session, Moderator Byrd appointed a committee of three to make plans for a "March Missions Madness" conference to be sponsored by the Liberty Association.

Special guests at the meeting were Larry and Shelby Barker of Jacksonville. Larry, director of North

American Missions for the BMA of America, reported on various BMA mission works both abroad and in the States. He brought an inspiring message from Psalms 51 and cited several experiences from our missionaries as illustrations. He shared numerous prayer requests for specific mission fields and individuals and encouraged all the churches to be a part of World Missions Day Feb. 27.

Following the meeting, the host church served a delicious meal of baked potatoes, salads and homemade desserts to the messengers and guests. The next meeting of Liberty Association will be at Go Forth, Kilgore, Jan. 13, 2022. This will be a rally for Jacksonville College with college president Dr. Joe Lightner the scheduled speaker.

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.





A word from your Missions Office

By **HEITH MITCHELL**

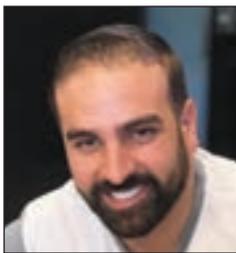
Happy New Year BMA Family! I am excited about what our faithful God has in store for 2022. I am thankful to be on this journey with Him. I don't know what the new year holds but it will include blessings to enjoy, trials to persevere through, hills over which to trust God, and unexpected obstacles that allow God to show Himself mighty.

Your missionaries are persevering and seeing God at work. They saw 20 souls saved in a December full of COVID. Pray for them and encourage them as they walk beside you into 2022. Let us know how we can encourage or serve you.

A word from your missionaries

**TIMOTHY ALBA—
NEW MISSION IN SEAGOVILLE
TIMALBA1986@GMAIL.COM**

I have learned a simple truth when planting a church. It would appear that God does more work in the planter than he does in the actual plant. The plant is simple when it comes to God. He can make anything grow if He so chooses but the planter is a different story. God is constantly shaping me and challenging me to grow so I can Shepard His people.



▲ Timothy Alba

He is teaching me how to be patient and trust in Him during times of uncertainty. He is teaching me to pray more than usual and to seek Him when circumstances arise. Yes, God is growing me so I can more effective in my community.

Prayer Needs: Pray for 2022 as we go into the unknown as many churches are doing these days.

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

I am very happy to experience the answer to our prayers for many months, that finally my wife could arrive in the United States due to her visa problems. God always answers our prayers as long as we can remain in faith and faithfulness to the Lord. Our perseverance in believing in the promises of our God will eventually



▲ Cesar Leal

be rewarded and encourage us to move forward with more strength and enthusiasm. I look forward to the new year with optimism because I firmly believe that God will do great things.

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

Thank you very much for being part of our life and ministry by supporting us as missionaries, may you have a bright 2022.



▲ Roberto Marcelletti

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

My encouragement for you all is that as we kick off the New Year 2022, let us pray like Jabez for God's blessings to be on our lives, family and ministry and for God to give us victory in our daily walk with him.

Prayer Needs: Pray for souls to be saved, more doors to be opened for evangelism.



▲ Bichitrananda Satpathy

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

There is a new family that is attending church. We give glory to God because I will have to baptize about six new believers in January and February, God willing. Rosalva Soto, Ricardo Linares, Jaquelin, Brenda Torres and Alexas Valdes. We are happy for the revival we are having.



▲ Neptaly Molina

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

As I started writing this, one thing came to my mind is Philippians 4:6, which says, don't be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. This comforted me this morning in knowing that He is answering our prayers and leading us in the mission work we are doing in this location. We believe that He is leading us in a new direction of Anchor, Austin to be a missional Indian church. Please continue to support us. we are all on the same team, Winning souls for God.



▲ Chris Mindi

Prayer Needs: Pray specifically for Anchor, Austin will be effective in this new year. Also, pray for the existing relationships with the unbelieving friends to be deepened so

that they see God's love through us in serving them and feel it.

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

It has been a blessing to end this year as part of this wonderful association. We are experiencing the results of the discipleship and our growth strategy by being able to baptize two new members and maintain families in discipleship. Our relationships with Northside, Conroe are the best. We hope in Christ that 2022 will be great.



▲ Isaias Martinez

Prayer Needs: Keep praying for the growth of the church in difficult circumstances.



CHURCH HEALTH

A spectacular display of God's presence

By **LARRY BARKER**

Christmas has come and gone with all its shopping and giving, wrapping and unwrapping. Despite its secular nature, as Christians we know what a spectacular display of God's presence it is. John 1:14 says, "The Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We observed His glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

In *The Message* Eugene Peterson says that, "God moved into the neighborhood." What a wonderful picture of a divine invasion that caused man to reconsider and to refocus on what is really important. God showed up at the appointed time (Galatians 4:4-5) after the prophets foretold of His arrival with angels appearing, shepherds praising and the wise beginning their journey to find Him.

God invades our lives personally, corporately and at times even nationally. This is when it is clear beyond debate that God has shown up and accomplished what only God could accomplish. Mary said in Luke 1:46-47, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior." Luke 2:14 records a heavenly choir of angels saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward man." Luke 2:20 says, "The shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard, just as they had been told."

Are we seeking the invasion of God in unique ways to do what only He can do?

In *Presence Centered Church* Bill Elliff says, "Throughout history, God has graciously interrupted our lethargy with heavenly invasions of His presence!" There is Christmas, the resurrection, and Pentecost to name a few. Times where God showed up and we can clearly see the immediate difference that His presence makes.

In the wilderness Moses refused to move forward without God's presence. David understood that the fullness of joy is to be found in His presence. The church at Laodicea became lukewarm and sickening to the Lord because of the lack of His presence. Are we okay moving forward without His presence?

Church attendance does not guarantee that you are growing in Christ. Pastoring a church does not mean you are experiencing God's manifest presence or that you are spiritually healthy. Being sealed by the Holy Spirit does not guarantee that you are presently walking in a close, powerful connection with Him. For some

reason, and there are many, we start out well when we become a believer, but so often we do not end well. You can serve the Lord without the power of the Holy Spirit by following Him in your own strength and according to your own wisdom.

Pentecost is one of those times where the invasion of God changed everything from walking in our own energy to being able to accomplish what only God could do. The early church was instantaneously different and the world could tell. Listen to what Jesus says in Luke 24:49: "And look, I am sending you what my Father promised. As for you, stay in the city until you are empowered from on high." One version says until you are "clothed with power." Here is the reality: The early church would never be able to accomplish what God had called them to do in their own authority or by their own energy. They needed Him!

Dr. Charles Stanley defines the power of the Holy Spirit as, "that divine authority and divine energy which God releases in every one of His children in order that we may live a godly life and a fruitful life." Dr. Stanley reminds us that because we have been called to live a supernatural life, we are called to have a supernatural presence. Also, because God has called us to a supernatural work we are called to have a supernatural power. Here is the good news: Jesus promised two things before He ascended back to heaven: He would always be with us (His presence), and He endues us with His power (John 14:16-17).

Think about the evidence of the Holy Spirit in the early church of Acts 2. Love for one another was apparent and undeniable. The power of the Holy Spirit was evident because of their obvious transformation and commitment. Unbelievably, forgiveness was not just for those they already loved, but also for their enemies. All of sudden common men and women became bold proclaimers of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Those who once cowered in fear were now champions for the cause of Christianity. God's presence turned this "ragtag band of believers" into a movement to be reckoned with.

Now that 2021 is behind us, here are some questions about your spiritual walk and the spiritual health of your church:

Are you passionately and unceasingly seeking the invasion of God to do what only he can do through His manifest presence?

Are you experiencing God's intimate presence



regularly and daily? If you have ever tasted God's presence, you long for more. You know the difference between an environment filled with God and an environment void of His presence in your prayer life, quiet time, worship services, and church ministry.

Do you feel content with your church that can be explained by what you can do, what you can plan and what you can accomplish?

Do you long to see and experience more of God's presence?

Do you passionately desire to build a church where God is pleased to dwell?

Think about Revelation 3:14-22 and the church at Laodicea. We desperately need God's presence, and we need it now, tomorrow, and every single day of our lives. Bill Elliff challenges us to submit to the constant, ruthless evaluation of our lives and our churches with this question: Is God present? The recognizable difference is always God's presence!

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.



LEAVE IT TO CLEAVER



Three New Testament Words for Pastor—Acts 20:17 and 28

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

Introduction: There is no higher title for me than “pastor.”

There is no higher office in this land than pastor. If I were confirmed as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States of America or requested by universal, popular mandate to serve as Secretary General of the United Nations, this would be a step down from the office of pastor. There is no higher calling than to be pastor of one the Lord’s church. I ask your prayers for me that I might be the kind of man worthy of the title, pastor.

There are three words used for pastor in the New Testament: elder (presbuteros), bishop/overseer (episkopos), and shepherd (poimen). The New Testament usage of these three terms is at times interchangeable. The words do not necessarily stop at one point and start at another point in their function. All these are used interchangeably.

Paul calls for the elders of the church in Acts 20:17. In the same meeting with the elders (20:28) he tells them to shepherd the flock of which God made them overseers or bishops of the church.

Elder (presbyter). This word really connotes age. It really means “the older.” It never would mean “the younger.” The elders who oversaw the synagogues were those with years of experience. The cultural position of being older and wiser is this particular meaning. Our word for Presbyterian Church comes from this word. Matthew, Mark and Luke refer to the Hebrew elders time and again in their Gospels. These are the leaders of the Hebrew people in the time of Jesus. This term was always used for these people who lead the nation in their religious journey.

Acts refers to the elders of many congregations as Paul made his journeys (Acts 14:23; 15:2). Paul refers many times to this word in 1 Timothy 5:17 and Titus 1:5. James uses this word in James 5:14. Simon uses this word in 1 Peter 5:1.

Bishop/overseer (episkopos). This word indicates another function. The Episcopal form of church government derives its name from this word. It really means to “look over and to oversee” a church.

The early church replaced the office of Judas in Acts 1:20 and it uses this word for his office.

Paul makes reference to this term at least two times as he gives us a litany of the qualifications of a bishop in 1 Timothy 3:1 ff and Titus 1:7 ff. Simon in 1 Peter 2:25 tells us about Christ being the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls.

Shepherd (poimen). This word has to do with another function and specifically leadership. It is a common word for “pastor.” It is one who shepherds and leads the flock of sheep.

A key passage for this is Ephesians 4:11, where the word is probably pastor and teacher in one unit. I believe churches want a shepherd to lead the flock; not a cowboy to drive the herd. The New Testament speaks of the pastor in this kind of term. It is not a sense of a cowboy driving a herd of cows. A modern-day shepherd is one who gently leads the flock of God. The Lord is my shepherd of course. Never forget it is His rod and staff that

comfort the sheep. Jesus is the good shepherd who gives His life for his sheep.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS YOU MAY DO TO ASSIST YOUR PASTOR?

I am a member of this church. My pastor wants my help to be the very best pastor he can be. Here are some things you may do to help your pastor fulfill his role as he is elder, overseer, and shepherd.

Support your pastor in prayer. Is your pastor any different from you? Is he of another “class of Christian” than you? No, we are all of flesh and have the treasure of Christ in jars of clay. Pray for your pastor’s moral life. I read and see in the news of multiple accounts about pastors falling into moral lapse. Your pastor might be a little more human than you in that he may be tempted in different ways than you.

I know as pastor you hold me to a higher moral standard than you hold other people. I accept this and agree with you that I need to be an example to the flock. Pray that your pastor will lead a life of piety. Piety simply means he practices his faith. Piety means he walks the walk as well as talks the talk.

Pray for your pastor’s wife. His wife is his key ally and best friend. She is first lady of the church for she bears burdens in a unique way that no other wife in the church bears.

Pray for your pastor’s children. These children know “different” treatment in many instances. They “need to be good” because their daddy is a preacher. Church members might say, “We are going to ensure they are good by our close inspection of their every action.”

Support your pastor in your actions. Support your pastor by your words. Talk him up. Show your enthusiasm for your pastor. I don’t think many people think about how harsh their words are when they speak in a derogatory manner about their pastor. If I really believed how “horrible” some pastors were from listening to their church members, I would believe he was the spawn of Satan or at least the child of the antichrist.

Support your pastor by your deeds. A kind card, letter, email, phone call, or other gracious act goes a long way to help a long night in prayer, counseling, or other ministry performance your pastor performs that you never see nor would he want you to know about.

Support your pastor by your finances. I always want to be a minister rather than a preacher because a minister made more money than a preacher. How do you overpay someone who loves you and prays for you? How do you overpay someone who comes to your bedside in illness? How do you overpay someone who is ready to hear your confessions? How do you overpay someone who stands by your side in heart wrenching family calamity? Support your pastor by following the Word of God.

Be serious about your spiritual life. Your existence is body, mind, and soul. God breathed into us and we became a living soul. Man is different from an animal in that the Spirit of God is within him. Your

pastor wants you to live a life on the highest spiritual plane. Do the things the Bible tells you to do. Love the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength. Love your neighbor as yourself.

Be serious about your family. You have a gift in your family. We don’t choose our family. God placed our parents over us and they are in the place of God to us. Parents created us and have rule over us. You are now a parent. You are in the place of God to your children. Be serious about what you are doing.

Be serious about your church family and its obligations. My church is the most important institution in this city. My church is the most important institution in my life next to my family. I need to be serious about my church family. When my sister or brother hurts, I hurt. When my sister or brother rejoices, I rejoice. It is perfectly appropriate to be happy in the presence of God’s people.

Conclusion: It is not uncommon for the three offices in the New Testament to be used in plurality in one church. However, they are never used in the sense of the plurality of churches under one leader—bishop, elder or shepherd. You have had great men to serve as pastor here. They are tremendous spiritual giants gifted in their fields of service. They have provided good service as pastor here. They have been the elder, the overseer and the shepherd. Our church has done well to follow them.

Often with smaller churches and even with larger churches, there is a sense of the congregation following the seven last words of the church; words written on tombstones of many churches: “We have always done it this way.” There is some sense of leadership that is missing and the congregation takes up the slack in the absence of pastoral leadership.

You have a pastor today. I am ready to serve you as shepherd, elder, and overseer for this flock of the Lord Jesus. You must decide what you will do with this shepherd, overseer and elder. Do you look back to ask for the “good old days” that were and are no more? Some church members might say, “I wish our pastor today were more like Pastor So and So. I really liked him better. He did this in a certain way or he did that better in the other way. I wish for the good old days.”

This church has called me to be pastor-elder, bishop/overseer, and shepherd. I have accepted this joyous calling with all my heart. I ask you to look at, consider carefully, and act upon the New Testament pattern of pastor. Follow your pastor as he follows Christ.

Tony Cleaver is the director of distance learning and a professor of Biblical studies at Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. He is an author and writer of the popular newspaper column, Leave It to Cleaver. He may be contacted at tony.cleaver@bmats.edu.





WRONGLY ACCUSED AND IMPRISONED

BY: Holly Meriweather
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

Pastor Bismark Trujillo is one of David Dickson's "jungle pastors." He and other pastors in this area of Nicaragua choose to work to plant churches in this difficult-to-access part of the country that, with very few exceptions, is only accessible by horse and cart.

Pastor Bismark pastors a church in the Wapi region where, according to Brother David, "someone always has something for you to carry to someone else." It was because of his willingness to carry a package – without knowing its contents – to someone at his destination that the worst happened: Military checkpoint police found drugs in his bag.

Although the drugs were not his, Bismark refused to defend himself or name the person who asked him to carry the package. He was told that if he gave any information about the individual, his wife and children would be killed.

A lawyer pastor in Nicaragua helped with Bismark's defense fees, but his wife eventually had to sell everything they had to pay for his services. However, they were not successful, and he was sentenced to five years in prison.

He had decided not to let anyone in the prison know that he was a pastor. Even still, when he arrived at the prison, he told fellow prisoners that he would not be in prison for five years. "Why?" they asked. "Because I know someone," Bismark told them. "So who is it that you know?" his fellow prisoners asked.

"Jesus," Bismark answered.

Normally a new prisoner is stripped, beaten, and humiliated, but for some reason, this did not happen to him, and he gives credit to God for being spared that beating.

While in prison Pastor Bismark says that he began repeatedly hearing God whisper to him, "Romans 1:16." Because God continued to whisper the verse, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ," he shared his faith with fellow prisoners and 32 men made professions of faith while he was there.

Bro. David recently visited Bismark and says that he is a changed man who loves to plant churches like the other pastors in the Wapi area who choose to live in the jungle instead of cities. His faith has been strengthened, his attitude - Bro. David - says, is completely positive and he's even more on fire for presenting the gospel to non-believers.



His current ministry includes a family that is helping sponsor the work and has given him permission to use their building for a church plant. Please pray for Bismark as he reaches the broken with his own story of brokenness, deliverance, and faith in God to use the worst of circumstances to glorify his name.

BY: Dr. John David Smith
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

FROM BROKEN TO REDEEMED

When I arrived in Cape Verde as a missionary on the island of St. Vincent to begin ministry at the only Baptist church there, I did not expect that Pastor Manuel Ramos to retire and that I would fill his role. It was a small church with a congregation of fifteen, half of them children. Among the adults, there was a young man I noticed who came in after services started, sat in the back, and left during the closing prayer.

I didn't have the opportunity to meet him until one Sunday after service when he came and introduced himself as Claudino Gomez and explained that he was a new believer. He also said, "My common law wife, Francelina, is not a believer. Would you please pray for her?" It was clear that he loved her very much, and I agreed to pray for her. I also invited him to my house to talk about his new faith in Christ and we began meeting during the week for Bible study.

During one of our meetings, I asked Claudino if he wanted us to go talk to her and share the gospel, but he said no because she was very antagonistic to the gospel. So instead we continued praying as he studied the Bible.

Claudino grew rapidly in his faith and told me one day, "I can't continue in this lifestyle of immorality because it doesn't honor God." When he told Francelina they should get married, she didn't want to do it and refused to quit going out to parties. Later Claudino knew God wanted him to issue an ultimatum, so he told Francelina she had three months to change her lifestyle or he would move out. Despite his love for her, he had to follow through with his decision and didn't believe she would accept the gospel.

I had lost track of Claudino's deadline, so I was unprepared when late one night he came to my house weeping, telling me "the time is up" and that he had moved out of the house. I watched his profound sadness in the next weeks as he prayed for her. He knew it was her brokenness that caused her to continue in a lifestyle that did not honor God, but he went through with the ultimatum, difficult as it was.

In the meantime, the church had grown and Claudino had to sit up front during services, so he did not see Francelina come in one evening and sit on the back row. I was excited to see her, but there was no way I could get his attention that she was there, so instead I prayed, "Lord, let this night be the night of salvation for her."

God had been working in her heart, and during that service when the opportunity came to make a decision, Francelina almost ran to the front without Claudino even realizing it. Then he saw her at the altar, and his facial expression was indescribable. He joined her there and I knelt with them as she gave her life to the Lord that night.

Later Francelina was with a group of new converts "making a profession of faith," which was the tradition. After her baptism with other new believers that night, she asked to sing a song: "At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light and the burden of my heart rolled away, it was there by faith I received my sight and now I am happy all the day." Many tears were shed that night.

A few weeks later they were married, and it wasn't long before Claudino made known his call to ministry. They were the best I'd ever seen at leading others to Christ, drawing people to church, and creating relationships. They love people and are very fruitful in ministry.

The first church plant where they served was in Salamansa, a little fishing village, then they went to another fishing village on the other side of the island called Calahau. After that they planted a church in Santo Antao then returned to Saint Vincent where he is now interim pastor for that original church in Saint Vincent.

Just recently they went to the island of Sao Nicolau where they are now pastoring a church.

I am so blessed to have walked that journey with them from their own brokenness to their call to serve broken people, and I'm proud to call them brother and sister.





FROM HIDING OUT TO CHOOSING LIFE

BY: Stan Scroggins
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

“Joab” was born into a poor Filipino family and soon became an orphan. His father was involved in the Philippines’ underground government conflict, so while Junmar was just a young boy, he was pressured to join.

Eventually he became a hit man.

During the annual Kalilangan Festival in the town of General Santos on Mindanao Island, local pastor Santos Lumang and his church (Fundamental Christian Baptist Church) were handing out tracts to festival-goers. Joab was there as well, waiting in the shadows for his next hit. But before the target arrived, Joab was given a tract that changed his life.

Later something drove Joab to find the pastor from the festival, Pastor Santos, who took him to a hiding place immediately for protection. Although putting himself at great risk, for ten days he worked diligently to get Joab to safety on another island.

Finally permission was given for Joab to come to Negros Island and take refuge at the BMA Bible College (BMABC). After his arrival, another pastor, former Bible College employee Richie Pugoy, housed and fed Joab.

The first priority, however, was to lead Joab to Christ, and so he did, surrounded by his new friends

To avoid suspicion, Joab enrolled as a student at BMABC, but with no education and no English-language ability, a couple began teaching him English so he could pass the high school equivalency exam. The result? Joab became a star college pupil and graduated five years later.

Now married with two children, his wife is the cook at BMABC and Joab is a church planting missionary for Karis Baptist Church where there are currently two active missions. He borrows my truck every Saturday to go to the river for sacks of sand to mix cement (because he can save 10 centavos a bag) for the mission building.

He is truly my missionary partner and best friend. He was a broken, crushed man, hiding for his life. Then, using

a pastor in Mindanao, our missionary God sought him. Now he is the most dedicated man of God I’ve ever known, seeking out broken people just like himself. There is no such thing as suffering for Jesus, and for Joab, everything is a joy.

Pastor Santos Lumang’s kindness and love still affects Joab today, and because his heart was broken for an enemy soldier, many lives will be changed as well.





Lifeworld Global Partner Updates

BY: Holly Meriweather
Lifeworld
lifeworld.org

The Lifeworld USA team and global partners from all over the world meet on Zoom calls to share ministry updates and encourage each other. Representing Central America, Europe, Southeast Asia, Middle East, and Africa, these men and women are not only media missionaries but also church planters, pastors, and ministry leaders in their cultures.

El Salvador

In El Salvador, church planter Valmori Zelaya produces Spanish language content heard worldwide and at the online radio station *Radiocentroamericana*. Valmori has been recording thirty-second video testimonies that are reaching people, which encourages them to continue. In addition, writers have been producing blogs two to three times a week and working on *mission:world* News translations.

Nepal

Nepalese speaker Sishir Rai is a missionary to India but also plants churches in Katmandu, where he lives and records his daily devotionals in Nepali. He says that many different dialects are spoken among college students, so the vision is to bring them to Christ then disciple them to return to their people groups and share the gospel. Sishir and his father, who is a pastor and taxi driver, have the same multiplication vision for those drivers, who also speak multiple languages.

Prayer: that God will open the border between India and Nepal so he can minister to the very poor Nati people group.

A new global partner in the region, Kishan is a native of India who has also been called to reach Nepal. He began using audio and video media two years ago and has begun on-line gospel teaching. Recently God called him to move his family to an area of unreached people groups in Western Nepal where infrastructure is almost non-existent and travel is difficult.

Lebanon

To reach those who are “seekers,” Joe Costa has added WhatsApp to his social media tools. He and his media team first engage those seekers then add them to a discussion group, which currently has eight members. He and his team have a new social media series targeting agnostics and atheists that addresses controversial topics like women’s rights, answers theological questions, and presents proof of the Bible’s inerrancy. He is also partnering with like-minded ministries and training them in social media ministry.

Romania

For global partner Bogdan Bilav, the current focus is on gypsy brothers who are excited about a Bible in their language beginning with the New Testament and have volunteered to hand write the translation in notebooks. It will then be transferred to computers so a professor can correct it for grammar and sound theology. The final step will be to make it available in audio form for those who can’t read or write.

Pray for good progress on implementing the steps to complete this Bible translation.



Philippines

Although still recovering from his Covid hospitalization, Pastor Pete Etabag – along with his daughter Ping – is continuing to manage video content and making sure it is uploaded to the cloud, Facebook, and YouTube. He is unable to travel to the mountains where most of his 42 community radio stations are located, but he still records evangelistic messages, teaches and trains students at the BMA Bible college, produces Ilongo language content, records online tutorials for global partners and manages the online radio station.

Pray that Bible college graduates, who speak a variety of languages, would be called to produce gospel media in their native tongues.

Zarqa Baptist Church Building Dedication— November 2021

A CALL TO SERVE

And do not forget to do good for others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased (Hebrews 13:16).

Inspired by this verse, the ministry team at Zarqa Baptist Church in Jordan responded to God's call to serve their community. Two years later in March of 2007, they began doing just that through a free medical clinic. Since that time four additional areas of service have been established to provide physical and spiritual healing in their community and beyond.

The original medical providers were a dentist, a nurse and a clinic manager, but in 2013 circumstances changed dramatically as their work expanded to include thousands of refugees crossing into Jordan from Syria.

With an increasing number of patients, an average of 2,500 people per month, the working team added two physicians, a general practitioner, a family doctor, and nine nurses. A pharmacy was eventually added, and they began doing minor surgeries and emergency operations followed by hospital referrals.

Because Pastor Samer is humbled and grateful to God for blessing their efforts, providing supporters, and raising up prayer partners, the church began planning a building dedication and invited BMA Missions personnel to attend.

AN URGENT NEED

As they began medical services to Syrian refugees, it was increasingly obvious that the mostly women and children who fled their war-torn country needed help beyond the physical.

Pastor Samer says, "We treat them through a post-trauma recovery program as many of them have lost their husbands, children, and all their property in the war. We support them psychologically and financially, and we help with training."

Another goal of the recovery ministry is to teach life skills so they can eventually sustain themselves. They are taught sewing, embroidery, culinary arts, soap making, computer/administrative skills and learn how to market and sell their products.

AN EDUCATIONAL NEED

Many refugee children have lost both parents and either have a lapse in their schooling or have never attended, so there is a critical need to educate children in two refugee camps near the Syrian border. Through the ministry of Zarqa church, they now have that opportunity.

Two schools have been established for refugee children—ages six to fourteen—and each one offers Arabic, English and math instruction. Their teachers say the education gap is closing gradually, and they can now read and write, which creates an obvious growth in their confidence, self-esteem and attitudes.

In addition to the two refugee schools, there is another one at Zarqa church that serves the community's

children, bringing the total number of schoolchildren to 200. There are also free monthly medical services and distribution of other daily needs to people living in refugee camps near the Jordan/Syria border.

A MARGINALIZED GROUP

Although Jordan is taking many steps forward with better workplace and inheritance laws, some women find themselves in dire circumstances financially. Bro. Samer says, "We support several services that help people be financially self-sufficient. One of those groups began when our ladies started visiting and caring for widows and divorced and single women. with medical and spiritual help. By God's grace we have dedicated one floor as a women's center to provide medical, spiritual, and psychological help in a safe, comfortable environment."

Bro. Samer's wife Suzan manages the group and helps provide training for these women who want to be self-supporting despite their brokenness. Along with training women in sewing, making crafts, and cooking to pay their living expenses, the women of Zarqa Baptist Church make regular home visits to those who can't get out.

A BIBLE TRAINING INITIATIVE

In addition to these services, ministry leaders at Zarqa church have responded to a spiritual call to teach

and train those they serve who want to understand Christianity and the Bible. According to their stated goals, the Theological Training Center was established "to prepare and develop new leaders for the progression and prosperity of the gospel message."

Through small group Bible studies, individual discipleship, and specialized programs conducted by certified trainers, they have established the Theological Training Center. For those who desire deeper theological teaching, local seminary teachers volunteer their time and some theological subjects are taught by professors.

A Blessing of Provision

Except for on-site refugee services, God has blessed the church with a five-floor building for these areas of service. Pastor Samer and ministry leaders are very grateful for those who partnered with them.

On November 4, 2021, a BMA Missions team attended the inauguration and dedication of the five-story ministry center to be used, as Pastor Samer says, "for God's glory alone." It was a time to praise God for those who were involved in this kingdom work and thank him for providing supporters for their vision. For Zarqa Baptist Church, the ministry center's goal is always to be salt and light for the lost and broken.

Please pray for BMA churches in Jordan and the broader Middle East as they take the gospel to their communities and beyond.



▲ Zarqa Baptist Church, Amman, Jordan dedicated service

An expression of everlasting love

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

ENDOWMENT:

HONORARIUMS:

CHUCK CAISNER: Mr. & Mrs. Hollonquist

RANDY DUKES RETIREMENT: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

MARY DUNAVANT: Maureen Hutchinson, Michael & Cindy Dooly

MR. & MRS. ESHELMAN: Jean Eshelman

GORDON FINNEY: Joe & Ava Pool

RITA HOLLONQUIST: Mr. & Mrs. Hollonquist

STORMY HOLT: Janice Holt

MR. & MRS. HUCHALA: Jean Eshelman

JOHN MY GRANDSON: Eva Evans

CHARLES & CHARLOTTE JOHNSON: Elizabeth Stokes

JUSTIN LAIRDS BIRTHDAY: Charley & Iris Wilson

CHRISTI MCDERMOTT: Rosewood Baptist Church

MARGIE MCVAY: Pat Patterson

RICKY RICKS: James Blackerby

TERESSA SENN: Rosewood Baptist Church

AUDREY SMITH: Joe & Ava Pool

KIMBERLY SPARGER: Truecordis

ANGIE WILSON'S BIRTHDAY: Charley & Iris Wilson

MEMORIALS:

MEMBERS OF ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH: Stout Creek Farms

ELAINE BEASON: Wayne & Linda Beason

TOM O BLAKLEY: Betty Blakley/

ED & LOIS BRUMMETT: Pat Patterson

LARRY & ROSELEN BOBO: James Bobo

EDDIE BYRD: Darinda Medcalf

KATHY CASHION: Charles & Charlotte Johnson, Wayne & Linda Beason

EUGENE CHMELAR: Deidra Stewart

WAYNE CLOSE: Tom Close

CECIL DOWNEY: Carlie Downey

BECKY DRENNAN: Brian Mauk

LOUISE DUFFEY: Jimmy & Carla Shipp, Charles & Charlotte Johnson, Matex Corporation, Thomas Johnson

MEMORIALS continued on p. 13



Bringing Kids Home

By **JASON CURRY**

Last year, TBHC hosted many people on our new podcast called *Bringing Kids Home*. I am excited about the BMA men and women who participated this past year and have had time to hear some great testimonies.

If you have not taken the time to listen to *Bringing Kids Home*, let me invite you to take a moment and listen to our year's worth of podcast. Each is a personal story of adoption or foster care. What each guest shares from his or her journey is truly inspiring. There are many new stories to share, and we look forward to those launching this coming year.

Before our new stories launch in 2022, take a moment and relive the past year with Pastor Jason Collins of Crossroads, Rowlett, Paul and Deana Olszewski of Keltys First, Lufkin and Duane and Charlotte Turner who have been a part of the BMA for many years.

One of my many favorite moments of 2021 was when Deana said, "The goal here is much bigger than just loving these kids... it's about the gospel!"

Don't miss it. You will be blessed by all the great messages of Jesus making the difference. Join us every third Monday and perhaps more.

Thanks for helping *Bring Kids Home*.

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



BRINGING KIDS HOME
PODCAST PRODUCTION BY TBHC FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION

Jason Curry
 TBHC President and Podcast Host

BMA Texas Missions cont.

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

Wow! I can't believe it's already a new year! So much happened in 2021 since God completely flipped my plans upside down and started me on the road to planting Oasis, Levelland. And here we are, seven months in and I just can't wrap my head around all that God has done in such a short time! The next big thing for us is a place to meet. God has opened an amazing door for a fantastic property right next to the local junior college. The ministry potential is truly limitless here. But we have a lot of remodeling to do in the next few months to get us ready for launch. We really need your help and prayers as we move forward. I'd love the chance to come share what God's up to with your church.



▲ Chris Driver

Prayer Needs: Pray that we will receive and consider giving funds so that we can renovate our property for use. Also, pray for our Sunday morning small group, our connections with South Plains College students, and that God will open doors for the gospel.

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

As always, we thank every church of the BMA of Texas Family the missions department for all your support. Our mission is standing strong, souls are being saved and lives are being transformed by the power of the gospel. We ended the year with some difficulties as we battle COVID for the second time and we lost one our members who passed away Dec. 31.



▲ Jaime Henriquez

Prayer Needs: Pray that the Lord will use our mission to touch lives. Also, pray for the comfort of the Flores family.



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

A new year is a time we think about a new start, something to which we are looking forward. There are so many new things to accomplish for



▲ Robert Lee

Christ in 2022, and I look forward to being a part of what God has in store for us in this year.

Prayer Needs: Pray for more opportunities for us to connect with others and share Christ's love in 2022.

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

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing" (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

BMA Family, we are so encouraged by you, and we give to thanks to God for all of your support and prayers. Keep fighting the good fight!

Prayer Needs: Please continue to pray for us. We are so thankful for you!



▲ Ronnie Mills

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

Thank you for the constant support giving to us to fulfill the vision that God has given us to plant the Lighthouse Church in Houston.

Prayer Needs: Pray that God will establish to Himself all the new people that He is drawing to us. Pray that God will give us creative ideas and wisdom needed to reach more people in our community. Pray that God will open more doors of ministry for us in our community.



▲ Kingsley Nduka



▲ Aderemi Badru



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



WALT DUNN: Wayne & Linda Beason

RICHARD EASTER: Audra Easter

LAVERNE EREKSON: Jane Moore

TRAVIS EZELL: Red Springs Missionary Baptist Church

MELVIN & DARLENE HARRELL: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

JAMES HOBBS: Wayne & Linda Beason

FRANK HOOD: Andy Hood

THOMAS JAY: Mr. & Mrs. W R With

CINDY JOHNSON: Wayne & Linda Beason

JR & FLORENCE JOHNSON: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

TED & TERESA JOHNSON: Andy Hood

ROSEMARY LAFTIS: Doyle & Pattie Junkin

JUNE LAGRONE: Sandra Juarez

DAVID JUNKIN: Doyle & Pattie Junkin

EVALENA LAMBERT: Jed & Glenice Whitaker

KEVIN LEWIS: Sandra Lewis

TRAVIS MASON: Tommie Mason

FAY MCCLARAN: Temple Baptist Church

RONNIE MCKIBBON: Harmony Missionary Baptist Church

BOB & GLORIA MEECE: Greg Meece

PAUL & JEARLENE MIZE: Jerry & Sheree Mize

DARLA MOORE: Leon & Katy Engle, Elise Morris

JOHN MOORE: Jane Moore

FAITH MORRELL: Weldon & Lana Sparks

BONNIE NAGEL: Jane Moore

LINDA NELSON: Mr. Andy & Nell McCuiston

LOVITA LOU OUIMET: James Ouimet

ROBIN DENISE RAMSEY: Sharon Ramsey

BETTYE RAWLS: Jane Moore

AUDREY POOL SMITH: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

BOBBIE POWELL: Jed & Glenice Whitaker

CHRISTEL SHORT: Fay Short

CAROL A SPARKS: Welson & Lana Sparks

OLA MAE SPARKS: Welson & Lana Sparks

ALTON STEELMAN: Temple Baptist Church

NELLIE STEVENS: Jane Moore

ROBERT CLYDE SULLIVAN: Sharon Ramsey

J P THOMPSON: Red Springs Missionary Baptist Church

SHIRLEY WHITE: Doug & Lisa Maddux

CLAYTON WHITE: Doug and Lisa Maddux

QUILLA WHITE: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

SAM & JO WHITE: Jerry & Shree Mize

KAY WOLCOTT: Gay Mitchell

DOROTHY B WRIGHT: Thomas Jeter

OMEGA WOOD: Daniel & Lexa Adams

Auxiliaries

Everybody, Everywhere Needs Jesus

By **GLENDA CHAMBERLAIN**

What keeps you from telling others about Jesus? Diana Morris, Texas WMA 2nd vice president, set *Everybody, Everywhere Needs Jesus* as the theme for 2022. She commented, “The Bible does not tell us of one ‘kind’ of people that are not in need of Jesus. God has always been calling all people to Him. Everybody, everywhere needs Jesus and we must remember it is not up to us to choose who we share Jesus with because Jesus died for all ‘kinds.’”

Remember Jonah’s situation when he decided to run away from telling someone about God? God told Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh and give the people a message of repentance, turn from their evil ways and turn to God. Jonah did not like the Ninevites and did not think the city was even worthy. So, instead of doing what God called him to do, Jonah decided to get on a boat and go the other direction from Nineveh. He was running away from doing what God has told him to do.

God then sent a huge storm. The sailors on the boat finally realized the reason God sent the storm was because Jonah is running from God, and they eventually threw him overboard and the storm ceases. A whale swallowed Jonah. He finally submitted to God and the whale spit him back up on the land. Jonah goes to Nineveh and gives them the message God has for them. The entire city turns to God. These were not Jewish people, nor were they even Israelites. These were a different “kind” of people.

Diana goes on to say, “If you want God to guide your life, if you want to hear from Him, if you want God’s direction, then you should be in prayer and in His Word. Ladies, it is as simple as that. Not so simple right? I know daily life gets in the way, but we must strive to be available for God and that is a challenge I give to you.

Give God more of your time and see how He will bless you. Remember it is not your choice who you are to share God’s love with, God will direct you and help you along the way.”

God promises in Isaiah 41:10, “Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

What will you do with Jesus this year? God is going to give you divine opportunities to share your testimony with people who are far from Jesus. Here is a quote from an old southern preacher that is so appropriate today, “It’s time for our church to: wake-up, sing-up, preach-up, pray-up, never give-up or let-up, never back-up or shut-up, until the church is filled-up, or we go-up. Amen.”

Send Diana a message and let her know how you are sharing Jesus, grammydi1013@msn.com.

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE GMA HOUSEPARTY

Standing Firm in Faith is the theme for the Texas GMA Houseparty to be held at First, Jacksonville, Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022. The theme is based on Ephesians 6:13. Texas GMA Promoter Hayley Rasco commented, “Like the Armor of God described in Ephesians, the suit of armor worn by medieval knights was made to withstand fierce battles. The houseparty will be a trip back to medieval days. You can expect to see knights, horses, princesses and castles!”

A \$25 registration fee includes a T-shirt and lunch. Deadline for registration is Feb. 1, 2022. A formal Queen’s coronation will be held during the afternoon program. To register for the houseparty please go to the website www.texasgma.org. The website also offers more information about Girls Missionary Auxiliary, and forms to download and mail in by the deadline date.

LUBBOCK TO HOST MARCH SPRING RETREAT

The WMA theme for 2022 is *Everybody, Everywhere Needs Jesus*. We know that we have been given a mission statement in Matthew 28:18-20, but we often fail to really read one part of verse 20, “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”

Johnnie Ross, retreat organizer, noted, “Mariners have often maintained their course in vast waters by using the stars to guide the ship toward its destination. Jesus said that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments. We just don’t always realize that His commandments are fixed “lights,” or stars, that can be trusted to guide us through the storms of life. If we follow them, we will arrive at our destination safely, bearing much fruit.”

Our spring Texas WMA Retreat will provide us with opportunities to examine some of Christ’s commandments in detail. It will be held at LakeRidge, Lubbock, Saturday, March 12, 2022. Registration will open at 8:30 a.m. and there will be light breakfast items available. The first general session will begin at 9 a.m. in the sanctuary, followed by several breakout sessions that participants will have the option to attend. Then we will enjoy another general session followed by lunch, provided by the church. After enjoying a time of fellowship together, the day will conclude with another assortment of breakout sessions and one final general session, ending around 2:30 p.m.

There will be no cost for attending the event in the hope that many of our west Texas ladies will seize this opportunity for fellowship with WMA ladies from other parts of this great state of ours. How better could we spend a Saturday in mid-March, than in building relationships with other Christian women, learning how we can live our lives bearing more fruit for the Lord?

DISTRICT NEWS

The Liberty District WMA met at Latch, Gilmer, Jan. 8, 2022. President Teresa Gipson opened the meeting with scripture from Colossians, encouraging us on the importance of being grateful.

Sarah Low offered the opening prayer. The welcome was offered by Ms. Mary Miles followed by reciting the Motto, which was led by President Gipson.

The second offering for the project for this year, the BMMA Spanish Publications, was taken up while being accompanied by congregational song “Onward Christian Soldiers” led by Debbie Lansdale and accompanied at the piano by Michelle Ayres. Today’s offering was \$1,675. We have nearly met the annual commitment of \$2,500. Congratulations and a huge thank you to all the ladies. Let’s keep up the good work. Prayer was offered by Shirley Hoffpauir.

President Gipson opened the business portion of the meeting by asking for project reports and Shirley Hoffpauir reported the Sunbeams will be sponsoring a program at Coffeerville church at 9:00 a.m., Feb. 9. The theme is *Operation Rescue*, with a fire fighter as the special guest. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Hoffpauir shared her passion and devotion to teach our little ones about Jesus. If your church would like to start a Sunbeam program please contact Shirley Hoffpauir, she will help get you started.

Johnnie Ross announced a Missions Symposium which will be a special meeting in March. Then, she introduced the speaker, Belinda Caudle, representing BMAA Spanish Publications, and Kelly Johnson. Caudle spoke first and directed her comments toward a lifetime commitment of discipleship.

Kelly Johnson spoke briefly on her background and her family’s background. She spoke on being faithful to your local church and evangelizing the lost.

The next Liberty District WMA meeting will be at Fellowship, Pittsburg, April 9.

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.



EVENTS

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

2022 BMA OF AMERICA MEETING

DATE: April 18-20, 2022

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

2022 SOAR STUDENT CONFERENCE

DATE: June 29-July 1, 2022

PLACE: Hilton Anatole Hotel, Dallas

2022 RE:CHARGE LEADERS OASIS

To be decided

2022 BMA OF TEXAS MEETING

DATE: Nov. 7-8, 2022

PLACE: First Baptist Church, Livingston

2022 NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

DATE: Nov. 15-17, 2022

PLACE: Chateau on the Lake, Branson, Missouri

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

PASTOR—Attoyac Missionary, San Augustine County is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, attoyacchurchsa@yahoo.com or 600 FM 3316 San Augustine, TX 75972. ^{1/22}

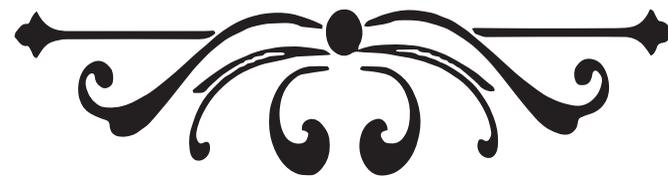
PASTOR—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a pastor. Send resume to 148jimmysealy@gmail.com or to FMBC, Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346. ^{TFN}

AVAILABLE MINISTERS

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

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

In Loving Memory



WYNDALL SWELLING

Funeral services for Wyndall Swelling, 88, of Bedford, were held at South Park, Fort Worth Jan. 8, 2022. He went home to be with the Lord Dec. 30, 2021. Swelling earned a Master of Divinity Degree from Worth Bible College in Fort Worth. He served as the pastor of eight churches. He was a member of Sheppard Drive, Euless.



DOVIE THORNTON

Funeral services for Dovie Laverne (Davis) Thornton, 88, of Tyler, were held at Jackson's Burks Walker Tippet Funeral Home in Tyler Jan. 4, 2022. A faithful Sunday school teacher, Thornton was preceded in death by her husband, Col. Bobby Tucker, who served as the executive director of BMAA Chaplaincy.



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Free Course at BMA Theological Seminary

A FREE online course will be offered by the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary beginning in February. The course is on Paul's letter to Titus, and will be taught by Dr. Tony Cleaver. For details or to register for the course, visit <https://bmats.edu/free/>

Jacksonville College: The Cabinet



▲ Joe Lightner, John Mann, Jodye Jay and George Baker

Jacksonville College begins the year with a gifted cabinet to support the new president, Dr. Joe Lightner. Jodye Jay, vice president of programming earned a Master of Education (Administration) from Lamar University. Jodye has served in many leadership capacities at the college.

Dr. John Mann, vice president of processes and people earned a Doctor of Philosophy from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. This spring, he will complete his Master of Business Administration from

Baylor University. John has vast ministry, education and business experience.

George Baker, vice president of property earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from Letourneau University. George has had a distinguished career in executive leadership. Additionally, he has been named Jacksonville businessman of the year and served as president of Jacksonville's Chamber of Commerce. Please pray for this cabinet as they lead the College in this new year.

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United Thanksgiving Offering

Thank you for participating in the
2021 United Thanksgiving Offering Campaign.

Please send your offerings to
BMA of Texas, P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, TX 75168.

A list of churches, groups and individuals who contributed to the 2021 United Thanksgiving Offering will be published in our February issue.