

Baptist Progress

Baptist Progress, P.O. Box 2085, Waxahachie, Texas 75168
Postmaster: send change of address to:
5010125

Official Publication of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas | January 6, 2016 | Vol. 103 | No. 01

Excited to serve

By HEITH MITCHELL

BMA of Texas Missions Director

I could not be more excited than I am serving God and each of you at your BMA of Texas Missions Office. My family made the move to Waxahachie over the Thanksgiving break. I have been learning my responsibilities and traveling to get to know our missionaries. The pastor in me is enjoying providing help and encouragement to our state missionaries while providing each of them with some healthy accountability.

You have some great missionaries representing you across the state. They are faithful to the mission that they share with each of us to go and make disciples. I am meeting disciples who have been reached and are helping to reach others. In the next issue of *Baptist Progress*, these missionaries will be introducing themselves to you.

It is my burden that our BMA of Texas Missions Movement be your local mission movement to your Judea and Samaria. We want you to connect to it in an intimate local way. We want to see involvement from your church on the mission field. We want you to be well informed of the successes and challenges. I encourage you to send a note of prayer and encouragement to your state missionaries.

I report that our training in partnership with BMA of America Missions is progressing well and proving a real blessing to our planters. We are seeing the fruit of progress and enthusiasm already.



▲ Church planter training in Leander



▲ Resonate Mission in Hutto in worship

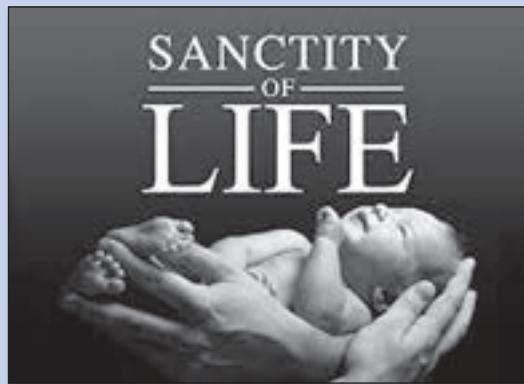


▲ Life Change Mission in Tyler sharing Christ at an apartment (15 saved)

Inside



World Missions Day
Page 4



Sanctity of Life Sunday
Page 5



Jacksonville College
Page 12



www.bmatexas.org



Baptist Progress

Jerry Fulton, Editor/Business Manager
P.O. Box 2085, Waxahachie 75168
972-923-0756 • www.baptistprogress.org

**BMA of Texas Missions/
Loan Association**

Jerry Burnaman, Director
PO Box 73, Waxahachie 75168
972-923-0757
www.changedintexas.com

Jacksonville College

Dr. Mike Smith, President
105 B. J. Albritton Drive
Jacksonville 75766
903-586-2518
www.jacksonville-college.edu

Texas Baptist Home

Eddie Marsh, President
PO Box 309, Waxahachie 75168
972-937-1321 • www.tbhc.org

Baptist Progress

USPS: 043120 • ISSN: 005-5751

Published every first and third week of the month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas

Jerry Fulton, Editor/Business Manager
editor@baptistprogress.org

P.O. Box 2085 • Waxahachie, Texas 75168
972-923-0756 (office) • 972-923-3534 (fax)

www.baptistprogress.org

Periodical postage paid
at Waxahachie, Texas 75165
and at additional mailing offices

SUBSCRIPTION RATE:

Mail Church Plan: \$1.50 per month
E-Mail Church Plan: \$1.00 per month
Mail Subscription: \$21.00 per year
E-mail Subscription: \$15.00 per year
Mail & E-mail: \$25.00 per year
(Advertising Rates Available on Request)

Postmaster: Send address changes to
Baptist Progress, P.O. Box 2085,
Waxahachie, Texas 75168

From the Editor

Welcome 2016

By **JERRY FULTON**

Baptist Progress Editor

As I have repeated often, my predecessor, Bro. Lynn Stephens, once said, "Progress is our goal, not perfection. The past is the past; forget it. The future is our hope; reach for it."

Each new year brings us to a point of reflection and rededication. We reflect on what was, and rededicate our lives to the Lord as we move forward to what will be. While we might wish we could undo and/or redo some things from the past, reality tells us that we can only live today and hope for tomorrow.

I am thankful that I do not have to relive 2015. Thus far, last year was the most difficult year I have experienced in my life. The year began with the unexpected death of my dear aunt in January, followed by my mother's death from cancer in February, and my father's sudden death in March. Following the deaths my parents, as it goes with handling final affairs, I had to make more decisions in the shortest amount of time than ever before. Praise the Lord that His grace has sustained me, but there is no way I would want to repeat 2015. So, welcome 2016! I'm glad a new year has arrived.

The new year reminds me that what is past is past, and a new day has come. Hurts will lessen, hopes will rise and opportunities to serve the Lord and live life for His glory will come.

We all have our struggles, but if we know Jesus and are known by Him, we have all we need to do exactly what the apostle Paul did. Paul wrote in Philippians 3:13-14, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

May 2016 be the best year of your life. Hopefully, we will make great progress as we serve the Lord together.

Ministry Connection Workshops and Conference

Baptist Progress plans to host five Ministry Connection Workshops and one Ministry Connection Conference this year. The first Ministry Connection Workshop will be about how best to handle conflict in churches and life. Dr. Mike Smith, president of Jacksonville College, will present *Conflict: Causes and Cures*, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Jan. 21, 2016. The workshop will be held in the conference room of the BMA of Texas Building at 632 Farley Street in Waxahachie. Each participant will receive Dr. Smith's book also titled, *Conflict: Causes and Cures*. The workshop is free, but space is limited. Email editor@baptistprogress.org or call 972-923-0756 to reserve your spot today!



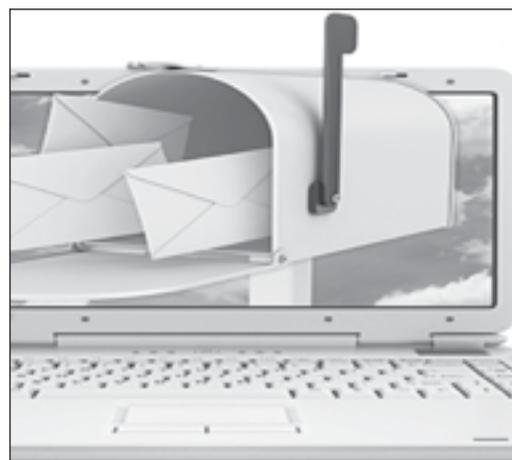
▲ Jerry Fulton

United Thanksgiving Offering

The total amount received thus far for our United Thanksgiving Offering (UTO) is \$74,500. The UTO is divided on a percentage basis among the departments of the BMA of Texas, including: Baptist Missionary Loan Association, BMA of Texas Missions, *Baptist Progress*, Jacksonville College and Texas Baptist Home for Children. The goal for the 2015 UTO was set at \$125,000. Obviously, we have a long way to go in meeting our set goal. If just 100 churches, classes, auxiliaries, groups or individuals would give \$505 each, we would meet our goal.

You or your church might have given already, but I want to challenge you to give a little more so that we can reach our goal. The grand total of the UTO will be published in the Feb. 17 issue of *Baptist Progress*.

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



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

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

In addition to receiving each issue by email, you will get our e-News Update between issues. News alerts are also emailed periodically. The cost of an email subscription is \$15 (\$6 less per year than mail subscriptions).

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

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



Family Matters

The battle of time versus priorities

By **DR. TRAVIS PLUMLEE**

People have different priorities, but all people have the same amount of time—24 hours in a day. Some of us would like to request more time. For some, there never seems to be enough time. Maybe we can petition the federal government to expand the day from 24 hours to 30 hours per day. Ha!

Whether you are rich or poor, male or female, married or single, you have to march with the clock. Satan loves for us to fill our day with busyness so that there is not enough time to do the things that are important. Use this article to reflect on your time and priorities. Adjust, change, re-evaluate or whatever it takes to assure that you are spending the right amount of time in your priorities.

At least once or twice a year, list all of your priorities in life, then number them in order of importance. As an example, my number one priority on my list would be Jesus Christ. Number 2 would be my wife. Number 3 would be my children and grandchildren. Number 4 would be extended family. Number 5 would be serving. Number 6 would be my ministry (job). Number 7 would be friends.

By the way, everyone has different list. I would hope that most Christians would put Jesus as their number one priority. However, I used to have a handout that I did in goal setting and priority placement workshops, and only about 25 percent of Christians put Jesus as the top priority of their life. I also pray that people would put family ahead of jobs and friends.

If Jesus and family are not your top priorities as a Christian, may I ask you to spend time in pray and ask God to guide you in what is important in life to Him. You can get a good idea of His desires for you in the Bible.

When I used to work with terminally ill patients in the hospital, none of them ever said that they wished they had spent more time at work. They universally said they wished they had spent more time with family and God. Do not wait for a disaster or a diagnosis to get your priorities straight.

Examine your list. Most of our energy, effort, money and time go to what we consider important to us. Most all of us have to work. We have to have money to survive. However, if your job is keeping you away from your family all the time; are you in the right job? If God said he would meet all of our needs, could we seek Him to find us a new job and honor our desire to spend more time with our family? Many Christians have done this, and they are happy they made the switch. And it was God that made the new job open up and become available. They just first had to say yes to the Lord. I'm not saying quit your job. I am offering you things to think about.

If family is important to you, do you sacrifice pleasurable things so that you can build in family time? You have to actually work at building in together time in most young family today. Meals together at home at the dining room table, going on walks together, having a family meeting to



discuss issues, playing games together, finding time and making it a priority to do a Bible study and pray together as a family.

This is where our adversary, the devil comes in. He will do everything he can to throw roadblocks and other opportunities in your day to make sure you don't spend the time with spiritual and family priorities. Many of the lesser priorities are not necessarily bad things, until they fill our calendar up so we run out of time and energy to spend on spiritual growth and closeness with our family. Sometimes it is such a gradual, little time consumer. We don't realize how it eats up our time. I want to examine of couple of real time killers to the family.

One is sports. We can spend all of our time running from sport to sport and absolutely zap our energy and time as a family. It can't be considered true family together time. You are in the bleachers and they are on the field. You are a

spectator in your child's life.

The second priority/time killer is social media. Texting, cell phones, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, the Internet, video games, television, Kindles etc. No wonder we don't have time to pray as a family. Do an evaluation this week. Where do you and your family spend so much time, money and effort? Do these priorities match your priority list of what you said was most important in your life?

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



Church Health

Be real

By LARRY BARKER

Is your behavior consistent with what you say you believe? Does your church behave in a way that shows you mean what you say? We say we believe in evangelism but do we practice it? We say we know discipleship is important but is anyone being discipled? The things we say we value, are they truly convictions or are they just preferences? In James 1:22 we are challenged with his truth, “But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

We are told to not deceive ourselves and the idea here is that we need a reality check. A good friend of mine, Sam Douglass, says it this way, “It is time to interrogate reality!” Are we deceiving ourselves? The word here refers to incorrect reasoning. In mathematics it is a miscalculation. Galatians 6:3 says, “For if anyone considers himself to be something when he is nothing deceives himself.” The word of God makes it clear that when you hear the word without obeying it you are making a serious miscalculation.

James then gives us the analogy of a mirror. The mirrors of that day were nothing like what we have today. They were polished brass or bronze and only the wealthy could afford ones made of silver or gold. Even the most expensive ones had to be polished vigorously, positioned at just the right angle and placed in the best light to eventually see a fairly accurate image. The mirrors of today, invented in the 14th century, give an instant picture of how we really look compared to how we think we look.

Church, it is time to look into the mirror and see what we really look like not what we think we look like. The time has come to interrogate our reality so that we might confess what needs to be confessed, correct what needs to be corrected, and then commit to what must be done for the kingdom to advance. What do we need to see in the mirror today? What area of our lives and our churches do we need to “Be Real” about? What is it that we need to see as we look intently into the perfect law of freedom?

First, we need to see ourselves! All of us need better self-awareness. We need to know how God uniquely made each one of us to better understand our strengths and our weaknesses. He has hard-wired all of us a particular way for His purposes. Every child of God has a unique spiritual gift and passions. It does not take long to see that when you read 1 Corinthians 12 and learn that we are to be unified even though there is such diversity in the body. Psalm 139:14 says, “I will praise You because I have been remarkably and wonderfully

made. Your works are wonderful, and I know this very well.”

Second, we need to see our abilities! What do we need to learn and what instruction do we need to receive? Our abilities are an accumulation of our training and our life experiences along the way. It is very easy to be an expert about things we are not involved in. On Sunday afternoons spectators enjoy being armchair quarterbacks. We need to be careful about being that way at church. It is easy to give advice about how ministries should be done that we never plan on helping with. One man said this, “Before I married I had three theories about raising children; now I have three children and no theories!”

Third, we need to see our relationship with Christ! Are we growing in the Lord and spiritually maturing daily? This is what brings together our personalities and our education by placing them under the authority of our Lord. Philippians 3:10 says, “My goal is to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.” First and foremost, how is your walk with Christ? Are you passionately pursuing Him daily to know Him better?

Here is why this is so important:

- 1. If we are not real about ourselves we will be frustrated!** There is always work to be done. There are always improvements that need to be made. That is why James has already challenged us to be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. He then tells us to be real because obedience is required and without obeying the truth it is really of no benefit to us or anyone else.
- 2. If we are not real about our abilities we will be ineffective!** How can you improve your skill set? How can you improve on what you are doing for Christ? Whatever ability you need to work on there is a great question to ask yourself. Who knows what I need to know? Figure that out and then get the instruction and training you need. Churches please do not give your people a job without clearly defining what their responsibilities are and equipping them for the role.
- 3. If we are not real about our relationship with Christ we will have broken fellowship!** A reality



check is necessary because you can believe that your walk with Christ is better than it actually is. That is why James is telling us that we need to make sure that our behavior lines up with what we say we believe. Obedience is required! Luke 6:46 says it well, “Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and don’t do the things I say?”

Healthy churches and healthy Christians are not afraid of a reality check in the mirror!

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



I mashed my fob in church

By DR. TONY CLEAVER

Let me start at the beginning before I get to the fob mashing at church. I recently traded my older pickup for a newer model. When the eager salesman brought the truck to the driveway, I asked for the key in order to test drive it.

“Sir, this pickup does not have a key.”

“Then how do you start it?”

“Sir, it has a fob.”

“What’s a fob?”

The salesman who looked like he would celebrate his first birthday as an adolescent smugly held up what looked like a cocoon of some chrysalis process and proudly (yes, it was in a condescending manner) announced to me this thing he called a fob would do all I needed to drive this new model pickup. I took the thing called a fob.

“Where do you stick it in to start it?”

“Sir, you don’t have to stick it anywhere. Just have it in your pocket. The pickup knows you have your fob on you.”

“OK so I have my fob on me. Does the pickup then know I want it to start?”

“Sir, you have to press the start button.”

“Where is the start button?”

“It’s right there by the steering wheel.”

I pressed the start button. Nothing happened.

“Sir, you have to have your foot on the brake pedal before you press the start button.”

Well, to conclude this fobic saga, let’s just say before I drove the pickup out of the dealer’s lot, I had to have a lot more lessons on “The Fob.”

Now, let’s switch to the church last Sunday. Keep all

this fob business in mind. Obviously you are already way ahead of me in my telling this story. I was pulpit guest at a small rural church. You have heard of the old direction giving cliché of: “You can’t get there from here.” Well, this particular rural church is not on any GPS, Google map, or even US Department of Interior satellite information. You have to know where it is. You will not get there by accident.

The moderator for the service announced, “We are glad to have our pulpit guest this Sunday. He will speak now. By the way we are all hearing a horn honking outside. Mrs. Jones tells me it is a newer model pickup truck parked under the big oak tree.”

Yes, when I stood up to speak, I had several things in my pocket. It must have activated the fob. I had mashed my fob in church. I quickly excused myself to go outside to take care of the horn honking that was clearly audible even to the lady with two hearing aids who had told the moderator about the annoying horn.

When I came back in, everyone was aware of my fob mashing. In order to save a little piece of my dignity, I announced I bought the pickup from a dealer of another denomination, and the horn was programmed to go off at a certain time if the service was not concluded. That way they could beat the other congregations in town to the café. Listening to the muffled giggles, I felt this explanation satisfied the crowd.

I have several life lessons learned about “The Fob.” The most important one is: Don’t mash your fob in a country church before you get up to preach.

Bibles, Books, Music & Gifts

To order Bibles, books, music and gifts from *Baptist Progress*, visit www.bmatexas.org and click the flashing box at the top of the right hand column.

When you order through our website, Christian Book Distributors shares their sales profit with us. Get to shopping!

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



Lifeword sharing the Good News around the globe



By DR. STEVE CRAWLEY & LIFEWORD TEAM MEMBERS

Lifeword Media Ministries

The following is a portion of Lifeword's Mission: World article, written by Steve Crawley with contributions from the Lifeword team. For the full report, see the March/April issue:

Since 2013, the cost savings associated with the integration of departments have enabled Lifeword to divert overhead costs to the funding of additional ministry opportunities. Tactical moves made by Lifeword and other BMA entities have certainly brought extensive change and required considerable effort, yet they have reduced overhead costs significantly, resulting in an increase in ministry funds. The following are just a few examples of new initiatives implemented in the past two years:

Community Radio (Low Power FM or LPFM): In the last two years, dozens of affiliate stations have been added in the United States and abroad. These efforts have resulted in many professions of faith, baptisms, and disciples being funneled into existing BMA missions and churches, some even resulting in new church plants.

Over the last two years, Lifeword has conducted training in Honduras, Guatemala, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Tanzania, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Africa, and the Philippines, which prepares believers effectively share the gospel with their communities using media. Additionally, Bible Institute classes in the Philippines and Guatemala have incorporated Community

Radio training into their curriculum. Students learn broadcast/program production, recording, editing, and setting up and troubleshooting the stations.

Testimonies from around the globe offer an encouraging response:

Honduras: The Garifuna, who were among the first recipients of Community Radio, have set up five additional stations in their communities. In cooperation with BMA Honduras, they have also traveled outside the country to set up stations for other indigenous people groups and are training others to do the same.

Guatemala: The Garifuna have set up a station in the jungle. Consequently, a number of Kekchi villages are hearing the gospel in their language for the first time, resulting in many reported professions of faith. Pastors and leaders in other Kekchi villages are being trained in the use of Community Radio, which should yield even more results.

Peru: Because of the concerted efforts of BMA Missions, Lifeword, BMMI, and BMA Peru, the Lord blessed with professions of faith in the community of Picoy. One of these converts was the mayor, who is currently being discipled and has offered a place to set up Community Radio where a new mission/church is being launched this year by BMA Peru. Picoy, previously known to locals as the seat of paganism, will now have a church and a Christian radio station.

Eight hours from Picoy, in Mazamari, the Community Radio station opened the door to a hundred tribes, where

BMA Peru leader and Lifeword representative Paul Tinoco has been following up. He reports many professions of faith, and both BMA Missions and Lifeword now have a presence in the communities of Shevoja, Bagua Grande and Concepcion Huancayo.

Philippines: Open Door Baptist Church in Pandan (a small Filipino village) and Pastor Jonathan Arturo started its Community Radio station two years ago to share the gospel with nearby villagers. After a few months, station managers began receiving text messages from listeners in Melendrez, a place no one had ever heard of. It was only five miles away on the other side of a jungle so thick that no one had ever gone, but radio waves from Open Door Community Radio were able to penetrate! Melendrez now has a church with dozens of members. Since that time, Open Door has planted a mission church in the nearby village of Kalubihan and the people down the road in Hilonga have also begun to respond to the gospel.

Africa: Among the Swahili-speaking people of Tanzania, twenty-five pastors in a small association of Tanzanian Baptist churches are working with Lifeword and the following individuals and entities to spread the gospel: BMA pastors, BMA Seminary professors, Evangelistic International Ministries (EIM), and BMA Missions. Lifeword has the opportunity to step in and help with a new Swahili broadcast that should be airing in 2016.

Please pray with us as Lifeword continues to co-labor in the kingdom work God has given us the privilege to be a part of.

The graphic features a black and white photograph of three smiling children of diverse ethnicities. On the right side, the text "MISSIONS" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with a small globe icon integrated into the letter 'S'. Below it, in a smaller font, is "baptist missionary association of america". To the right of the children, the words "LIGHT INTO DARK" are written in a very large, bold, sans-serif font, with "LIGHT" and "DARK" on separate lines and "INTO" in between. At the bottom left, the text "WORLD MISSIONS DAY" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font, followed by "FEBRUARY 28, 2016" and the website "BMAMISSIONS.ORG/WORLDMISSIONS" in a smaller font.

Sanctity of Life Sunday

By **DR. JOHN M. ADAMS**

Moral Action Executive Director

The sanctity of life defines humanity as being more sacred than the rest of God's creation. In Genesis 9:3, God told humans that they have the authority to kill and eat other forms of life; but in Genesis 9:6, the murdering of other human beings is totally forbidden with the penalty pronounced as death.

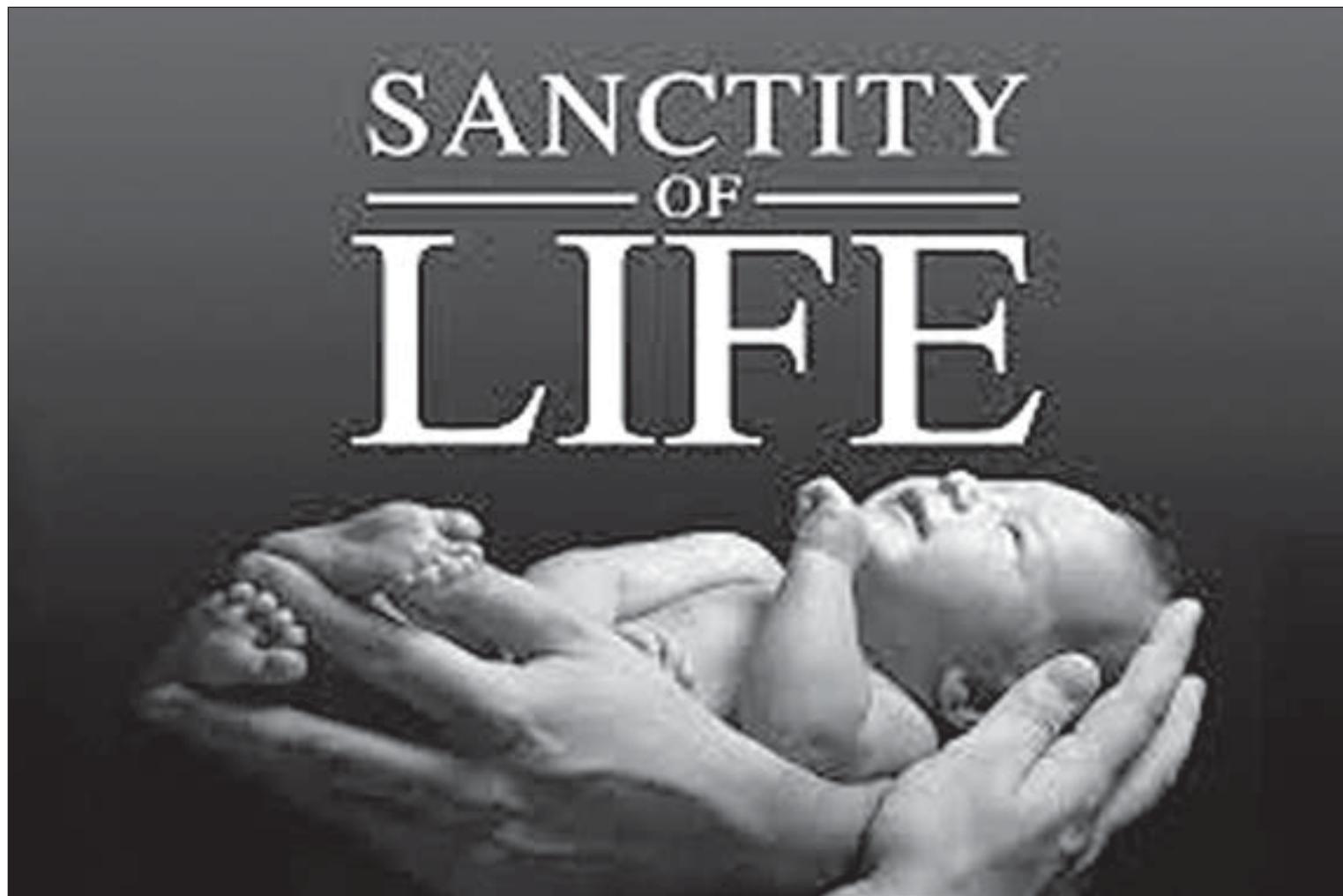
God's churches and individual believers should pause on Sunday, Jan. 17, 2016, and reflect on the beauty of life in the womb and to pray for the proponents of abortion and euthanasia.

While the sanctity of life ethics may be disparaged by the world, it is God's voice. The Bible is clear: human life is precious at all ages.

We are reminded by Ethics leader Dr. Russell Moore that we have to say things to each other that Christians shouldn't have to say:

1. Mothers shouldn't kill their babies.
2. Fathers shouldn't abandon their families.
3. No human life is worthless.

The very fact that these thoughts should be proclaimed is a true reminder of the horrors of this present world's darkness. So, join millions of others on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 17, 2016 and love life.



Milestone for George Decker and Tundra Baptist Church



Bro. George Decker officiated the renewing of vows for Ray and Jane White, former BMAA missionary to Colorado, at Tundra, Canton Nov. 26. It was the Whites 50th wedding anniversary! What made this a milestone, was not necessarily that Bro. George officiated over such an event, nor that it was for the Whites. What made it a milestone was Bro. George was the pastor of Tundra Baptist Church when the Whites were married, in 1965. The Whites stood in front of the same pastor, in the same church, 50 years later to renew their commitment to each other.

Very few pastors experience such an event!

Liberty Association hosts rally for BMA of America Missions

By **CHARLES JOHNSON**

Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer

Liberty Baptist Missionary Association held a rally for International and North American Missions on Dec. 17, at Ebenezer-Friendship, Pittsburg. Sixteen churches were represented at the meeting.

Moderator Leon Ross, pastor of Latch, Gilmer, presided over the business meeting. The association voted to seat the messengers of Olde Tyme Baptist Church which petitioned for membership in Liberty Association. The newly organized church is located in the Glenwood community of Upshur County. Bro. Jim Crump is the pastor.

The association also voted to assist Missionary Jason Walters, who operates Camp Christa among the Navajo Indian Reservation in New Mexico, with the purchase of a 15-passenger van.

Phil Knott, director of BMAA International Missions, brought a message and gave an informative presentation of where BMAA Missions are making inroads in some rather remote areas.

The mission points where progress is being made include, Tanzania, India, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vietnam. A generous offering was received from the churches for BMAA Missions.

Following the service, the host church provided a delicious meal for all in attendance. Bro. Mike Hall is pastor of Ebenezer-Friendship, Pittsburg.

The next meeting of Liberty Association will be on Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. at Enon Baptist Church, 3063 FM 556, Gilmer. The meeting will be a rally for Jacksonville College. Dr. Mike Smith is the scheduled speaker, and the choir will be in concert.

Church Issues

What is church discipline/excommunication?

By WWW.COMPELLINGTRUTH.ORG

At Mt. Sinai, God gave Moses a long list of laws. The purpose of those laws was to set aside the people of Israel as holy, and make Israel a nation that followed and feared God. The law also contained specific penalties for those who broke the law. These included punishments such as monetary restitution, expulsion from corporate worship, corporal punishment and even death.

God's instructions to the church are similar, but in a different context. The church does not have the authority to enforce a law or punish an offense like a civil governing authority has. The church only has the authority to discipline within the context of the church body. The church and its members are called, just like Israel, to be set apart and to follow God's standards. The punishment for disobedience, however, is a gradually escalating discipline within the church, culminating in removal from fellowship—excommunication.

In Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus gives the guidelines for confronting a brother in Christ about an offense. First, the offended party is to speak to the offender alone, explaining

the situation and the wrongness of the action. If the offender is dismissive and unrepentant, the offended person is to return with one or two witnesses. Hopefully, the offender will repent and ask forgiveness, but if not, the issue is to be made known to the entire church. The last recourse is for the church to treat the offender like "a Gentile and a tax collector" (Matthew 18:17).

This is the only system for church discipline that the New Testament gives. The Bible does not say that the offender is to be humiliated from the pulpit, gossiped about, disowned, or even shunned outside of church. The most extreme punishment a church can give is to remove the offender from fellowship and treat him like an unbeliever. How are we to treat unbelievers? While we are not to have close relationships with them (2 Corinthians 6:14; Proverbs 12:26), we are to point them to Christ (Acts 26:18), pray for them (James 5:16), and gently correct them (2 Timothy 2:24-26).

Paul's letters to the church in Corinth give testimony to the power of church discipline. In 1 Corinthians 5:1-5,

Paul confronts the church for allowing a member to remain in their fellowship while he was living in adultery with his father's wife. Paul instructed that the man be delivered "to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus" (1 Corinthians 5:5). The man was obviously unrepentant. He had flaunted his sinful lifestyle before the church. The best recourse was for him to be expelled from the fellowship. Apparently, it worked. In 2 Corinthians 2:5-11, Paul exhorts the church to welcome back an offender who had responded contritely to church discipline. In fact, Paul told them to comfort the man lest he be "overwhelmed by excessive sorrow."

Second Corinthians 2:8 gives the desired result of church discipline: «to reaffirm your love for [the offender].» Church discipline is not to humiliate or control a person. It's not about anger or self-righteousness or even recompense. Church discipline is designed to protect the corporate body of Christ from unrepentant sin (1 Corinthians 5:6-7) and to encourage someone living in sin to renew his or her relationship with God (Galatians 6:1).



**EVERY SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
IS NOW BEING OFFERED THROUGH BAPTIST PROGRESS!**

Simply set up your account with Baptist Progress for the number of bulletins you regularly need on Sunday, and they will be shipped right to your door. We have a wide selection offering six bulletin styles in various sizes to fit the worship style of nearly any church. Extra bulletins are available to add to your regular order for special days such as Easter, Christmas, Mother's Day, etc. To order or for more information, visit www.baptistprogress.org, click MORE at the top, then click Every Sunday Bulletin Service or give us a call at 972-923-0756 or send an e-mail to editor@baptistprogress.org.

If your church currently purchases bulletins directly from Warner Press, please allow us to add your church to our customer list. Baptist Progress will receive a commission if you are added to our customer list. The price for your church will be the same. Just give us a call to make the change, 972-923-0756 or email editor@baptistprogress.org.



Auxiliaries

Happy New Year

By SHARON COLE

The greeting, “Happy New Year,” has been said and will be repeated many times in the next few days, but it has not always been celebrated on Jan. 1. It was first observed in ancient Babylon 4,000 years ago. Many years later, it was celebrated on March 23 and lasted for 11 days. Because various emperors tampered with the calendar, it became out of synchronization with the sun, so in 153 B.C. the Roman Senate declared Jan. 1 as the beginning of the New Year.

Many early churches condemned the festivities of celebrating the New Year because of paganism. As Christianity became more widespread, the early church began having its own religious observances concurrently with many of the pagan celebrations, and New Year’s Day was no different. Jan. 1 has been celebrated as a holiday by western nations for about the past 400 years.

Other traditions of the season include making resolutions, which has its origin in ancient Babylon. We might make a resolution to stop a bad habit, lose weight or restore broken relationships. The early Babylonians’ most popular resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment.

The tradition of using a baby to signify the New Year was begun in Greece around 600 B.C. They would parade a baby in a basket representing the annual rebirth of the pagan god, Dionysus. Although the early Christians denounced the practice as pagan, the popularity of the baby as a symbol of rebirth allowed members to celebrate the New Year with a baby which came to symbolize the birth of the baby Jesus. This tradition was brought to early America by the Germans who had used it since the 14th Century.

Some may call it superstitious, some may call it luck, but the symbolism continues in what we wear, what we do and what we eat on the first day of the New Year. Some think you must consume black-eyed peas seasoned with hog jowl or ham which symbolizes prosperity. Cabbage and rice are also used in some regions for that purpose.

The song, “Auld Lang Syne,” is sung in almost all English speaking countries of the world. This old Scottish tune literally means, “the good old days” and was first published in 1796.

As we reflect over the past year, some days were filled with mistakes and failures. We must put those things behind us and go forward, looking at each new day with anticipation and remember that God is faithful. Lamentations 3:23

As far as resolutions go, we need to move forward and resolve to be interested in every lady in our churches and community. Resolve to enlist every lady to be a part of WMA. She may not be able to attend meetings, but can be a part in using her talents in

other ways, such as being a prayer warrior, serving on committees to provide meals for the sick or the visiting revival evangelist. Some lady is just waiting to be asked to use her talents in decorating the church for special occasions, creating interesting bulletin boards or helping in children’s church. There is a place in God’s service for everyone who is willing to be used of the Lord.

We don’t know the future, but we know the One who holds the future. Pray that God will be glorified in all we do this year. After the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays many people are stressed mentally, physically and financially. You have to ask yourself these questions: “Was all that I did necessary?” Who was I trying to impress: friends, family, co-workers?”

While there is nothing wrong with giving and doing your best, you can sometimes leave out or put on the back burner the most important One to please—God. Some have a “perfectionist personality” that drives you to have everything perfect and in order. There must be a happy medium of what has to be done and what can be left undone. When you stretch your body to the limit neglecting nourishment and rest, it rebels, leaving you tired, cranky and unfulfilled.

You must take care of the body God has given you. It is the temple of the Holy Spirit and it needs kept in good working and thinking order to accomplish the tasks God has given you to do for Him. You must eat and exercise properly and develop a consistent sleep pattern.

To nurture yourself spiritually, start each day with prayer and quiet time with the Lord. Take a small New Testament or devotional book with you to read when standing in line at the store. Even wearing a Christian T-shirt can spark interest in someone nearby and can lead to conversation about your faith in Christ.

Do not try to do all your planned tasks yourself. Learn to delegate and give others a chance to use their talents and be a blessing to you. The best stress buster you can have is God’s joy! He gives us His joy and strength so we can serve Him and minister to others. Read a portion of Psalms and Proverbs every day. We must seek and receive the joy of the Lord daily. God tells us that “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.”

If you have God’s joy in your heart, it should show in your face. Frowning takes a lot of energy and uses 72 muscles. Smiling only takes 14! You cannot store up real God-given joy. It has to be shared. This is how we will win the lost to Christ.

One of the greatest testimonies we have is the joy of the Lord. Only God knows the number of days we have on this earth. We need to make the coming year count in the development of our spiritual lives, even though there are plenty of things to hinder us. Many times we



get discouraged if we don’t attain the goals we set and give up trying.

The New Year is filled with the wonder of what it will bring. We are all given 365 days a year, or so we think and hope. For some it will not be that long. What will we fill our time with? Will we resolve to love the Lord more?

As we move forward into a new year in our WMA, we must resolve to be interested in every woman in our church and community. Resolve to enlist every lady into WMA this year. Resolve to allow God to control your thoughts, words and actions. Renew your desire for knowledge and wisdom. Our prayer must be that God will direct our paths and give us wisdom so His love will radiate through our lives.

Ladies, let us help our church obey the Great Commission by getting others involved. Pray that God will be glorified in all we do this year.

Sharon Cole is the editor for the Texas WMA. Contact her at S9Co@aol.com. For more information on the Texas WMA, visit www.texaswma.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, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." If you are willing to repent (turn away from your sin and to the Lord Jesus) you can receive the free gift of eternal life by simply praying:

Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner and do not deserve eternal life. But I believe You died and rose from the grave to purchase a place in heaven for me. Jesus, come into my life, take control of my life, forgive my sins, and save me. I am now placing my trust in You alone for my salvation, and I accept your free gift of eternal life.

Thank You

We would like to express our deepest appreciation for your prayers and love offerings for us during this difficult time. As you may have read in Baptist Progress, I became completely paralyzed from the waist down Sept. 8, 2015, due to a spinal dural AV fistula. Basically, the spine was being robbed of normal blood flow. I underwent numerous procedures and a total of more than 30 hours of surgery to stop this from progressing any further up my body. At the time, I was only given about a 5 percent chance of recovery. I also endured numerous complications and blood clots that went to both lungs. After nine weeks in UT Southwestern Hospital in Dallas, I was transferred Nov. 9 to Stonemere Rehab Facility in Frisco for additional physical therapy. I have been here for approximately five weeks now. God has truly been using many doctors and therapists throughout these difficult few months. Improvement is definitely being made, since I have been at the rehab center. I believe God is showing the world what He can do with only a 5 percent chance of recovery. Thank you again for your prayers and support. Your love offerings have allowed my wife, Janet, to stay with me since we both have lost our outside incomes. We pray that God will bless you all as much as you have truly blessed us.

—Bro. Marvin and Janet Clack family

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

YOUTH—Lake Highlands, Sulphur Springs is seeking a fulltime youth minister. Send resume to Lake Highlands Baptist Church, P.O. Box 441, Sulphur Springs, Texas 75483-0441. 1/20/16

PASTOR—Round Prairie, Fairfield is seeking a fulltime pastor. Send resume to Round Prairie Baptist Church, 932 E. Main Street, Fairfield, Texas 75840 or rmcadam1@luminant.com. 1/20/16

PASTOR—Myrtle Springs, Quitman is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Myrtle Springs Baptist Church, 2185 FM 2225, Quitman, Texas 75783. TFN

PASTOR—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a fulltime pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346 or to jimmysealy@aol.com. TFN

MUSIC—First, Crandall is seeking a bivocational music leader. Salary negotiable. Mix of contemporary and traditional. Call Bro. Mike Waits for more details: 214-697-7998 or mbwaitssr@att.net. Visit church website at firstbaptistcrandall.org. TFN

YOUTH—Antioch, Gilmer is seeking a bivocational youth/student minister. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 688 Gilmer, Texas 75644; Contact person—Michael Pool, pool-michael@hotmail.com. 903-315-6822. TFN

OBITUARY

ELMER MATHEWS, 81, of Joaquin, passed away Dec. 25, 2015 in Nacogdoches, Texas. Funeral services were Dec. 28, 2015 at Center Christian Fellowship with Bro. David Long and Bro. Don Murphree officiating. Bro. Mathews was born Sept. 19, 1934, in Joaquin to Andrew R. Mathews and Florence MaeDell Taylor. He spent his life as a pastor, teacher, principal and Juvenile Probation Officer. Mathews retired after 37 years of teaching with 32 years of that serving as a principal. He also was a teacher at Texas A&M Fire School for 18 years. After a brief retirement of two hours, he quickly took the job as Shelby County Juvenile Probation Officer. He was also a member of the Joaquin Volunteer Fire Department. Mathews was a pastor for 55 years with 43 of those years at Good Hope Baptist Church and also was a pastor at Old Center Baptist Church. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Dorothy; son, Rodney, and wife, Denise, of Center; son, Spencer, and wife, Teresa, of Kountze; daughter, Nancy Smith, and husband, Frank, of North Richland Hills; seven grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren.

JAMES RAY YOUNG SR., 74, of Gilmer, passed away Dec. 13, 2015. Funeral services were held Dec. 16, 2015 at the chapel of McWhorter Funeral Home with Bro. Teddy Sorrells and Bro. Randy Stracener officiating. Bro. Young was born Nov. 29, 1941 to James C. and Ruby Young in San Antonio. He was a minister for 48 years. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Janice; children, Faron and Deborah Young, Cynthia and Gary Grant, Tanyia and Tommy Click, Johnny and Sandy Young, Joyce McDowell, James Ray and Catherine Young, and NaNette and Phil Sampson; 22 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren.



What Happens To Your Gift to the BMA Foundation?

All gifts to the Foundation, except those designated for operating expenses, are placed in an endowment fund and invested for one or more of the BMA departments or agencies as specified by the donor. Income from the investments provides supplemental funding for those ministries until the Lord returns. Gifts of cash should be mailed to P.O. Box 1188, Conway, Arkansas 72033. Call the Foundation office at 501-329-6891 for more information on other ways to give.

EVENTS

JANUARY 10, 2016

Building Dedication
Calvary Baptist Church,
809 W. Baldrige Street, Ennis, Texas
4 p.m.

JANUARY 14-15, 2016

Registration for Spring Semester 2016
Jacksonville College,
105 B.J. Albritton Drive,
Jacksonville, Texas
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

JANUARY 19, 2016

Spring Term begins
at Jacksonville College

JANUARY 21, 2016

Baptist Progress Ministry Connection
Workshop, Conflict: Causes & Cures
with facilitator, Dr. Mike Smith,
Jacksonville College president
BMA of Texas Building,
632 Farley Street, Waxahachie, Texas
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
No cost -- RSVP
editor@baptistprogress.org
or 972-923-0756.

JANUARY 24, 2016

Baptist Progress Editor
Jerry Fulton sings & preaches
New Harmony Baptist Church,
10251 FM 724, Tyler, Texas
8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

JANUARY 28, 2016

Liberty Association rally
for Jacksonville College
Enon Baptist Church, Gilmer

FEBRUARY 1, 2016

BMA of Texas
Administrative Committee Meeting
Jacksonville College's Norman Library,
105 B. J. Albritton Dr., Jacksonville, Texas
10 a.m.

FEBRUARY 14, 2016

Resonate Community Church
Launch Service
YMCA 200 Alliance Blvd.,
Hutto, Texas
10 a.m.

FEBRUARY 19-20, 2016

Jacksonville College Homecoming 2016
Jacksonville College,
105 B.J. Albritton Dr.,
Jacksonville, Texas
Friday, Feb. 19, 2015,
12 p.m. & Saturday,
Feb. 20, 2015,
10 a.m. Commencement Ceremonies
105 B.J. Albritton Dr., Jacksonville College
1:30 p.m.

HALL FURNITURE LTD.

Fine Church Furniture
since 1939

P.O. Box 157
(1321 Industrial Dr.)
Henderson, TX 75653
903-657-4501



Sunday School Lessons

Psalms: Praises

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: January 10, 2016

TEXT: Psalm 150:1-6

The Psalms is by far the largest book of the Bible. And it's not merely by happenstance that it is the very center of God's Holy Word. There is no other book more widely read and treasured than the Psalms.

Psalms models worship to God's people. The Psalms are songs and poems to God the Father. One writer refers to them as "songs of the human heart lifted up to God." Another calls them "passionate expressions of love and devotion to God." It is a most appropriate and spiritually rewarding experience to not only sit down and read the Psalms devotionally, but to actually pray them to God.

In the Psalms, we find answers to deep and disturbing questions. Psalm 73 is one of the most prominent documents of a child of God questioning Him concerning the apparent prosperity of the wicked. "For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm." Psalm 73:4. But David received his answer in verses 16 and 17; "When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end."

In the Psalms we find comfort. Psalm 23, probably the most familiar of all, is a treatise by David of the overwhelming comfort, rest and provision of a loving God -- a comfort which is even available when facing the enemy: "Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anoints my head with oil; my cup runneth over." Even in the face of what appears to be the onslaught of the forces of hell, we are honored guests at a royal banquet, when we

are in Christ. Most scholars believe that, due to the content, this Psalm was written in the twilight of David's years.

In the Psalms, we find examples of the imprecatory prayer: An imprecatory prayer is a prayer for the punishment of the wicked. "Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them." Psalm 55:15. But these devourers were not necessarily enemies -- the writer's heart is pained because that pain was inflicted upon him from an acquaintance -- an equal -- one with whom he "took sweet counsel." An imprecatory prayer, when prayed to God, must not violate the mandate of Christ to love our enemies, but to abhor the wickedness. If our hearts are right with God, we will likewise be the subjects of imprecatory prayers. The answer is in 55:19; "God shall hear, and afflict them, even he that abideth of old. Because they have no changes, therefore they fear not God."

In the Psalms, we are informed how to worship our God. We are taught where to praise Him (in His sanctuary) what to praise Him for (His mighty acts and excellent greatness) and how to praise him; (with all manner of instruments, and with our voices.

In the Psalms, we learn of His boundless power to forgive: Psalm 103.

In the Psalms we learn how to ask for forgiveness: Psalm 51.

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.



Proverbs: Wisdom

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: January 17, 2016

TEXT: Proverbs 3:13-26

The book of Proverbs is a great devotional guide to help God's people gain Godly wisdom, and to walk thereby. Most of the proverbs were originally spoken by King Solomon, who, at the outset of his reign of Israel, asked God only for wisdom.

The verse, "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding." Proverbs 3:13, pretty much sums up the theme of the book.

A proverb is an abundance of wisdom compressed into few words. Each verse of the Proverbs stands alone in its own context. One cannot just casually scan over them and instantly gain wisdom, but they are to be studied and applied.

Solomon had a wonderful way of using

metaphors to illustrate his point. For example, in 26:20 he illustrates the wood fueling fire to the truth of malicious talk fueling strife. Profound, yet simple.

The simple yet profound contents of Proverbs deals with the value of wisdom, (chapter 2) need to shun evil, (1:10-15); Guiding youth (chapter 3); The destructive force of adultery; (chapter 5); the folly of slothfulness; (chapter 6); folly of wrath and pride (chapter 15) general principles for living a life of integrity; (chapter 17, 18) contrast between integrity and foolishness; (chapter 19) the folly of strong drink; (chapter 20) humility, generosity, purity of heart, and a myriad of other issues which are conducive to an abundant life.

As we will study in Ecclesiastes, (the writings of the preacher) Solomon gained much insight for living through his shortcomings.

Ecclesiastes: Satisfaction

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: January 24, 2016

TEXT: Ecclesiastes 1:1-3, 10, 13-18

King Solomon, fabulously wealthy, full of wisdom, and an imposing world power, reigned over Israel during a peace time, for 40 years. (1 Kings 11:42)

A prolific writer, Solomon penned the "Song of Songs" or Song of Solomon, likely during his youthful years; He shared wisdom he had acquired in the Proverbs, and it was the book we are studying this week, Ecclesiastes, which seemed to be the epilogue of the story of his life—an empty life.

THE EMPTINESS OF LIFE

He laments the monotony of life: (verses 1: 4-7) void of fulfillment; (verse 1: 8)

The emptiness of worldly pleasures and success: One term he uses continually is the word "vanity." "I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit." 1:14. Vanity literally means "full of hot air," empty, futile. Chuck Swindoll describes it as "emptiness, and trying to catch the wind." To gain wisdom just for wisdom's sake is vexation of spirit. (1:17) Solomon admitted that he "communed with (his) own heart." Such is the plight of the the humanistic society in which we live.

The emptiness of materialism: In chapter 2 he gives a list of activities and material goods in which he sought pleasure and fulfillment -- stand-up comedians to bring him laughter, alcohol, houses,

pools of water, orchards, grape vineyards, servants, cattle, choirs, orchestras, silver, gold, and of course sensuality.

Once again, he came to the conclusion that commodities, in and of themselves, brought nothing but "vanity and vexation of spirit."

The place of emptiness. Note throughout this brief book, all of life's toils, commodities, and activities were described by Solomon as being "under the sun." (2:11, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22,) Everything under the sun is of no profit, or fulfillment.

The place of fulfillment and joy If there's no profit "under the sun" then we must look "above the sun." God the Father, who is seated on His throne in Glory, with Christ at His right side, is the source of all joy, satisfaction and fulfillment. Solomon finally acknowledged this truth in his later years. Ecclesiastes 12:1 "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." KJV.

I love the way the New Living Translation words it: "Don't let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Honor him in your youth before you grow old and say, "Life is not pleasant anymore." It's always an inspiration to witness a senior citizen reveling in the joys of life because of the joy of the Lord.

Conclusion: Life is meaningless, futile and empty without God in one's life.

BMA church plant survivability rate increases in the United States

Nine years ago, the survivability rate of BMA church plants in the United States was 27 percent. BMA of America Missions has just announced that the U.S. church plant survivability rate now stands at 85 percent. Praise the Lord! Remember World Missions Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016.



Alumni

By DR. MIKE SMITH

Jacksonville College is blessed to have an active Alumni Association. For a two-year college, we have one of the largest databases of information about our alumni. This large database is the envy of some four-year schools.

Alumni are valuable. Their good words to others about Jacksonville College are the best recruiting tool we have. Their gracious wealth shared in donation of time, skills, labor, advice, and money are valuable resources. I am blessed at any meeting I attend when someone comes up to me and says, "I am a graduate of Jacksonville College."

Graduates and former students are encouraged to become active members of the Alumni Association in one of the following ways:

- Individual annual membership: \$25
- Couple annual membership: \$40
- Lifetime membership: \$100
- Purple Club membership: \$250
- Gold Club membership: \$500

You may pay \$25 (annual fee) for four consecutive years, and you will be given a lifetime membership. Make checks payable to "Jacksonville College Alumni Association" and mail to:

Jacksonville College
 Attn: Alumni Association
 105 B.J. Albritton Dr.
 Jacksonville, TX 75766

The Jacksonville College staff who work directly with our alumni are Randy Decker, Director of Alumni Relations; Jean Galyean, Alumni Liaison; and Buddy Aultman, Director of Development. The Alumni Association officers are John Gentry, President; Stephen Marsh, Vice President; Jana Symonds, Secretary; and Paul Galyean, Treasurer.

Kellar-Laird-Carroll Alumni Chapter (years prior to 1965) officers and Board representatives are James Schoenrock, President; Eddie Ballard, Vice President; Jeanette Aultman, Secretary; and representatives Mike Patrick and Courtney Raif.

Bearden-Bonner-Gaylor Chapter (1966-1979) officers and representatives are Tim Evans, Vice President; Jane Pepin, Secretary; Lu Wegmet, Treasurer; and representative Brenda Hutchins.

Anderson-Orr-Small Chapter (1980-1999) officers and representatives include Wendy Emprimo, President; Danny Syfrett, 1st Vice President; John David Aultman, 2nd Vice President; Janelle Syfrett, Secretary/Treasurer; and representatives David Pittman and Guy Needham.

Crank-Ross Chapter (2000-present) officers and representatives are Melissa Campbell, President; Jennifer Berry, Vice President; Shanna Hart, Secretary; Elizabeth Gresham, Treasurer; and representatives Brady Bolton, Christian Ivy, and Melody Needham.

HOMECOMING 2016—FEBRUARY 19-20

Homecoming 2016 is an excellent time to renew friendships and continue building a strong alumni association. Activities will include lunch on Friday, campus tours, times for food and fellowship, a Friday evening program with special recognition class years ending in 6, Saturday Celebration, Chapter luncheons, and Homecoming basketball games.

Jacksonville hotels that will offer rooms at a discounted price include Comfort Inn (starting at \$60), Best Western (\$65), La Quinta Inn and Suites (\$80), Holiday Inn Express (starting at \$89.99). Ask for the Jacksonville College Alumni Homecoming rate.

For a current schedule of Homecoming events, visit www.jacksonville-college.edu/#!alumni/ctdo. For additional information, contact Randy Decker, Director of Alumni Relations, at rdecker@jacksonville-college.edu, (903) 790-1700 (cell) or (903) 589-7143 (office).



▲ Alumni meet in the Jacksonville College Cafeteria to make plans for the future. Pictured from left to right are Vicki Coats Joyner, Rhonda Fulton Currie, Alumni Liaison Jean Gaylor Galyean, Linda Colkin Gauntt, and Director of Alumni Relations Randy Decker.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE SPRING SEMESTER 2016

Registration: January 14-15

Classes begin January 19 (online and face-to-face classes)

JANUARY 19, 2016

Classes begin at Jacksonville College

FEBRUARY 19-20, 2016

Jacksonville College Homecoming 2016

MAY 1, 2016

Jaguar Day Across Texas

Annual offering for Jacksonville College

MAY 7, 2016

Commencement at Jacksonville College at 1:30 p.m.

MAY 17-JUNE 2, 2016

Maymester at Jacksonville College

JUNE 6-JULY 7, 2016

Summer Term I at Jacksonville College

JULY 11-AUGUST 10, 2016

Summer Term II at Jacksonville College