

Baptist Progress

Baptist Progress, P.O. Box 2085, Waco, Texas 76788
Postmaster: send change of address to:
500125

THE INFORMING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRY OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS | JULY 2022 | VOL. 109 | NO. 07

INSIDE



PAGE 3

BMA TEXAS MISSIONS



PAGE 5

mission:world NEWS



PAGE 9

GMA RETREAT 2022

Hundreds attend SOAR Conference



By NICK JACOBSEN

BMA Conferences Manager

A ballroom full of students and sponsors worshipping together, listening intently to a message, engaging in a service project, meeting students their age and having fun as well as giving their own money to send other students on a mission trip can all be summed up in one word: WOW!

The SOAR 2022 theme was *called* and, as you can see, “ALL” was capitalized, meaning we are all called. We are called to repent and receive Jesus, called to serve, and even called to ministry. This year church planter Brad Faulk was the main speaker, and he did an outstanding job of communicating

that to our students. Missionary Bryan Risner spoke during the third session and knocked it out of the park! *SOAR Collective*, the worship band, added three new members and led the students in worship for each session.

Also, a huge thank you goes to all the breakout session leaders as well as Aaron Greenwood and Jimmy Brock for taking the lead and organizing them. Students had the opportunity to attend four different breakouts during the conference.

Finally, it was an absolute treat to have Bobby Tucker in attendance. Thirty-two years ago, God called him to start SOAR, and the

highlight of the week was hearing students’ testimonies of salvation and surrender to ministry because Bro. Bobby answered that call. As we think about the church in 10 to 20 years, I’m excited to see this group of students leading the way. Would you pray for those who attended SOAR?

After the last session, Chris Vines announced that SOAR 2023 will be held at the Gaylord Texan on July 3-5. Mark your calendars now. It will be here before you know it.

It’s an honor to serve you, the churches of the BMA.



WWW.BMATEXAS.ORG

BAPTIST PROGRESS

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

BAPTIST MISSIONARY LOAN ASSOCIATION

Jerry Fulton, Director
PO Box 73, Waxahachie 75168
972-923-0758

BMA OF TEXAS MISSIONS

Heith Mitchell, Director
PO Box 73, Waxahachie 75168
972-923-0757

JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

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

TEXAS BAPTIST HOME

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

Baptist Progress

USPS: 043120 • ISSN: 005-5751

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

Jerry Fulton, Director/Editor

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 75168
and at additional mailing offices

SUBSCRIPTION RATE:

Mail Church Plan: \$2.00 per month
E-Mail Church Plan: \$1.50 per month
Mail Subscription: \$27.00 per year
E-mail Subscription: \$21.00 per year
(Advertising Rates Available on Request)

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

MAKING PROGRESS

Running behind

By JERRY FULTON

A few weeks ago, each BMA of Texas church received a letter from *Baptist Progress* requesting that churches, groups and individuals participate in the annual *Baptist Progress Anniversary Offering*. Our request is that those who participate, give one dollar for each year that *Baptist Progress* has provided ministry to the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas. This year, *Baptist Progress* is celebrating 110 years of ministry, so we requested that churches, group, and individuals give \$110 in recognition of those 110 years of ministry. The *Baptist Progress Anniversary Offering* will help us meet our budgetary needs for the year.

We are well below our goal of \$10,000, having only received \$4,490 at the time of this publication. Perhaps your church or group would consider receiving an offering or giving a set amount of \$500, \$1,000, \$2,500, \$5,000 or more to *Baptist Progress*. Any amount would be greatly appreciated.

A list of those who give or have given will be published in the August issue of *Baptist Progress*.

Offerings may be mailed to:

Baptist Progress
P.O. Box 2085
Waxahachie, TX 75168

(Please note on your check:
“Anniversary Offering”)

Thank you for your partnership in
ministry.



▲ Jerry Fulton

Register for our next Ministry Connection Workshop

The next *Baptist Progress Ministry Connection Workshop* is scheduled for Aug. 16. The workshop is *Interim Pastor Training* and would benefit not only potential interim pastors, but any pastor. Having served numerous churches as an interim pastor, I will lead the workshop. Those who complete the training will be certified as an interim pastor for the BMA of Texas. All potential interim pastors must have pastoral experience.

The workshop will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch provided at the BMA of Texas Building, 632 Farley Street in Waxahachie. There is no cost for the workshop.

Again, even if you are not interested in serving as an interim pastor, those who have attended this workshop have said that any pastor would benefit from the training provided.

To register, visit baptistprogress.org, click “Resources” in the menu, then click “Learn More” under Ministry Connection Workshops.

Another Ministry Connection Workshop, *Leading the Smaller Church Without Settling for Less*, is being offered Sept. 13. For details, see below.

Don't miss this upcoming Ministry Connection Workshop!

Leading the Smaller Church Without Settling for Less

- Led by author, blogger and small church pastor Karl Vaters
- You will learn how to redefine success in ministry, the difference between big churches and small churches, how to discover and use what your church does well, as well as how to find and mentor volunteers in today's and tomorrow's small church.

DATE & TIME: Sept. 13, 2022, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch
PLACE: BMA of Texas Building, 632 Farley Street, Waxahachie
REGISTRATION FEE: FREE!



▲ Karl Vaters



A word from your Missions Office

By HEITH MITCHELL

We are pleased to announce the selection of Elvis Garcia as the new Hispanic missionary care coordinator for BMA Texas Missions. You probably know Elvis as the coordinator of Hispanic church planting for the BMA of America Missions. Elvis will continue in that role part-time while expanding his ministry within BMA Texas Missions.

Bro. Elvis is no stranger to your Texas missions movement. He coaches the majority of our Spanish speaking churches, oversees our assessments of potential Hispanic missionaries and participates in the training of our missionaries. His wife, Wendy, coaches and encourages the wives of our Hispanic missionaries monthly. Elvis has been on sight in the service of most of our current Hispanic missionaries. Elvis and Wendy are known by our missionaries. We know Elvis to have passion and a pastoral servant's heart.

We believe that Elvis is called of God and uniquely prepared by God to serve in this way. He is a faithful and qualified minister of the gospel. He is committed to sharing the gospel, making disciples, equipping leaders and starting churches for God's glory. He is trained and prepared in the scripture and biblical leadership through extensive education. He is also trained in marketing. In Christ, he has started several churches in Guatemala, Mississippi and Arkansas. He has discipled and equipped leaders in those churches. These men have assumed leadership and started and pastored churches. He has led networks as a biblical servant leader.

Will you join me in welcoming Elvis to this expanded role within your Texas mission movement? I trust that God will use him to care for your missionaries and expand the Kingdom here in Texas. Pray for Elvis, his wife Wendy, and their sons Pablo and Josue as they prepare to move here to Texas.



▲ The Elvis Garcia Family

A word from your missionaries

CESAR LEAL—
IGLESIA BAUTISTA MISIONERA DE SAN ANTONIO
CESARCHACIN@HOTMAIL.COM

We remain grateful to God for his goodness in providing everything we need, in giving us the strength and passion

necessary not to faint in the work of his work where every day we see the fruits and we rejoice to see the great support of our God to this wonderful work to which he has called us. Please pray for us and when you pass through this area of Texas call me at 214-622-5186. We are here to serve you.

ISAIAS MARTINEZ—
CONROE MISSION
ISAIASMJ1966@GMAIL.COM

Thank God for belonging to the BMA family that has allowed us to continue his work in the city of Conroe where we have seen the incorporation of new families and the continuation of personal discipleship.

Prayer Needs:
Pray for the increase of children in our church and for economic growth.

KINGSLEY NDUKA & ADEREMI BADRU—
LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH IN HOUSTON
KINGEDU700@GMAIL.COM
REMIBADRU44HOPE@YAHOO.COM

Thank you all for what you do. May Almighty God continue to strengthen every one of you.

Prayer Needs:
Pray for open doors for our ministry in our community and the resources needed to set up what the Lord is laying on our heart.

GUADALUPE ROBLES—
GOFORTH MISSION, KILGORE
ROBLESQUADALUPE51@GMAIL.COM

Thank you very much for your support; we have already started receiving our documents from this country; and we also started meeting with Goforth, Kilgore.

Prayer Needs:
Pray for God to provide us with a better vehicle.

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

I want to thank God to each of the churches of the family of the BMA of Texas for their prayers and all the help that the association gives us. We



▲ Cesar Leal



▲ Isaias Martinez



▲ Kingsley Nduka



▲ Guadalupe Robles



▲ Jaime Henriquez

are doing the work of God, the mission is stable, healthy and growing. We are reaching lives for Jesus and building the church of the Lord.

Prayer Needs:
Please pray for the work here at Tomball. May God allow us to reach the weapons of this community so the lives of these people will be transformed. Pray for my family as we continue to serve in the Lord's work.

TIM ALBA—
THE BRIDGE IN SEAGOVILLE

I would like to say that this month has been my toughest so far. Keeping people connected and engaged is tough. While we would like to have everyone on board all the time, it can be difficult. I have learned to let go of people and move on. I will do my best and keep up with those who are going to be faithful and continue to share the gospel and disciple people. That is our sole focus at the end of the day. Stay vigilant!

Prayer Needs:
Please pray for me for I am needing a lot of encouragement at the moment. Thank you!

HAITAO HE—
CORPUS CHRISTI MISSION
HAITAO.HE@BMATS.EDU

When I see people get stuck in their lives and wonder where to go, my heart burns and is eager to tell them that God is the answer. I hope the words I share with them will be helpful for them.

Prayer Needs:
Pray that God will bring new people into our home fellowship this month.

RUDY VILLAREAL—
SAN ANTONIO MISSION
RVILLARREAL1@GMAIL.COM

San Antonio is the fastest growing city in the nation. We are nestled in Helotes which is a more conservative sliver of San Antonio metro area. We want to share how grateful we are to you and are excited to partner with you to reach San Antonio as well as south Texas. We have had positive interactions with people and the opportunity to share the gospel with those in this area already. We have noticed that there is a willingness among those more conservative politically to want to know more about



▲ Tim Alba



▲ Haitao He



▲ Rudy Villareal



I'm just sayin'

By JASON CURRY

There is something to be said about the generosity of the past impacting the future. There are families who chose to ensure TBHC would be here today that sacrificially gave in years gone by. What is it that motivated them to be generous with what they left behind? Could it be purpose, mission or heritage? I think all three.

The timeless facet of purpose comes from our foundation being set on Jesus. Our purpose statement today is, "to glorify God by caring for children." This is timeless and will stay in our grasp no matter how things change.

Mission is how to achieve that purpose and adapt to the needs of the present and take us into the future of caring for children! Adjusting to the needs as we encounter challenges require new processes and functions.

Finally, the thing that changes the most but also remains the same is heritage. As we look back at all that we have done the heritage of those that have gone before have remained faithful to our purpose and mission. Continuing to inspire us to leave a heritage for those that will follow in the years to come.

So why would these things help you in choosing to leave a legacy to TBHC? As you imagine TBHC carrying on purpose to God and mission to children with a heritage of faithfulness, I hope it reminds you of your own legacy. Your life's testimony and the hopes you have to inspire your family and friends to care about what you care about. It will be evident

in the way you lived on purpose—what you supported as part of your life's mission and carried out in the heritage of faith you leave behind.

Your last desires and testimony help shape the future of all who came after you. Psalm 90:10,12 says,

¹⁰ The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away. ...¹² So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

We only have so many days on this earth and what God has blessed us with should be lived to the fullest. No matter how long your labor and life is, I hope that you will prepare to "fly away" and leave an example behind.

If you would like more information about legacy giving or would like to share this with your church, please contact TBHC. When others think of how you lived, it will be your "heart of wisdom" remembered that you leave behind.

I'm just sayin'!

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



September 27-29, 2022
Hot Springs, Arkansas

By HOLLY MERIWEATHER

BMA Global Missions Center

Mark 3 describes Jesus withdrawing from the crowds that had begun following Him everywhere. It was the most important time in history:

- The Messiah had come to save the world.
- He would soon appoint the Twelve.
- He would teach mankind the most radical ideas ever heard and Jesus took time to get away and pray, to reset and to refocus.

If the Son of God took time to do so, how much more should

we look for opportunities to change our pace and reframe our minds.

Re:Charge Leaders Oasis will take place at The Hotel Hot Springs in Hot Springs Arkansas Sept 27-29, 2022. This year, pastor, author and speaker Bill Elliff will be speaking, Travis Sellers from Antioch Baptist Church will lead worship and funny man Brad Stine will provide dinner entertainment one evening.

For more information, registration, and hotel reservations, go to www.bmaamerica.org/recharge.

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 bold letters are those honored or remembered from Jun. 1-30, 2022.

ENDOWMENT:

E. ANN PACE: Karl Pace

MYRA STOKES: Bill Stokes

HONORARIUMS:

BRO. CHARLES & CHARLOTTE JOHNSON 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: Jerry & Denise Gaston; Stanley & Doris Allen

EDDIE & LYNDA MARSH'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: Charles & charlotte Johnson

GRACE GIBBS: Lournen Monroe

HOLLIN ANDERSON: James & Susan Anderson

MARY DUNAVANT: Margaret Wolf

PALMER ANDERSON: James & Susan Anderson

STEVE JETER FAMILY: Bill & Jana Lanier

TRAVIS & AUDREY SHIPPS 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

MEMORIALS:

BECKY HARRIS: Larry & Linda Stout

BILLY KEELING: Ida Keeling

BRUCE CAPERS: Temple Baptist Church

BUDDY & LULU HAZELL: Cheryl Briscoe

DOROTHY WRIGHT: Thomas Jeter

EDDIE BYRD: Darinda Medcalf

GEORGE O CONN: Oma Conn

IMA JEAN BECK MOSELEY: ANONYMOUS

LARRY & ROSELEN BOBO: James Bobo

LARRY RENEAU: Larry & Linda Stout

LOVITA LOU OUIMET: James Ouimet

MARY JO DEAN: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

NANCY SUTTON: Larry & Linda Stout

OBRA HIGHT: Rosewood Bapist Church

ORBA HIGHT: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

PATSY QUINN: Mary Ann Wylie

SALLY ANDERSON: Billy & D'Andra Smith; Linda & Benny Lewis

TERRY DAVIS: Temple Baptist Church

W.V. RAY: Brenda Ray

WALTER BECKER: Ilona & Dennis Myrice

mission:world

NEWS



MAKING DISCIPLES IN BRASOV, ROMANIA

BY: Cristian Martinez
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

God has called our family and team to make disciples in the city of Brasov, Romania, as we seek to obey the commandment of our Lord Jesus to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). We understand this commandment as both preaching the gospel to those who are not yet trusting and following Jesus and teaching believers how the gospel can change every area of their lives, transforming them to look more and more like Jesus.

How do we do this in our city?

We pray. We spend time in prayer both individually and together. We pray to the Lord of the Harvest that he gives us the compassion of Jesus who saw the multitudes as sheep without a shepherd. About 90 percent of our city identifies with the Eastern Orthodox Church, which gives a false hope of purgatory and human works contributing to salvation. Less than 5 percent of Brasov's population identifies with some form of evangelical church. So we also pray for the harvest in our city to come to know Jesus and for more laborers to make disciples, and we do this as we prayer walk through the streets of our city. We pray because salvation only comes from God, and we depend on him.

We preach. We speak about and call people to respond to the good news of God, reconciling sinners to be in a close relationship with him through Jesus' life of obedience, his death in the place of sinners, and his resurrection from death in victory. As a team we do this by meeting people at local farmers markets, building relationships with our neighbors, investing in local college students, and two of us even work at a local coffee shop so that we will have regular opportunities to speak with customers and coworkers, as well as with Ukrainian refugees that are coming into our city.

We gather and equip. We do not go to make disciples as isolated individuals, and we do not seek to make disciples who are isolated from the Christian community. We need one another to make disciples. We have seen how God has used us as a group to expose people to the gospel: One of us has started a spiritual conversation while another one has clearly explained the gospel and answered questions. Some share testimonies while others prepare their homes for hosting, sharing, and caring for people. Also, as missionaries, we do not see ourselves as the only ones

doing ministry, but we recognize our call to equip local Romanians to do the work of the ministry as well.

At this moment we meet weekly at a local coffee shop with a group of ten adults and seven children (not counting our team) where we have been clearly explaining the gospel and equipping in evangelism. This group is a mix of Christians and non-Christians, and we are preparing one of them for baptism. We also grow as disciples in a smaller setting where women meet with women and men with men every other week to apply in a personal way what we study in the

Bible, to pray for one another, and to keep each other accountable.

These, together with a college study and serving and bringing Bible teaching to Ukrainian refugees, are some of our team's efforts as we prepare to form a church that makes disciples in our city and sends missionaries to unreached people groups in countries south of Romania. We ask that you join us in prayer for God to do this in his grace.



BY: Margaret Anderson
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

DISCIPLE OF EXCELLENCE

“Shadi is an excellent discipler.” This is the first thing BMA Missionary Charlie Costa said when describing what discipleship looks like in his church in Lebanon. What makes Shadi an excellent discipler? It’s his focus on relationship building, systematic methods, and biblical foundation that makes his approach to discipleship excellent.

Relationship Building

Shadi focuses on one specific area of a certain people group which lives in the mountains above Beirut. Shadi loves the people; they aren’t just a number

to be added to the church for numbers’ sake, but they are real people in need of a real Savior. This leads him to build authentic friendships by doing life with people and truly caring for them as people.

As the friendships grow, people become more interested in Shadi’s faith, which they can see in his actions and in his words, and they begin to ask questions. This opens the door for Shadi to invite them to home groups where they can learn more about Christ in a small-group setting, and he begins to meet with them individually.

The people are a non-Muslim people group who give more veneration to the person of Jesus, but they believe he’s only a prophet. Talking about Christ is normal for them, but they will face some challenges in their thinking as they discover Christ as their Savior.

Systematic Methods

This people group tends to think extremely systematically and logically. For them to accept a new thought or idea, things should be rational and make sense. Shadi realizes this, so he leads them through a study of Scripture from creation to Christ, and this leads them to the issue of salvation. They will read passages of Scripture and answer four questions: What does this passage teach us about God? What does it teach us about man? What does it teach us about living a life pleasing to God? Who am I going to tell?

At the end of each session, they have to decide what to do to apply what they learned, and then apply it in the days to follow. At the next meeting, they will discuss how things went. This approach allows people to get involved as active participants, not passive listeners.

Biblical Foundation

Shadi’s method of study, called Discovery Bible Study, is beneficial because it is strictly reading Scripture, retelling the story, and discovering its deeper implications. This is helpful to this people group because they have no knowledge of Scripture. Costa says, “Once they’ve accepted Christ, we up the dose of Bible study and take them even deeper.”

Costa adds, “Discipleship is valuable because it allows the individual to voice questions, doubts, challenges, and temptations, and the discipler is then able to respond more relevantly to these issues from Scripture.”





TAKE THE GREAT COMMISSION PERSONAL

BY: Dr. Steve Crawley
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

In 2004 my wife, Daura, and I went to Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, for a week of training in Evangelism Explosion (EE). Renowned pastor Dr. D. James Kennedy, the founder of EE, led the training. At one of our intermissions, we engaged in general conversation, and he asked if I was in the ministry. I responded, “No, I’m just a layman.” He then asked me what “just a layman” meant. I explained that I was not serving in occupational ministry but as a corporate executive.

Dr. Kennedy quickly shared with me that I was not “just a layman” but a soldier in the army of the living God.

That week of training and sharing the gospel back in 2004 revolutionized my view of what it meant to live with a missional mindset. The training helped me understand the need to take the Great Commission personal, as it was given to me as well as every church member whether we were in occupational ministry or not. Up to that point, I had been “sub-contracting” the fulfillment of the Great Commission to our church’s pastor and staff, along with our associational missionaries. Yet my eyes were opened that week to the fact that I, too, was sent by my church with no less responsibility than a full-time missionary. I was to be God’s ambassador in my circle of influence.

At that time, I worked for a rather large company. I had access to people that many pastors and missionaries would never have the privilege to engage. In a sense, I became a “corporate missionary,” realizing that God had sent me to that company for much more than drawing a paycheck. Understanding that my mission field was my company and other social circles where I was involved changed the way I saw and interacted with people around me. I became more soul conscious and began to pray for the Holy Spirit to enable

me to share the gospel with boldness, conviction, and persuasion. In essence, I began thinking more like a missionary might think on the arrival to a new field.

In our men’s MD5 discipleship ministry, we begin the process by assessing where we are in our spiritual journey. The assessments used include Jim Putman’s Real Life Discipleship Wheel to determine our stage of spiritual growth (Dead, Infant, Child, Young Adult, Parent), a spiritual gift analysis, and our MD5 Orientation Assessment, which consists of 54 questions. One of the questions is “Do you have a personal plan for fulfilling the Great Commission?” Invariably, men assess themselves lower on this question than most any other.

I believe the reason for this phenomena is that we as believers fail to take the Great Commission personally. Yet making disciples and fulfilling that commission is the ultimate mission of the church! It is the mission of every born-again man, woman, boy and girl. If you ask most church members what their job is, most would agree it is to share the gospel and make disciples. Yet how many actually do?

The fact is that we are not “just laymen and laywomen.” We are all soldiers in the army of the living God! When it comes to the Great Commission, let’s take it personal!





EIGHT YEARS, EIGHT MISSIONS

BY: Pastor Oscar Gaitán

Lifeword

lifeword.org

Many were the tasks that Jesus left to the church, but one of the clearest tasks was to disciple. The way our church disciples is by taking one person at a time, women to women, men to men. They make a weekly appointment for twelve weeks and they share twelve steps after receiving Jesus. These lessons are complemented by the vital part of discipleship, which is the investment of one's life in another person, just like parents to children.

When we started eight years ago in the Masaya mission, my wife, my daughter, and I began discipling three neighbors: I disciplined Reynaldo, Tamy disciplined Noemí, and Lidia disciplined Cristina. After 12 weeks, each of them took another person and we continued with other new converts. This is how God has guided us in opening eight missions: Masaya, Las Flores, San Marcos, La Dalia, Matagalpa, Sébaco, San Juan de Oriente and Cuba.

Each mission carries in its blood the importance of discipling one on one and it has been the specific way in which God has used us to disciple person by person and that has led us to hundreds reached for Christ, as well as the beginning of the missionary work in different places.

Our church is a cell church and we have centralized the task of the church through each leader who directs a cell at home. Four years ago our country went through a political situation and we had to close the church building but not the church. Once the situation passed and we returned to meet on Sundays, we had multiplied from 12 cells to 18. Then came the Covid-19 pandemic and the same thing: We closed the building but not the church, and when we were able to come back together, we multiplied the cells from 18 to 27.

We also work with children in small cells. We have 26 houses where we have dedicated Sunday to Sunday to teach and interact with them and their families and now average 240 children in these houses on Sunday with more than 60 people serving in this ministry.

Lifeword has been a part of our ministry for many years in our country of Nicaragua supporting different radio ministries, programs aimed at couples, and workshop programs for those who serve in the ministry of teaching children. In December of last year, we opened the new mission in Sébaco and we were going through difficulties for its continuity, but thank God for the assistance of Lifeword that allowed us to continue.

When we opened the mission in Cuba, the presence of Lifeword was already in the heart of Bro. Jesús Martín. He had heard the message of salvation through the radio ministry that Lifeword had been broadcasting

on the air for many years with The Christian Contact, a program by Pastor Richard Robinson. Jesús Martín listened to this program and that seed sown came to germinate years later when we visited the country. We met Bro. Jesús and he shared with us the perfect plan of our God and how Lifeword was an instrument to reach his life. Today he is our missionary and is the leader of a beautiful mission in Cuba.

The Centro de Vida church is celebrating in May her eighth anniversary with eight missions, but we are not stopping there; rather, it is our vision to establish cell groups in more cities. Thank you, Lifeword, for always joining efforts through our common goal, which is to spread the gospel of salvation as it is carried throughout the world.



Bread of Life—GMA Retreat 2022

By **HAYLEY RASCO**

Girls and ladies from all over Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and Louisiana gathered at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp in Gary for the 2022 National Girls Missionary Auxiliary Retreat June 15-18. The camp theme was Bread of Life and the theme verse was John 6:35: “And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”

The tabernacle was decorated like a French bakery or patisserie with tables and chairs set up around the room, with a large painted menu on the stage backdrop and decorative baked goods on shelves. The theme song, Come to the Table, was sung several times throughout the week.

The camp program opened with singing, led by Hannah Brister and Emily Gentry, song leader and instrumentalist. Lydia Dunlap, president, gave a warm welcome and recognized first-time campers. After the pledges and GMA Song, the officers performed a humorous skit to demonstrate the camp rules.

Audrey Johnson, 2nd vice president, introduced the daily themes for camp at the start of each day. The daily themes were Water, Yeast, Wheat, and Salt—all important ingredients to make bread. These themes reminded campers that Jesus is the living water; that we should grow as believers in Christ like yeast makes bread rise; that we should lean on other believers because wheat never grows alone; and that we are called to be the salt of the earth.

Rylee Johnson, 1st vice president, spoke about the project, Gavin Roberts, Morgan Grace Fellowship Church Plant in Morgan County, Utah. From a silent auction to candy grams to an officer competition, there were ample opportunities to help raise funds for the project throughout retreat. The officers even set up a bakery full of delicious baked goods to sell for the project.

Bro. Gavin Roberts was the camp pastor and preached on John, chapter 6. He stressed that “Jesus is best—Do you find life in Him?” Jesus gives life; life is not something that we can earn. Jesus gives us the best life when we live it His way, and Jesus ensures eternal life. In another message, Bro. Gavin preached a sermon on Colossians 3 titled “Out with the old, in with the new—Has Jesus changed you?” He said that we should dwell on Christ by reading His word, listening to good preaching, and talking about Jesus with others. He also said that we should die to sin, and he stressed that a gospel that does not change you is not the true gospel. For his last message at camp, Bro. Gavin preached on Jonah and how “Jesus is worthy to be shared – Do you care about what God cares about?” God cares about people, and because He does, Jonah should have been exceedingly glad that God showed mercy to the people of Ninevah when they repented.

As usual, camp was full of fun activities and entertainment. Lydia Dunlap and Audrey Johnson opened most sessions with a fun “bake show” where they interacted with the audience as if it were a food-themed game show. There was swim time, outdoor games, crafts, water games, canteen time, an officer meet and greet, and many unique breakout sessions. The officer competition winners (the officers with the most and least money in their donation boxes) got caked – the girls got to shower them in flour, sugar, and eggs. Perhaps the most fun event at camp was AfterGlow on Thursday night. The girls were decked out in glow sticks, and there were exciting song and dance performances by many of the girls and the officers as well.

Alongside the fun activities, there were so many meaningful events. There was a special prayer time for our missionaries on Wednesday night, where each church group was assigned to pray for a specific missionary. Officers visited the cabins the first night of camp to give devotions. Charlotte Johnson organized a beautiful Queens coronation service, where 27 queens were recognized. The

lovely Miss GMA and Junior Miss GMA Presentation was presented by Lane Flynt, GMA Promoter, and Katy Nix, Assistant Director of Youth Auxiliaries. Audrey Johnson from Texas was named as the 2022 National Miss GMA. Emily Gentry from Arkansas was named as Alternate Miss GMA. Brooklyn Martin from Arkansas was named as Junior Miss GMA. Aileena Maynard from Texas was named as the Alternate Junior Miss GMA. The most exciting part of camp was that one girl accepted Christ as her savior while there – and 2 more young ladies accepted Christ immediately following camp!

On the last day of camp, Lydia Dunlap passed the gavel to Caitie Cox from Missouri, who will be the 2022-2023 president. The officers gave an upbeat goodbye by joining with the audience and dancing to Church Clap. The camp dates for next year were announced to be June 14-17, 2023. As per tradition, the camp ended with all the campers joining hands and singing Sweet, Sweet Spirit acapella. Retreat was both an exciting and meaningful time for all who attended.



2022 Retreat “Everybody, Everywhere Needs Jesus”

By **GLENDA CHAMBERLAIN**

Diana Morris, Texas WMA 2nd vice president, has a wonderful ladies retreat planned at Union Hill, Brownboro, for Aug. 26–27, 2022. If you register for the retreat by Aug. 1, the cost is \$45 per person and includes a retreat T-shirt. The free T-shirt is only available until Aug 1. You can find all the information at www.texaswma.com, click on the events tab.

The theme is Everybody Everywhere Needs Jesus, based on Matthew 28:19-20. Many of the workshops for the retreat are missions centered. One workshop will be Everlasting Smiles Christmas Shoeboxes. These boxes will be sent to Ukraine refugee areas this year. We are asking that you bring items to help

fill 250-300 boxes. Contact Diana Morris at grammydi1013@msn.com or call 903-288-7575 to see what items we need.

Other workshops include: Roundtable on Children’s Ministry, BMMI Missions, Our Church and Community Impact and How to Study Your Bible. Plus, there are two workshops that include a painting project and flower arranging. There will be an additional cost to cover supplies used in the painting and flower arranging classes. These are fun take-home projects.

Judy Biggers is slated to be the keynote speaker. There will also be a great silent auction, proceeds which will benefit South Asia mission work, the current WMA project. You can send

project money to Jo Strong, 413 Junell, Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482 (please note this is a new address).

Register today, deadline is fast approaching. We look forward to seeing each one of you!

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.





Dear WMA Ladies,

I pray that your summer is going well at your houses! We just finished GMA camp today. Those girls amaze me with how they serve the Lord and are so talented and mature. I was privileged to install the officers and presented the GMA Coronation. Changes were made for GMA next year. They are following our example about opening the camp to all girls of BMA churches. There were 186 girls and counselors. One profession of faith was announced. The project raised over \$10,000 for Gavin Roberts, missionary to Utah. He and his family were present at the camp. The new project is “AJ” who is going to be a creative nation missionary. Her name does not need to be published because of her location. The goal is to raise \$12,000.00.

These are things that were voted on and passed.

- The name of the camp next year will be *Girls Discipleship Retreat*, sponsored by the GMA. The dates for the camp are June 14-17, 2023.
- The grade for officers was lowered from 10th to 9th grade because can’t find enough girls willing to be an officer.
- The theme will be Hello, I am? (Colossians 2:10)
Day 1—Sinner (1 Timothy 1:15)
Day 2—Ambassador (2 Corinthians 5:20)
Day 3—Conquer (Romans 8:37)
Day 4—Who is God? And Who you are? (Psalm 96)

Churches are encouraged to bring all girls from their churches that are in the third grade and up. A counselor or sponsor is required for every five girls.

There will be disciple classes and breakout sessions on different topics and classes to introduce girls to the GMA program.

Sunbeams are also planning a retreat at that time on the other side of the camp. Sunbeams will have their own program and be separated from the GMA group.

Ladies,

Please begin to share information with your churches and leaders. This is a camp that your children can benefit from, so tell your youth workers in your churches.

Blessings to all,
Charlotte Johnson
National WMA

Moral Action Update

By JOHN M. ADAMS, D.MIN.

Moral Action ministries to Missouri and Washington, D.C. was a delight and spiritually uplifting. Moral Action is a missionary, evangelistic and teaching work all in one agency of the Baptist Missionary Association. Since the 1980’s, Dr. Roy McLaughlin, of Michigan, and I have carried a banner for our God and the BMA.

Our people are beginning to see that this endeavor is worthy of prayer and financial support from all our churches, pastors, deacons and other departments of the BMA cause. The eyes of our Savior are on this effort. We go in His name and for His cause, and that makes us glad in Christ.

Mrs. Adams (Darla) and I left for middle Missouri to speak at Ohlman Missionary Baptist Church, Bunker, Missouri June 4. As a fellow Southerner I would declare “right in the middle of the Mark Twain National Forrest”.

It is a spirit-filled church under the capable leadership of Pastor Terry Sharpe. The pastor and WMA leader Mrs. Janet Widger extended this invitation for God and Country. A gracious gift offering was shared with Moral Action. They see the value of this agency for the BMA churches and its outreach to America.

With a total of 2,500 plus miles, we traveled on to Washington, D.C. through the states (there and back to Mississippi), staying less than three to five blocks from the U.S. Capitol and the U.S. Supreme Court. We saw America at work closely.

God allowed us to share two Facebook-John Adams films at the Washington National Cathedral to pray that our nation will return to the God of Eternity. The second film was at the U.S. Pentagon with 800 hits on our Facebook pages. People are truly concerned.

Tuesday gave us encouragement as we interviewed U.S. Representative Brian Steil of Wisconsin. This Congressman has been and is a conservative Christian who made his stand crystal clear about America needing a return to God.

We attended the U.S. Congressional Briefing in the lower auditorium of the Hyatt Regency at Capitol Hill. Moral Action has and will stand for godly living with Biblical precedent. In the Congressional Briefing there were positive and negative words about Roe vs. Wade, the securing of the southern U.S. borders, etc.

Having known of the work done by the American Civil Liberties Union, we discussed with Congressman Steil about how the three-judge 9th circuit court wants to remove “under



God” in the pledge. We also discussed this with U.S. Congressman from Georgia 8th District Austin Scott; Alabama 4th District Robert Aderholt; U.S. Senator James Langford of Oklahoma, who is very familiar with the BMA and U.S. House member Lee Zelden of Long Island, New York, who is running for governor of New York. Congressman Zelden is a Jew with strong Israeli ties. We talked of our faithfulness to the nation Israel and Jerusalem.

We discussed: 1) maintaining the words “under God” in the pledge to our American flag; 2) having all our U.S. borders secured; 3) the undying support of God’s people, Israel; 4) the words “In God We Trust” on our coins/currency; 5) the overturn of Roe vs. Wade with the volatile subject of abortion and 6) the sins of homosexuality in men and women, etc.

We were not able to see U.S. Senator Ted Cruz for our visit with him. His chief of staff reminded us of his frequent trips to Uvalde and the overwhelming sadness and horror of that small town and its families.

May I suggest all who read this to not take our freedoms for granted. There are those who hate God, hate our nation and truly hate Christians. Our strength is in Him, the God of Heaven and Earth.

All these efforts to email, text, write letters, Facebook and travel to D.C. and actually meet and talk face to face was and is our work for Christ. We saw the entire briefing legislature picture taken. Our prayers are with them. I invite you to keep praying for these leaders.

They had on their minds the end to violence on the streets of America, the border calamity, the economy and the Roe vs. Wade.

Darla and I were blessed to represent godly BMA and Christian people, churches, pastors and all Christian workers. May God return us to Him and His Kingdom!

Dr. John M. Adams is the executive director of BMAA Moral Action. Contact him at Moral Action - BMA of America, P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, Mississippi 38855 or visit www.macbma.net for more information.



A God blessed moment

By EDDIE BALLARD

My wife, Ruth, and I worshipped with Sheppard Drive, Euless where I led the music July 10. Bro. James Schoenrock is pastor of the church. May know that Bro. Schoenrock’s wife, Wilma, has suffered from dementia, sometimes not even remembering her husband’s name.

During the service, I noticed Wilma singing every word of every song we sang. When it was time for the message, Bro. James took Wilma by the hand and led her onto the stage. He gave her a microphone and he took one. Together, they sang, “In the Garden,” with Ruth accompanying them on the piano. Wilma used the microphone and sang every word.

This was one of those God blessed moments we don’t soon forget. May God continue to bless Mrs. Wilma and Bro. James.



▲ James and Wilma Schoenrock

BMA Texas Missions cont.

God as they see the darkness engulfing our nation. We are looking forward to using these opportunities to flourish into discipleship relationships.

Prayer Needs:

Please pray for more opportunities to share the gospel. As you get to know me, I believe that part of my calling is to do the work of an evangelist, and I absolutely love sharing the gospel with others. We also are in need of a family vehicle. We have a Honda Civic, but we have four kids, so we need something bigger. Please pray that something in the upcoming months opens up in that area. From my family to you, thank you for your prayers and locking arms with us to share the gospel with others here in San Antonio!

CHRIS MINDI—
ANCHOR AUSTIN MISSION IN LEANDER
CHRIS.MINDI@BMATS.EDU

I had a good experience with one of my Indian friends to whom I am witnessing. Amazingly, the Holy Spirit intervened in unexpected way. We ended up talking more about the principles of how our God is the standard of good and morality. We continued to talk for almost three hours. All the while, I was praying for wisdom and words to speak and to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. My point in saying all this is our preconceived notions that we have going into conversations could be wrong, and when we pray for God to intervene, He will drive the conversation. We just need to be obedient to the Spirit.

Prayer Needs:

Pray that will continue with our vision to see the city transformed with the reality of life-change in Jesus Christ. Pray that our team is growing in maturity of their faith and are passionate to see a revival in this city and Indian community to witness how God is working in them to know Christ.

JOSE TORRESZ—
HISPANIC MISSION IN TYLER
EMAILJOSETORRES@GMAIL.COM

Prayer Needs:

Please continue to pray for our church plant.

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

Howdy, brother and sisters! Summer officially arrived in every way here in west Texas this month. School is out, the sun is scorching hot and people are crazy busy. So, like everyone, our mission has seen a lot of missing people every week and our remodel is going slower than we'd hoped. But in spite of the heat and the busyness of summer, God's work continues. We have a long way to go, but we are still shooting for a September launch, God willing! Please continue to pray for



▲ Chris Mindi



▲ Jose Torresz



▲ Chris Driver

us and prayerfully consider helping us with a few of our unexpected remodel expenses. We are so thankful for the churches of the BMA of Texas.

Prayer Needs:

Remodel efforts and expenses
New open doors for the gospel
Relationships/connections in community and South Plains College

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

Even though the summer months are a slow time, I am excited to see what is going on at our church. Even though there is a lot going on during the summer, we must not lose our focus on the task at hand. I am certain that the next few months bring many opportunities to carry forth the gospel.

Prayer Needs:

Pray that we would be attentive to each opportunity we have to share the Gospel in our community.



▲ Robert Lee

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

Thank you churches for your relentless prayers for our mission efforts to be fruitful and God-honoring. As a result of your faithful prayers and sacrificial giving, God is doing wonders in the lives of the people we minister and disciple.

Prayer Needs:

Please continue to pray for God to work in the hearts of the people as we share the message of hope of Jesus to the people.



▲ Bichitrananda Satpathy

ABNER NUNEZ—RESIDENT INTERN IN SAN ANTONIO
ELIAS1951@HOTMAIL.COM

I thank BMA Texas Missions for the opportunity to serve God in the United States. Pastor Cesar is helping me to connect the way of life of its inhabitants and its laws. With God's help, we will plant a Baptist church in the north area of San Antonio.



▲ Abner Nunez

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.



events

2022 RE:CHARGE LEADERS OASIS

DATE: Sept. 27-29, 2022
PLACE: The Hotel Hot Springs, Hot Springs, Arkansas
WEB LINK: <https://bmaamerica.org/recharge/>

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

2023 BMA OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: April 17-19, 2023
PLACE: Antioch Baptist Church, Conway, Arkansas
HEADQUARTERS HOTEL: To be decided

2023 SOAR

DATE: July 3-5, 2023
PLACE: Gaylord Texan, Grapevine, Texas

personnel & positions

ABS DIRECTOR—The Association of Baptist Students at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches is seeking a director of student ministries. It is a part-time position and membership in a local church is requested. If you are interested send resume to Absnac.210@gmail.com.

PASTOR—Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden (Alba) is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to jesmith_1956@yahoo.com. 10/22

YOUTH PASTOR/MINISTER—New Harmony, Tyler is seeking a fulltime youth director/minister. Send resume to the church at 10251 FM 724, Tyler, Texas 75704 or to Russ Jackson at rgjackson63@yahoo.com. TFN

YOUTH/STUDENT MINISTRY—Afton Grove, Jacksonville is seeking a biblically qualified candidate. This is a bivocational position. We are looking for a minister with a heart for God, a heart for students and who is ready to plunge into the work. The candidate will love the Lord and love and lead our students in a growing relationship with Jesus. Please send your resume to Eddie Richardson at fasteddie999elr@gmail.com. TFN

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

The Master’s Builders return to Jacksonville College

By **NELDA MALONE**

The Master’s Builders Reporter

The Master’s Builders had the privilege of returning to Jacksonville College to work their 177th job June 6-15. While there, they built a GaGa pit, enlarged the entrance to the restrooms in the cafeteria, remodeled the home and visitors’ athletic rooms in the gymnasium, built eight decorative fences for air conditioning unit coverage outside and built a wall in the Ragsdale dorm. Also, a couple of our men went to Daniel Springs Camp for a day to help with some electrical projects before camp starts there.

Thank you to all who helped make this job such a blessing for us all! Special thanks to the Jacksonville College chef, Joe Yzaquirre, who prepared and transported food, then cleaned after each lunch and supper meal. He was a trooper! Thanks to one of our couples, Myrtle and Leo Sketo, from Leaksville, Mississippi, who brought fruit and vegetables for us all to enjoy while we were there. Thanks to First, Jacksonville for the fellowship, the great meal and the M&Ms ladies group that always includes our ladies in their special meeting every June. Thanks to Brenda Bateman, daughter-in-law of missionary Jack Bateman, who spoke to our ladies group one day. She certainly has a great gift.

Thank you to our dear friend, Randy Decker, who came and joined our men in their work. Thank you to George for all you do around the campus. We all feel that you are one of us now. Thank you to Craig for all the running around to get supplies for each of the jobs. And last but not least, thanks to our new friend, Heath Malinak, of Rusk, who saved our hot, tired, worn out men from the small, inadequate post hole auger. The last day was tough on them all as the struggled drilling the post holes. Heath came

and brought a beautiful, green tractor with an auger on the back. Thank you, Lord, for his kindness! (You have to see Facebook to appreciate how miraculous this was.)

We ask that you pray for Joe Lightner, President of Jacksonville College, and the vision he has for the college. Pray that this college will grow and be a spiritual light for the young men and women who choose to come there.

There is so much that we could share on these jobs but there’s not space to put it all down. We continue to ask for prayer for our men. Many of them have had health problems recently. However, they keep showing up to work for the “Master.” Pray for more workers to join us. Our faithful workers are wearing out. We trust God to supply all our needs.

If you have questions about The Master’s Builders ministry or your church has building needs, contact Mike Green at 972-935-3877 or David Axe at 903-918-0720.



The Baptist Missionary Loan Association (BMLA), a ministry of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas, offers loans to churches for everything from land and building purchases, to additions and renovations.

Why consider a loan with BMLA?

We specialize in church building projects.

Since 1953, BMLA has provided loans for churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas. No one understands the needs and goals of BMA congregations and related ministries better than BMLA. Recently, BMLA was authorized by the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas to offer loans to any BMA church in the United States.

We offer competitive rates and terms.

Unlike many commercial lending institutions, BMLA can save your congregation thousands of dollars by requiring minimal closing costs and offering competitive rates.

Faithful stewardship finances our loans.

The money invested in BMLA by congregations and individuals finance our loans for building projects and land purchases.

For more information, visit bmla.org.

If you are ready, you may apply for a loan online at bmla.org.
If you have more questions, call us at 972-923-0758.

We look forward to helping you make your dreams come true!

BMLA, P.O. Box 425, Waxahachie, Texas 75168
www.bmla.org

Guidelines for Children’s Ministry

Between Vacation Bible School, youth ministry outings, Sunday school, and other fun events, summer months mean a change in church volunteers. Just because school is out doesn’t mean that your children’s ministry can take a vacation from safety.

As your church recruits new volunteers this summer, consider following these few steps:

1. Recruit from within the church
2. Conduct background screenings on every volunteer
3. Contact your local agent to ensure your policy properly covers your children’s ministry activities

Contact American Church Group of Texas today.
Call 844.400.2248 or visit AmericanChurchGroup-Texas.com.

Proudly serving the BMA of Texas



© 2022 Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company. All rights reserved. The American Church Group name and logo are registered trademarks of Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company and are used with permission by American Church Group of Texas, LLC.