

# Baptist Progress

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## Gay Marriage, Deviant Selfishness

By **DR. JOHN ADAMS**

*Moral Action Executive Director*

Homosexuals possess US Constitutional rights identical to those that everyone else in America enjoys. They are free to be gay. Gays mistakenly believe that basic human rights and our US societal-norms guarantee them the right to marry as in a traditional marriage of man and woman. Yet centuries of human rights' definitions have never included same-sex marriage.

There is no way to sugar-coat the reality of the core of immoral, selfish homosexuality, especially the male sexual relations, it is as ugly as anything can get. God's relevant Word states in Romans 1:24, *"God gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves."*

Many of this day attempt cover-ups such as "they are nice people", or "they have loyal commitments", but gays are tearing apart the moral fabric of our American nation, and they are attempting to rid our society of allegiance to God's Word and His marriage precepts. Paul said in Romans 1:28, *"they did not like to retain God in their knowledge..."* So how do Christian moralists consider the "gay world" selfish?

**Gay and abortionists believe in a zero population position. Surprisingly, very few have spoken of or written of the selfish intent of these to never increase the population.** In Genesis 1:28, God told Adam and Eve *"Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth..."* Gays, lesbians, and avowed abortionists in living their way, would never populate the world as God intended it to be. There would never be another child born! It is truly the highest form of selfishness.

**Gays' selfishness leads others astray as they assess those who oppose homosexuality.** They want all to believe it is just "old-timers" and fanatical Christians who hate their lifestyle. But the people of many states have voted against gay marriage. In spite of the U.S. Justice courts overruling these states and outlawing the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) does not mean that the American people are in favor of perversion in marriage. Of the 313,914,000 Americans that populate our nation, only 1.7 percent are gay and only 1.8 percent are bisexual, according to the 2010 census. In the first large-scale government survey measuring Americans sexual orientation, the NHIS (National Health Interview Survey) reported in July 2014 that 1.6 percent of Americans identify themselves as gay or lesbian.

**Gays' selfishness closes their eyes to the overall health of American society.** Again, in Paul's admonition of Romans 1:27, *"men leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust.....working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet."* Historically, civilizations like Babylon, the Mayans, Greece, and Rome crumbled from within their own culture via sexual perversion. Many in our nation seemingly have no regard for what gay life will ultimately cost their soul or what corrosion it will inflict upon society around them. Gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender are selling their health and their soul for short moments of deviant physical pleasure.



**Gays' selfishness continually and viciously disparages any references in the Bible that condemns their open sin. LGBT shamelessly discounts the concept that the Bible is the moral standard of living, or if they do accept the Bible verses, they misconstrue them to fit their lifestyle of sin.** They prefer no moral standards which is so dangerous for any society. They argue that Jesus Christ is all about love and complete acceptance. Romans 1:22 says, *"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools."* Jesus does love all

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**Baptist Progress**

Jerry Fulton, Editor/Business Manager  
P.O. Box 2085, Waxahachie 75168  
972-923-0756 • [www.baptistprogress.org](http://www.baptistprogress.org)

**BMA of Texas Missions/  
Loan Association**

Jerry Burnaman, Director  
PO Box 73, Waxahachie 75168  
972-923-0757  
[www.changedintexas.com](http://www.changedintexas.com)

**Jacksonville College**

Dr. Mike Smith, President  
105 B. J. Albritton Drive  
Jacksonville 75766  
903-586-2518  
[www.jacksonville-college.edu](http://www.jacksonville-college.edu)

**Texas Baptist Home**

Eddie Marsh, President  
PO Box 309, Waxahachie 75168  
972-937-1321 • [www.tbhc.org](http://www.tbhc.org)



# From the Editor

## What in the world is going on?

By **JERRY FULTON**

A few years ago, Dr. David Jeremiah released a book he wrote titled, *What in the World is Going On?*. In his book, he addresses the future revival of the ancient Roman Empire, the rise of radical Islam, and other end-time events. I firmly believe that the events we have witnessed in America over the past several years and more specifically the last few weeks are signs that Christ's return for the saints of God is very near. Scripture speaks of a great falling away that will take place in the last days.

How disheartening it was to see so-called believers congratulate and celebrate the US Supreme Court's decision to legalize same-sex marriage throughout our land. As if that were not enough, the Court subsequently halted a Texas law that would close most abortion clinics across the Lone Star State. How can some who call themselves followers of Christ defend a woman's assumed "right" to abort her unborn child? What in the world is going on?

One thing is sure, and that is members of the Lord's churches have failed to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Jesus said, according to Matthew 5:13, "*Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*"

In his commentary on the verse, Matthew Henry explained its meaning well in writing, "If they are not such as they should be, they are as salt that has lost its savour. If a man can take up the profession of Christ, and yet remain graceless, no other doctrine, no other means,

can make him profitable. Our light must shine, by doing such good works as men may see. What is between God and our souls, must be kept to ourselves; but that which is of itself open to the sight of men, we must study to make suitable to our profession, and praiseworthy. We must aim at the glory of God."

There are those within our own ranks who would have us never address what they call social and political issues, but what some call social and political issues are in fact biblical issues. If Christians do not address sin, then who will? If the followers of Christ do not take a stand against evil, then who will? If believers call lust "love," and what is an abomination to God an "equal right," then they have failed in their task to influence the world for Christ.

Churches in America has turned a blind eye to evil for too long. We must address biblical issues! We must take a stand against what is wrong! We must call sin what it is! We must do what we have been called to do—to make disciples—and we must do it in love all the while remembering, "*We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*"



▲ Jerry Fulton

## Baptist Progress

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

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## \$103 FOR 103 YEARS OF MINISTRY BAPTIST PROGRESS ANNIVERSARY OFFERING

### THANK YOU TO THE CHURCHES, GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO GAVE LISTED BELOW.

Anthony Drive, Ennis  
Beacon Hill, Waco  
Beacon, Bryan  
Calvary, Centerville  
Calvary, Ennis  
Calvary, Trinidad  
Camille Acres, Longview  
Cedar Creek, Teague  
Central, Aspermont  
Corinth, Jacksonville  
D.J. & G.L. Arnold  
David Hendricks  
Davis Street, Sulphur Springs  
Delores A. Adams  
Ebenezer Friendship, Pittsburg  
Ebenezer, Quitman  
Eighth Avenue, Teague Progress Sunday  
School Class  
Elwood, Wills Point

Enon First, Iola  
Enterprise, Jacksonville  
Farley Street, Waxahachie Sunshine Sunday  
School Class  
Fellowship, Edinburg  
Fifth Street, Levelland  
First, Crandall  
First, Cross Roads Athens  
Forest Hill, Quitman  
Friendship, Mesquite  
Harvest Baptist Church  
Jerry & Cassie Fulton  
Lakeridge Baptist Church  
Lakeside, Trinidad  
Liberty, Henderson  
Lighthouse, Rowlett  
Little Mound, Big Sandy  
Macedonia, Etoile  
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New Hope, New Waverly  
Oak Grove, Canton  
Pecan, Robert Lee  
Pine Brook, Tyler  
Red Springs, Tyler  
Ricky And Cindy Toal  
Round Prairie, Fairfield  
Sheppard Drive, Euless  
Sheridan Terrace, Palestine  
Suburban Wood, Humble  
Sunset, Lamesa  
Tundra, Canton  
Tundra, Canton  
Union Hill, Bowie

**Total \$10,562.00**

## SCHEDULE FOR 115<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SESSION OF THE BMA OF TEXAS November 10-11, 2015

Champion Forest Baptist Church  
15555 Stuebner Airline Road • Houston, Texas

Theme: "In All Judea—In All Texas"

*"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8*

### Tuesday morning, November 10:

8:30 W.M.A. registration  
9:00 W.M.A. Annual State Meeting in chapel building (adjacent to worship center)  
9:00-11:00 Leadership Conference in choir rehearsal room  
Agenda – TBA

### Tuesday afternoon session (chapel building):

12:00-2:00 Registration for annual meeting  
2:00 Opening praise and worship directed by Jason Wofford, Northside Baptist Church-Conroe  
2:10 Call to order & introduction of theme  
2:15 Welcome & prayer by CFBC representative  
2:20 Seating of messengers/rules of order/appointment of parliamentarian  
1:25 Introduction of annual speaker and special music (TBA)  
2:30 Annual sermon by Bro. Eddie Marsh, president of Texas Baptist Home  
3:00 Baptist Progress report, Bro. Jerry Fulton, editor/business manager  
3:20 Administrative Committee Report  
3:25 Election of administrative committee representatives  
3:30 Nominating Committee Report  
3:40 State WMA Report  
3:45 Initial report of Enrollment/Finance Committee  
3:50 Presentation of constitutional changes  
3:55 Offering for associational expenses  
4:00 Closing prayer by BMAA Missions Department representative

### Tuesday evening (main worship center):

6:30 Combined worship service with Southern Baptists of Texas Convention  
Service will include: performance by Jacksonville College choir, report on the College by Dr. Mike Smith, president; report on Texas Baptist Home by Bro. Eddie Marsh, president; message by Bro. Andy Comer, pastor of Davis Street Baptist Church, Sulphur Springs; and message by SBTC speaker.

### Wednesday morning, November 11 (chapel):

9:00 Praise & worship led by Jason Wofford  
9:10 Opening prayer by representative from LifeWord Media Ministries  
9:15 Special music by Roy & Loretta Stephens, Rose Hill Baptist Church-Mineola  
9:20 President's message  
9:50 Texas Baptist Home report & recommendations, Eddie Marsh, president  
10:10 Jacksonville College report & recommendations, Dr. Mike Smith, president  
10:30 State Missions report, Bro. Jerry Burnaman, director  
10:50 BMAA Loan Association report, Bro. Jerry Burnaman, business manager  
11:10 Representative from DiscipleGuide Church Resources  
11:15 Master's Builders report  
11:20 Election of officers for 2015-2016  
11:25 Election of annual speaker/alternate for 2016  
11:30 Vote on constitutional changes  
11:35 Final report of Finance/Enrollment Committee  
11:40 Miscellaneous business  
11:45 Passing of the gavel  
11:50 Announcements  
11:55 Representative of BMAAT Seminary to lead closing prayer  
12:00 Adjournment



## Hotel/Motel Information for Baptist Missionary Association Of Texas Meeting November 10-11, 2015

Champion Forest Baptist Church  
15555 Stuebner Airline Rd. • Houston, Texas

### LAQUINTA INNS AND SUITES – Willowbrook

FM 1960 Rd. West • Houston, Texas 77070  
Phone: 832-617-5757

Special association rate: \$ 99 (includes breakfast)  
50 rooms available (32 double queens, 18 kings)  
All rooms have interior entrances  
Cut-off date: Oct. 19, 2015

### Best Western Premier Ashton Suites

7495 W. Greens Rd. • Houston, Texas 77064

Phone: 281-970-9696

Association rate: \$129

Cut-off date: Oct. 9, 2015

Reservations should be made directly with the above facilities. Be sure to mention you are with the BMA of Texas to receive the reduced rate. These hotels are approximately 5-6 miles from Champion Forest Baptist Church. These two hotels are in close proximity to each other. There are other hotels in the area which you may choose, but keep in mind, many of these have blocks of rooms reserved for the SBTC messengers.

You may avoid state sales taxes on your hotel room by going to the Texas state comptroller's website and downloading a sales tax exemption form. Note: The hotel will usually require you to provide your church's sales tax exemption number to qualify.

## Gay Marriage, Deviant Selfishness cont.

people, including gays, but He notes the sin and offers forgiveness and healing if it is desired.

In conclusion, this deviant selfishness springs from an immoral mind and heart that leads to an erroneous conviction that the gay life is alright. Lesbianism produces a gross picture of a woman on woman and two gay males engaging in sex is a quantum leap from anything beautiful or moral in marriage.

Homosexuality has been classified as deviate and criminal by the majority of the world's population for thousands of years, but now in the last 40-50 years, powerful people are attempting to reverse that standard with brainwashing techniques via our children, the media, and by liberal judges and liberal churches.

To love and be loved with the warmth and intimacy of a godly marriage is a beautiful thing. But to accept the gay concept of marriage is a serious distortion of acceptable conduct. As you read God's Word, may it speak clearly: Leviticus 18:12, Leviticus 20:13, Mark 10:6-9, I Corinthians 6:9-12, and Jude 7-8.

*The article above was originally published in January 2015, but in light of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision to legalize same-sex marriage, we felt the need to publish it again was warranted.*

# Church Health

## God is still on His Throne

By LARRY BARKER

Last Friday, June 26, 2015, was a sad day for me but it also challenged me to see how Christians and churches would respond to the Supreme Court decision. I began to see what was trending on social media and I must admit I was even more saddened to see some of the hatred and venom being expressed by both sides. What should the Christian reaction be? How should we respond to this after our emotions settle down? I must admit the cliché of a few years ago came to the forefront of my mind, “What would Jesus do?” Really, what would He do?

Here are several of the responses on social media that are worth sharing:

“Gay marriage is now legal. The sky has not fallen, churches have not been padlocked, and we must live on mission! ...Remember, after #SCOTUS and every day, you can't hate a people and reach a people at the same time! ...The focus must not be panic... or anger... or fear... or disdain. Our focus must be mission. Again.” -Ed Stetzer

“Truth without love is brutality, and love without truth is hypocrisy.” -Warren Weirsbe

“The temptation is to go off and sulk in our holy corner. Or to dig in our heels and fight harder. Or to lash out in anger. Or to despair. We can do better. Like taking to heart especially the Beatitudes.....Our homophobia has revealed our fear and prejudice. Biblical inconsistency—our passion to root out sexual sins while relatively indifferent to racism, gluttony, and other sins—opens us to the charge of hypocrisy. Before we spend too much more time trying to straighten out the American neighborhood, we might get our own house in order. Blessed are the poor in spirit who mourn their sins (Matt. 5:3-4).” -Mark Galli

“As expected, the Supreme Court made its disastrous ruling. This just galvanizes our commitment to honor the Lord and do what's right!” -Dr Michael Brown

“Of this, be sure: No declaration by a government can change a definition from God.” (Gen. 2:24) - David Platt

“Salvation isn't something you can legislate. Now friends move on and move out...the clock is still ticking...” -Jeremy McLaughlin

“Ok American church, now is the time to realize that you can in fact share the gospel (probably more effective) in a place where you don't hold the political power cards... Accept the fact and get to work!” -Klinton Silvey

“What has really changed when it comes to the sovereignty and mission of our God? When we wake up in the morning our call is still to go and make disciples of all nations (and that includes North America)!!! -Chris Driver

We have a choice to make. We can either look outwardly



in fear or we can look upward in faith! In a Sunday school class I attended in east Texas recently this is what I heard. “You cannot fear the Lord and fear man and the future at the same time!” What great wisdom! If we have the proper biblical fear of the Lord then we will not fear man nor will we fear the future. A.W. Tozer said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

When we fear the Lord Psalm 34:7-9 says, “*The Angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them. Taste and see that the Lord is good. How happy is the man who takes refuge in Him! You who are His holy ones, fear Yahweh, for those who fear Him lack nothing.*” God is still on His throne and we are still called to obey Him. While much in society has changed God has not changed. The Great Commission has not changed nor has the Great Commandment; “*Love your neighbor as yourself!*”

So, where do we go from here? What do we do now? How should this affect us?

**First, remember He is still on His Throne!** He is a holy, all-powerful, all-knowing, never changing, just, and good God! I Sam 2:2, “There is no one holy like the Lord. There is no one besides You! And there is no rock like our God.” We don't get to decide who God is!!! We don't get to define who God is, He already defined Himself! We don't get to determine what rules He wants us to live by, He already wrote them down!

**Second, we can trust Him because He loves us!** Psalm 34:8 says, “*Taste and see that the Lord is good. How happy is the man who takes refuge in Him!*” God is the only Being

who is good by nature! He has proven His love for us by Jesus coming and dying on the cross for our sins. He has provided a path, there is only one, by which we can spend eternity in heaven with Him. Just read John 3 and that path is very clear.

**Third, while many things have changed in our culture our mission remains the same!** We are called by God to live on mission for Him. We are to declare His fame and Glory to every nation, every tongue, and every people group. We are to live as missionaries in our zip code by sharing the love of Christ with those in our circles of influence. That means reaching out and serving everyone no matter who they are!

No matter what decisions or laws are made, the King of Kings has called us to love Him and then to love others the same way He has loved all of us. When we live by His word and love others the same way He loves us then it will make a difference in people's lives. “Christians can never condone what God condemns. We cannot encourage or endorse what God rejects and opposes. We simply cannot.” -DannyAkin

**But we can and must live on mission, again!!!**

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



# Mission Life

## Growth through Sunday school

By **JERRY BURNAMAN**

State Missions Executive Director

September is coming! It's July and most church leaders are working with a committee or other leaders to elect Sunday school teachers for the 2015-2016 associational year. Yes, we hear a great deal of talk about the demise of the Sunday school, but it can be an effective means for church growth and instruction to help believers grow to maturity.

One way for church growth is to start new classes. A curious thing happens when you begin a new class—it grows! If you want to see your Sunday school enrollment and attendance increase, the most predictable way to do so is to begin new classes.

If you want to reach new people, it is essential to start something new. Face it; if new people are not responding to old ministries, groups or programs, it will take something new to reach them.

Actually, there are two rules of thumb concerning the number of education classes in your church: (1) "Merging classes inhibits growth," (2) "Creating classes encourages growth."

These rules are true from children's elementary classes to senior adult classes. Attendance in two classes will likely be larger than the attendance would have been with only one class. Eventually attendance in three classes should be larger than in just two.

The authors of the book, *Growth: A New Vision for the Sunday School* provides eight reasons why new classes should be established:

1. New classes provide a positive answer and response to human need.
2. New classes are often more effective in incorporating people into caring, belonging fellowship.
3. New classes enlarge the appeal to new "kinds" of people.
4. New classes are needed to replace those classes which have stagnated or have reached their saturation level.
5. New classes provide more people with meaningful involvement and service opportunities.
6. New classes discourage clustered, self-serving attitudes and programs.
7. New classes are usually more effective in winning new people to Christ and the church.
8. New classes help the "single cell" church begin the process of multiplication and growth, resulting in many classes.

Therefore, the best intervention to stimulate a healthy increase in attendance, membership, and enrollment in your education ministry is to start new classes. How can it be done? Here are some steps for doing so:

1. Identify a "people group" for your next class. The group may be based on age, marital status, family status, special interests, problems, concerns, or any other important defining factor in a person's life.
2. Learn more about the people in this group and the kind of class that would meet their particular need. Think about why THEY would want to come to a class like this...not why YOU would want them to come.
3. Find two committed members or regular attenders who are willing to help start such a class. The leaders should be similar to the group, or at least be able to identify with the group through experience.
4. Select a topic for an initial 8—12 week class. The topic should be based on your research of topics of interest to the people in your potential group.
5. Search for a curriculum (it could be the one distributed by the BMAA), book, or video series that will guide the study and discussion.
6. The time to meet may be the Sunday school hour or initially at some other chosen time to reach new people.
7. List by name prospective attendees to the class. Build this list from friends, neighbors, relatives, contacts of people who would have an interest in the class. Include people both inside and outside the church.
8. Develop an e-mail list, or some other means of communication, to explain the class content purpose, curriculum, when and where you will be meeting.
9. External personal invitations to the first class session.
10. Focus on (1) studying the topic, and (2) developing relationships among members.
11. At the conclusion of the 8—12 week class, present the option of either concluding the class, or continuing to meet. If you have focused on nurturing relationships in the class, normally 75+ percent of the class will want to continue. When the class gets larger, it's time to re-organize and begin a new one.

It's exciting to think about growth! However, it takes a great deal of prayer, work and contacting people for growth to be a reality. I pray you will experience reality in your church during the new associational year.

Adapted from Growth Points  
Gary L. McIntosh, Ph.D.

### Applications being accepted for State Missions director

The trustees of BMA of Texas Missions are seeking and receiving applications for the position of director of Missions. Resumes are to include, but are not limited to: personal information, educational/spiritual/pastoral/missions experience, prior work history, administrative/financial experience, computer/web/social media/video skills, references, and a description of God's call on your life.

A description of the responsibilities of the Director of Missions is posted on the BMA of Texas website. Resumes should be sent to Robbie Caldwell by Aug. 31, 2015 to be considered at the address below:

Robbie Caldwell  
New Harmony Baptist Church  
10251 FM 724  
Tyler, TX 75704  
robbie@nhbc.us  
903-593-5811

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



### 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.

# Texas Baptist Home for Children

## An Expression of Everlasting Love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from June 1, 2015 – June 31, 2015.

### ENDOWMENTS

**E ANN PACE:** Mr. & Mrs. Karl Pace  
**MYRA STOKES:** Mr. Bill Stokes

### HONORARIUMS

**ADALIE CHILDRESS:** Brenda Mewborn  
**HUNTER & EDNA DAVLIN'S WEDDING:** Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson  
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**JED WHITAKER:** Harmony High School & Staff, Gilmer

### MEMORIALS

**TOM AUTRY:** James Schafer  
**WALTER BECKER:** Dennis & Ilona Myrice  
**MARY BELL:** Evelina Barnes; Clayton & Marlene Britton; Garlin & Ann Bell; Edward & Lana Shivers; David & Carol Anderson; JM Lamb  
**JEFF BLACKSTONE:** Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson  
**BETTY BROWN:** Charlotte Langford  
**ELAINE CASHION:** First Baptist Church, Blooming Grove, Given By Ladies & Men Class  
**BONNIE COLEY:** Darrel & Sue Hasten; Bill Minatrea; New Hope Baptist Church, Mineola  
**MARY COX:** Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson  
**MATT DAVIS:** Thomas & Mary Hunt  
**JESSIE DENTON:** Gary & Stacey Nolen  
**SHARON DISHMAN:** Mt Home Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville  
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**GENE HOWARD:** Westside Baptist Church, Nacogdoches  
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**CALVIN LASITER:** Blanche Lasiter  
**GAIL MARLOW:** Sheppard Dr Baptist Church, Eules; TD Goodgame; Karla Massingill; Judy & Jill Hill; Don & Carolyn (Hill) Smith  
**VERA MAXWELL:** First Baptist Church, Desoto  
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**PAULINE MCDERMOTT:** Rosewood Baptist Church; Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson  
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**JOHNNY DEAN PRYOR:** Harold & Sarah Pryor  
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**WHITNEY SHEPPERD:** Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson  
**ALONZO SHERMAN:** Rose Moore  
**JEAN SMITH:** Rosewood Baptist Church, Gilmer; Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson  
**DAVID ELTON STEWART:** RBRC LLC; Neva McLaughlin  
**STANLEY STOKES:** Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson  
**FLOYD REED SR:** Travis & Brenda Floyd  
**DARLENE RICHARDSON:** Mr. & Mrs. Billy Sanders  
**SHIRLEY TANNER'S MOTHER:** James & Dianne Seale  
**MARTIN TORRES:** Fair Park Baptist Church, Tyler  
**SUE DUGGER TULLOS:** Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson  
**GLEN WARREN:** Lakeside Baptist Church, Trinidad  
**FRED WILTSE:** Temple Baptist Church, Mexia  
**JERRY G WOOD:** Nelda Stringer  
**BARBARA WRIGHT:** Terri Hudson  
**RANDALL LEE WYLIE, SR:** Dennis & Clarissa Lewis

## I wish I was wrong

By **EDDIE MARSH**

*Texas Baptist Home for Children President*



A couple of years ago, I wrote an article about the fact that the Defense of Marriage Act was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. The swing vote was cast by Justice Anthony Kennedy. Justice Kennedy was nominated by Ronald Reagan in 1988. He is celebrated by the gay community as a champion for gay-rights. He also is credited with the leading the battle in Lawrence v. Texas, making same-sex sexual activity legal in every U.S. state and territory.

Therefore, due to his record, we should not be surprised that he would be the swing vote in declaring that the traditional view of marriage as a union between one man and one woman is unconstitutional. After the decision on DOMA, my feeling was that they were opening Pandora's Box and that there are numerous attacks on traditional family values.

As I begin this article, it is with mixed emotions in view of things that have gone on in our country in the last few days. Five unelected attorneys who sit on our nation's highest court ruled that their authority surpasses the authority and Word of God. The tragedy is that many people, whom I consider to be intelligent in other areas, and, who I also feel love and serve the Lord, have not only agreed with the decision but celebrated it. What I feel has been lost in this discussion is that it is not about human rights; it is about whether we will honor God's Word.

My first fear, when hearing the decision, was not what flesh and blood might be able to accomplish. My fear and concern is our nation will fall into the hands of an angry God. Our nation has murdered over 50 million babies through abortion. Our nation has not only declared that traditional marriage, as God intended, is wrong, but that there is **no** definition of marriage.

Scripture tells us that His mercy endures forever. But we also know that Our God is a Righteous God and that He judges sin. How much more will He tolerate before He brings judgment?

There is an agenda with the movement. One of the first statements that came after the decision was that this will allow same-sex couples to have families through foster care and adoption.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton stated, "Our guiding principle should be to protect people who want to live, work and raise their families in accordance with their religious faith. We should ensure that people and businesses are not discriminated against by the state and local government based on a person's religious beliefs, including discrimination against people of faith in distribution of grants, licenses, certification or accreditation; we should prevent harassing lawsuits against people of faith, their businesses and religious organizations; we should protect non-profits and churches from state and local taxes if the federal government penalizes them by removing their 501 © (3) status; and we should protect religious adoption and foster care organizations and their children and families they serve."

It is obvious that churches and religious organizations will be forced to make some very difficult decision and our faith will be tested. We must remember that "*Greater is He Who is in us than he who is in the world.*"

I once heard Rev. E.V. Hill say that God often gives us circumstances to prove that we really believe what we say.

At Texas Baptist Home for Children, we answer to a Higher Authority than the federal government. According to the Constitution of the United State of America, the Supreme Court does not have the power to make laws, that power rest with Congress. In three fifths of the states who had this issue on the ballot, voted it down, thus, reinforcing their belief in traditional marriage

I ask you to pray for our nation and in doing so, pray for revival in our land. Pray for Justice Kennedy and remember that four other justices voted the same way.

Texas Baptist Home for Children plans to put steps in action to protect our freedom to exercise our faith. I strongly suggest that your church do the same.



## OFFERINGS NEEDED WITH ASSOCIATION EXPENSE FUND

The Association Expense Fund of the BMA of Texas provides for any expense not directly related to a specific department. This fund also provides for the expenses of the Nominating Committee, the Administrative Committee, and other committees that shall be appointed or elected by the Association for specific purposes; the cost of printing the minutes of the Association and the salaries for the clerks; the liability of the Association for the cost of facilities to be used in an annual meeting; and any other expense that may occur. Perhaps your church would send an offering to increase this fund. If so, make your check payable to BMA of Texas and include in the memo line, "Association Expense Fund."

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- Washable Markers, Crayons, Highlighters and White board Expo Markers. Crayons need to be Crayola. 8 count Markers and 24 count crayons. Any color Highlighter. White Board Expo markers Thick and Thin.
- Scissors, Glue & Playdoh. Scissors need to be pointed 5". Glue needs to be Elmer's Glue and glue sticks
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ONE NIGHT REVIVAL

# BMA of America News

## Seminary using social media to increase presence and recruiting

By **BART HERRINGTON**

*BMA Theological Seminary Recruiter*



In the past few years, social media has transformed from what may have been a temporary fad to a very real, established part of life in the 21st century. According to the 2014 Social Admissions Report, "...nearly two-thirds of students use social media to research colleges, and nearly 75 percent find it influential. . . 67 percent of students say social media conversation influences their decisions on where to enroll, and Facebook still ranks first among social media sites visited for their conversations." Twitter ranked second and Instagram followed in third. With this increased importance of social media, BMATS is seeking to put more effort and attention into the medium. Our current goal is to post at least two items on Facebook per week.

We are asking that you help us increase our presence and recruiting efforts on Facebook by submitting online articles written by professors, events and videos to our recruiting office. We are seeking material that falls under three broad categories. The first is on-campus news (including our Arkansas campus) and information including but not limited to special speakers, registration, promotions, incentives, special classes offered, pictures of storm damage, etc. The second category would be with professors, missionaries, and alumni pastors promoting items such as articles, sermons on audio/video, podcasts, links to blog articles, or notable things going on with the professors such as trips to other countries to teach, etc. The third category would include virtually anything outside of the Seminary that would be interesting, controversial (such as the article Dr. Holmes had posted on speaking in tongues), or something that would flow into promoting the seminary (the article that Bob Allen put out on the fastest-growing theological schools).

While controversial items are acceptable to submit, we are most interested in items that reflect the nature of BMATS. Also keep in mind that all material submitted will be approved by the dean prior to posting on any official BMATS social outlet. In order to make a submission, simply email the article, event, picture, URL, etc. to [recruiting@bmatx.edu](mailto:recruiting@bmatx.edu). Thank you in advance for your help and your continued efforts to provide a quality education to both current and future leaders in the churches.

## God is opening doors in The Philippines and Creative Access Nations; Help Needed

By **DOYLE & LINDA MOORE**

*BMA of America Missionaries*

Do you ever feel utterly humbled? Have you ever felt you have done nothing for the Lord? Do you feel you have sacrificed little for His work?

Doyle and I, along with Buddy and Taffy Johnson, were in a country recently where 50 pastors were gathered to learn more in a leadership workshop. I'm so glad we were not there to teach faithfulness!

Several of these pastors are working in areas that are extremely difficult—and have even been in prison for up to five years at a time. Their imprisonment was not for some grave legal offense, like murder, theft, or being a traitor, but for simply preaching the Word of God to their people. Another pastor would have been there, but he had disappeared and no one knows where he is. Please pray for this missing pastor. He might be being "re-educated," as this time in prison is termed; he might return in a few months or years; or he might never return. The pastors that have gone through this have returned, and instead of being frightened out of doing what God has called them to do, have thrown themselves back into the thick of preaching God's Word.

Would you be that brave? Would you be that faithful? We met with them, and their faithfulness and dedication touched our hearts. If there is anything we can do to teach and help them grow stronger churches, we want to do it.

We are training men and women at BMABC to be able to go out and start missions and churches, but just because we graduate a young "preacher boy" doesn't mean he knows it all or that he has all the experience he will ever need, or that he doesn't need encouragement. Taking workshops in Discipleship Training, in Church Planting, and other lessons that refresh and bless a man of God will get them back into the game ready for another inning – ready to go on and do bigger and better things for Christ and His people.

We have four young people attending the Bible College from these Creative Access Nations. Three of them came last year, and one is new. Rose said God is opening so many doors for her that it's hard to focus on just one place. She is uniquely gifted to reach out to people on several levels, so we can't wait to see what God does in her life. She wants to finish four years at the Bible College. Chelly, who had initially only wanted to come for one year, determined that God has called her also to do more, and has committed to four years. She wants to work with children in her homeland, letting them know about God through education. Doris, too, had at first wanted to come for a year. But, when they get in the Bible College, they see all they are lacking, all that can be learned that will benefit them in mission work in the future, and they know this is the place God would have them be for this time.

Please pray that God will supply all needs for BMABC so that we can continue scholarships for Filipino students who truly want to train as pastors, missionaries, music ministers, and church workers, as well as any foreign students. As income has dropped off, it has become harder and harder to pinch those pennies until they squeak enough to cover all the needs of the Bible College. Qualified teachers, keeping up the school, providing for the needs of the students, feeding them and transporting them to churches on weekends where they learn by doing and putting the things they are learning in class into effect and working with faithful pastors.

Please pray that God will supply the needs for our travels to these Creative Access Nations to provide workshops for those who work in these countries. These are countries where people are not free to go to whatever church they want, nor to say whatever they want to in church or out of it. Doors are cracking open, and we don't want to make any waves, so pray for us that we will do nothing that will cause these pastors problems, only that we will be a great blessing to them.



▲ Michael and Zenny Estefano & family with Doyle and Linda Moore

**Bibles, Books, Music & Gifts**

To order Bibles, books, music and gifts from *Baptist Progress*, visit [www.bmatexas.org](http://www.bmatexas.org) and click the flashing box at the top of the right hand column.

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# Auxiliaries

## The perfect woman... Texas ladies' retreat

By SHARON COLE

*"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."* Matthew 5:48. The Texas WMA theme this year is "The Perfect Woman." Does that idea scare you; humble you; or make you not to even try because you know that you will never succeed? Do you know what God expects of a perfect woman? What is God's definition of a perfect woman? We deal with so many issues on a daily basis such as: anger, forgiveness, worry, pride, priorities and so many more. God has an answer for each problem we face. He is our Great Physician and has a prescription for each issue that we have. This prescription is found in Matthew chapters 5-7.

The Texas Ladies' Retreat is the place for you to get your prescription filled or refilled. August 29, 2015 the Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie will host the Ladies' Retreat beginning at 8 a.m. with registration and breakfast and ending at 3 p.m. There will be special speakers and breakout sessions that deal with the issues that women have had since the beginning of time. For those who attend each year, it is a time of making friends, renewing friendships, seeing people we haven't seen in a long time, eating good food and visiting during free time. But most of all, we get to worship the Lord in song and feast on His Word and just relax for a few hours. This special day is designed for you to renew your spirit and refresh your mind.

For those who wish to come Friday because of the distance you must drive, there are motels available. Remember, when you make your reservation, to mention that you are here for the Texas Ladies' Retreat sponsored by the Texas Women's Missionary Auxiliary. Choose from the following:

### Best Western Plus

1701 N. Hwy. 77  
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2 queen \$94

### Holiday Inn Express & Suites

984 US Hwy 287 Bypass West  
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2 Queen \$90

### LaQuinta Inn & Suites

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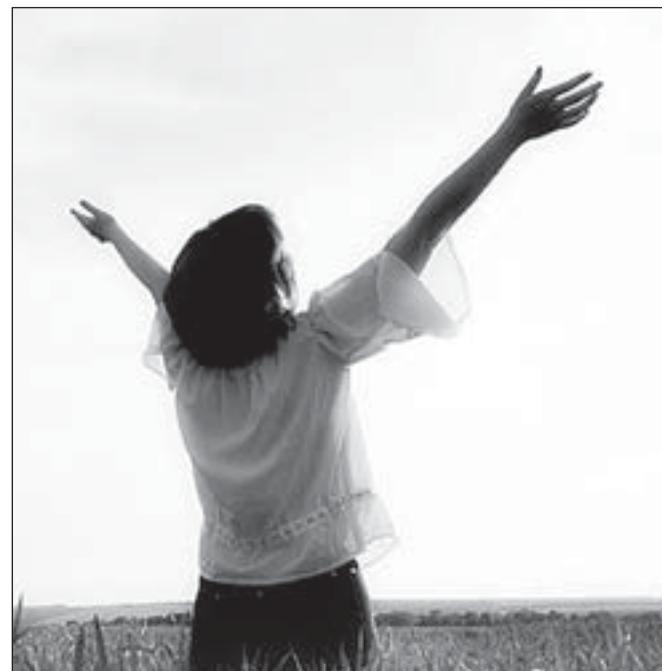
If your church did not receive a Texas WMA Mail-out with the registration form, please write on a sheet of

paper the Name of your church, the Address and Town, A contact person and phone, Number attending and enclose \$25 per person. The deadline is Aug. 14, 2015. After this date the fee will be \$30. Make check payable to: Brenda Hoeinghaus, 206 Sagebrush Lane, Waxahachie, TX 75165, [bhoeinghaus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bhoeinghaus@sbcglobal.net), 214-914-0804. Please specify if you will be bringing children needing a nursery. If your WMA group or district would like to host this meeting next year, please pray about it and come prepared to invite us to your church or district. You may think, our church is too small or our fellowship hall isn't large enough. Please contact the Texas WMA President and voice your concerns and she will help you decide on the arrangements. It is a wonderful blessing to host this meeting. President: Diana Morris, 11671 Hwy 31 E, Brownsboro, TX 75756, 903-288-7575, [grammydi1013@msn.com](mailto:grammydi1013@msn.com).

### TEXAS WMA PROJECT 2015

Are you a cheerful giver? Do you look for opportunities to share with others? I believe the WMA ladies across the state of Texas are some of the most giving ladies that I know. Throughout the years the WMA has helped thousands of missionaries. We can't out-give God, but it doesn't hurt to try! Luke 6:28 says: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap." Our project is to help the Arabic congregation in Garland, Texas. Souls are being saved and the congregation is growing. We need to help Bro. Ashraf Sara and his projects. Our goal is \$15,000. We will not reach that goal without everyone's help. The Living Word Arabic Church vision can be summarized as believing in "Christ...Community...Commission."

They are committed to connecting people with Christ and raising a community of believers, who follow His commission in everyday life. Their mission is to win people to faith in Jesus Christ, encourage them to meaningful worship and godly character, and equip the saints in the work of the ministry. Please join them in their vision and mission in their area of service. Give today to the Texas State WMA Project. We need your support to reach these people who need to hear about Jesus. They may not trust us, but they will listen to one of their own and can learn about Jesus. Come visit the work anytime. The church is located at 2510 N. Glenbrook Dr. Garland, Texas 75040. If you would like for Bro. Ashraf to speak at your church, he will be glad to come. You can contact him at: 1418 Timber Ridge Dr. Allen, TX 75002, phone: 903-721-1882 or 214-843-7811, email: [iraqbp@aol.com](mailto:iraqbp@aol.com) or his website: [www.LWDallas.org](http://www.LWDallas.org). You may also contact the Project Promoter: Charlotte Johnson, 1044 S. Mimosa Rd.



Gilmer, TX 75644, email: [chj1054@etex.net](mailto:chj1054@etex.net), phone: 903-725-6366.

### SUMMER SLUMP

Are you in a summer slump? Are most of the Bible Schools over in your area? What do we do now? We still have several weeks of summer left before school starts again. HELP! There are many things to do with your children depending on where you live. But the first thing to think about is safety. Times have changed drastically from when many of us who grew up in the 40s, 50s or 60s. We can't even let our kids play outside without supervision, much less let them ride their bikes around the neighborhood or play at the park by themselves. Many families enjoy camping, fishing, and boating. Perhaps a vacation isn't in the budget this year. You can camp out in the back yard with homemade tents of blankets and chairs. Use your imagination. Make a picnic basket of finger foods, use lanterns and flashlights, read story books and the Bible, sing songs. Whatever you do, make it memorable; take pictures and make an album of your summer adventure. It could be a neighborhood event, invite your extended family, friends and neighbors to join you. Give your children a memory that will last a lifetime.

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



## EVENTS

### JULY 19, 2015

113TH Anniversary  
@ Cedar Creek, Teague  
Sunday (11 a.m.)

### JULY 19-22, 2015

Revival  
Sunday-Wednesday (7 p.m.)  
Evangelist: Gaylan Henry  
Music: Billy Eubanks

### AUGUST 9, 2015

60th Anniversary  
@ Anthony Drive, Ennis

### AUGUST 11

Missions Rally  
@ Soda, Livingston (7 p.m.)  
Facilitator: Jerry Burnaman,  
State Missions director  
Speakers: Vincent Hernandez,  
leader of Centro de Vida Mission,  
Livingston and Bro. Gary Southard, church  
planter, Valley Ranch, New Caney  
For additional information call John  
Henderson at 936-327-9228 or  
Pastor Wayne Bickley at 936-433-9526.

### AUGUST 13, 2015

Liberty Association Lifeword Rally  
@ Cross Roads, Pittsburg

### AUGUST 29, 2015

Texas Ladies Retreat  
Hosted by Texas WMA  
@ Farley Street, Waxahachie

### OCTOBER 11, 2015

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

### NOVEMBER 10-11, 2015

115th Annual Session of the BMA of Texas  
@ Champion Forest Baptist Church  
15555 Stuebner Airline Road, Houston

### APRIL 25-27, 2016

67th Annual Session  
of the BMA of America  
@ Gatlinburg Convention Center  
Gatlinburg, Tennessee  
Headquarters Hotel: Glenstone Hotel

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## PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

### AVAILABLE MINISTERS

**JOHN HENDERSON** is available for preaching appointments. He is a member of First Providence, Livingston. Contact him at henderson2@livingston.net or 936-327-9228.

### AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**CHILDREN'S MINISTER**—Farley Street, Waxahachie is seeking a children's minister. Bachelor in Education or Children's Ministry a plus. Send resume to resume@farleystreet.com.

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

**PASTOR**—Forrest Hill, Quitman is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Clara Ziegler, Box 545, Winnsboro, Texas 75494 or for more information, call David Kernes at 903-850-3420.

**PASTOR**—Lake Highlands, Sulphur Springs is seeking a full time pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 441, Sulphur Springs, Texas 75483-0441.

**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.

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

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

## PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

**JERRY FULTON** has resigned as the teaching pastor of Anthony Drive, Ennis.



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## CHURCHES IN REVIEW

### JUNE 28, 2015

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	59	93	
Cedar Creek, Teague	9	11	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	493	593	2 By Letter
First, Omen	36	58	8 By Letter
First, Palmer	38	70	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	19	46	2 By Letter, 1 By Profession
Jackson, Joaquin	67	114	2 By Letter
Little Mound, Big Sandy	40	50	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	9	14	
New Harmony, Tyler	266	369	1 By Baptism
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	52	62	2 By Profession, 1 By letter
Pine Brook, Tyler	29	90	1 By Baptism
Rosewood, Gilmer	109	167	2 By Letter
Security Calvary, Cleveland	21	38	
Temple, Mexia	38	48	
Woodland, Splendora	36	57	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	14	24	

### JULY 5, 2015

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis		105	
Cedar Creek, Teague	12	16	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	439	465	5 By Profession
First, Blooming Grove	210		2 By Baptism
First, Omen	41	70	6 By Letter, 6 By Baptism
First, Palmer	35	58	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	25	44	1 By Baptism
Jackson, Joaquin	64	109	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	7	11	
Long Creek, Sunnyvale	38	61	
New Harmony, Tyler	298	396	
Pine Brook, Tyler	28	65	
Pine Forest, Huntington	26	46	1 By Letter
Rosewood, Gilmer	145	204	
Temple, Mexia	31	41	
Tundra, Canton	66		
Woodland, Splendora	37	33	

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

# Sunday School Lessons

## True riches

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: July 19, 2015

TEXT: Revelation 2:8-11

### THOUGHT PRIMER

Either on the marker board, or on paper, present a simple graph with a vertical line down the middle -- with the two columns on either side bearing the titles, TRUE RICHES -- and SUPERFICIAL RICHES: Ask the class to give examples of each.

Or else present a list of riches and ask the class to underline the true riches only.

What distinguishes true riches from superficial riches? Matthew 6:19-21 nails it -- "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Worldly riches can be purchased, but have no eternal value, and shall one day be destroyed. True riches cannot be measured by the world's economy.

### STUDY

John's second letter to the churches was addressed to the persecuted church -- Smyrna.

**1. A look at the city:** Smyrna was a seaport town just north of Ephesus, and, according to Matthew Henry, it was a city of great trade and wealth. But obviously none of that wealth was a part of the church.

**2. A look at the name** Smyrna: Verse 8: It was very significant that the name of the church was taken from the word "myrrh," which was a resin extracted from a small plant in the middle-east and was used as a spice or a perfume. It's fragrance became sweeter the more it was crushed, signifying the fact the "crushing" of the persecuted church just makes its witness sweeter -- more effective. It is significant that this was one of the three gifts presented to the Christ Child in Bethlehem Who was to become "crushed" for our iniquity on the cross.

**3. A look at the significance:** Smyrna was the "crushed" church. She experienced intense persecution and poverty. But like myrrh, the more she was crushed, the sweeter was her testimony of God's grace.

Smyrna is a reminder to us that true riches are alien to a materialistic world. In fact, God makes it possible for His children to lavishly give -- even in the midst of their own poverty. (II Corinthians 8:2) That scriptural principle does not make sense to people of the world's system.

**4. The irony of persecuting the saints:** (verse 9) Oddly enough, peril and persecution not only fails to subdue God's work on earth, it promotes it. The sweetness of the crushing of persecution, just makes evangelism and the ministry of the church flourish. Do you recall hearing of the spiritual power which earmarked the Underground Church behind the iron curtain 50 years ago. Russ Polson of Underground Evangelism once noted that believers in Soviet Russia would walk 20 miles in freezing weather just to obtain a Bible from his organization - and would bow down and kiss the feet of the ones who delivered it -- such a stark contrast to the many Christians in America who have at least a dozen Bibles throughout the house collecting dust.

**5. The promise for the persecuted:** (verse 10) God tells us that the devil's onslaught is not to be feared, but being faithful unto death will have it's sweet reward -- the martyr's crown. Verse 11 is not a verification of works-based salvation - but rather a promise and reassurance to the saints. Notice it does not say "If you don't overcome, you shall be hurt of the second death." You became an overcomer the moment Christ came to live in your heart.

### APPLICATION

Scripture reminds us often to rejoice in the face of our adversary and persecution: (James 1:2) We have the promise that we shall not be "tempted above that (we) are able." (I Corinthians 10:13) God will enable us to bear the persecution and poverty with joy.

### CHALLENGE

Take a moment next week to stop and reflect on how rich you are. Make a list of the intangible wealth in your life which money cannot buy. Thank God for every one. Also, develop a rightful attitude toward earthly treasures. Vow to not be controlled by them.

## Near satan's throne

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: July 26, 2015

TEXT: Revelation 2:12-17

### THOUGHT PRIMER

Years ago, Bro. Todd West planted a new church in Maumelle, Ark. -- The Oasis.

He found some prime property - near a freeway exit -- and very close to a strip joint. Rather than to avoid the opportunity to reach people there for Christ, he and Oasis remained there to be "salt" and "light" to that particular portion of our culture.

Rather than being salt and light to the pagan world, the church at Pergamos fell into compromise with its' influence and permitted it to infiltrate their ranks.

The Lord did not command us to refrain from trying to touch the world for Him -- just do not let the world come into us. (John 17:14-15)

It is sheer folly for a church to water the gospel down and transform herself into a haven of comfort and acceptance for those determined to live a life of debauchery.

### STUDY

**1. The authority of the writer** (verse 12) The one "which hath the sharp sword with two edges," signifying the power of His word. He returns to earth to begin his millennial reign, and will "smite the nations" with the sharp sword from His mouth. (Revelation 19:15) His word is described in Hebrews 4:12: No power can be compared to the power of God's Word.

**2. The commendation:** (verse 13) they held fast to the name of Christ; they had not denied the faith, and they were home to a great believer, Antipas, who was martyred for his faith.

**3. The reprimand:** (verse 14-15) The Pergamos church "dwelt" where Satan's seat is. They were seeking to have things both ways -- holding fast the name of Christ -- and yet, embracing the doctrine of Balaam, the Nicolaitanes (to rule the people), emperor worship, eating meat offered to idols, and committing

sexual sins. These were obvious earmarks of paganism and satanic presence.

**4. The command:** (verse 16-17) repent -- make an about face in your practice. Do not provide a safe haven for pagans in your midst. Do not condone their sins.

### 5. The promise

Overcomers are promised to partake of the hidden manna (sweet, satisfying, nutritious honey-like wafers sent from heaven to the Israelites) Manna signifies the Bread of Life. (Jesus Christ)

Overcomers are promised a "white stone" -- Some scholars believe it could be the Urim and Thummim - which was stored in the breastplate of the high priest (Exodus 28:30) by which he could determine God's direction.

### APPLICATION

There seems to be a rush on, today in the church, to provide comfort, affirmation and appeasement to unbelievers in an effort to "attract" them. When strict adherence to the Word and church discipline are absent, the result will be a compromising church that will soon be infiltrated with the world - and will experience the judgement of God.

### CHALLENGE

Church, guard the faith, administer discipline (Matthew 18) when necessary, and remember, Christ did not commission the church to provide comfort, fun, and the familiarity with the pagan world, in order to grow larger numbers in attendance. We are to be a peculiar people -- aliens in a foreign country.

"This world is not our home -- we're just a passin' through."

Paul Gauntt is the former 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](mailto:pop.gauntt@gmail.com).



In June, alumni and friends came to Jacksonville College to volunteer their time to paint Collins Hall, the main women's residence hall. Others who were unable to work provided money for materials. The College is deeply grateful to those who sacrificed their time to serve, and we are especially thankful for coordinator Randy Decker, president of the Bearden-Bonner-Gaylor Chapter.



Jennifer Gutierrez, a member of Randy Decker's church, helps with painting.



Randy Decker and Jana Sheppard Symonds, secretary of the JC Alumni and Ex-Student Association, prep Jana's old dorm room for painting.



Workers of all ages! Back row: Taryne Godfrey, Randy Decker, Heather and Jason Adams. Front row: Logan Adams, Bernard Godfrey, and Kayla Adams



Alumni ready to work (from left to right): Heather Adams and her husband Jason Adams, associate pastor of students at Calvary Baptist Church in Henderson; Lu Bearden Wegmet; and Linda Colkin Guantt



Local JC supporter, Rita Wellborn, demonstrates her talent with a brush. She is preparing the room for the next step—spray painting.



Lunch break for alumni and The Master's Builders



JC instructor, Marolyn Welch, joins in the fun.



Randy is a spray painting pro!

### NEW COMMUTER SCHOLARSHIP



Jacksonville College is excited to offer a new Commuter Scholarship this Fall. Students who qualify will receive free tuition and fees, and up to \$250 per semester for required textbooks. To qualify, students must live within 50 miles of Jacksonville College, take 15 semester hours, and qualify for a full Pell Grant. The scholarship is available for Fall and Spring semesters. If you know any individuals who want to attend college and who live in or near Jacksonville, be sure to tell them about the JC Commuter Scholarship. For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at (903) 589-7110 or [sclay@jacksonville-college.edu](mailto:sclay@jacksonville-college.edu).