

# Baptist Progress

Baptist Progress, P.O. Box 2085, Waxahatchee, Texas 75168  
Postmaster: send change of address to:  
520125

Official Publication of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas | June 15, 2016 | Vol. 103 | No. 12

## THE END OF *Absolutes*: AMERICA'S NEW MORAL CODE

**BARNA GROUP**—Christian morality is being ushered out of American social structures and off the cultural main stage, leaving a vacuum in its place—and the broader culture is attempting to fill the void. New research from Barna reveals growing concern about the moral condition of the nation, even as many American adults admit they are uncertain about how to determine right from wrong. So what do Americans believe? Is truth relative or absolute? And do Christians see truth and morality in radically different ways from the broader public, or are they equally influenced by the growing tide of secularism and religious skepticism?

A majority of American adults across age group, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status and political ideology expresses concern about the nation's moral condition—eight in 10 overall (80%). The proportion is closer to nine in 10 among Elders (89%) and Boomers (87%), while about three-quarters of GenXers (75%) and Millennials (74%) report concern. Similarly, practicing Christians (90%) are more likely than adults of no faith (67%) or those who identify with a religious faith other than Christianity (72%) to say they are concerned about the moral condition of the nation. Though measurable differences exist between population segments, moral concern is widespread across the demographic board.

Much less widespread, however, is consensus on morality itself. What is it based on? Where does it come from? How can someone know what to do when making moral decisions? According to a majority of American adults (57%), knowing what is right or wrong is a matter of personal experience. This view is much more prevalent among younger generations than among older adults. Three quarters of Millennials (74%) agree strongly or somewhat with the statement, "Whatever is right for your life or works best for you is the only truth you can know," compared to only 38 percent of Elders. And Millennials (31%) are three times

more likely than Elders (10%) and twice as likely as Boomers (16%) and GenXers (16%) to strongly agree with the statement.

When it comes to religion's impact on this question, active Christian faith is associated with greater disagreement on the above moral sentiment: The proportions of practicing Christians who disagree (59%) and agree (41%) that the only truth one can know is whatever is right for one's own life are the inverse of the general population (44% disagree, 57% agree). The difference is even more pronounced when practicing Christians (41%) are compared with adults of no faith, two thirds of whom agree (67%) that the only truth one can know is whatever is right for one's own life.

A sizable number of Americans see morality as a matter of cultural consensus. About two thirds of all American adults (65%) agree either strongly or somewhat (18% and 47% respectively) that "every culture must determine what is acceptable morality for its people." Again, Millennials (25%) are more likely than Elders (16%), Boomers (14%) or GenXers (16%) to strongly agree with this view.

While most American adults agree that culture plays some role in establishing moral norms, a majority also agrees "the Bible provides us with absolute moral truths which are the same for people in all situations, without exception" (59%). There is broad agreement across age groups, which is surprising when one considers the notable generational differences on other questions related to morality. When it comes to faith groups, practicing Christians (83%), as one might expect, are much more likely to agree with the statement than others, especially those with no faith (28%). In fact, more than half of practicing Christians strongly agree (56%).

Two thirds of American adults either believe moral truth is relative to circumstances (44%) or have not given it much thought

(21%). About one third, on the other hand, believes moral truth is absolute (35%). Millennials are more likely than other age cohorts to say moral truth is relative—in fact, half of them say so (51%), compared to 44 percent of GenXers, 41 percent of Boomers and 39 percent of Elders. Among the generations, Boomers are most likely to say moral truth is absolute (42%), while Elders are more likely than other age groups to admit they have never thought about it (28%). Practicing Christians (59%) are nearly four times more likely than adults with no faith (15%) to believe moral truth is absolute. Those with no faith (61%), meanwhile, are twice as likely as practicing Christians (28%) to say it is relative to circumstances. Americans who adhere to a faith other than Christianity are roughly on par with the national average on this question. © Barna Group, 2016.



Inside



**BMA Texas Missions**  
Page 6



**Master Builders**  
Page 7



**Jacksonville College**  
Page 12



www.bmatexas.org



**Baptist Progress**

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

**Baptist Missionary Loan Association**

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

**Texas Baptist Home**

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

*Baptist Progress*

USPS: 043120 • ISSN: 005-5751

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

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

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

www.baptistprogress.org

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

**SUBSCRIPTION RATE:**

**Mail Church Plan:** \$1.75 per month  
**E-Mail Church Plan:** \$1.25 per month  
**Mail Subscription:** \$24.00 per year  
**E-mail Subscription:** \$18.00 per year  
(Advertising Rates Available on Request)

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



# Good things are happening

By **JERRY FULTON**

Good things are happening in the BMA of Texas. Jacksonville College has a record number of students each semester, Texas Baptist Home has overseen a record number of adoptions and children in foster care, Baptist Missionary Loan Association has more funds to loan to missions and churches than before, BMA Texas Missions has begun an internship program for potential church planters and has set a goal to put 16 missionaries on the field in Texas and *Baptist Progress* has expanded its ministry to include workshops throughout the year and a huge conference in November.

What we must remember is the above mentioned departments do not make up the BMA of Texas, but our departments belong to the association. We want to know what the Lord is doing in your church. Send your news to editor@baptistprogress.org.

### THOUGHTS ON AMERICA'S CURRENT STATE

Americans are up in arms about transgender people being allowed to use the restroom of their choice, gay marriage, abortion, corrupt politicians, US foreign relations, teenage drug use, as well as numerous other issues that seem to threaten the very fiber of our being as a nation. Some are convinced that America is on the brink of destruction, but are we really?

In decades past, America's own government robbed the natives of what we now call our homeland, exterminating many on a tearful trail. Some Americans removed human beings from their homeland, enslaved them, and treated them as personal property. "Shoot'em ups" took place in the streets, men challenged each other to duels and

vigilantes took the law into their own hands. Organized crime, "free" love, drugs and a host of other depraved issues also have threatened our society.

So, is America really worse off than she was four, eight, twenty or 200 years ago? Perhaps. Sin has always run rampant in our land, the sins were just different although maybe not as blatant as today.

The solution to America's current dilemmas is the same as it was in the past. Christians have the answer for what ails our nation. It is the good news of Jesus Christ.

Sure, it is easy to protest and hate what is happening in America today, and on some scale, it is right to do so. But our country's problems won't go away with the election of a new president. They will not disappear when a certain political party takes control of congress. And the moral decay will remain, even with the appointment of new Supreme Court justices.

Yes, there will always be problems in America, but Jesus has been and always will be the Answer. As believers, may we spend more time sharing the hope we have in Him, than politicizing what has always been the issue—sin!

May God bless America as members of the Lord's churches seek to be lights to those in darkness.



▲ Jerry Fulton

## Next Ministry Connection Workshop: Mobilizing People for Ministry, July 21

The next Ministry Connection Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, July 21. Dr. Blanton Feaster, education pastor of Farley Street, Waxahachie, will provide instruction on how to involve your church members in ministry—to move from a consumer to a contributor mentality.

The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the BMA of Texas Building, located at 632 Farley Street in Waxahachie.

Bring as many folks as you would like. There is no registration fee. Register at <http://www.baptistprogress.org/registration.html> or call 972-923-0756.

### FUTURE WORKSHOPS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

#### Intentional Interim Pastor & Pastor Search Team Training

**WHEN:** Thursday, August 25; 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** BMA of Texas Building, Waxahachie

**WHO:** Jerry Fulton, editor, Baptist Progress, Waxahachie

#### Transitioning to Small Groups

**WHEN:** Thursday, Sept. 22, 2016; 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** BMA of Texas Building, Waxahachie

**WHO:** Dr. Blanton Feaster, education pastor, Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie

#### Understanding Generations

**WHEN:** Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016; 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** BMA of Texas Building, Waxahachie

**WHO:** Jerry Burnaman, manager, Baptist Missionary Loan Association



# BMA of America News

## Tuesday Talks Equips Churches

By JONATHAN WILSON

DiscipleGuide

Make time this summer to watch *Tuesday Talks* by DiscipleGuide. *Tuesday Talks* is an internet simulcast airing the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. The goal of *Tuesday Talks* is to provide local churches, ministers and viewers the tools to help maximize their Great Commission potential. *Tuesday Talks* can be viewed on DiscipleGuide's Facebook page or at [bmalife.com/tv](http://bmalife.com/tv). Once aired, *Tuesday Talks* episodes can be seen at [discipleguide.org/tuesdaytalks](http://discipleguide.org/tuesdaytalks).



### SUMMER TUESDAY TALKS SCHEDULE

#### June 14: *Preaching for Transformation*

Tired of preaching your heart out week after week without seeing any lives changed? Perhaps you are preaching for information rather than transformation.

In June's episode of *Tuesday Talks*, Dr. Mark Livingston of Keltys First Baptist Church in Lufkin, Texas, will share keys to transformational preaching from God's Word.

#### July 12: *Culture Shifts Every Church Must Prepare For*

The LGBT Movement, Same Sex Marriage, and Islamic Propaganda: How should the church respond? What should pastors do to prepare their people for the changes in culture? How can churches stand for truth in such unstable times?

Pastor Brandon Cox of Grace Hills in northwest

Arkansas will share insights into the culture shifts and how every church should prepare.

#### August 9: *The Pastor's Finances*

The ability of a pastor to steward his personal finances can impact the congregation's trust. Find out how to get a handle on your spending, create a budget, and plan for the future—all on a pastor's salary!

Dr. Steve Crawley, Executive Director of Lifeword, previously served as a corporate controller for a publicly traded company. Drawing from his extensive background in finance and accounting, Dr. Crawley will provide practical, sound advice to help pastors become better stewards of their finances.

Ron Chesser serves as Executive Director of Ministers Resource Services, the retirement and benefits agency of the Baptist Missionary Association.

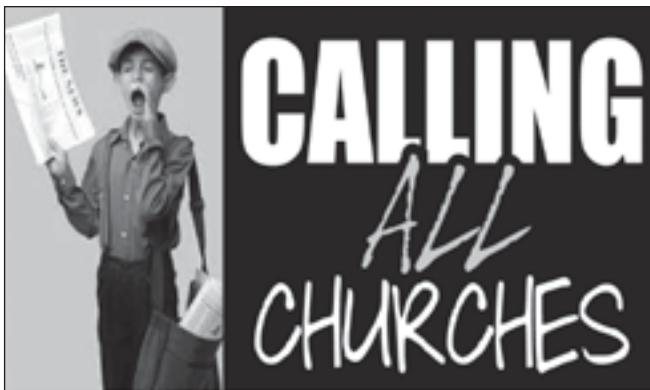
For more information on *Tuesday Talks*, visit [discipleguide.org/tuesdaytalks](http://discipleguide.org/tuesdaytalks).

## resume service



A resume service is now being provided by *Baptist Progress*. Churches call our offices searching for pastors and other ministry candidates. We will keep your resume on file and provide it to churches when requests are received.

Go to [www.bmatexas.org](http://www.bmatexas.org), click "Resources" at the top of the page, then click "Resume Service" and complete the form.



*Baptist Progress* wants to hear from your church!

Therefore, we request the following:

1. That each church elect a reporter whose responsibility it shall be to send *Baptist Progress* news about your church on a regular basis
2. That when a reporter has been elected, the name of the reporter and his/her contact information be emailed to [editor@baptistprogress.org](mailto:editor@baptistprogress.org)
3. That reporters upload news at the following link, <http://www.baptistprogress.org/churches-in-reviewchurch-news.html>, or simply go to [www.baptistprogress.org](http://www.baptistprogress.org) and click Churches in Review/Church News at the top of the home page.

We look forward to learning about what God is doing in and through your church family!



# \$104 for 104 years of ministry

## ATTENTION churches, groups and individuals!!!

Later this year, *Baptist Progress* will turn 104! Throughout the month of June, we are asking churches, groups and individuals to give \$104 for 104 years of ministry.

## the goal is \$15,000

So far, \$5,500 has been received.  
**Will you help us meet our goal?**

Offerings may be mailed to *Baptist Progress*, PO Box 2085, Waxahachie, Texas 75168.

# Church Health

## Connection groups

By LARRY BARKER

We are fearfully and wonderfully made. Our giftedness is partially by design (the way we are created) and partially developed (the skills we learn). We are born with certain talents given by God's grace to everyone but we also receive spiritual gifts when we are born again. Particular personality types describing us as a lion, an otter, a golden retriever, or a beaver have also defined our uniqueness. You can learn more through tools such as DISC profile, Briggs-Myers, Strength Finders, and others.

Interestingly, as you look at these tools and observe people you begin to notice two primary types of people: relational and task. Usually there is a combination of the two in each of us but it is good to know if you are primarily relationship oriented or task oriented. Ask yourself if you naturally focus on the "whom" you are dealing with or the "what" that needs to be accomplished. Another way of analyzing your primary nature is asking if you enjoy "conversation" more or "completion" of the task.

The task-oriented individual, if not careful, can become a hostage to tangible things such as meetings, appointments, projects, schedules, and budgets. They want to make sure that every "i" is dotted and every "t" is crossed. These people are doers and they will get the job done but the danger is they may not give proper priority to the intangibles. They can become so focused on the goal that they will walk right by people and not even notice they are there.

These (the task-oriented) are the lions (king of the jungle) and beavers (busy workers) that have been described as driven and competent. These are the Marthas who are busy in the kitchen wanting to make sure they are the consummate hostess to their guests. In all of their activity they can lose sight of the important relationships in their lives. The person who is primarily relational is all about the journey and the fun along the way while the task-oriented individual is all about getting to the destination, quickly!

We cannot forget that God is all about relationships. Yes, there are tasks that need to be done and accomplished but not at the expense of relationships. Bill Hybels has defined community as: "knowing and being known, loving and being loved, serving and being served, celebrating and being celebrated." People may come to a church for a lot of different reasons but they usually stay because they are loved.

In 1980, Win Arn spoke about a relational

principle, "It takes six to stick!" He said that people must develop six meaningful relationships within six months if they are going to stick at the church. This is 2016 and people probably are not going to stay around that long waiting for relationships to develop. Hal Seed, pastor of New Song in Oceanside, California, expresses it this way, "Someone must recognize my face if this is going to be my place." Guests need to find at least one meaningful relationship in the first three weeks!

Assimilation is the system that follows up on your guests and it must include enough meaningful and personal touches for someone to remember your guests when they return. If you tell someone, "See you next week!" then you need to be looking out for him or her when they return. Everyone loves to be remembered and as Hybels has said so well about community, "Knowing and being known!" There is nothing like going back and seeing a smiling welcoming face that you recognize and they recognize you!

This is why connection groups are so important to the health of your church. These are the small groups, Sunday school classes, Bible studies or other mechanism where people can get plugged into the life of the church. This is the circulation system of the church, which sustains the growth of new families when they come your way. Remember, it is systems that enable you to maintain and care for the people that come your way because of all the relational effort you have put into getting to know them.

Hal Seed describes three aspects on the importance and purpose of connection (small) groups.

First, from a practical standpoint, your small group system is your connecting system. That is why I love calling them "connection" groups. Their purpose is to "enfold people into meaningful relationships." This gives everyone a group of people to do life with that they know are making the journey with them. It reminds us that we are not in this alone and we have others to do life and ministry with.

Second, from a spiritual growth standpoint, connection groups are your primary discipleship engine. Whatever structure you have, (time, day of the week, location, etc.) you will need to have clarity about how and what these groups study. There are several excellent resources (Small Groups with Purpose by Steve Gladden; Sticky Church by Larry



Osborne; and others) on small groups that you could read and then adapt it to your ministry context and what works best for you.

Third, from a pragmatic standpoint, it can be your front line for crisis care. Growing churches struggle and pastors burn out when he is the primary (often the only) caregiver. Connection groups accept the responsibility of making sure they are the first responders to the needs of their group. Others can be called in but they have the pulse of those in the group and are usually the first to be notified when crisis hits anyone in their group. This adds to the definition of community: loving and being loved, serving and being served.

Healthy churches have a circulation system (connection groups) that clearly describes the path for new people to become connected to the church family!

Larry Barker is the pastor of Cornerstone, Jacksonville. He also serves as the operations director for North American Missions. For more information or to contact him, visit [www.bmmissions.org](http://www.bmmissions.org).



# Church Issues

By KARL VATERS

## THE FIRST STEP TO SPARKING INNOVATION IN A STUCK CHURCH

Church leaders need to spark the creativity of innovative believers by figuring out how to say yes to their passion.

Churches get stuck sometimes. If you're a pastor, you've known seasons when it's hard to get church members to do great things for Jesus.

Good things.

Okay — *anything*.

During our church's years of being stuck, I longed for the day when launching a new idea was as easy as striking a match, instead of getting calloused hands and a cold heart while rubbing two wet sticks together.

Thankfully we've been fired up for several years now, after discovering a key to sparking innovative ideas from passionate people, while disempowering the ones holding buckets of cold water. I now consider it to be one of my main roles as a church leader.

Find a way to say YES.

Yes to people. Yes to their crazy ideas. Yes to their passion. Yes to something God may be trying to do through them that I can't see yet.

## SAYING YES TO PEOPLE AND THEIR GREAT IDEAS

Too many pastors feel it's their God-given duty to expose the faults of every idea, discourage innovation and snuff out any spark of creativity from church members.

They claim it's about respecting authority, maintaining doctrinal purity, or stemming the tide of whatever moral crisis is at hand. But it's almost never about any of those things.

It's about control.

Innovation, but its very nature, means living with a certain lack of control. Because the details under our control are, by definition, *not* innovative. Innovation means new, untested, unknown and uncertain.

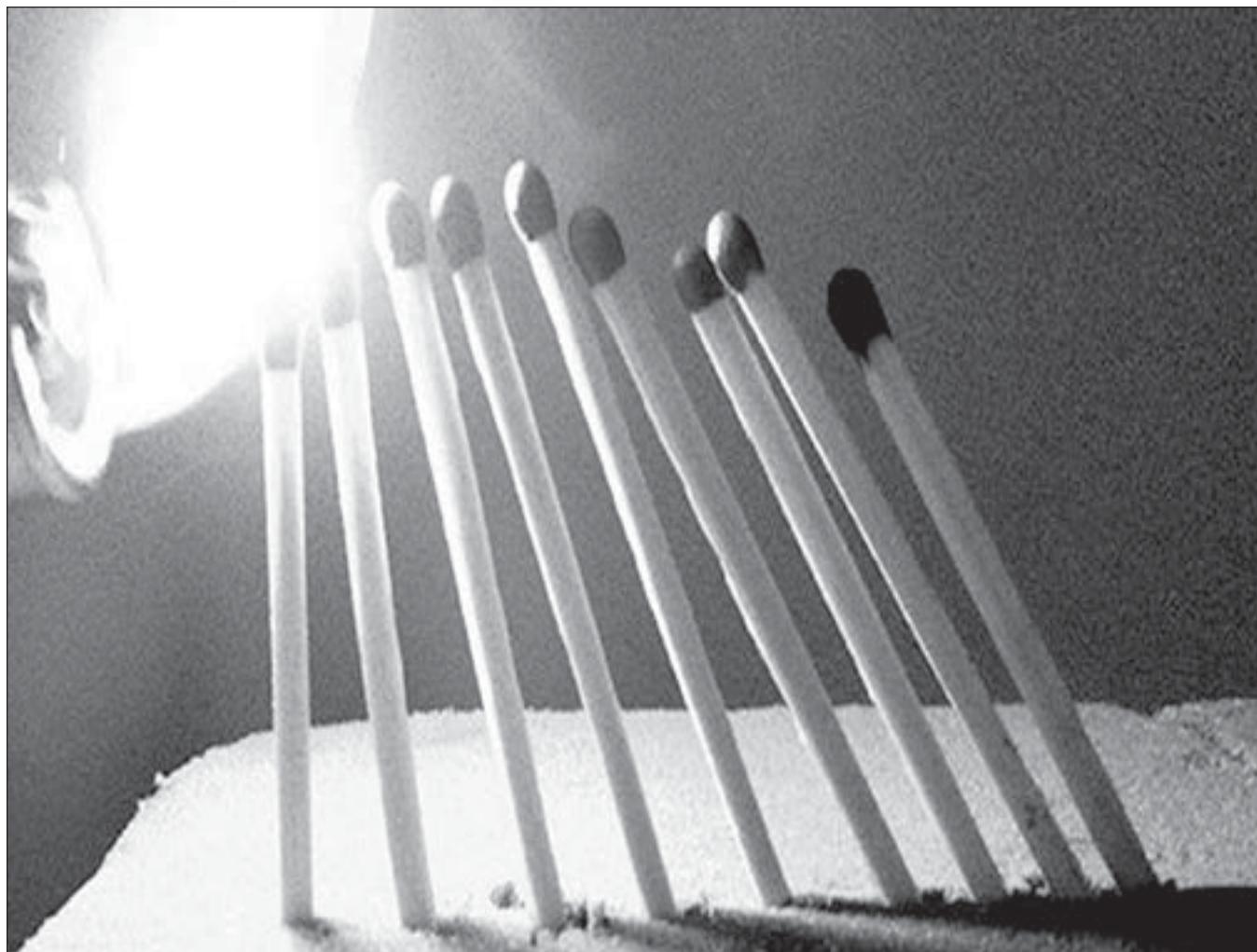
When everything has to be controlled, when every detail of each decision has to pass the pastor's white-glove test, very little gets done. People stop offering great ideas because they know they're unlikely to see the light of day.

Then we wonder why we're constantly in the company of whining, uncooperative wet blankets? We've encouraged them by creating an atmosphere where naysayers carry all the power, and innovators give up and leave.

We need to spark the creativity of innovative believers by figuring out how to say yes to their passion.

Of course that doesn't mean saying yes to every stupid idea. But sometimes it does mean finding the non-stupid part of the idea and helping people shape that until you can say yes to it.

Sometimes that means encouraging them to re-draw their plans. At other times, it means sitting with them to tweak an almost-good-enough idea to make it doable. Occasionally it's



just about finding a way to pay for it.

We'll get better ideas—and more creative people giving us those ideas—when they know their pastor will be their greatest encourager, supporter, promoter and fund-raiser, instead of the main hurdle they have to overcome.

## STUCK OR UNSTUCK? IT'S NOT ABOUT SIZE

Stuckness isn't about church size.

Big churches can get stuck just as easily as small churches can. And there are plenty of unstuck churches of all sizes that are doing fresh, innovative, kingdom-building ministry, including the small church I pastor.

But when your church is small, it can be hard to tell if you're stuck or not. So, if you're wondering whether or not your church is stuck, check out *How to Tell If a Small Church Is Strategic or Stuck* for some tips.

## BECOME A YES MAN

I don't want yes-men on my team. But if I was a team member, I'd love to have a yes-man or -woman leading it. (Sorry, but there's no gender-neutral term for this.)

Pastors need to become yes-men.

Having yes-men on the team is dangerous. It breeds false pride in the leader and dishonesty, status-seeking and mediocrity in the team member. Control freaks like yes-men.

But having a yes-man leading the team is awesome. It breeds freedom, creativity, sharing of ideas and great innovation.

Of course, when we say yes a lot, we'll end up making some mistakes. But we'll make mistakes when we say no a lot, too.

'Yes' mistakes are a lot more fun than 'no' mistakes.

Saying yes can give you a reputation. A reputation that will draw positive, creative, passionate people to you, to the church and to Jesus. And it will keep the control freaks and wet blankets away.

Saying yes a lot can mean a wild ride sometimes. Fires are like that. That's why God gave the church pastors and other leaders. Not to douse the fire or control it, but to channel it for God's glory.

*Copyright © 2016 by the author or Christianity Today/Leadership Journal. Reprinted by permission.*



# A word from your Missionaries:

By HEITH MITCHELL

**ARNULFO MALDONADO – TEXAS HISPANIC COORDINATOR**

God has been good. I've enjoyed meeting new anglo pastors from our BMA association. Seeing more acceptance of working together to start more Hispanic works is our challenge for the next six months. We are praying for men who are equipped or men willing to be equipped for the task. We are praying that some men from Houston will be willing to start all over in the Dallas area. That involves moving expenses, finding a new job, and relocating family. May the Lord help us with the challenges that come with new opportunities.



▲ Arnulfo Maldonado

**WILL HUTCHINSON – RESONATE COMMUNITY CHURCH, HUTTO**

This month we had our ladies retreat. Twenty three ladies spent the weekend together and had some amazing bible studies. They were able to see some amazing growth from this weekend together. It is thru your support we were able to send three ladies that would not have been able to go without some assistance. Thanks for your prayers, calls, and financial support. You make this ministry possible.



▲ Will Hutchinson



**DARREN LEMONS – THE REFUGE MISSION, TERRELL**

We are starting a 6 week Preaching Series that we have borrowed from Antioch Conway called Project Kindness. We will be doing several mission nights and trying to teach our people

to be kind people and share the gospel with people. Also, we have a huge opportunity as we are trying to collect 12,000 pair of socks for Back to School night. This will give us one on one conversations with every parent/student that goes to Terrell ISD. We pray your church will help us collect these socks so we can share the gospel and love of Christ with our city.



▲ Darren Lemons

**CECIL LINKE – JOURNEY COMMUNITY MISSION, ALLEN**

For mission works, being portable is just one of the necessary steps to becoming a part of a community. It can take years to finally build a building or move into a more permanent space. It is also easy to take the luxury of a permanent space for granted and even see it as "necessary" - to the point that we can miss out on ministry opportunities all around us. Journey was reminded of this last month when we had a young lady visit who was from Moldova. When she walked into the school cafeteria where we meet, she almost squealed with delight. She has lived in the states for only a few years and commented that our "portable" church felt more like home to her since that is the only kind of church she knew in Moldova! She went on to talk about the relationships of believers in Moldova and how they had to work together in order to meet on a regular basis. It was a nice reminder of how different churches look all over the world. It was also a moment where we, at Journey, were reminded that a building is only a tool and our focus needs to be continually centered on the people God places around us



▲ Cecil Linke

**MATTHEW PRATHER – THE BRIDGE MISSION, MIDLOTHIAN**

As I write this we have loaded the Uhaul today and will be relocating over the next week to Midlothian. We will be starting a new church there. In the past five years this area has more than doubled in population. We are excited to make this move and start a new work in this area. Please keep us in prayer as we are in this relocation process. Pray for the new relationships that we will be making,



▲ Matthew Prather

and that many people will be impacted by the gospel. We are looking forward to what God is going to do.

**GARY SOUTHARD – THE CHURCH AT VALLEY RANCH, PORTER**

"...for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." - Matthew 5:45



On April 17, we received five inches of water in our house as our area flooded. We were blessed by our BMA of Texas family.

Through support and prayers from various churches, the mission director and our partners at the mission we were able to renovate our home in 51 days!

Then, on Sunday, May 29, my mother suffered a sever stroke. After five days of being unconscious in ETMC in Tyler she finally awoke and was placed in a regular room. She is doing much better but still having some memory loss problems and other medical related issues.

We deeply appreciate the many churches and friends that are praying. We also appreciate my mother's pastor, Bro. Nick Kerry and the church at Sand Springs Baptist Church for coming and praying over her. Also Bro Heith Mitchell, missions director, came all the way from Waxahachie to pray over her, too.



Once again God has reminded us that whether it is the sun shining or the flood rains rising - He is still in control

A big "Thank You" from Your Church's Mission Movement in Texas

Heith Mitchell is the director of BMA of Texas Missions. Contact him at [hmittell@bmatexas.org](mailto:hmittell@bmatexas.org) or 972-923-0757. Visit [www.bmatexasmissions.org](http://www.bmatexasmissions.org).



# The Master's Builders work at Winnsboro, Texas

The Master's Builders arrived at Cross Roads, Winnsboro to begin interior work on their 50 X 125 ft, new family life center. They walled up, wired and sheet rocked the walls and ceiling of the entry hallway, two bathrooms, kitchen, fellowship hall, and put OSB on the walls in the closets and on the gym walls. They built a staircase up to the second floor over the bathrooms, hallway, storage and kitchen for future classrooms.

There were nine RVs in the parking lot during the two weeks we worked at Cross Roads. The crew was much smaller than we usually have for this size job, so several of the ladies volunteered to on the job training and to work in any way that was needed. We surprised ourselves and "some" of the men at what we were able to accomplish. We may have worked ourselves into a "regular job". I think all of the ladies would say that we enjoyed the work and fellowship with our men. We certainly have a greater appreciation for all that our men do!

There were several men from Cross Roads who worked with our men and also did different jobs to help in the completion of the building. What a fun group they are!! The time flew!! Pastor, Terry Bolton, is a great guy, a hard worker, and a "GO-GET-er"! We enjoyed the time with them! A special thanks to Jack Adams for all his hard work and the fellowship we enjoyed with him.

A great big thank you to the ladies of Cross Roads who fed us all so well! The meals and fellowship was special! We came away with some recipes!!

There are several of our Master's Builders family who are not doing well. Many have serious health problems, some have lost their spouse, and others have problems that are not allowing them to get to come to the jobs. We ask for your prayers in this and that the Lord would send more workers; NO training needed, (ask our ladies)! You must have a love for the Lord and a desire for the increase in His Kingdom.

The Master's Builders will head to Summers Baptist, Summers, Arkansas, to begin work on June 13. Pray for safety as they travel and do the work of the Master's Builders ministry.

If you have any questions about TMB ministry or if your church has building needs, contact: Office Coordinator John Mangum at 318-205-5155 or his cell 318-607-4100 or Field Coordinator Eddie Sikes at 903-725-6549 or his cell 479-462-1675.



## 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 May 1, 2016 – May 31, 2016.

### ENDOWMENTS

**MYRA STOKES:** Bill Stokes

### HONORARIUMS

**ROBBIE & JANICE CALDWELL:** Larry & Pat Kearby

**BARBARA HENDRIX:** Mary Dunavant

**JANE HUBBARD:** Tommy & Mona Gardner

**CHARLES & CHARLOTTE JOHNSON:** Judy Lambert; Larry & Pat Kearby

**OUR LORD:** Earlene Crenshaw

**ALEX & ANDI YOUNT:** Danny & Diane Yount

### MEMORIALS

**MR & MRS ROY ANDERS:** Raymond & Opal Anders

**LURLENE BARTON:** Myrtie Langford; Jimmy & Cynthia Green; Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**WALTER BECKER:** Dennis & Ilona Myrice

**LINDA BOCA:** Joseph & Norma Martin

**SHAWN DENISE BURNS:** Harmony Missionary Baptist Church, Nacogdoches

**MR & MRS W W BUTLER:** Te & Jeanne Walters

**LEONARD CAGLE:** Joseph & Norma Martin

**ALVY & GAYNELL COLLINS:** Mr. & Mrs. William Tolar

**CHARLES COX:** Temple Baptist Church

**CLARICE DEARMAN:** Broom & Mary Ann Maulk

**BETTY LOU EASTLAND:** Calvary Baptist Church

**IVID B. EVANS:** Duane & Charlotte Turner

**LEAH GIBSON:** Myrtie Langford; Tommy Sipson; Timothy Thompson; Mack & Bertha McCool; Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**LOIS & HESTER GIBSON:** Janice Dore

**MR & MRS E A GOSSETT:** Raymond & Opal Anders

**DONALD "BUDDY" HALL:** Bethel Baptist Church

**MARK HAMMONDS:** Patsy Bishop; Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**HEATH:** Jimmy Ray & Cynthia Green

**SARAH HOWELL:** Lynda Norwood; Carolyn Sue Shell

**TERESA JOHNSTON:** Louise Batterton

**DOROTHY KERR:** Suburban Wood Baptist Church

**PAT MCNEEL:** Travis & Audrey Shipp; Myrtie Langford; Jimmy & Cynthia Green; Leora Johnson; Terry & Mark Barnhill; Paul & Dnna Johnson; Wes & Lauren Carter; Eric & Dana Carter; Rosewood Baptist Church; Mary Jo Dean; Palmour & Bertha McCool; Eddie & Lynda Marsh; Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Tommy Gipson; The Duggar Family; Timothy Thompson

**JEARLENE MIZE:** Jerry & Sheree Mize

**CECIL MORGAN:** Andy & Nell McCuiston

**JACKIE PATTERSON:** Ney & Nancy Blackburn

**CHARLES PENNEY:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**MEMI RENEE DAVIES REEVES:** Bethel Baptist Church

**MRS. WARREN ROBESON:** Ann Jackson

**KAREN SATTERFIELD:** Timothy Thompson; Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**IONE SCOVEL:** Hie & Betty Holmes

**WELDON SENN:** Georgia Senn

**CLARENCE STEWART:** Mavis Stewart

**NITA THOMPSON:** Mr. & Mrs. Harold Lewis

**BENNIE THORN:** Hie & Betty Holmes

**OUR GRANDSON TYLER:** James & Dianne Seale

**CLEA WALLACE:** Ray & Claynell Dennis

**JEWELL WALLACE:** Ray & Claynell Dennis

**MR & MRS C S WALTERS:** Te & Jeanne Walters

**WANDA:** Bob Hickingbotham

**JO WHITE:** Jerry & Sheree Mize

**RUTH WHITE:** Bettie Boone

**RUTHIE WILLARD:** Joan Swinky

**MARY E WOLFINGTON:** John Wolfington



# Dear Friends of BMATS:

By **DR. CHARLEY HOLMES**  
President, BMA Seminary

I am writing today to share with you a report on 2016 graduation and plans for the summer.

On May 14, I officiated at the seminary's graduation for the 17th time. This time was as enjoyable as all the rest. The faculty and I were able to reflect on the efforts of students, the support of our churches that make classes possible, and the decades of future ministry represented in the graduates. Commencement saw twenty graduates walk the stage and receive their degrees. These students represented five states.

From the administrative side, this year was unique. Delivering the message was BMA Seminary's Library Director, Dr. James Blaylock. Dr. Blaylock was an especially appropriate speaker since this was his 50th anniversary of becoming part of the seminary's staff. He was able to give the perspectives of being a graduate himself, a 50-year staff member, and a local pastor for 45 years. He had no shortage of material to draw from!

Adding to the uniqueness of the service was the retirement of Jim and Carol Shine. Dr. Shine completed 30 years of teaching. Dr. Shine was one the first professors I encountered when beginning classes at BMATS. His teaching clung to me as he gave me a desire to understand the New Testament in its original language. His teaching worked to the point that I was able to teach the same classes myself several years later. Mrs. Shine also completed 30 years of service to our BMATS family and was awarded a Master of Arts in Christian Ministry degree. Over her tenure she served in several capacities on campus. Most importantly, she was my trusted and highly valued assistant for the past 15 years. She and Dr. Shine are loved by students and staff alike and will be sorely missed.

End of year finances have improved over last year. Last year we had a significant deficit for the first time in a number of years. Thankfully, through the generosity of our churches and friends, this year we ended with a modest surplus. Even though we are perhaps the lowest priced accredited school in the country, budget pressures always lead to increases in tuition. The only way to control the cost to the students is to have a growing, consistent, and generous donor base. Please review your church's giving to see if the giving to outside

causes has increased with the rate of inflation. This is especially important if your church gives a specified amount rather than a percentage of income.

This summer looks to be as special as commencement. For the first time we will be conducting a Biblical counseling seminar at Temple Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. Special thanks to Temple Baptist Church for allowing us to use her facilities. The seminar is open to the public as well as being available for credit toward a degree. The course will feature Dr. Stuart Scott, renowned Biblical counseling professor, and will be held July 12-15, 2016. The cost to audit the course is only \$35. Please contact the dean's office to register.

On the Jacksonville campus, our professors will be teaching DiscipleWay (a proven strategy of helping Christians grow in a one to one setting). The class will be held the week of June 13. Dr. Johnson will be providing basic DiscipleWay training at a reduced cost of \$75 for anyone interested. Drs. Attebery and Hellwig will be teaching the second and third levels of DiscipleWay. Although registration is closed for the advanced DiscipleWay courses, we are still encouraging individuals to enroll in Dr. Johnson's training sessions. Please contact the dean's office if you are interested.

As usual some of the faculty will be helping train church leaders off campus. I recently returned from teaching a weekend seminar on stewardship at Memorial Baptist Church in Fremont, California. I will also be speaking at the inauguration of a Spanish Bible Institute in Houston being led by two of our graduates, Michael Hight and Dean Renfro. Dr. Philip Attebery and I will be teaching an EE seminar at South Forrest Baptist Mission near Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

In July, I will join three of our grads in teaching a week-long pastoral seminar in Tanzania. In August, I will travel with two of our senior students to Peru to conduct a seminar on expository preaching being hosted by BMAA missionary to Peru John Michael Poulin and Dr. Ricky Williams. Dr. Williams is a BMATS graduate, a BMAA missionary and an adjunct seminary professor. We are pleased that the Lord

can use our faculty throughout the year and not just during the fall and spring semesters.

Official registration for online and on-campus classes for the fall is the week of Aug. 15. However, students are encouraged to pre-enroll at anytime and the sooner the better. The dean's office is indicating that they have a near record number of new student inquiries. With restricted class sizes it is wise to get your schedule early to avoid disappointment.

Many will also be interested in another of our popular free online classes. This fall Dr. Cleaver will be teaching Comparative Religions. Enroll early so you can have the materials in hand and be ready to start with the whole class.

Many will also want to mark their calendars for the Paschal Lectures this fall. The topic will be Roots of Landmarkism & the Founding of the BMAA as well as the ABA. The guest lecturer will be Dr. Tom Nettles, regarded by many as the leading conservative Baptist historian and author of our time. Two public sessions will be held on Sept. 13, 2016, at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in Dorman Memorial Chapel on the Jacksonville campus.



▲ Dr. Charley Holmes

Charley Holmes  
President, BMA Seminary

P.S. Feel free to copy the following item and post it or share it.



**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.

**Help Yourself, Help the Seminary**

A Charitable Gift Annuity provides income during retirement years and helps the BMA Theological Seminary after your passing. It is a great way to benefit yourself and to leave a legacy to the Seminary that will impact the lives of future students!

Sample Payment Rates			
Age	Rate	Age	Rate
65	4.70%	80	6.80%
70	5.10%	85	7.80%
75	5.80%	90+	9.00%

Notes: Rates are subject to change. Rates are based upon one-life.



**BMA Seminary**  
For more information, contact:  
Dr. Charley Holmes  
800-259-5673  
president@bmat.edu

# Auxiliaries

## He's got the whole world in His hands

By SHARON COLE

Get your passport and pack your bags! This year's theme is He's Got the Whole World in His Hands. Our theme verse is John 10:28, "And I give them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

You are invited to join us July 15-16 at Jacksonville College. We have an amazing adventure planned that includes mission field booths highlighting some of the countries in which we have BMAA missionaries. We are going to tour the world and enjoy crafts, activities and food from the various countries we visit. Best of all, we will be fed some of God's Word along the way.

Individual groups have volunteered to set up the mission field booths. Each booth should have a world map with a mission field highlighting the country's name and a labeled picture of each missionary family displayed. Display cultural pictures, objects, animals, plants, food, architecture, decorations, etc. of the mission field. Each child should receive a handout with age-appropriate info about the mission field.

Other suggestions include: a small souvenir from the country, a small food sample to be served during the presentation, a simple game to be introduced and played if time allows. A few vocabulary words of the country's language should be incorporated in the presentation. (Suggestion: Words for hello, goodbye, Jesus loves you, etc.) Feel free to be creative and add anything else you feel will enhance the booth. You will have 20 minutes for your presentation/mission experience.

Groups in charge of Mission Field Booths: 1. Bolivia—Maryjane Arrington Mathis; 2. Honduras—Liberty District; 3. Philippines—Little Flock, Jewitt; 4. France—Cornerstone,

Jacksonville; 5. India—Antioch, Carthage; 6. Ukraine—Fellowship, White Oak. Our state Sunbeam project is Los Rayitos De Sol (Sunbeams) in Mexico. The goal is to raise \$2000.

Project money needs to be sent to our Treasurer, Shera Clair, by June 20 so project awards can be ordered. Shera's contact information is Shera Clair, 1065 Abbie Lane, Glen Rose, TX 76043. Shera\_koonce@hotmail.com, 254-396-5943. Shera is in charge of the registration as well. The cost is \$15 per person and is due upon arrival.

Email or call Shera with a number count for your group by June 20, so Jacksonville College can prepare accordingly for meals and sleeping quarters. Registration forms and additional information will SOON be posted on the State Sunbeam tab of the Texas WMA webpage. Once this information is posted you may access it by going to [www.texaswma.com](http://www.texaswma.com) and clicking on the Sunbeam tab.

There will be a local Sunbeam contact information form posted on the Sunbeam tab of the State WMA page as well. It will be linked as a Google Form so it can be submitted electronically. Please access and complete the survey ASAP. This will help us keep our Sunbeam contact information updated. We are working to reignite our Sunbeam program in Texas and on a national level as well, but we will be unable to do so if we cannot effectively communicate with our churches.

WMA ladies, we need your help!!! Please be sure this information gets to your Sunbeam/Children's ministry worker. And please share with any other churches in your district as well. As you can imagine, USPS mail-outs can get expensive when they are several pages long, so we are working to go digital as much as possible and be conservative with our funds, but if you are unable to access any of the above listed resources, please contact us and we will mail it out to you if necessary. We look forward to seeing you in July!

We will have a wonderful time and we would like for all churches to know that you are invited to join us even if you do not have a Sunbeam group.

- Texas Sunbeam Promoters: Mellissa Henry, [lissadawn3@att.net](mailto:lissadawn3@att.net) or 903-472-9920, and Elvera Koonce [djkea55@yahoo.com](mailto:djkea55@yahoo.com) or 281-642-5356.

- Texas Sunbeam Promoters: Mellissa Henry, [lissadawn3@att.net](mailto:lissadawn3@att.net) or 903-472-9920, and Elvera Koonce [djkea55@yahoo.com](mailto:djkea55@yahoo.com) or 281-642-5356.

### DISTRICT NEWS

The Houston-Anderson District WMA met April 9,

2016 with Sheridan Terrace, Palestine. Guest speakers were Bro. Dale and Celia Broom, missionaries to Ghana, Africa. They spoke about the church planting work there and their daily activities. President Sherry Lasiter presided at the meeting. Bro. Dwane Doughtit sang, "How Great Thou Art" for Share Time. The July 9 meeting will be hosted by Antioch, Palestine. Guest speaker will be Bro. Eddie Marsh, president of Texas Baptist Home for Children. The churches of Houston-Anderson District are collecting supplies that the Home can use. All church families are invited to this WMA meeting.

## THE BEST FATHER

By SHARON COLE

He is tall and handsome with gentle eyes,  
And a compassionate heart that sometimes cries,  
Yet, he is strong and decisive, a leader and more,  
He is kind to all who come to his door,  
His character is blameless, a godly man,  
And has proclaimed God's Word throughout the land.

He is a red rose without any thorn,  
God designed him for me before I was born,  
He's the father of my children, the best he can be,  
And loves them unconditionally through eternity,  
He's proven his faithfulness to God and family,  
And is a consistent tower of strength for me.

Through the years we have worked together,  
And made memories I will cherish forever.  
He is everything to me, his voice makes me soar,  
He is my children's father, how could I ask for more?

As we reflect on Father's Day soon, think of ways you can honor him. If he is still with you, call him or send a card to remind him he is loved. If he is in heaven waiting for you, remember the good times you had growing up. You fathers who have children, if you want your children to honor you, let them see or hear you honor your father whether he is with you or not. Tell them childhood experiences with your father. Write them down for future generations. Children learn by example.

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).



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

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

In addition to receiving each issue by email, you will get our e-News Update between issues. News alerts are also emailed periodically. The cost of an email subscription is \$18 (\$6 less per year than mail subscriptions).

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

**WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?**  
Make the switch, email us today at [editor@baptistprogress.org](mailto:editor@baptistprogress.org)

## EVENTS

### JUNE 20-24, 2016

Vacation Bible School  
WHEN: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
with a program and fellowship Friday,  
June 24 at 7 p.m.  
WHERE: Yellowpine-Macedonia  
(Hemphill/Sabine County, Texas)

### JULY 21, 2016

Baptist Progress Ministry  
Connection Workshop:  
Mobilizing People for Ministry  
WHEN: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
WHERE: BMA of Texas Building, Waxahachie  
WHO: Dr. Blanton Feaster, education pastor,  
Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie

### AUGUST 25, 2015

Baptist Progress Ministry  
Connection Workshop:  
Intentional Interim Pastor &  
Pastor Search Team Training  
WHEN: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
WHERE: BMA of Texas Building,  
Waxahachie  
WHO: Jerry Fulton, editor,  
Baptist Progress, Waxahachie

### SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

Baptist Progress Ministry  
Connection Workshop:  
Transitioning to Small Groups  
WHEN: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
WHERE: BMA of Texas Building,  
Waxahachie  
WHO: Dr. Blanton Feaster,  
education pastor, Farley Street Baptist Church,  
Waxahachie

### OCTOBER 20, 2016

Baptist Progress Ministry  
Connection Workshop:  
Understanding Generations  
WHEN: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
WHERE: BMA of Texas Building,  
Waxahachie  
WHO: Jerry Burnaman, manager,  
Baptist Missionary Loan Association

### NOVEMBER 14, 2016

Baptist Progress & Ellis-Hill Baptist Association  
Ministry Connection Conference  
WHEN: 2 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
WHERE: Farley Street Baptist Church,  
Waxahachie  
WHO: Pastor Jonathan Falwell,  
Dr. John Bisagno, Pastor Jerry Jolly,  
Brian Free & Assurance

### NOVEMBER 15-16, 2016

Baptist Missionary  
Association 116th Annual Session  
WHERE: Farley Street Baptist Church,  
Waxahachie, Texas

## PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

### AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**YOUTH/STUDENT MINISTRY**—Calvary, Jacksonville is seeking a youth bivocational youth pastor. Send resume to Michael Mathis at mathi1314@gmail.com or call 903-625-0776. <sup>8/3</sup>

**ASSOCIATE/STUDENT MINISTRY**—LifeHouse Fellowship, Wills Point is seeking to fill the position of Associate/Student Ministry. This is a full time position, part-time possible. Send resume to Tammy Cunningham, P.O. Box 1486 Canton Texas 75103, or lifehousefellowshipnew@gmail.com. For information or questions you can call Mike Stone at 903-279-5868. <sup>TFN</sup>

**PASTOR**—Opelika Missionary, Brownsboro is seeking a pastor. For more information, call 903-469-3692 or 903-515-2288. <sup>TFN</sup>

**YOUTH**—First of Cross Roads, Athens is seeking a full-time youth minister/associate pastor to develop and oversee a program for youth to win the lost to Christ and help Christians mature in Him. Additional responsibilities include aiding the pastor in his duties. Parsonage available. For information or to apply, contact Frank Upchurch at lindaupchurch15@gmail.com. <sup>8/3</sup>

**PASTOR**—Enon, Lola is seeking a bivocational pastor. Parsonage available. For information, call 281-731-7850. <sup>TFN</sup>

**PASTOR**—Ashmore, Loop is seeking a pastor (full-time or bivocational). Send resume to Ashmore Baptist Church c/o Tom Ingle, PO Box 346, Loop, Texas 79342, ashmore4u@outlook.com or call Tom Ingle 806-928-8843/Loyd Halbrooks @ 806-759-2095. <sup>TFN</sup>

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

## CHURCH NEWS

**ROSEWOOD, GILMER** reports that their members distributed several hundred bottles of iced water to those attending graduation at the local Harmony High School. This has been a community service project of the church for the last several years.

## 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.

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



## CHURCHES IN REVIEW

### MAY 29, 2016

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis		98	
Bethel, Groesbeck	42	46	
First, Blooming Grove	198		1 By Letter, 1 By Baptism
First, Omen	39	75	
First, Palmer	60	85	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	22	50	
Harvest, Lufkin	35	45	
Jackson, Joaquin	63	109	
Little Flock, Lufkin	15	20	
Little Flock, Jewett	7	34	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	16	18	
Piney Creek, Kennard	17	28	
Rosewood, Gilmer	115	174	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	18	24	

### JUNE 5, 2016

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Antioch, Gilmer		98	
Bethel, Groesbeck	46	48	
Calvary, Ennis	23	37	
First, Blooming Grove	209		
First, Omen	36	77	1 By Profession
First, Palmer	53	100	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	22	50	
Harvest, Lufkin	45	55	
Jackson, Joaquin	62	122	4 By Letter
Little Flock, Lufkin		100	
Little Flock, Jewett	11	30	
Pine Brook, Tyler	31	58	
Piney Creek, Kennard	10	24	
Rosewood, Gilmer		190	1 By Profession

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

## HALL FURNITURE LTD.

*Fine Church Furniture  
since 1939*  
P.O. Box 157  
(1321 Industrial Dr.)  
Henderson, TX 75653  
903-657-4501



# Sunday School Lessons

## Acts—Witness

By PAUL GAUNTT

**DATE:** July 3, 2016

**TEXT:** Acts 1:6-11; 13:1-3

The book of Acts, which very simply describes the deeds of the apostles and other significant believers, as well as giving us a detailed history of the early church, was written by Luke. In this writing, we witness the empowering of the New Testament Church some 50 days after Jesus ascended back to Heaven.

One only needs to study Acts 2 to observe the model and the makings of a Spirit-led, God-glorifying, powerful New Testament Church. We discover a church which enjoyed the fresh wind of the Holy Spirit's empowering which led to their being broken with conviction as they heard the Apostle Peter preach. Other characteristics of the church were; they were in one accord; faithful to the teachings of the Apostles; they were a ministering church, regularly observing the Lord's Supper, and sharing with one another. Explosive evangelism outreach was obviously the result—thousands being added to the church by profession of faith and baptism.

The church's influence was felt far and wide. One of her deacons, Phillip, led an Ethiopian eunuch to Jesus somewhere outside of Jerusalem, which was obviously an event which contributed to the spread of the gospel throughout the Roman empire.

The salvation of Saul of Tarsus was obviously a great centerpiece of the blessed book. God takes the greatest "Christian killer," converts him, and

turns him into the greatest Christian church planter the world has ever known.

Acts can be divided into two parts: The ministry of Peter in Jerusalem and Samaria, and Paul's missionary journeys throughout the Roman empire. (Acts 13-28). In chapter 10 it is revealed how Peter learned an important lesson from God about being released to share the gospel with the gentiles.

The ministry was not without difficulties and dissension. Barnabas (the encourager) along with his cousin John Mark, accompanied Paul on his first missionary journey, but John Mark "bailed" on them. When Barnabas asked for a second chance for his cousin on the second journey, Paul said "no." A sharp dispute arose between the two, (Acts 15:36-41) which led to their parting company—Paul taking Silas in one direction—Barnabas and John Mark in another.

It is significant to note Luke does not mention Paul's death, nor the persecution of the church by Nero which began in A.D. 64.

### APPLICATION:

Opportunities for believers to share our faith abound. As the power of God strengthened Peter and Paul to powerfully share the gospel to individuals and groups, so it is today, God through His Holy Spirit is well able to undergird the believer of the 21st Century and He can bring the same kind of results.

## Romans—Justified

By PAUL GAUNTT

**DATE:** July 10, 2016

The Apostle Paul, writer of the book of Romans, wrote to the Roman people from Corinth in A.D. 57, just three years after Nero became Emperor of Rome. The political system had not begun as of yet to bear down on Christians, but would break out in a vengeance by A.D. 64.

The book of Romans is most important because it presents the clearest, most detailed and easily understood presentation of Christian doctrine—the depravity of man, the plan of redemption through justification in Christ by faith, through His covering of sin through His shed blood.

Paul goes into detail about the "warfare" which takes place in a believer's life. (Romans 7)

Paul emphasizes the gospel as the most urgent need for fallen man.

In chapter one, he reveals how humans lack God's righteousness because of sin; (verses 1-3) he demonstrates God's righteousness when God justifies us by faith; (verses 4-5) he demonstrates

God's righteousness by being transformed from degenerates to followers of Christ (verses 6-8): he confirms his righteousness when God saves the Jews (verses 9-11) and applies His righteousness in practical ways throughout our lives. (verses 12-16)

### APPLICATION:

Paul spends 11 chapters dealing with doctrine, and then spends five chapters dealing with practical application and instruction—much like the positional truth in Ephesians chapters 1-3 and practical truth in chapters 4-6. To a believer, the union between doctrine and the way he or she lives life is vital. Our day-to-day lifestyle will mirror how deeply grounded we are in Bible doctrine. It will also mirror whether or not we even know the Savior of the Bible.

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



**THE REFUGE CHURCH**  
**SOCK DRIVE**

---

**GOAL: 12,000 PAIRS OF SOCKS**  
**DEADLINE: JULY 31**  
**SIZES & DETAILS: S-XL ALL WHITE SOCKS**  
PLEASE SEND TO: 2000 STERLING GATE DRIVE, HEARTLAND, TEXAS 75126

**REGISTRATION**

 **Registration is ongoing for Summer II and Fall 2016.**

**Students outside the immediate Jacksonville area can register for Fall 2016 on one of three New Student Registration Days:**  
**June 25, July 8, and July 30.**

**For students in the immediate Jacksonville area, registration for Fall 2016 will be open every Tuesday in June and July.**

**For more information and for full course schedules, visit [www.jacksonville-college.edu](http://www.jacksonville-college.edu).**

# JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE *is* affordable

By DR. MIKE SMITH

Attending college is an exciting time. Paying for it is not. Our Financial Aid staff is dedicated to helping you afford a Jacksonville College education. More than 95 percent of our students receive some kind of financial aid, and we try to provide financial assistance to students who would otherwise not be able to attend.

Jacksonville College offers two basic types of aid to assist students in meeting the financial demands of attending college. Gift aid or scholarships are provided by the College to pay for a portion of the educational expenses of the student. Governmental financial aid includes federal/state grants and work-study. Neither scholarships nor grants have to be repaid. Don't let the cost of your education keep you from attending Jacksonville College. Contact us; we can help. Additional information on financial assistance can be found in the Jacksonville College Financial Aid Policies and Procedures Manual located in the Norman Library, Financial Aid Office, and Admissions Office.

Students who wish to receive governmental financial aid from federal or state sources must complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online.

Jacksonville College participates in the Federal Direct Subsidized Loan Program. Students must be attending at least halftime (6 hours) to receive a Direct Subsidized student loan.

Institutional scholarships are awarded through the College Scholarship Committee to students who qualify. A number of different scholarships are available in various categories as outlined below.

## ACADEMICS

- Academic Dean Scholarship
- Athletics
- Performance Grant

## MINISTRY

- BMA of Texas Church Matching Scholarship
- BMA-SBTC Labenski Ministerial Scholarship
- General Ministerial Scholarship

## FINE ARTS

- Band Scholarship (instrumental)
- Music Scholarship (vocal)
- Theater Performance Scholarship

## OTHER

- Commuter Scholarship
- Departmental Scholarship
- Family Scholarship
- Home School Scholarship
- International Scholarship
- Jacksonville Police and Fire Service Scholarship
- Miss GMA of Texas Scholarship
- Mr. Galilean of Texas Scholarship
- Personnel Scholarship
- Presidential Scholarship
- SOAR Scholarship

Jacksonville College was declared by the Department of Education as the fourth most affordable private nonprofit two-year college in America. If you want an affordable education, Jacksonville College is the place for you.



▲ Construction is underway to expand a room in the Jacksonville College Student Union Building for use as the executive dining room and a classroom.



▲ The floors in Jacksonville College's Student Union Building are being prepared to be painted. Later volunteers will paint the walls.

## Texas Baptist Home Change for Children 2016

### Celebration Day



Date: June 25, 2016

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Goal \$75,000

Goal per can \$55

**HOME**  
TEXAS BAPTIST FOR CHILDREN

Change for Children 2016  
629 Farley St - Waxahachie, TX - 75165  
www.tbhc.org (972) 937-1321

**MORAL ACTION - B.M.A.**  
Dr. John M. Adams, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 305  
Mendon, MA 01952  
Telephone 978-341-3053  
Home 978-342-4923  
Fax 978-342-4923  
www.bmausa.org  
"Promoting Biblical Morality Across America"

Please pray for and give financially to help Moral Action expose the anti-Christian agenda of such groups as A.C.L.U., American Atheists, Freedom From Religion Foundation and the Gay Rights Movement.  
-Dr. John M. Adams

**2016  
MORAL ACTION  
FREEDOM OFFERING  
June 26th & July 3rd**