

Baptist Progress

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

Official Publication of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas | June 1, 2016 | Vol. 103 | No. 11

BMA Seminary's Fifty-ninth Commencement

Twenty individuals received a degree from the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary of Jacksonville, Texas during commencement exercises conducted Saturday, May 14, 2016. The seminary hosted the event in its Dorman Memorial Chapel on the main campus in Jacksonville, Texas.

Ollie Fay Oliver of Tyler, Texas and Robert Stokes, Jr. of Whitehouse, Texas received the Associate of Divinity degree. Jack Cleveland of Arlington, Texas, Steven Davenport of Teague, Texas, Sara Harris of Mililani, Hawaii, Santo Juarez of Jacksonville, Texas, Robert Simpson of Jacksonville, Texas, and Nicolas Tovar of Crowley, Texas received the Bachelor of Arts in Religion degree.

The Master of Arts (Religion) degree was awarded to John Ashby, III of Portsmouth, Virginia, Derry Hinton of Tyler, Texas, Lance Sandel of Longview, Texas, and Phillip Waddell of Fruitvale, Texas. Michael Book of Brookland, Arkansas, Ernestine Foreman of Tyler, Texas, Phil Knott of Bryant, Arkansas, and Randy Lingenfelter of Imboden, Arkansas received the Master of Arts in Church Ministries degree. Carol Shine of Jacksonville, Texas received the honorary Master of Arts in Church Ministries degree.

Recipients of the Master of Divinity degree included Timothy Bastress of Jacksonville, Texas, David Cook of Lindale, Texas, and Bart Herrington of Pearl, Mississippi.

Dr. James C. Blaylock, Library Director for the BMA Seminary's Kellar Memorial Library and Pastor of the Corinth Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Texas, presented the commencement address. Blaylock has been involved in Gospel ministry since 1960, including 50 years of service with the seminary's library and 45 years as a pastor in Cherokee County, Texas.



▲ Photo courtesy of Jacksonville Daily Progress.

Blaylock has been selected to Who's Who in Religion four times and to Who's Who in the Southwest three times. He has authored several books including *The History of Buena Vista Baptist Church*, *The History of First Baptist Church of Maydelle*, and *Glimpses from the Past*.

Blaylock earned the A.A. degree from Southeastern Baptist College of Laurel, Mississippi and both the Th.B. and M.R.E. degrees from the BMA Seminary. He also earned a B.A. from the University of Texas at Tyler and the

M.S.L.S. degree from the East Texas State University. In 2011, BMA Seminary awarded him the Doctor of Divinity degree.

BMA Seminary provides accredited theological education to qualified individuals by seeking to equip them for Christian service and leadership roles. The seminary supports the educational needs of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and other groups who share a like commitment to the authority of Scripture.

Inside



Class of 2016 Graduates
Page 3



First Livingston Rises Up
Page 6



Daniel Springs Camp
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



Mobilizing people for ministry

By **JERRY FULTON**

It is sometimes difficult to change our mindsets from that of consumer to contributor, but the Lord has given His people the commission to go and tell, not to sit and be served. Ideally, every member of every church should be involved in the ministry of the church.

Our new Ministry Connection Workshop, *Mobilizing People for Ministry*, will deal with how to motivate and assimilate each member in ministry. The workshop will be led by Dr. Blanton Feaster, education pastor of Farley Street, Waxahachie. Dr. Feaster has taught the subject to churches as well as at Dallas Baptist University.

The workshop will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 12:30 p.m., Thursday, July 21. The location of the workshop is the BMA of Texas Building, 632 Farley Street in Waxahachie.

To register, go to <http://www.baptistprogress.org/registration.html>.

FUTURE MINISTRY CONNECTION WORKSHOPS Interim Pastor & Pastor Search Team Training

WHEN: Thursday, Aug. 25, 2016

WHERE: BMA of Texas Building, Waxahachie

WHO: Dr. Mike Smith, president, Jacksonville College, Jacksonville

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



▲ Jerry Fulton

Churches hone their social media skills

By **JERRY FULTON**

Baptist Progress Editor

Baptist Progress hosted its third Ministry Connection Workshop of the year May 14. Brandon Cox, editor of Pastors.com and pastor of Grace Hills, Bentonville, Arkansas, led the workshop, *Making the Most of Media, Design and Communication*. Pastors, church staff and members from Fort Worth, Arlington, Crandall, and Waxahachie participated.

During the workshop Cox explained that God is using the church to take the gospel to every person and community on the face of the planet, but the way we communicate the unchanging gospel helps us tell the unchanging story in an ever-unfolding way to each new generation as more and more lost people are brought into the kingdom.

He said, "Jesus has a brand. The church has a brand. Every church leader has a brand. A brand is not a logo. A brand is the story people tell about a person, product or organization.."

Cox continued, "The big question to answer: What story do we want the culture to tell about the church, its message and its leaders?"

He asked, "If I were new to town and considering attending your church, what would you want me to know about it? What's the vision? What's the identity? What do you hope it's known for?"



▲ Brandon Cox

"The story," he said, "should be reduced to six or eight key words and phrases."

Cox noted, "The church, historically, has been an early adopter of some of the world's best and most innovative technologies.

- Papyrus was used to make many copies of the Scriptures.
- The Roman roads were used to find new mission fields.
- The Greek language was utilized to write the Bible.
- The first book printed on a printing press was the Bible.
- The oldest radio and television shows were gospel-centered.

"But when it comes to the Internet and the digital age, we've lagged behind. We've now adopted a new mentality of whatever the world can do, we can do 15 years later and 80 percent as well."

"So let's embrace some new technologies," Cox challenged.

From there, Cox spoke about current tools of the trade including websites, Google, Facebook, apps, video email and more.

Notes from the workshop have been included in the last three *Ministry Connection* email newsletters.



▲ Workshop participants

Congratulations
graduates
CLASS OF 2016

BEACON, BRYAN

Rebekah Barret

BEACON HILL, WACO

*Ansheley Mulero
Marye Hope Adams*

CALVARY FIRST, MESQUITE

*William Eastep
Ben Ensign
Brianna Espinoza*

CEDAR CREEK, TEAGUE

Mick Atchley Morgan

CRAFT, JACKSONVILLE

Taylor Rush

EIGHTH AVENUE, TEAGUE

*Avery Aultman
Cody Gonzales
Joshua Evans
Kristopher Wright
Morgan Posey
Tiffany Scruggs*

EMMANUEL, GARLAND

*Jason Blount
Katie Hopkins
Andrew Sanders*

FARLEY STREET, WAXAHACHIE

*Brittany Dyke
Emma Oliver
Ethan Lee
Hannah Yarborough
Rachel Prewitt
Rebecca Prewitt
Tony Huffman*

FELLOWSHIP, PITTSBURG

Ethan Mejia

FIFTH STREET, LEVELLAND

Matthew Trammell

FIRST, BLOOMING GROVE

*Brittany Nichols
Brock Garcia
Carmen McWhorter
Ethan Candanoza
J.T. Sykes
Jacob Blake
Lillie Perry
Logan Peterson
Luke Andrews
Mar' Leigh Davis
Micah Escamilla
Samantha Armstrong
Sky Blades
Sophia Newland*

FIRST MISSIONARY, MORTON

*Kalin "KK" Bracken
Bailey Lynch*

FIRST, NEW CANEY

Caleb Fitzgerald

FIRST, PALMER

*McKenna Wilson
Roman Joubbs*

FIRST PROVIDENCE, LIVINGSTON

*Katie Germann
Lindsey Moore
Ryan Brown
Zane Pierce*

FRIENDSHIP, MESQUITE

Macks Garrett Prewitt

HUBBARD CHAPEL, QUITMAN

Brandon Smith

LAKERIDGE, LUBBOCK

*Kellon Smith
Hope Hughes*

MT. PISGAH, GILMER

*Alexis Reiland
Cheyenne Gilbert*

NEW HARMONY, TYLER

*Bailey Dudley
Destiny Caldwell
Devri Cotton
Graham White
Joe Santangelo
Jonathan Attebery
Kamryn Pilkinton
Melissa Palma
Michaela Breittling*

OAK GROVE, CANTON

Haley Hernandez

OAK HILL, GILMER

Alexis Elledge

PILGRIM REST #2, GOLDEN

*David Watson
Sydney Ringgold*

ROSEWOOD, GILMER

*Hunter Anderson
Samuel Brister
Savanna Finch-Henson
Leighton Henson
Preston Miles
Tiffany Thompson
Zac Thompson
Rowdy Yordy*

ROUND PRAIRIE, FAIRFIELD

*Kelsie Adams
Cole Beddingfield
Joy Abby Chaidez
Margaret Cockerell
Joe DeAnda
Kaitlyn Diaz
Joseph (Jax) Donohoo
Cam Hicks
Michael Hudson
Jayci Hughes
Blake Lopez
Noah Mireles
Karen Moore
Madison Shamblin
Trey Simpson
Tyryn West*

SAND SPRINGS, MINEOLA

*Adrian Gonzalez
Jay Lyles
Scott Estoll
Tina Carusa*

Church Health

Priorities

By LARRY BARKER

To what will you give your time and energy? What are the most important things in your life and ministry? It has been suggested to make a list of the things you find yourself doing that really don't make a significant difference. It is very easy to get caught up in busy work that is not very productive. All of us can find ourselves just like Martha did in Luke 10 where she was distracted by her many tasks.

The next step is making a second list of the things that are truly important. This includes things like sitting at the feet of Jesus (Mary; Martha's sister), investing in building relationships with people far from God, and disciplining those who are hungry for God. These are the things we should be giving our lives to with all of our time and energy. We must be careful not to nickel and dime our time away on the less important.

First, you must decide what is truly important and what is not. Priorities are like banks of a river that keep the water flowing in the right direction. Every day you must be intentional and make choices about what you will do, where you will go, and how you will spend your time. Jeremiah 42:3, "That the Lord God may tell us the way we should walk and the thing we should do." Saying yes to one thing means you must say no to something else.

Second, you must discipline yourself to focus on what is important. Time alone is a priority and that means you must discipline yourself to schedule that time. You have to protect it and be willing to say no to other things that you could be doing. Determining your priorities requires a decision about what are essentials and non-essentials in your life and ministry. You cannot be everywhere and you cannot do everything so you must make wise choices.

Here is a good checklist and process in helping you stay focused on what is of the greatest importance. You can apply this to your personal life, your entire church, or an individual ministry you oversee. You must be concerned and focused on being productive not simply busy. Leaders must be proactive and intentional compared to reactive and always putting out fires when they ignite.

First, determine your purpose! This is what you are called to accomplish in your life and in your church. Our calling is to passionately follow Jesus and to help others find and follow Him. In Luke 24:48 Jesus told His disciples, "You are witnesses of these things." What steps are we intentionally taking

to build relationships with people who are far from God so that we might demonstrate the love of God to them?

Second, be passionate about your purpose. This is a sense of enthusiasm about your purpose and direction. Passion comes from spending time with the Lord and allowing Him to set our hearts on fire. When Jesus walked with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus they later said in Luke 24:32, "Weren't our hearts ablaze within us while He was talking with us on the road and explaining the scriptures to us?"

Third, you must develop goals. What do you want your life to look like in two to three years from now? What would you like your discipleship program to look like in that time frame? What does your preferred future look like? How many books would you like to read this year? How much weight would you like to lose this year? Goals help you to make the right choices to get where you want to go.

Fourth, write out a plan to accomplish those goals. Every individual and church would be wise to determine their present reality and then envision their preferred future. The plan is what you are going to do to get to that preferred future. What steps are you going to take to make that happen? What needs to be done next to move forward and who needs to be the one doing it? Make sure everyone knows who is responsible to make the plan work.

Fifth, place the plan on a timeline. When does each step of the plan need to be accomplished? Deadlines help us with follow through. Is this doable by the time you have designated? Are the goals you have established SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Timely) goals? Place the goal and plan on the calendar and then be willing to hold yourself responsible for its completion.

Sixth, then you must execute the plan. Nike has said it well, "Just do it!" At some point and time you must pull the trigger and move forward. It has also been said many times, and is still true, "Plan the work and then work the plan!" The everyday choices you are making are your priorities. Are they producing the outcome you desire? Brian Tracy says, "Eighty percent of what you do on a daily basis needs to be intentional as opposed to responsive and should be directly tied to your purpose."

Seventh, make sure you evaluate your progress. Always be assessing your progress and how you can

**CHANGE YOUR
PRIORITIES
AND YOU
CHANGE
YOUR LIFE.
IT'S THAT SIMPLE.**

improve. In *Leaders Who Last*, David Kraft gives the outline for this process and says, "If I don't create a daily plan that is a reflection of my God-given purpose and direction in my life, there are sufficient numbers of people who will create a plan for me. I have those in my life who would say with smiles on their faces, 'Dave, God loves you and I have a wonderful plan for your life!'"

Healthy Christians have a plan to intentionally prioritize their lives and ministries in order to accomplish God's purpose.

Larry Barker is the pastor of Cornerstone, Jacksonville. He also serves as the operations director for North American Missions. For more information or to contact him, visit www.bmamissions.org.



LEAVE IT TO CLEAVER



A Father's Day Tribute: Dr. Gerald Kellar

By **DR. TONY CLEAVER**

Gerald Dean Kellar is the father of the Baptist Missionary Association of America (BMAA). He was the guiding and directional patriarch of this Baptist group. We owe him a great debt of gratitude for the many good things we enjoy in the BMAA today.

The accomplishments of our alliance have been voluminous. We currently appreciate great successes in the world of missions, Christian education, benevolence, and literature-both print and electronic multi media. Through his early efforts Dr. Kellar helped to lay good and positive foundations that have come to fruition in our twenty-first century world.

In his early boyhood days, Gerald would go out to preach to the chickens. That kind of rehearsal seems to have served him well; he was the consummate preacher. Yet he was always interested in education as evidenced by his own determination for higher learning. His learning never, ever stood in the

way of his being the best friend to any and every person who came across his path.

Gerald Dean loved his family. His bright and shining star was Mary Lou. He met her while he was standing in the middle of an intersection in early college days. They weathered many storms together, including the death of three of their five children. Death of his children did not deter him from being the kind of father God required him to be. His genuine faith suffered through the fire of adversity only to come out on the other side as many Christians have done and continue to do.



He had many good and great works as testament to his fatherly character. One of the best examples is the First Baptist Church in Galena, Kansas. His work there set in motion positive events that have influenced the lives of many in the state.

Fathers serve in the place of God for us who are children. That is their role; that is their place. Dr. Kellar served for us in that capacity. That is why this Father's Day I want to remember him not only as my father-in-law but also as a father to my own Baptist work.

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



MAC letter to the churches

By **DR. JOHN ADAMS**

Moral Action Executive Director

Dear Church family, Pastor, & Staff,

Hello to each one. Darla and I hope the very best for each of you as you receive this letter and promotion material in the June mail. It's time to stand up for our great nation. The ACLU and the Americans United for Separation of Church and State are determined to remove God from American life.

Would you please post our Moral Action posters in your church (feel free to make copies of this letter for each classroom)? Moral Action is a good ministry and so needed in 2016-17.

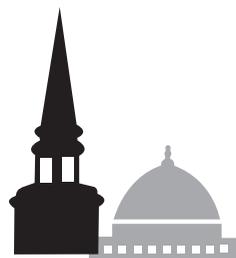
Your offerings on June 26 or July 3 will certainly help. So, whether small or large offerings, we thank you in advance. Please mail the offerings to:

Moral Action, P. O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855. I wish for each BMA church to consider us in your budget, also.

I count it a great honor to serve in your behalf before your Senators, Congressmen and political moralists. Help us please as we stand up for Jesus Christ our Savior and the United States of America!

Respectfully,
Dr. John M. Adams

Joshua 24:15
"I Have Chosen..."
JMA/lrs



The Baptist Progress is asking for an offering of

\$104 for 104
years of ministry

Please send to:
Baptist Progress
P.O. Box 2085, Waxahachie, Texas 75168

First, Livingston *rises up*

By **JERRY FULTON**

Baptist Progress Editor

Rise Up is a community outreach campaign led by Kevan Wood, pastor of worship and administration, at First, Livingston, that began six years ago. Since that time, the effort has grown to include numerous other churches in the community.

This year, First, Livingston gathered for worship early at 8 a.m. Sunday, March 22. Following worship, each person wearing a t-shirt that says, *Rise Up*, dispersed across the city to perform 85 projects with 1,000 volunteers. Some churches also participated on Saturday.

For three hours there were people all over town working at widows' houses, local schools, city buildings, the local CPS office, city parks, and scores of other locations making improvements and volunteering. When the project was completed, church members returned at noon for a church-wide barbecue meal in the city park to celebrate.

Pastor Brett Lester said, "We are trying to bring those who believe that Christ is the way together to change our county."

"Our goal is to do something tangible so that our community can see that we care about them with the hope of Christ and that the Bible-believing churches in our community are committed to working together."

Lester praised Wood for his leadership and First Baptist and other area churches for their participation in the *Rise Up* campaign.





JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE *is* **UNIQUE**

By **DR. MIKE SMITH**

Jacksonville College President

IN THE UNITED STATES

- 5,000 colleges of all types exist.
- 1,000 of these are two-year colleges.
- 50 of these two-year colleges are religious.

IN TEXAS

- 195 colleges of all types exist.
- 70 of these are community, two-year colleges.
- 4 of these are technical colleges.
- 42 of these are religious colleges:
 - » 12 Baptist
 - » 7 Catholic
 - » 6 Methodist
 - » 6 Church of Christ/Christian
 - » 3 Presbyterian
 - » 3 Non-Denominational, Interdenominational, or Multi Denominational
 - » 2 Lutheran
 - » 1 African Methodist Episcopal
 - » 1 Seventh-Day Adventist
 - » 1 Assembly of God

How many of the two-year colleges in Texas are religious? One—Jacksonville College is it. Jacksonville College is unique and not for everyone, but the College is ideal for any student who wants:

- a quality education,
- a Christian environment,
- affordability,
- a fully accredited college,
- athletics (men's and women's basketball, tennis, golf, soccer, and cross country),
- theater,
- choir,
- band,
- 60 hours of Texas core requirements,
- online courses and degrees, and
- scholarships (received by 95% of students).

Jacksonville College exists to provide a quality education from a biblical worldview that challenges minds, transforms lives, and equips students for servant leadership and lifelong learning. Visit www.jacksonville-college.edu to start the admissions process, or contact Sandra Clay in the Admissions office at 903-589-7110, admissions@jacksonville-college.edu.

Dr. Mike Smith is the president of Jacksonville College. Contact him at msmith@jacksonville-college.edu or 903-589-7106. You may also visit the Jacksonville College website, www.jacksonville-college.edu



▲ Jacksonville College students and employees gathered to pray together for the May 5 observance of the National Day of Prayer.



▲ During the National Day of Prayer, JC students and employees humbled themselves in prayer for personal repentance and renewal, and for God's supernatural intervention behalf of America.

REGISTRATION

Registration is ongoing for Summer I and 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.

GOD'S GIFT

HEAVEN IS A FREE GIFT!

It is not earned or deserved. No amount of effort or good works can earn a place for you in heaven. Why?

Because . . .

MAN IS A SINNER.

"For all have sinned . . ." (Rom. 3:23)

Because of this, man cannot save himself.

GOD.

On the one hand, God is merciful and does not want to punish us. Yet God is just and must punish sin. God solved this problem for us in the Person of . . .

JESUS CHRIST.

He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and rose from the grave to purchase a place for us in heaven—"the Lord has laid on Him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:6).

THE GIFT IS RECEIVED BY FAITH.

Saving faith is trusting in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life. It means resting on Christ alone and what He has done, rather than what you or I have done to get us into heaven. *"Believe on (or trust in) the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved"* (Acts 16:31).

SO MAY WE ASK . . .

Have you received God's free gift of eternal life?

The Bible assures us in 1 John 5:13 that we can know we have eternal life.

Do you know for sure that you are going to heaven when you die?

The Bible says, *"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* If you are willing to repent (turn away from your sin and to the Lord Jesus) you can receive the free gift of eternal life by simply praying:

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



16 new Texas missions underway at a time and a Hispanic work alongside every BMA church that is willing

By **HEITH MITCHELL**

BMA Texas Missions Director

To have 16 new Texas missions underway at a time and a Hispanic work alongside every BMA church that is willing is the God-sized burden I increasingly find rolling off my tongue. I look at this typed out and it looks like too much. But why. God is able, right?

God can do more in and through a believer than we can do.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father." John 14:12

God can accomplish so much more through a local church than an assembled group of people can without Him.

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever." Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

When God empowered churches work together there are no limits. Things like this are the result: "For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." Revelation 5:9b-10

A believer should always take God into consideration when they set a goal. His will, His heart, His power and His Word. I believe this is more than a goal though. It has really become a burden and a passion. I believe God has placed this on my heart. I look at this daunting goal with such excitement.

If we are consistently seeing 16 Texas Missions underway at a time and are achieving an 80 percent survival rate, like national missions, then we will be gaining ground in Texas. We will be starting more new churches than close their doors on average over the five year church planting period.

With a structure of assessment, equipping, coaching and accountability that is patterned after our national mission movement in place, we are expecting 80 percent sustainability in front of us. Imagine the impact of 30 new churches in the next decade on the Kingdom and on our association.

If we can assist in a Hispanic work being started alongside every BMA church that is burdened for the Hispanic people in their community, then our Kingdom impact will be huge. It will mean thousands of Hispanics reached through hundreds of BMA churches across the state. The groundwork is being laid with 22 potential leaders currently attending the new Hispanic Bible Institute in Humble and the new Hispanic Bible Institute in Dallas starting in July. Leaders are being equipped.

Do you know where every plan to carry out this goal bottle necks? The obstacle is a shortage of available leaders and team members. That is why when Jesus looked at the mission ahead He told his followers to pray for laborers.

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38)

Will you join me in praying for laborers so that together we can see 16 new Texas missions underway at a time and a Hispanic work alongside every BMA church that is willing.

Heith Mitchell is the director of BMA of Texas Missions. Contact him at hmittell@bmatexas.org or 972-923-0757. Visit www.bmatexasmissions.org.



Auxiliaries

National WMA Highlight

By SHARON COLE

The National WMA met April 26, 2016 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. President Janet Widger moderated the meeting. Beautiful music was led and presented by Jerene Reddin. Tennessee WMA President Elisha Burnett welcomed everyone to her great state.

Eight missionaries were recognized along with other special guests. WMA ladies who have gone on to be with the Lord were recognized and Valarie Fish led in the memorial prayer for them.

National Miss GMA Amanda Hall presented a devotional using Matthew 5:40-42 and National Jr. Miss Lydia Dunlap led in prayer.

Special recognition was given to First Baptist Church, Springhill, Louisiana for giving the most to the project. Bro. and Mrs. Doug Lee, missionaries to the Philippines, thanked the WMA for their support in the 2015-2016 project of the Bible College. Bro. Lee related that there were 22 students in the music department who were very aggressive in winning souls. Mrs. Lee said there were 101 souls saved in the field.

The new project for 2016-2017 is Funds for Computers for two schools and a girls' children's home in Gulbarga, India.

One Petitionary Letter was received from First Baptist Church, Maydelle. The ladies named their WMA group, "Fresh Start."

Election of the 2016-2017 officers were: President-Ruby Poteet; First Vice President-Jodie Rhea; Second Vice President-Charlotte Johnson; Third Vice President-Brenda Hornaday; Treasurer-Pat Duncan; Assistant Treasurer-Janet Widger; Recording Secretary-Ann Pugh; Assistant Recording Secretary-Linda Dertinger; Media Director-Alicia Johnson; Editor-Lane Flynt; Historian-Linda Thomas; Director of Youth Auxiliaries-Laurie Hicks; GMA/YLA Promoter-Jayna Williams; Assistant GMA/YLA Promoter-Lisa Christian; Sunbeam Promoter-Sherry Laminack; Assistant Sunbeam Promoter-Sandra Kizer; Song Leader-Jerene Reddin; Pianist-Robin Clark; Project Promotion Committee-Carolyn Colvert, Debbie Clark, and Diana Morris. Salary and Expense Committee-LaDonna Baker, Ann Raines, and Beth Caldwell. Study Book Committee-Connie Reifsteck, Jackie Ricks and Narita Roady. Advisory Council-Bro. Randy Rhea, Bro. Claude Evans and Bro. David Kizer. Installation of officers was led by Jodie Rhea.

Special speaker for the meeting was Mrs. Fran Hoover. Using Matthew 5:41, she spoke on "Going the Extra Mile Like Jesus." Mrs. Doug Lee presented in song, "In Times Like These Jesus Loves You." Second Vice President, Charlotte Johnson announced the theme of the coming WMA year to be "Grace Wins" using Hebrews 4:16. Next year's meeting will be in Arlington, Texas. Texas WMA President, Sherry Decker, encouraged every lady to be present and bring the card that she gave them to receive something special.



▲ 2016-2017 WMA Officers

DISTRICT NEWS

Polk County District WMA met April 28, 2016 with Holly Grove, Livingston with President Carol Griffin presiding. The scripture for the day was John 14:1-6. The Attendance Banner was awarded to First, Livingston and Soda, Livingston received the Percentage Banner. There were 46 in attendance. The following officers were elected: President-Carol Griffin; First Vice President-Barbara Benton; (No Second Vice) Each church is responsible for the program. Third Vice President-Carol Griffin; Secretary/Treasurer-Delores Adams; Asst.-Gloria Richardson; Corresponding Secretary-Linda Dill; Song Leader-Betty Blakley; Pianist-Gracie Hood; Asst.-Delores Adams; Sunshine Committee Hazel Milliken, Carol Griffin; Scrapbook: Sharon Smith, Asst.-Doris Hambrick; Nominating Committee: Gloria Richardson, Hazel Milliken, Barbara Benton. Advisory Committee: Bro. Denton Maze, Bro. Wayne Bickley, Bro. Brett Lester. Officers were installed by Gloria Richardson. The program began with Bro. Jesse Rhodes singing: "I Can't Even Walk," "His Hand In Mine," and "Look For Me and See Jesus." Regina Maze sang: "The Warrior is a Child." Testimony time was given by Elisa Martin. She encouraged everyone to get their priorities in line with Christ and that our relationship with Christ should be top priority. "Home of the Soul" was sang by Bro. Rhodes and Mrs. Maze and invited everyone to join in singing with them.

BENEVOLENCE-A VITAL PART OF WMA

If you are the Benevolence Chairman of your WMA, you have a very special task and opportunity to lead the ladies in "reaching out in service" to your community. Even if you don't have this position, it is every Christian's responsibility and privilege to share

God's love with those around us. The Scripture tells us to reach out with compassion to those who are less fortunate. We say we love everyone with our words, but do we put those words to action? Jesus expressed humility, gentleness, compassion, and sympathy through his hands, his eyes, and his mouth. He had the greatest message to give. We are to follow His example. There are many things we can do to show God's love to others. Prepare a meal for someone who has had recent surgery; Remember, on special occasions, the Pastor, church staff, GMA and Sunbeam workers; Make a tape/CD recording of worship services to take to the homebound or nursing home resident; Provide a listening ear to someone in distress; Use your talents in singing or playing musical instruments at nursing homes; Plan an old fashioned pounding for the Pastor or other member of the community or church; Make it possible for a child to attend summer camp; Include appropriate gospel tracts when paying bills by mail. Keep a food pantry in the church to help those in need. God gave us eyes to search for those in need, physically as well as spiritually. God gave us a tongue to tell the gospel message of Christ. That is the greatest gift we can give anyone. He gave us hands and arms to hold someone in sorrow. God delights in seeing His Son glorified through our acts of love.

Sharon Cole is the editor for the Texas WMA. Contact her at S9Co@aol.com. For more information on the Texas WMA, visit www.texaswma.com.



EVENTS

JUNE 5, 2016

104th Homecoming
Little Flock, Lufkin
Lester Foreman, guest speaker
The Plainsmen will provide gospel singing
Lunch following worship
10 a.m.

JUNE 6-JULY 7, 2016

Summer Term I at Jacksonville College

JULY 11-AUGUST 10, 2016

Summer Term II at Jacksonville College

JULY 21, 2016

Baptist Progress
Ministry Connection Workshop,
How to Revitalize Your Church
BMA of Texas Building,
632 Farley St., Waxahachie, Texas
Time TBD
No cost -- RSVP
editor@baptistprogress.org
or 972-923-0756.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

Baptist Progress Ministry
Connection Workshop
TBD

NOVEMBER 14, 2016

Baptist Progress
& Ellis County
Baptist Association Host
Ministry Connection Conference
Farley Street Baptist Church,
Waxahachie, Texas
Details TBD

NOVEMBER 15-16, 2016

BMA of Texas 116th Annual Session
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. ^{8/3}

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.

PASTOR—Opelika Missionary, Brownsboro is seeking a pastor. For more information, call 903-469-3692 or 903-515-2288.

PASTOR—First, Shady Grove, Laurel, Mississippi is seeking a pastor. Send resume to fbcshadygrove@yahoo.com. Phone inquiries should be made to Don Brown at 601-426-3293. ^{6/1}

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. ^{8/3}

PASTOR—Enon, Lola is seeking a bivocational pastor. Parsonage available. For information, call 281-731-7850. ^{TFN}

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. ^{TFN}

PASTOR—Fifth Street, Levelland is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee—Larry Beadles, 1009 5th Street, Levelland, Texas 79336 or Lbeadles@msn.com. ^{7/20}

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

CHURCH NEWS

MATTHEW WALKER is the new pastor of Anthony Drive, Ennis.

PRESTON MURCHISON has resigned as pastor of Liberty, Longview, and the church has changed its name to Sovereign Life Fellowship.

JASON WILLIAMS is the new pastor of Sovereign Life Fellowship, Longview.

MICHAEL O'CONNOR has resigned as youth minister of Rosewood, Gilmer.

CHURCH NEWS

ROSEWOOD, GILMER reports their College and Career Class held a unique service on May 22. They observed a combined worship experience with Stonepoint Mission near Atlanta, Georgia, where Todd and Amy Cox are BMAA missionaries. The interactive service was made possible using Skype on the worldwide web. The class and one other Sunday school class help sponsor the Stonepoint Mission as class projects.

BETHEL, GROESBECK reports the addition of 12 new members. Attendance has increased by an average of 15 a week. Younger adults are attending the church. They believe God is going to open the windows of Heaven and pour out His blessings upon them. The church requests your prayers.

CHURCHES IN REVIEW

MAY 15, 2016

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	57	120	
Antioch, Gilmer	40	100	
First, Blooming Grove	200		1 By Baptism
First, Palmer	53	85	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	19	40	
Harvest, Lufkin	45	65	
Jackson, Joaquin	65	114	
Little Flock, Lufkin	20	20	
Little Flock, Jewett	9	20	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	10	21	
New Harmony, Tyler	304	350	1 By Letter, 1 By Baptism
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	37	48	
Piney Creek, Kennard	17	28	
Rosewood, Gilmer	107	186	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	21	27	

MAY 22, 2016

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Antioch, Gilmer		108	
Bethel, Groesbeck	34	42	
First, Blooming Grove	201		
First, Palmer	46	78	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	22	53	
Harvest, Lufkin	45	65	
Jackson, Joaquin	76	130	
Little Flock, Lufkin	15	20	
Little Flock, Jewett	9	34	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	15	21	
Rosewood, Gilmer	120	251	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	31	57	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	14	18	

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

Luke—Man

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: JUNE 19, 2016

TEXT: Luke 2:1-14

LUKE'S BACKGROUND:

A greek and a Gentile from Antioch, Luke was a physician and tradition suggests that he might have also been a slave as was common for families to have a slave educated in medicine in order to have a resident physician.

Luke became a close companion and traveling partner to the Apostle Paul during his missionary journeys. Luke likely provided medical assistance to Paul, who had been beaten, and who suffered from various physical ailments.

LUKE'S GOSPEL:

Although Luke's name does not appear in this gospel, tradition attributes its writing to him. Luke emphasized Christ's compassion for sinners and for those who suffer. Luke's ministry can be followed in the book of Acts, and is a great historical reference to the early church and Paul's missionary journeys. According to Acts 21:17, Luke accompanied Paul on his final visit to Jerusalem.

LUKE'S MINISTRY:

Luke obviously had a tremendous interest in people. He focused largely on Jesus' interactions with people who were not socially acceptable,

like Matthew and Mark. He was the only gospel writer who mentioned the conversation between the thieves crucified alongside Jesus. Luke showcased Jesus' ministry of compassion to people, regardless of their station in life. Luke revealed Jesus as the Servant.

LUKE'S MESSAGE:

The detailed message of the birth of Jesus, as recorded in Luke 2:1-14, was obviously a great priority in Luke's writings — and to the One Who inspired him to write. Luke records that Joseph was of the lineage of David, and Mary, although not of the house of David, was a cousin of the mother of John the Baptist, Elizabeth, which places Mary in the tribe of Levi. (Luke 1:5) Luke goes into great detail of the ramifications of Mary giving birth out of wedlock, and the potential uproar it could cause her and Joseph. The angel speaking reassurance and comfort to her, and bringing the radiance of God's glory down, heralding the good news of the birth of the Savior, Who was, and is, the Savior of the world. This is the gospel message.

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.



John—God

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: June 26, 2016

TEXT: John 1:1-14

JESUS CHRIST - ETERNAL.

Jesus was born to a virgin - a young Jewish girl from the tribe of Levi. But Christ, whom John says is synonymous with the Word, existed in eternities past, and was at the right hand of His Father, at creation. 1:1-2.

JESUS CHRIST - THROUGH WHOM EVERYTHING IS CREATED 1:3

Nothing has ever been created that was not created by God, through Christ. No man nor any other entity can lay claim to creation. All man can do is invent, or construct objects from materials, which have already been created by God through Jesus Christ — the Word.

JESUS CHRIST - THE LIGHT AND THE LIFE 1:4-8

The light was revealed at his birth, through the glory of God being manifested, of which the shepherds were frightened. Psalm 119:105. John the Baptist was not that light, but was chosen of God to be the forerunner sent to bear the witness of that light. John 3:30 reveals John's place in the introduction of the gospel — "He must increase, but I must decrease."

Psalm 119:105 states, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Jesus Christ is the Word — He will light your path.

JESUS CHRIST — DESPISED BY HIS OWN 1:9-10-11

Christ's light was not received by His own people. The pharisees, who practiced the Mosaic law, regarded Christ as a rebel — representing a false religion. The parable of the great supper in Luke 14:15-24 perfectly illustrates the rejection of the Messiah by the Jews, (Luke 14:18) and the offer of salvation to the gentiles. ("the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind." Luke 14:21)

JESUS CHRIST — THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD 1:12-13

Salvation does not come "by the will of the flesh" but it is "of God." But man is given opportunity to receive Him (verse 12)

JESUS CHRIST — GOD IN THE FLESH 1:14

John explains that Jesus - or the Word, "became flesh and dwelt among us" For God to become flesh was and is essential to the provision of the perfect blood atonement for the remission of sin. It is also essential that one believe, without a doubt, that Christ is incarnate.

I John 4:3 "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, is not of God; and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

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!

BMA
BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

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.

Daniel Springs: A Place Where Lives Are Changed

By **JONATHAN WILSON**

Over the past 50 plus summers, thousands of campers have walked the grounds of Daniel Springs. From young to old, many experienced the life changing power of Christ. There are countless stories of campers professing faith in Christ, surrendering to missions, and dedicating their life to serving God. Andy Comer, Church Planter, Georgetown, TX shares his story.

“To say that Daniel Springs has been a huge part of my life would be an understatement. I remember the exact place in the main tabernacle where I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior at age 11. It brings me great joy to be able to return there every summer and see where my life was changed for eternity! Daniel Springs Camp was something I looked forward to every summer as a student. I believe God used those weeks to mold and shape me into the man I am today. There is something about spending 3 days and 3 nights away from the routines of life to be spiritually refreshed and renewed. Even now, at age 31, I look forward to going back every summer to invest in the next generation. Daniel Springs has a way of bringing out the kid in all of us.”

Life changing stories like Andy’s will happen this summer at Daniel Springs. To experience Daniel Springs and to have your own story, visit danielspringscamp.com to register or call (903) 685-2433.

2016 DANIEL SPRINGS CAMP SCHEDULE

Galilean Camp	June 7-10
GMA Camp	June 14-17
Student I (7th-College)	June 21-24
Preteen Camp I (4th-6th)	June 28-July 1
Preteen Camp II (4th-6th)	July 12-15
Ark-La-Tex Camp (Family)	July 19-22
Student Camp II (7th-College)	July 26-29

Register For Camp at DANIELSPRINGSCAMP.COM
 Email: jason@danielspringscamp.com
 Phone: 903-685-2433

Fun times at Texas Baptist Home

By **JERRY FULTON**

Baptist Progress Editor

Children, youth, their parents and other members of Anthony Drive, Ennis arrived at Texas Baptist Home for Children (TBHC) for a day of fun Saturday, May 21. Foster parents and approximately 20 foster children enjoyed water games, including a slip and slide, water balloons, water guns and a game of kickball. Word has it that Pastor Matthew Walker and Youth Pastor Trey Vaught were totally drenched in the water balloon and water gun fight. The children were served popsicles and other snacks, as kids from Anthony Drive and TBHC got to know one another.



SOAR

Clif Johnson Aaron Williams Jordan Bowen We The Union Concert For The Nations

REGISTER NOW
gosoar.com
 \$110 PER STUDENT BY JUNE 10

HILTON ANATOLE, DALLAS, TX
JULY 6-8, 2016

@soarconference #gosoar16 Brought to you by DiscipleGuide