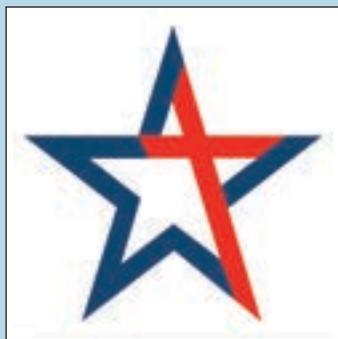


# Baptist Progress

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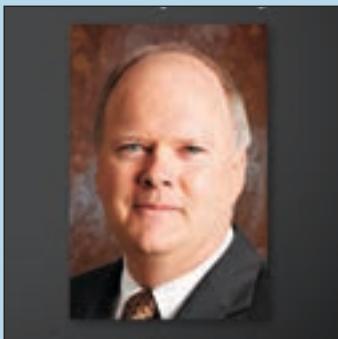
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## First ever BMA of Texas Leadership Conference announced for April 27, 2020



The BMA of Texas is excited to announce our first **BMA of Texas Leadership Conference** to be held at First, Red Oak, located at 320 East Ovilla Road in Red Oak, April 27, 2020. This will be a time of challenge and reflection as we consider what *Using Your Edge* in ministry is all about, no matter your role. Join us for a light breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and spend time visiting with pastors from across our associational work. A time of worship will begin at 9 a.m. with preaching, fellowship and prayer will be on the morning's agenda and we can't wait for you to join us!

Come expecting to be encouraged and challenged to use your edge in ministry celebrating not only using your talents and gifts from God, but using His Word to pierce deep

into people's hearts to make true transformation.

This conference is free for all participants, but we would like a head count to best prepare. You can do this in two ways. Either call the BMA Texas Office at 972-923-0757 and let us know you are coming, or view the Facebook invitation and tell us you are "going." You can find the Facebook invitation by searching *Using Your Edge* in the Facebook search bar and selecting *Using Your Edge – BMA of Texas Leadership Conference*. Even if you are unable to let us know, we would still like for you to come.

This year we are excited about our speakers. They are BMA of Texas pastors and men of God seeking to live out there calling to God's glory.

Pastor Mark Livingston of Keltys First,

Lufkin will share about *The Unwavering Leader*. Giving a word about being as God is; unwavering in the middle of an unsteady world. Are we passionate and purposeful followers of Christ?

Pastor Chris George of Round Prairie, Fairfield will talk about *The Meaningful Shepherd*. Being in the moment of people's lives, being shepherded and shepherding as we go. Are we discipling and witnessing to a lost world?

Pastor Wes Pratt of Northside, Conroe will discuss *The Available Pastor*. Learning to balance our time between preaching and equipping. Are we developing and delegating the saints for the work?

We hope to see you there!



WWW.BMATEXAS.ORG



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## We need your help

By **JERRY FULTON**

Of the almost 400 churches in the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas, only 162 currently are members of the *Baptist Progress* Church Plan. Churches on the Church Plan provide (pay for) each of their member households to receive 12 issues of *Baptist Progress* per year for only \$1.75 per subscription per month by mail or \$1.25 per subscription per month per email. It is so important that each of your church's members be informed of what God is doing through the BMA of Texas. The more informed they are, the more involved they will be. It is a small investment in the lives of each member that every BMA of Texas church should make.

If your church has chosen not to be a member of our Church Plan, would your church at least consider adding us to your monthly budget? If the approximate 238 churches who are not currently on the Church Plan would give \$25 per month, that would increase our budget by \$5,950 per month. If all churches, including those already on the Church Plan, would add *Baptist Progress* to their budget, that would give us an extra \$10,000 per month. I would love to increase our travel budget and add a roving reporter to our staff who can help me travel the state reporting on what God is doing through our churches.

As it stands now, *Baptist Progress* operates on a bare-bones budget. We have removed every expense we can, including decreasing my salary and decreasing office help pay. As editor, I now serve in a part-time capacity so that we can meet our budget.

As stated above, we need your help!

Even if your church is on the Church Plan, we are calling on all churches to please add *Baptist Progress* to your monthly budget. Some of you could give \$25 per month. Others could give much more. Please do this so that we can get the word out about what the Lord is doing in and amongst our departments and churches?

Individuals, perhaps if you prayed about it, God would lay it upon your heart to support us monthly.

Any help your church or you can give will be greatly appreciated.

If your church decides to add *Baptist Progress* to the monthly budget, or if you as an individual decide to begin giving to *Baptist Progress* on a monthly basis, please let me know by emailing me at editor@baptistprogress.org.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The Baptist Missionary Association of America will meet for its annual meeting at Farley Street, Waxahachie April 27-29, 2020. Those in charge of planning the meeting have a great program in store for us this year. On Monday evening, the opening night of the meeting, Christian Comedian, Jason Earls will be with us. He has performed at my home church, Farley Street, Waxahachie, in the past and is hilarious. You will be blessed to hear him.

Also, on Monday night of the meeting, Christian singing group, The Erwins, will be in concert. They sing a combination of Southern Gospel and mainstream Christian music, and are wonderful. You won't want to miss them.

BMA of America President Jeff Swart will also deliver the president's message that night.

Another highlight of this year's meeting will be a missions experience. When you walk into the display room at the meeting, it will be decorated

so that you feel as if you are stepping onto a foreign mission field. You will be able to learn more about what God is doing through BMA of America Missions and the other departments of the BMA of America. The missions experience opens at 9 a.m. on Tuesday morning of the meeting.

There will be a number of breakout sessions at the annual meeting, including breakout sessions hosted by BMA Theological Seminary, Lifeword Media Ministries, BMA of America Missions and Ministers Resource Services. Other breakout sessions include one hosted by

Faithlife Corporation about electronic tools you can use for Bible study, including Logos Bible Software. Duane Orr, of NASA, will host a session on defending creationism. Jon Dodson, of Lifeword, will lead a session on creating a church website. Bruce Bruinsma, of Envoy Financial, will talk about retirement reformation. Larry Barker and Heidi Sorrells, of BMA of America Missions, will discuss developing a new ministry vision during a session. Finally, Dr. Philip Attebery, dean of BMA Theological Seminary, will cover the topic, "Teach for Results."

The nationally-known Christian singing group, The Martins, will present a concert at 2 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon of the meeting.

Other highlights of the meeting include a BMA town hall meeting with department directors and DiscipleGuide Trustees at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday. Luis Ortega, of Lifeword, will preach the annual message on Tuesday evening during a worship service. BMA of America business will be conducted on Wednesday morning, and a Missions commissioning service will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

These are just a few of the details of this year's BMA of America Meeting. I think it is going to be a great meeting, and I hope to see you there!



▲ Jerry Fulton



**April 27-29**

Farley Street Baptist Church  
Waxahachie, Texas  
Visit [www.baptistprogress.org](http://www.baptistprogress.org)  
for schedule and hotel information.

# This thing called ministry

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

*Pastor of First, Palmer*

Why would a man who surrendered to preach 53 years ago, served as music-youth director in three churches, pastor of six churches, interim pastor of 11 other churches, and served in an associational department for 16 years, which had the word “ministries” in its title—wake up at 3 a.m. and the very first thought in his mind is, “Just what is ministry anyway?”

I believe that periodically, through the years, I have had somewhat of a grasp on the concept of what true ministry really is—but then I’m so afraid that grasp has all too often lapsed into nothing more than a laundry list of “things to do in the ministry.” I am afraid that the ministry, rather than being a matter of the heart, and the result of an intimate connection to my own relationship with the Father—has become nothing more than a preacher on auto-pilot—not intentionally, but finding myself aimlessly wandering through my days, playing the part of ministry and not truly focused on what Burtis Williams once described as “making the main thing the main thing.”

While I’m name-dropping, I want to share a concept of ministry that one of my closest earthly—and ministry friends, Dr. Dick Sisk, shared with me once.

It was in the early 1970s -- I was a music-youth director of a great church—with a great group of youth, while at the same time, Dick was director of the Texas Baptist Department of Youth for the BMA of Texas. I had not been at this youth ministry thing very long, but found myself becoming enamored with churches with seemingly thriving youth ministries and wanting, desperately, to copy them. To me, such ministry entailed big youth choirs, skating parties, pizza feasts, water parks, Christian concerts, and the like. Oh yes, and my concept of a successful youth ministry had to do with the size of the group—and the size of the facilities the church provided. If a youth director had over 100 kids in his group, and had a family life center, complete with skating rink and four-lane bowling alley, it was a “successful” youth ministry. To me, “big doings” earmarked a successful youth ministry.

But this is the bombshell Dick dropped on me during a visit once. He told me that successful youth ministry had to do with me spending a majority of my time pouring my life into two or three kids who have the potential to cast a wide net of influence in their school, and in whom I had their undivided attention. That was to be the standard of youth ministry. He said, in essence, you take them to the Dairy Queen, sit down with them over a Coke, and get to know their hearts—their struggles, misgivings and passions. In the course of the conversations, you insert truths—little by little—of the Person and ministry of Christ—helping them to address the question, “what would Jesus do?”

Out of that spiritual, and hopefully successful exchange with these few teenagers, you become able to envision a more widespread ministry—yet it won’t happen over-night. Most of the time, it takes years—a lot of sweat, toil, heartache, some steps forward, and some steps back. But when God is in control of your life and ministry, and you have developed, and are developing a heart for that ministry, and for kids, then you may be able to look back and say, “Yes, I can see where God has had His hand on me during this thing called ministry.”

Ministry also involves being transparent, yourself—no, not airing your “dirty laundry” and sharing with your youth, your guilt of a checkered past—but discreetly letting them know you

are human—you have had—and maybe today are having some misgivings of your own, and while you are not perfect, you are diligently seeking to become a better Christ-follower today than you were yesterday. What youth group would not want to hear that from their youth minister? And what youth minister would fail to have an impact for Jesus, with such a heart?

I am finding today that these concepts my friend shared with me almost 50 years ago concerning youth ministry, easily translate into pastoral ministry. I have learned today—although sometimes I forget, that God isn’t interested in my building another Prestonwood in Palmer. He is not so much interested in the bells and whistles of a well-oiled church program—or logging in record attendances and offerings—or the vision for some fabulous new facility—or paved parking lot, complete with stripes. What He wants from his pastors is for us to begin with those three or four men in the church in whom he can pour his life—to sit down with them over coffee—to make sure he models Christ and ministry to those few men who will consent to follow him to hospital visits and observe him as he ministers—not in a stuffy, ministerial, “holy-tone” laced voice—(so “holy” that your men can’t be themselves around you) but as one with a down-to-earth, sincere, love-driven heart.

So in these wee hours of the morning when I arose and started writing, I believe the Lord has given me a renewed vision for ministry. That vision entails seeking out those people in the congregation who genuinely want to be involved in ministry—and to pour my life into them. It means rightly interpreting the phrase in the Great Commission, “Go ye into all the world. . . to mean “as you are going - make disciples.” It’s a lifestyle! It might involve sitting down over coffee—it might be asking each of our Sunday school teachers to give us an entire Sunday school hour sometimes, to visit their class and share our hearts for ministry—fostering some two-way conversation—which is something we don’t have in a worship service—and sadly, I’m afraid that’s the only touch during the week we have with a majority of our people.

One of the fondest memories I have of a ministry opportunity, happened 40 years ago when James “Tinker” Wallace came to Christ during a Fourth of July special service at College Heights in Nacogdoches. He was gloriously saved and it was my privilege to baptize him. People had prayed for him for months. A few days later he came by the office and voiced his desire to plan a trip for the youth—to a town south of Nacogdoches, that had a water slide. He said, “I don’t think we should do it until you and I go over there and try it out first.” So that’s what we did. Today, I well up with tears thinking about that fun and meaningful day with Tinker. Was that a wasted day of frolic—or was it ministry? I like to think it fell under the heading of ministry.

My prayer today is, “Father, grant me at least just a taste of the joy, fulfillment, and yes some of the frustrations Jesus must have felt as He poured His life into those 12 disciples—and even taking comfort in the truth that He was not 100 percent successful with the 12—and I’m sure I won’t be either. And Father, I know any ministry I could ever be involved in, could not compare with the phenomenal, far-reaching ministry Jesus established during His 3 1/2 years He spent with his disciples. But Father, I want His ministry to be my model—and then I want to commend the results to You.” Amen!



He only had an hour until he was due at the hospital for a routine procedure, but there was one more stop he needed to make. Harold Elliott, pastor of the Parkview Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas wanted to visit his Uncle Noel who had been ill for almost two months. Neither of them knew how important this visit would be. As he entered the room, Noel asked for prayer and the real need soon became apparent. Even though he was a long time member of a Baptist church, his uncle did not know Jesus as Savior.

Here is a brief summary of the letter Harold wrote to his family following that visit. “I asked about his spiritual condition and he said he was not saved so I explained the way (to salvation)... prayed with him... he prayed and gave his heart to Christ. When Aunt Ethel came back in the room, he said, ‘Honey, the most wonderful thing in the world just happened to me... I was just saved... now I know where I’m going and everything is alright. I am the happiest man in the world.’ We wept and rejoiced together because all of us knew that it is only a matter of days before he goes home to be with the Lord forever.”

The truth is that instead of days it was only a few hours until his Uncle Noel slipped into eternity. The shocking realization that he might have waited too long and missed this important opportunity must have brought Harold to his knees as he said, “I almost let him spend eternity separated from God.”

I’m reminded of a similar story recorded in John, chapter 4. On His way from Judea to Galilee, Jesus stopped at Jacob’s Well where He had a divine appointment with a Samaritan woman. Talk about a life-altering event! She came to the well for a jar of water and, as the familiar children’s song says, “she went away singing and came back bringing others to the water that was not from the well.”

Here’s an interesting note. Typically, the Jews avoided Samaria, but according to Matthew Henry’s commentary it was the first place the gospel was preached outside of the Commonwealth of Israel. How like Jesus to venture into “unacceptable” territory and put shunned folks at the head of the line.

May God help us to lift up our eyes and prepare for the white harvest that’s all around. Like Harold Elliott, may we be willing to add one more stop to our busy schedule to share the good news of Jesus Christ!

(The Heart Connection honors the memory of Harold Elliott for his many years of faithful ministry as a pastor and also as chaplain of the Arlington Police Department. Our special thanks to Judy Patterson for sharing this inspiring letter.)

*Pat Quesenbury has been active in ladies’ ministry for years. She is a pastor’s wife, mother and active member of the Women’s Missionary Auxiliary. Contact her at [pquesenbury@gmail.com](mailto:pquesenbury@gmail.com).*



# Just the Crumbs Disaster Relief Ministry update

By **LAVON HADEN**

During the Christmas season, Just the Crumbs was blessed to deliver 17 boxes of canned goods and several frozen hams, pork loins and pulled pork to families who needed a helping hand.



During the week of Feb. 22-29, Just the Crumbs fed and provided shower facilities to Team Acts as they did some rebuilding in the area hit by Hurricane Michael near Panama City, Florida.

We are visiting the Jackson and Columbia areas affected by the Pearl River flooding and will assist with meals in the area we feel called to serve, as soon as our equipment and workers return from Florida.

Now, are now responding to help those affected by the storms in Tennessee. You can help by volunteering or by contributing through BMA of America Missions (P.O. Box 878, Conway, Arkansas 72033) or to Just the Crumbs through PayPal (justthecrumbs21@gmail.com).

Your prayers play a major role in our ability to serve the hurting. Please continue to hold us up with those prayers.

# Rosewood, Gilmer AWANA groups collect funds for Daniel Springs, Camp

The Wednesday night AWANA groups at Rosewood, Gilmer recently collected funds for Daniel Springs Baptist Camp. Their goal was \$2,000 which was met and surpassed. Camp Director Jason Prewitt was presented a check from the AWANA kids for \$2,767 which will be used to help purchase needed supplies and equipment for the Camp on March 1.



▲ AWANA members present check to Jason Prewitt, Daniel Springs Camp director

# DiscipleGuide changes explained

By **PAUL WHITE**

Chairman BMA of America Coordinating Council

I am sharing the following information to try and explain what will be proposed for consideration at this year's national meeting concerning the breakup of the various DiscipleGuide ministries. Although several recommendations will be presented this year, we have been blessed to experience exceptional cooperation from everyone who is involved.

While change is often difficult to understand, it is sometimes necessary for the good of the whole. One of our greatest challenges is to keep you, the people, informed about what is actually taking place.

At the national meeting in April, we will be voting on recommendations concerning five areas of ministry. The areas that we will deal with are Publications, Daniel Springs Camp, Conferences, News Services and the BMA Service Team. Please keep in mind that this explanation is a synopsis, and is by no means exhaustive or an exact wording of the actual recommendations.

## PUBLICATIONS & DANIEL SPRINGS

When we, as an association, step out on a new and untried venture, it is normal to have reservations in doing so; but what will be recommended concerning Publications and Daniel Springs Camp is something we lived with for many years before the formation of DiscipleGuide. In fact, if you go back to the 2004-2005 Statement of Principles of Cooperation, you will find that this year's recommendations concerning our Statement of Principles of Cooperation for Baptist Publishing House and Daniel Springs Camp are nearly the same as they were back then. If the recommendations presented concerning the first two are adopted by the body, it will not be something new. It will be going back to a tried and proven way that will serve us well into the future. These were stand-alone departments then, and certainly can be again. For these departments to stand on their own will not weaken nor diminish their ministries' structures, nor change their core values.

## CONFERENCES & NEWS SERVICES

Last year, the association voted to move the responsibilities of these two entities to the BMA Service Team (formerly referred to as the LLC) for one year. After visiting with the department leaders involved, their overwhelming conclusions were that the BMA Service Team was the perfect location for these two important ministries. Therefore, there will be a recommendation for these two ministries to be placed under the BMA Service Team.

## BMA SERVICE TEAM

Neither the BMA Service Team nor LLC is directly tied to DiscipleGuide. Sometime back, the association voted to create what was then known only as the LLC (Limited Liability Cooperation) to assist in streamlining operations in the Conway office through sharing employees and assets, thereby minimizing costs and maximizing return on investment for support services and functions.

While the term LLC tells of a way of organizing your business, it woefully fails to reveal what it does. So we will be voting on making the BMA of America Service Team, its purpose, governance and special duties part of our Statement of Principles of Cooperation to help inform our people of what it is and what it does. You will be hearing the title BMA Service Team a lot in the future if this proposal passes.

The position of BMA Service Team director is a hired position in cooperation of those executive directors who work out of the Global Ministry Headquarters in Conway. These departments share the cost of the BMA Services Team, and the directors have hired John Meriweather to serve as director of the BMA Service Team and be the go-to man concerning these responsibilities.

The Coordinating Council has studied the proposed recommendations, and we are in agreement.

May God continue to bless the ministries of the BMA of America. Thank you.

# Introducing Yalanda Merrell and *mission:world.tv*

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

Lifeword Media Ministries

Although she had walked the aisle at the age of seven, she wasn't saved until her freshman year of college. But another eight years passed until she fully surrendered her life to Jesus, then three more until she began intentional discipleship. It's a familiar story for many, and one that Yalanda Merrell doesn't mind telling, especially if it will point someone to Jesus.

Telling stories is what Yalanda is all about, and professionally, she has done that, first as a reporter and anchor for KAIT in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Then after eight years, she left the world of broadcasting and television, to work as a recruiter for University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS).

Yalanda came to the attention of the Lifeword team in 2018 after Director of Operations Luis Ortega and Executive Director Donny Parrish visited the church she and her husband Shawn attend in northeast Arkansas: Herman Baptist Church in Bono. Turns out that Yalanda is not only a talented broadcast journalist but a writer as well.

The Lifeword Cloud had just been implemented and print content was needed, so Yalanda was asked to join a team of writers. Her daily devotionals and blogs have been published on lifeword.org ever since. After enthusiastically offering to do more, anything that was needed, BMA Missions took her up on the offer.

On World Missions Day 2020 (Feb. 23) at 8 a.m., a new BMA Missions broadcast will debuted. Hosted by Yalanda Merrell, the monthly show is called *mission:world.tv* and features BMA missionaries and what they are doing around the world. An extension of *mission:world* magazine, it can be viewed on BMA Missions' Facebook page and will be downloadable to share updates with your church.

The four-minute-long episodes will highlight a missionary and country each month, giving viewers an inside look at BMA Missions. Sign up to receive the videos by email (and become a *mission:world* magazine subscriber if you're not already) by going to missionworld.tv.

# BMA TEXAS

## MISSIONS

Your Church's Mission Movement in Texas



## A word from your Missions Office

By HEITH MITCHELL

It was an honor and joy to host a group of pastors and leaders this month and offer them some of the training we offer our church planters. There were eight BMA churches present for this first ever Intro to Multiplication Workshop.



- What is unique about our community?
- Who are we trying to serve and reach?
- How will we reach our community?
- How will we make disciples?
- How will we nurture missional community?
- How will we raise up leaders?

We believe this material is a help to disciples of Christ and the BMA churches they make up. We will continue to offer workshops to give you opportunities to sample this material to see if it is useful and profitable for your church. We want to help your church to strengthen her focus on her mission.

Together we are laboring and praying with the hope of seeing:

## PROJECT 2029 100 New Churches/10 years

- That we see an aggressive multiplication movement of churches who make disciples, equip and release leaders and start churches for the glory of God and the advancement of his Kingdom mission
- That each new mission begins with a plan to begin three new churches in their first 10 years
- That pastors and churches of the association be encouraged and equipped to start new churches
- That we connect, evaluate, identify and train new prospective church planters

Not for our glory, not for the BMA, but for the King and His Kingdom. We hope to see this goal become a reality without really focusing on church planting. We want to stay focused on our Great Commission. If we focus on sharing our faith, baptizing, and discipling towards obedient Christ followers then these new churches among these unreached pockets of Texans will result.

We would love to share with your church about what God is up to and show you how you can be involved. We have tools we can provide you to help you become a partner in church planting. Reach out to us.

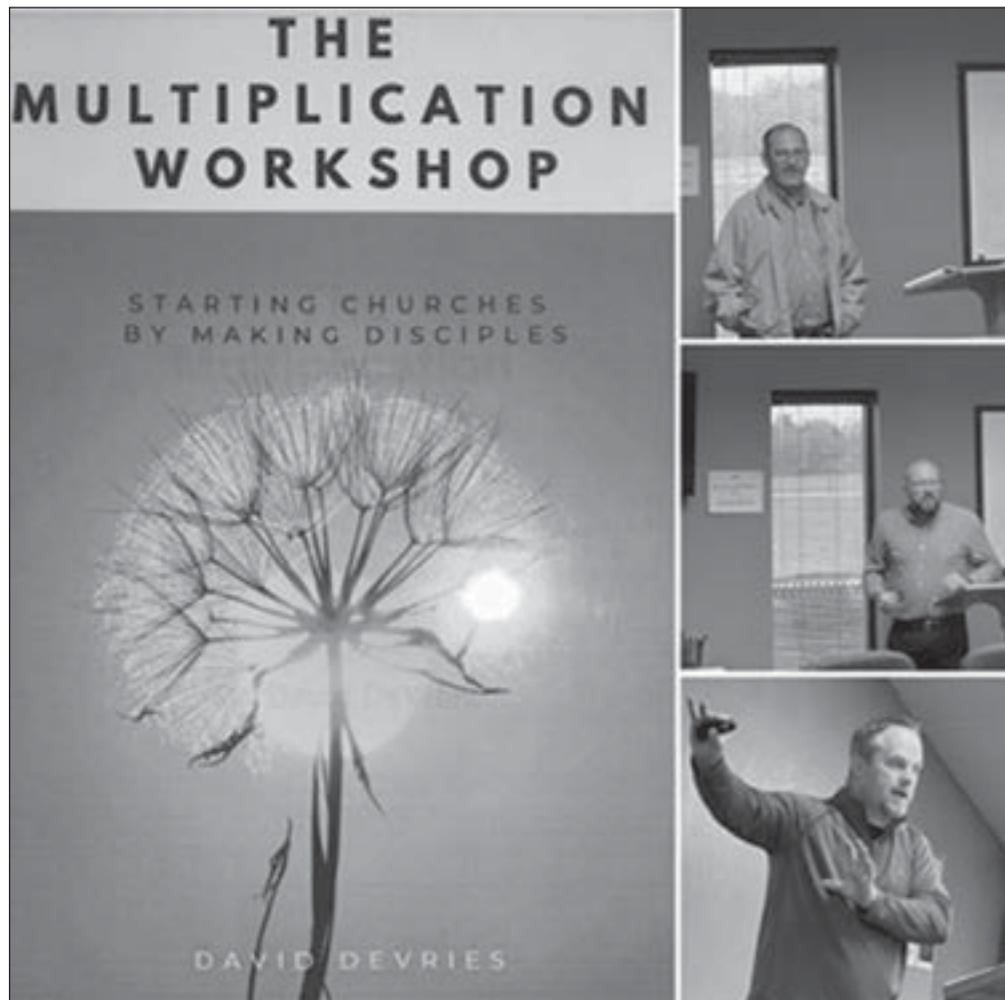
## A word from your missionaries

**MATTHEW PRATHER—  
THE BRIDGE MISSION, MIDLOTHIAN/WAXAHACHIE  
MATTHEW@DISCOVERTHEBRIDGE.COM DUAL SUPPORT BMAA/BMAT**

February was a good month at The Bridge Church. This month, we have continued to see guests each Sunday. People are taking their next step and getting plugged into our Community Groups. We are getting close to starting another group and are excited about that. It has been a month of seeing people take their next steps in serving as well. Here are a few ways that you can continue to pray for us. Pray that we see people saved each month this year. Pray that we start new small groups this year. Pray for the leaders that we need to continue to see the Kingdom advanced. As always continue to pray



▲ Matthew Prather



We are now walking beside the churches that expressed a desire to dig deeper. We will walk beside them and their church leaders and work all the way through this training material together.

We will work to answer these questions together:

- What is God's mission?
- What is my part in God's mission?
- What shifts do I need to make to align my life with God's mission for me?
- What habits will I practice?

BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p. 14



# INSIGHTS *for* PASTORS

## Overcoming ministry threats

By **DR. ALLEN TILLEY**

On April 22, 1970, Walt Kelly, the creator of the newspaper comic strip “Pogo,” wrote the often-quoted line: *We have met the enemy and he is us.* The greatest threat that may undermine a pastor’s ministry is himself. In my thirty-eight years of ministry, I’ve seen countless pastors drop out and disappear from church work – usually because of their own undoing. Pastors, we must be on guard at all times. Here are four threats that lurk in the darkness, and if we are not careful, they will subdue us.

**The threat of laziness.** We live in a culture that loves leisure. Because pastors typically don’t have anyone looking over our shoulders, we invest ourselves in things that are not ministry related, leaving our pastoral duties undone. While every pastor should have time for rest and time away from the church, these things should never replace a good work ethic.

Speaking of laziness, some pastors stay busy with the little things of ministry, but they lack focus on the bigger demands like diligence and discipline in the Scripture. A lot of activity happens at a shallow level, but the hard work of ministry – the things that take time, prayer, and intense study of the Word are often not done well.

The best remedy for laziness is to have a trusted friend hold you accountable. Next, make a list of the things you should accomplish that day. When you find yourself distracted, stop and pray, asking God to redirect your

thoughts to His Kingdom work.

**The threat of personal purity.** Our culture is bombarded with explicit sexuality. Things that once hid in the shadows are now openly celebrated without any constraint of embarrassment. Pastors, always remember that Satan loves destroying pastors, our families, and our ministries. To remain pure, we must guard our hearts and minds, strengthen our inner man by being devoted to Christ and His Word, and dedicated to the things that are holy.

To keep from being tempted by pornography, have a computer technician put a block on your computer and the internet. Moreover, never be alone with the opposite sex, whether in a room, a car, or in your office. Even the suggestion of impropriety can derail your ministry. At home and on your smartphone, carefully select what you watch.

**The threat of ministry leadership.** One of the main problems that tear men down in the ministry is poor judgment in building a ministry team. Whether it is deacons, staff, volunteers, or friends, we must pursue those who are faithful to the highest level of spiritual excellence. We must surround ourselves with people who value virtue, wisdom, and faithfulness to the Lord’s work and those who will force us to think and act biblically.

Another leadership problem is conflict. Leadership invites criticism, whether deserved or not. If you deal with constant battles, be sure you maintain your daily devotional life. Find

a trusted friend outside your church so you can vent your frustrations. Then, actively resolve the issues by following the principles outlined in Matthew 18.

**The threat of a non-supportive wife.** Pastors are not the only ones who get hurt in ministry. Our wives often bear the brunt of malicious church members. Wives can also feel emotionally and physically neglected by their husband-pastor. Men, give your wife the support she needs by leading her in the spiritual disciplines and then helping her foster her spiritual thirst. Shower your mate with your attention and affection. Listen to her unconditionally as you would a church member.

These are but a few of the threats that pastors face. Jesus promised us that threats would come (Matt. 5:11). As they do, always remember His grace is more than sufficient (2 Cor. 12:9).

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*Dr. Allen Tilley is pastor of First Baptist Church of Carthage, Texas. He has over 30 years of pastoral experience, and God has continually blessed his ministry with dynamic spiritual and numerical growth. Contact him at [allen@firstbaptistcarthage.com](mailto:allen@firstbaptistcarthage.com).*

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## Ellis-Hill Association hosts annual missions banquet

By **JERRY FULTON**

*Baptist Progress Editor*

The Ellis-Hill Baptist Association hosted their annual missions banquet at Farley Street, Waxahachie, during which Volunteer Student Missions (VSM) students were honored Feb. 22, 2020. Richard Smith, pastor of Farley Street, Waxahachie, welcomed those in attendance.

Grady Cashion, pastor of First, Blooming Grove and moderator of the Ellis-Hill Baptist Association, named the students from the association who will be going on VSM trips this year.

The students, all from Farley Street, Waxahachie, include Charity Fitch and Micah Fitch, going to Romania, and Maggie Franklin, going to Ukraine. Franklin spoke to those at the

banquet of how it came about for her to be going to Ukraine. Charity and Micah Fitch were not able to attend the banquet. Each student received \$750 from the local association to go toward the expenses of their trips.

David Dickson, the BMA of America Missions Department’s senior field coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, was the guest speaker at the banquet.



▲ **Maggie Franklin**

Dickson stated that he was the first VSM student to visit a foreign mission field in the 1960’s. He shared his experience as a missionary and as senior field coordinator with BMA of America Missions.

A large crowd from various Ellis-Hill Association churches was on hand for the banquet which was catered with a delicious barbeque meal.



▲ **David Dickson**



# CHURCH HEALTH

## The Healthy Church Podcast

By **LARRY BARKER**

The first episode of our new podcast is out. We are praying that it will be an encouragement to you and your church. We do not have all the answers but we do have a lot of years of experience and figured out a couple of things not to do. The heart of this came out of a burden for pastors and church leaders with a desire to provide a place where you can know you are loved and someone does care. Lance Witt in *Replenish* says, “Inadvertently we have marginalized the soul side of leadership.” Bill Wellons in *What Really Matters* would agree with this focus.

Lance Witt shares these alarming statistics, “1,500 pastors leave the ministry permanently each month in America. Eighty percent of pastors and 85 percent of their spouses feel discouraged in their roles. Seventy percent of pastors do not have a close friend, confidant or mentor. Over 50 percent of pastors are so discouraged they would leave the ministry if they could but have no other way of making a living. Over 50 percent of pastors’ wives feel that their husband entering the ministry was the most destructive thing to ever happen to their families. Seventy one percent of pastors say they are burned out.”

There is more from the Barna Group, Lifeway Research and others but the point is that if you are in ministry you have a target on your back and you are in trouble. The struggle and battle is real and the spiritual warfare involved is often greatly underestimated. Difficulties in ministry are not just temporal issues. Like an iceberg, 90 percent of the spiritual battle is invisible. Never forget that the evil one hates what you are doing and will do anything and everything he can get away with to stop you. Don’t be alarmed by the challenges you are facing, they are natural.

The attack of spiritual warfare is real but the enemy will not stop there. He will use loneliness, isolation, family pressures, financial stress and unrealistic expectation, along with leadership and people challenges. Once the wear and tear of the struggle begins to overwhelm you where can you go? Who can you turn to? Hopefully, you have many options such as friends, pastors, mentors, etc. but our prayer is that this could be a resource for you to know there are no perfect leaders. Maybe we can find some answers as we journey this ministry path together.

You can find us at [healthychurchpodcast.com](http://healthychurchpodcast.com) or download the podcast through iTunes or your favorite podcast provider. Our website states, “The Healthy Church Podcast is an honest conversation about what it means to be a part of a healthy



church. There are no perfect churches—because they’re all filled with imperfect people led by imperfect leaders. But by God’s grace we can begin to dialogue about what changes can be made in our lives as leaders, and in the churches we serve, in order to better love God and His people.”

The podcast will be released on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month with Drew Cline and I serving and your hosts. Between Drew and I we have over 70 years of ministry experience or maybe we should say ministry mistakes. Either way we want to help if we can. Our backgrounds are quite similar yet very unique. All I ever wanted to do was pastor and began when I was 21 years old. Yes, way too young but I knew I didn’t need college anymore (sarcasm) because of how brilliant I already was so I headed to my first pastorate without a clue.

Drew’s path led him to minister more in the area of music and creative arts. He was the lead singer for NewSong, recorded a couple of solo albums and led the worship teams for Fellowship Bible in Little Rock. Recently, he was led back to his home church where he grew up, Temple Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas. Over the last three years he has walked this church through a major replant process as

South City. He has great insights in these areas and is ready, as I am, to not just talk about what went well but where did we struggle.

Church health begins with healthy church leaders and that means every leader’s first priority is to make sure they are spiritually healthy. Your ability as a leader must come out of your being not just your doing. You as a leader cannot give what you do not possess. You can never expect your church to be any healthier than you are. Our prayer is that you will lead out of a healthy soul as you walk with the Lord and allow Him to do His transforming work in your heart and life. Join us on the podcast and let us know any other way we can be a help and blessing to you!

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*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](http://www.bmamissions.org).*

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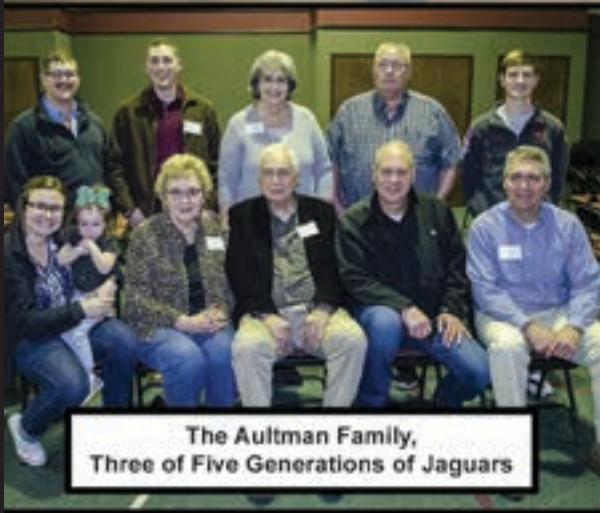
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Mayor Randy Gorham recognized  
 JC for 120 years of service. JC  
 President Mike Smith was also  
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# Dr. Scott Carson receives honor

Dr. Scott Carson, president of Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, Mississippi was recently sworn into the Mississippi State Guard as a chaplain in the rank of Colonel. The Mississippi State Guard is one of three military organizations that fall under the authority of the governor. The word "State" is key in understanding the mission of the Guard. Two similar organizations are the Air National Guard and the Army National Guard, and while these two can be federalized by the President of the United States, the State Guard cannot be federalized. The State Guard's mission is primarily disaster relief and is voluntary in nature unless called to service by the governor.

Dr. Carson stated that he first became aware of the State Guard when BMA of Mississippi minister, Chris Freeman, approached him about an endorsement as a chaplain into the organization. Dr. Carson, director of the BMAA Chaplaincy Department, endorsed Freeman and later attended his swearing in ceremony in Jackson, Mississippi.

While there, Dr. Carson was asked if he might be interested in joining the unit as well. After much prayer, he determined that the Lord had opened this door of opportunity to contribute his 30 years of active military experience to the State Guard.

Mississippi is not the only state that has its own militia, as there are 17 states across the nation that have similar units. Dr. Carson's role will be to supervise subordinate chaplains in their training and ministry, as they volunteer in this great organization.



▲ Dr Scott R. Carson, president of Southeastern Baptist College, is sworn into the Mississippi State Guard in the rank of Colonel by Brigadier General Doug Hayhurst.

## BEE HAPPY

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April 4, 2020 8:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m.

Registration begins at 8:00

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Tammy Whitehurst 

Speaker, Writer. Texas raised. Jesus saved. Topics.

"Girl Talk" and "Get a grip on your lip"

Shellie O'Neal 

(Professor of Drama and Speech at Navarro College)

Playwright & Performer "The Ministry of Angels"

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# HEALTHY CHURCH

podcast

healthychurchpodcast.com

HOSTS:  
LARRY BARKER & DREW CLINE

Pastors and ministry leaders, check out the Healthy Church Podcast about real issues facing churches and leaders today! Listen at [healthychurchpodcast.com](http://healthychurchpodcast.com) or through your favorite podcast provider. Consider rating and giving feedback about topics you'd like to see in the future. This podcast will air every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month and is sponsored by Activate, your BMA church and pastor health ministry.

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## ACTIVATE



## Texas WMA Spring Retreat, May 2

By **GLENDAM CHAMBERLAIN**

Excitement is in the air as the Spring Retreat of Texas WMA is fast approaching. Plans have been finalized and we are ready to announce registration information and the program. The retreat will be held from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. at Lakeridge, Lubbock, located at 4601 82<sup>nd</sup> Street in Lubbock.

Pastor Raif Turner and the women's ministry of Lakeridge have graciously extended their hospitality for this meeting of worship and praise, Bible study, and fellowship. Lunch will be complimentary and childcare will be provided free of charge.

Texas WMA welcomes all ladies in our BMA churches and church plants across Texas to come and bring guests from other churches to participate in this day of honoring the Lord and refreshing our daily journey with Him. We are on this journey together and anticipate a day of sharing encouragement, inspiration and challenge in our calling to share His Word with ladies all around us.

There is no fee to attend the retreat, but we do request that everyone register by April 1, 2020. Registration is available on the Texas WMA website, [texaswma.com](http://texaswma.com). You may also register by contacting Texas First Vice-President Maeva Thompson at 11231 FM 852, Gilmer, TX 75644, e-mail: [maevathompson84@gmail.com](mailto:maevathompson84@gmail.com), or by telephone at 903-841-1853. Please provide your name and contact information, the name of your church and city, the names of the ladies who will be attending in your group and the number of children and their ages.

For those needing motel information, a rate of \$76 (king or double) has been arranged with the Ashmore Inn and Suites, 4019 South Loop 289 in Lubbock. Their reservations telephone number is 966-486-5908 and the hotel telephone number is 806-785-0060. Also located near the church is the Hampton Inn, 4003 South Loop 289. The telephone number is 855-479-0732.

The theme for the retreat is "The Miracles of Jesus." Breakout sessions will be offered in the morning and afternoon sessions. Texas WMA officers will be leading the study of Jesus's miracles of provision, protection, healing and mercy. Mrs. Shirley Hoffpauir of Coffeerville, Ore City, will bring a special presentation on the resurrection of Jesus in the afternoon session. The events of the day will also include worship and praise and fellowship activities.

Mrs. Thompson notes, "Please pray with us that the Lord will lead us in every preparation and plan for this special day together. Join us in Lubbock May 2, and '... let us exalt His name together'" (Psalm 34:3).

### NATIONAL WMA

Our national meeting is almost here! The WMA business meeting will be held at Heritage, Waxahachie, located at 1000 Butcher Road, at 3 p.m., Monday, April 27, 2020. Heritage, Waxahachie is just a short 10 minutes from Farley Street, Waxahachie where the Annual BMA of America Meeting will be held.

The Women's Conference will be held at Heritage, Waxahachie Tuesday, April 28, 2020. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the conference beginning at 9 a.m.

Jodi Rhea, National WMA president, comments "I am really looking forward to these meetings and I hope you are too."

The conference promises to be a spirit-filled time with great speakers, special music and break-out sessions. Share the Vision is the theme for the meetings, taken from Acts 26:19-20. Jesus gives a vision to each of us who accept Him as Lord and Savior—a vision of sharing what Christ has done for us.

Keynote speaker, Sabrina Clayton, is a talented vocalist and inspirational speaker. She and her husband Kevin live in Fulton, Mississippi. Valarie Fish will provide special music, she is a vocalist, writer, speaker and an encourager. Valarie lives with her husband Dale in Emerson, Arkansas.

There will be four breakout sessions to choose from. Share the Vision through Gospel Music by Judy Biggers; Share the Vision through Women's Ministries by Pat Quesenbury; Share the Vision through Written Word by Diane Spriggs; Share the Vision through Community Outreach by Kim Mobly and Penny Jacobs.

Brenda Hornaday, National WMA second vice president mentioned, "If you have never been to one of our conferences, I urge you to attend this one. We had approximately 200 women at each of the last two conferences and the blessings have been tremendous."

There will be a delicious luncheon for the ladies following the Women's Conference. The menu is chicken spaghetti, green beans, salad, roll and dessert. You must pre-register for the conference and also, if desired, the luncheon by April 15. The cost for the luncheon is \$15 and is to be paid at the door. To register, please contact Jodi at [jodirhea@live.com](mailto:jodirhea@live.com) or text to 501-472-9490.

Please check the National WMA of BMAA Facebook page or the website at [nationalwma.org](http://nationalwma.org) for more information.

### BOOK REVIEW FOR STRATEGIC PRAYER

As Satan uses strategies to bring us down, our mighty and powerful God will give us strength to fight back. Prayer is a weapon we have. *New York Times* bestselling author, Priscilla Shirer in her book "Fervent: A Woman's Battle Plan for Serious, Specific and Strategic Prayer," gives a guide in crafting prayer strategies that hit the enemies where it hurts. She uses scripture passages and promises throughout the book.

Some of the topics addressed are renewing passion, refocusing identity, negotiating family strife, dealing with relentless regrets, navigating impossible schedules, temptations, fears and bitterness.

D'Andra Smith, Texas third vice president, comments, "As our WMA theme is *Sweet Hour of Prayer*, may this book along with God's word encourage you to prayerfully seek God for victory over our enemy Satan."

Glenda Chamberlain is the Texas Women's Missionary Auxiliary (WMA) editor. Contact her at [gcham33@yahoo.com](mailto:gcham33@yahoo.com). For more information about the Texas WMA, visit [www.texaswma.com](http://www.texaswma.com).



### Texas Women's Missionary Auxiliary Spring Retreat

Saturday, May 2, 2020 • 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
LakeRidge Baptist Church  
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### *The Miracles of Jesus*

You are cordially invited to join us for a day of worship, praise, fellowship and Bible study. Each session will focus upon the wonderful spiritual insights we can gain for our daily journey with Jesus from an in-depth study of several of the miracles Jesus performed while here on earth.

For more details, visit <https://www.texaswma.com/project.html> or contact Maeva Thompson at 11231 FM 852, Gilmer, Texas 75644, 903-841-1853 or [maevathompson84@gmail.com](mailto:maevathompson84@gmail.com)

# TEXAS BAPTIST HOME FOR CHILDREN

## I'm Just Sayin'

By JASON CURRY

When my wife and I were fostering, a statement we heard repeatedly is, "I could never do what you do, I would just love kids too much." Now my first thought, and I had to learn that no one was thinking this, was "Are people trying to say that I did not love our foster children?" Every time I heard this, I interpreted their statement to be, "I would love them too much when you clearly don't love them enough". No one meant that. Everyone who says that I think is trying to say, "Fostering is hard, and I don't know if I could handle it."

The second response I have is that the children in our care are temporary. And I wish people with biological children would wake up and understand that their children are also temporary. We are never guaranteed tomorrow. We are never guaranteed that biological children will grow up to be godly people. We are never guaranteed that the future for our family will be the way we want it to. We have no guarantee. So, we must be urgent parents.

Living life as a witness to children of how they should be in a relationship with God. The Bible says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20). God wants to have a relationship with all people. We should urgently be preparing our children for a life obeying Christ. Because 18 years... is not as long as we think. Foster parents have an 11-18 month window to impact kids' lives for the better and introduce them to Jesus.

As each of you pray for us, pray that the kids will be transformed from hurt and shame they have experienced,

to know they can lay claim to the promises of God's relationship.

This year we are celebrating 110 years! It also marks the start of our 5-year plan, and we need your help. We need a few people to prayerfully consider increasing their gift to help us reach our goals for caring for kids. 2,000 children cared for by the end of our 5-year plan. We need your help to build your ministry to reach children who need it most! I'm just sayin'.



Jason Curry is the president of the Texas Baptist Home for Children. Contact him 629 Farley St, Waxahachie, TX 75165, 972-937-1321 or [jcurry@tbhc.org](mailto:jcurry@tbhc.org). For more information, visit [www.tbhc.org](http://www.tbhc.org).



## 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 for Children, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from Feb. 1-29, 2020.

### ENDOWMENTS

**MYRA STOKES:** Bill Stokes

**E ANN PACE:** Karl & Martha Pace

### HONORARIUMS

**MR. & MRS. MICHAEL HARRELL:** Leon & Johnnie Ross

**MR. & MRS. JT JONES:** Leon & Johnnie Ross

**MR. & MRS. JAMES JONES:** Leon & Johnnie Ross

**MR. & MRS. DAVID LOFTIS:** Leon & Johnnie Ross

### MEMORIALS

**WALTER BECKER:** Dennis & Ilona Myrice

**MAEVON BLUNDELL:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**LARRY & ROSELEN BOBO:** James Bobo

**LEVEDA BROOKS:** Charles & Ronda Connelly

**FRED BUCHANAN:** Duane & Charlotte Turner; Weldon & Lana Sparks

**LARRY CLARK:** First Baptist, Red Oak

**TONA CLEVINGER:** Leon & Katy Engle

**DUSTIN COE:** Bobby Trimble

**LARRY FERGUSON:** James & Debbie Murphy

**JIMMY GRAHAM:** Weldon & Lana Sparks

**PATSY GRIGGS:** Andy & Nell McCuiston

**CONNIE JOHNSON:** Larry & Carol Brock

**JOHN LANDRUM:** John & Jill Jackson; Joann Smith; Mariann Sandberg; Steve & Geneva Ballard; Carl Baldwin; Timothy Brown; Henry & Rita Ward; Jane Barrilleaux; Ron & Kimberly Hoffman; Carolyn Kellis; Curby & Donna Riley; Malea Jaffe; Frances Mitchell; Michelle Barrilleaux; Patricia Chapman; Sherri Burrow; Charlie & Cheryl Clarkson; Kelly Callahan

**LOU PADDACK:** Charles & Ronda Connelly

**NELDA JANE POLLARD:** Gayle Rambin; Greg & Shelly Gunn Family; Louis & Patty Heflin; Reta & Joe Martin; Kay & Johnny Conder; Thomas Heflin

**GEORGE RIDDLE:** Temple Baptist Church, Mexia

**HEATHER PLASTER STJERNSTROM:** Roland & Sandra Plaster

**LETHA THOMPSON:** Temple Baptist Church, Mexia

**FENDLEY TUCKER:** Concha Rouse; Dan & LaMarsha Wimberly

memorials-honorariums



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# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

## Salvation in no other name

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: April 5, 2020

TEXT: Acts 4:1-12

### THE HOOK

Why do great magistrates, government and religious leaders have such an adverse reaction to Christ or anyone who represents him? It is much like any society or power-base that has become comfortably entrenched in the status quo, age-old tradition, ill-gotten financial power, political power or religious power. When someone comes along and upsets their comfort zone, they become hostile.

### THE BOOK

Verses 1-2. It is interesting that people of power and authority were the ones who accosted Peter and John. Priests in the Jewish temple, soldiers who guarded the temple; and

an influential group in the Sanhedrin Court (Sadducees). The very One Who died and was resurrected was absolutely despised by the Sadducees because it went against a great tenant of their beliefs—that there was no afterlife.

Verses 3-4. To add insult to injury to these anti-God hierarchy, thousands of people who heard these anointed preachers of the gospel, became believers. The number grew to around 5,000 people as a result of Peter's and John's ministries.

Verses 5-7. Peter and John were now coming against the family of the high priest. Annas, Caiaphas, John and Alexander all were representative of the high priest's family. Everything in the Old Testament laws and traditions were being challenged by these men whom they considered rogue. They demanded to know what authority they represented.

Verse 8-12. Only the Holy Spirit could have given Peter

the boldness and wisdom for such a retort. Peter told them that it is in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth that the lame man was healed. Then he added, "He was the One you people crucified on the cross. He is the Cornerstone Whom you brick masons tossed out. He is the only Way to salvation.

### THE LOOK

All the religious leaders and governmental rulers were still clinging to the religion of their fathers. Their claim to everlasting life was still in the temple sacrifices, and the keeping of the Mosaic Law. But Peter boldly told them it was by Jesus Christ of Nazareth. There is no other way. So, it is today—salvation is not by cleaning up one's own life—or keeping a set of laws, but only through Jesus Christ of Nazareth, as was preached by men with no formal education.

## The heartbeat of the church

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: April 12, 2020

TEXT: Acts 4:32-37

### THE HOOK

There is no other organization or entity in all the world that can compare to the New Testament Church. Her economy does not operate as the world's economy does. She does not answer to any worldly corporate head, nor does she depend upon any substance or revenue generated from the world.

### THE BOOK

Verse 32. The church is of one heart and operates in the

unity of the Spirit. Verse 32 does not advocate a socialistic body. Rather, a member of the body of Christ acknowledges that all possessions was on loan to them by God the Father.

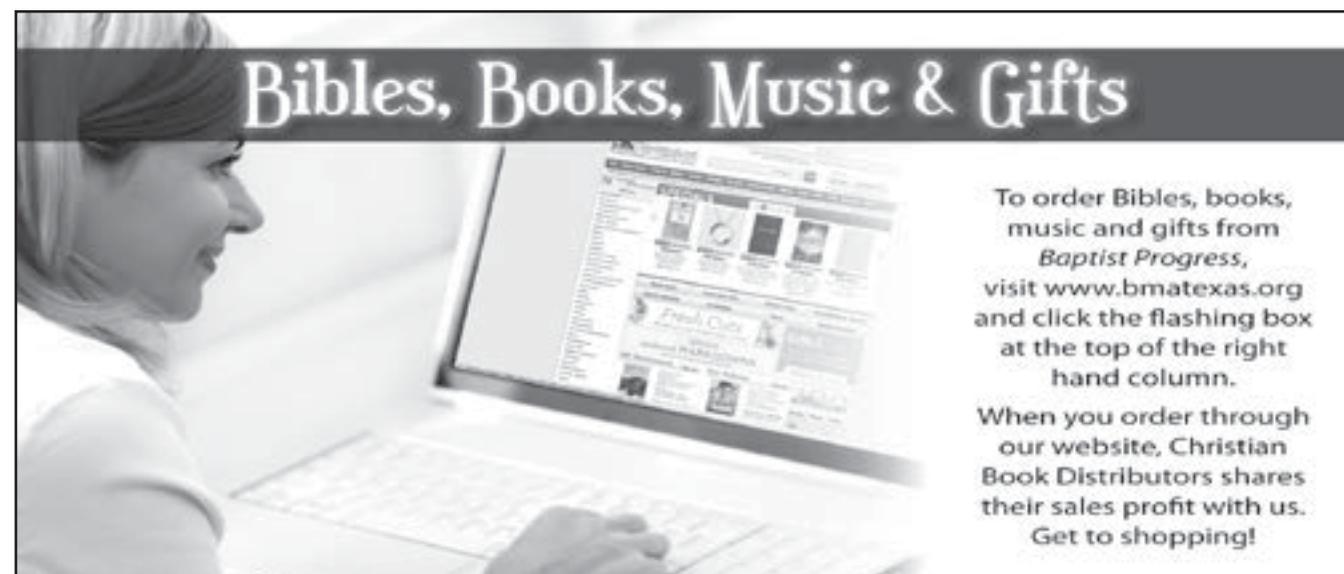
Verse 33. The church is the recipient of the marvelous grace of God. She was a first-hand witness of the resurrection of the Savior.

Verses 34-35. The church had no lack. They sold possessions and brought the price to be used to meet needs. It was ministry. Communism and socialism is practiced under an oppressive compulsion by an evil earthly empire. Members of the Body of Christ are only compelled by the love of Jesus.

Verse 36. Barnabas was a leader - an example of godliness and grace. He had been blessed with great increase. A descendent of the priestly tribe, Barnabas (son of consolation) was a great role model in the body.

### THE LOOK

When a church is spirit-filled, and faithfully doing God's bidding, she will be blessed and blessing is not merely measured in riches and possessions, but spiritual blessings. The church at Smyrna is an example. Christ told her in Revelation 2:9 "I know thy works, and tribulation, and property, (but thou art rich)..."



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# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

## The heartbreak of the church

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: April 19, 2020

TEXT: Acts 5:1-11

### THE HOOK

There are different ways for a person to look like he or she is giving to the church more than what they really are. The story is told of a man who promised to give a church \$80,000 if the church would, in turn, buy a piece of land from him for \$60,000—land that was not worth anywhere near \$60,000. The church kept the \$20,000 while the man kept the \$60,000. But he was able to report to the Internal Revenue Service, a gift to the church of \$80,000. This man not only lied to the Holy Spirit, he lied to the IRS. He “gamed the system.”

### THE BOOK

1. Ananias and Sapphira consorted together to commit this act of disobedience (verses 2 and 9). It was

a premeditated act.

2. Ananias and Sapphira yielded to the wiles of Satan (verse 3). Satan filled their hearts with an evil desire, and prompted them to lie to the Holy Spirit. “Whatever Satan might have suggested, he could not have filled the heart of Ananias with this wickedness had he not been consenting.” — Matthew Henry

3. Ananias and Sapphira sought to emulate the generosity of Barnabas (verses 4 and 37). They wanted to portray a giving spirit that was not in their hearts. The sin was not merely being materialistic and retaining part of the price. The sin was attempting to deceive the Holy Spirit. They had the option of giving a portion or keeping all of it.

4. Ananias and Sapphira experienced the ultimate in church discipline (verses 5-10).

5. Church discipline when done according to scripture, always edifies and builds up the church (verse

11). “And fear came upon all the church and upon as many as heard these things.”

a. Church discipline (Matthew 18) brings about a godly sorrow to the ones receiving it. (with the exception of Ananias and Sapphira).

b. Church discipline encourages others who might be guilty of, or contemplating the same act, to examine their own hearts.

### THE LOOK

The account of Ananias and Sapphira perfectly illustrates the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:24—“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. “Ye cannot serve God and mammon (materialism).” Also, Ecclesiastes 5:5 comes into view here, “Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.”

## The church in obedience

By PAUL GAUNTT

TEXT: Acts 5:17-42

DATE: April 26, 2020

### THE HOOK

Take a few moments at the beginning of the lesson, to share biblical accounts of God blessing the obedience of His people even in times of peril (i.e. Noah standing against scoffers before the flood; Israelites fleeing Egypt; Joseph’s obedience in Egypt, even in times of imprisonment; Daniel’s peril in the Lion’s Den; Abraham sacrificing Isaac on the altar).

### THE BOOK:

#### 1. The Perils:

a. The jealousy and rage of the high priest and his company (verse 17)

b. The arrest of the apostles (verse 18)

#### 2. The intervention of God the Father:

a. Angel provided the escape (verses 19-20)

#### 3. The disciple’s obedience (verse 29)

4. The protection of the Father in their obedience (verse 21)

5. The intervention of Gamaliel (verses 34-39): Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, although a Pharisee, exercised great wisdom as he pled the case for the disciples (38-39).

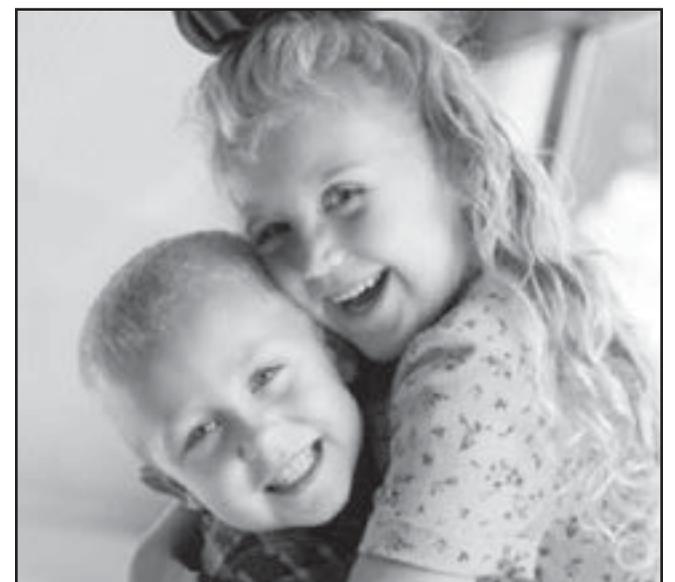
6. The rejoicing of the disciples in adversity (verse 41). They rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for the sake of Christ.

7. God did not remove opposition, but blessed the disciples in spite of it (verse 42)

### THE LOOK

Our lesson verifies the blessed declaration of Joshua to the Israelites in Joshua 1:9, “Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”

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).



### Texas Baptist Home for Children Charity Luncheon • Go Blue for Kids

April 21, 2020

Visit [www.tbhc.org](http://www.tbhc.org), scroll down on the homepage and click Go Blue for Kids Charity Lunch or call 972-937-1321 to register.

# BMA Texas Missions cont.

for me and my family as we lead The Bridge Church. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

**JAIME GARCIA—**  
**IGLESIA BAUTISTA NUEVA VIDA MISSION,**  
**GILMER/MESQUITE**  
**JAIME.GARCIA2911@GMAIL.COM**

In the time of King Ahab (1 Kings 18), the Bible shows us the suffering of his people because hunger was grave, by the influence of this king's wife, towards idolatry. The people who lived in the Promised Land, a land from which the promise was that milk and honey would flow, was once again suffering under the tyranny of an unjust king. Once again, his people needed divine intervention. God commanded His servant to confront the evil king (v. 18). Let us pray for new leaders with compassion who look at the needs of people, a people who are looking for direction. Let us pray for leaders who are not conformists. Thank you for your prayers and for everything you do for my family. Blessings.



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

God is on the move in west Texas! For the last year, we have been working on developing a workable, reproducible process for small west Texas towns and now it's time to start working it! We are anticipating something really special this year! What can you do? I'm glad you asked!!! What we need is churches who will be willing to adopt specific towns and begin to pray fervently for God to go ahead of us and open hearts and minds to the gospel and provide a person of peace. If your church would be interested in adopting a town, I would like to ask you to call or text me at 806-598-1186 for the name of a town and so I can keep you up to date. God wants to reach west Texas and we know it won't happen unless He moves. Your prayers for these once forgotten and neglected towns will have a powerful and eternal impact! I can't wait to see what God does this year! Will you help?

Prayer Needs:

Pray for Sundown, Whitharral, Levelland, Loop, Meadow, Tahoka, and Wilson as we start a major push into and from these towns.

**MIKE WATT—**  
**CROSS-WORK MISSION, TAHOKA**  
**MIKE.WATT@CROSSWORKCHURCH.ORG**

Cross-Work Church is gaining momentum in our community. Pray we keep prioritizing our time with the least, the last and the lost, as well as creatively seek disciple-making opportunities in our town.



**ISAIAS ROJAS OSECHAS—**  
**CHURCH PLANT IN SPRING**  
**ISAIAS.ROJA5299@GMAIL.COM**

Thank you for your moral, spiritual and economic support in the opportunity to work as a team in achieving the challenging mission of planting new churches through family groups and developing the already established mission, Victory in Christ, to constitute it as an established church and to generate other churches.

Prayer Needs:

Pray for the strategic location of the residence with the most room to operate with more functionality in the Harris County Zone of Spring, where we have the highest number of Hispanics.

**KINGSLEY NDUKA—**  
**LIGHT HOUSE MISSION IN HOUSTON**  
**KINGEDU700@GMAIL.COM**

Satan is on the move to stop the Kingdom work at all costs, but he will not succeed. Let us therefore keep our eyes on what God has called us to do (preach the Gospel in season and out of season).

Prayer Needs:

Pray that I will have strength to finish my school work this semester and focus on the mission work.

**JAIME HENRIQUEZ—**  
**FUENTE DE VIDA ETERNA MISSION, HOUSTON**

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring Good News, who proclaim peace (Isaiah 52:7).

Prayer Needs:

Pray for the saving of souls in our mission and for a church building.

**NEPTALY MOLINA—**  
**IGLESIA BAUTISTA MISSION, NACOGDOCHES**  
**NRMOLINA23@GMAIL.COM**

I give glory to God, for in this month of February it was fun for me to make my debut as facilitator. I had the blessing of sharing the multiplication workshop, in walking with Jesus in Houston with a good participation of pastors and leaders, workers and brothers, with the assistance of my brother Arnulfo Maldonado. In reality, God was glorified and I felt good, I also visited San Antonio and shared it with the planter, Cesar Leal. It was a great blessing. On Sunday afternoon, I prayed in the Hispana Emanuel congregation. It was a blessing. I want to continue to learn to be a blessing to my association, the BMA of Texas, under the leadership of Bro. Heith Mitchell and Bro. Arnulfo Maldonado.

Prayer Needs:

1. Pray for the spiritual life of the pastoral family of Molina Perdomo.

2. Pray for the growth of the Rebirth Baptist Church of Nacogdoches and the Lufkin cell respectively.

3. Pray for our anniversary as a church in the month of March, moving forward.

**GAMALIER LUNA—**  
**NEW MISSION IN EL PASO**  
**GAMALUGA@HOTMAIL.COM**

Brothers, don't stop, don't quit, keep going.

Prayer Needs:

Pray for leaders for the church and for my work.

Spencer Simpson – Redeemer's Love Mission, Houston  
spncrsmpsn@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support and prayers! We are encouraged knowing we have so many wonderful churches that are laboring alongside us as we reach Texas for Christ.

Prayer Needs:

Please pray that the Lord will open the hearts of the people of southwest Houston as we continue to build relationships and take the gospel to an area of Houston that is very hostile to the Gospel of Jesus.

**WESLEY BURKE—**  
**REDEMPTION BAPTIST MISSION, NACOGDOCHES**  
**WESLEYDAVIDBURKE@GMAIL.COM**

In John 1:42, the scriptures say that Andrew brought his brother Peter to Jesus. Remember, you never know what God may do with your faithful introduction of someone to Christ.

Prayer Needs:

Pray that we will have faith in our small effort to evangelize a small group of lost people intentionally. And please pray for us as we bring our first new member into membership this month.

*Heith Mitchell is the director of BMA of Texas Missions. Contact him at P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, TX 75168, 972-923-0757 or hmittell@bmatexas.org. For more information, visit [www.bmatexasmissions.org](http://www.bmatexasmissions.org).*



# EVENTS

## BMA OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING

**DATE:** April 27-29, 2020

**PLACE:** Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas

## BMA OF TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING

**DATE:** November 9-10, 2020

**PLACE:** Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas

# Church news

**OLDE TYME, WHITE OAK** held a ceremony to recognize their Galilean, Neil T. Aga, for completing the Ambassador step that completes the youth program. Liberty District sister church's Galileans attended the event and enjoyed a luncheon afterwards.

## BMA of Texas Annual Meeting date change

In order not to conflict with the BMA Senior Adult Conference, the BMA of Texas Administrative Committee has changed the dates for the Annual BMA of Texas Meeting to Nov. 9-10, 2020.



# Personnel & positions

## AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**PASTOR**—New Harmony, Tyler is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee at the church at 10251 FM 724, Tyler, Texas 75704. 4/20

**PASTOR**—Gray's Prairie, Scurry is seeking a pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 206, Scurry, Texas 75158. You may also call Chris Taliaferro at 214-674-8064, Bob Strewert at 903-802-3182 or Willie Niches at 972-754-9405. 6/20

**MUSICIAN**—Cross Roads, Winnsboro is seeking a pianist/musician. Contact Jeremy Pierce at 903-569-7159.

**PASTOR**—Central, Texarkana is seeking a pastor. Send resume to CentralBaptistTxkSearch@gmail.com or 2117 E. 35th, Texarkana, Arkansas 71854.

**PASTOR**—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a pastor. Send resume to jimmysealy@aol.com or to FMBC Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346. 7FN

**YOUTH MINISTRY**—South Park, Fort Worth is seeking a bi-vocational youth director and a youth ministry intern. Visit spbc.life/joinourteam for more information. 7FN

**MUSIC MINISTER**—Hill Creek, Whitehouse is seeking a music minister. Send resume to 17636 Summer Place, Whitehouse, Texas 75791. 4/20

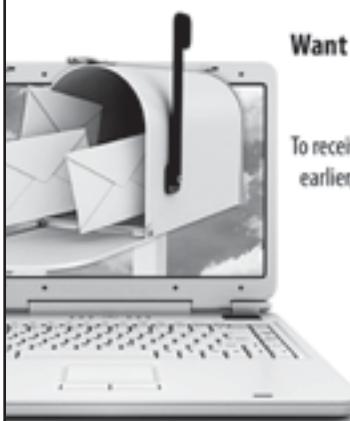
**PASTOR**—Center Hill, Oakhurst, located off of Highway 190 in Oakhurst, is seeking an experienced bi-vocational pastor. Send resume to chdcpastorsearch@gmail.com or call 936-662-7831. 3/20

**PASTOR**—Mount Olive, Scurry is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 99, Scurry, Texas 75158. 7FN

**PASTOR**—First, Jacksonville is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 210 Philip Street, Jacksonville, Texas 75766 or email to reception@firstjax.org. 7FN

**PASTOR**—Central, Mineola is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 602 N. Line, Mineola, Texas 75773 or email to ccburke43@gmail.com. 7FN

**PASTOR**—Beacon Hill, Waco is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to jmpossey73@gmail.com or mail to P.O. Box 9080, Waco, Texas 76714-9080. 3/20



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# CHURCHES in REVIEW

February 16, 2020

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	52	62	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	14	23	
Jackson, Joaquin	71	124	
New Harmony, Tyler	261	268	
New Hope, Mineola	105	169	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		47	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	45	75	
Rosewood, Gilmer	125	205	1 profession of faith
Sand Prairie, Normangee		60	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	32	48	
Simmons Hill, Diana	31	38	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	19	24	

February 23, 2020

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	42	63	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	15	27	
Jackson, Joaquin	73	111	
New Hope, Mineola	94	146	2 by baptism
Olde Tyme, White Oak		48	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	44	60	
Rosewood, Gilmer	111	200	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	43	60	
Sand Prairie, Normangee		65	1 by letter, 1 by statement
Security Calvary, Cleveland	31	45	
Simmons Hill, Diana	43	58	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	14	16	

March 1, 2020

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	43	63	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	16	30	
Jackson, Joaquin	74	111	1 by letter
New Harmony, Tyler	288	312	
New Hope, Mineola	84	146	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		39	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	47	68	
Rosewood, Gilmer	134	252	2 by baptism, 2 by letter
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	43	62	
Sand Prairie, Normangee		65	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	28	35	
Simmons Hill, Diana	16	21	

March 8, 2020

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	41	51	1 by baptism
Glade Creek, Gilmer	17	29	
Jackson, Joaquin	63	103	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		40	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	44	58	
Sand Prairie, Normangee		48	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	23	32	
Simmons Hill, Diana	31	35	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	16	21	

## BMA Seminary Dinner

- Heritage Baptist Church, 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 28
- Tickets \$35/person
- Lifetime alumni members receive a \$5 discount.
- Contact Seminary to purchase tickets  
1-800-259-5673

*Music by the BMA Seminary Singers  
(Held in conjunction with the BMAA  
National Meeting in Waxahachie, TX)*

Featured Speaker:  
*Dr. Philip Attebery*



*In honor of his 20th year  
serving as our Dean*

Seminary  
Sunday  
May 17

**Invest in your next  
pastor or missionary.**

**Please pray for us and collect a special offering.**

**BMA Seminary P.O. Box 670 Jacksonville, Texas 75766**