

# Baptist Progress

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## A little girl with a big dream and a big heart

By **EDDIE MARSH**

An amazing little girl in the second grade found an opportunity to help, and the results have been beneficial for everyone involved.

Emily Denny was riding with her dad and mentioned that she would like to do something worthwhile for the children of Texas Baptist Home for Children. Her initial thought was to collect money, but with a little guidance from her parents and a visit with Kelly Saunders and Cari Humphrey, her goal would become clear.

Speaking of the children at the Home, Emily stated, "I knew they didn't have a home, and I just wanted to do something for them to make them feel like they are welcome here."

Emily's interest was sparked by her teacher, Ms. Timmerman, who once worked at Texas Baptist Home and was telling her students about the Home. This conversation motivated Emily to try to make a difference.

Emily's parents observed that she had a heart dedicated to helping others. In this case, once the spark was ignited it would soon become like wildfire that would introduce her to many people in the community who would also play an important part in meeting her goal. The ladies at the Home presented the need for diapers, toothbrushes, high chairs and backpacks. She then sought to formulate a plan to get her dream off the ground.

"I knew they didn't have a home, and I just wanted to do something for them to make them feel like they are welcome here." ►



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## Connecting with churches, pastors and staff

By **JERRY FULTON**

Since 2004, it has been my privilege to serve as editor of *Baptist Progress*. From the time I began, numerous changes have taken place within the ministry of our department as well as the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas and the Baptist Missionary Association of America that have resulted in progress.

It is true that there was a time when I advocated our state association of churches enter into a full partnership with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. Today, while I greatly admire the ministry efforts of the SBTC, and absolutely want to continue working with them to reach Texas for Jesus, the Lord has shown me the special place He has in His Kingdom work for the BMA of Texas.

The aggressive missions movement begun long ago, continues today under the leadership of BMA Texas Missions Director Heith Mitchell. Inside this issue, you can read for yourself about the progress being made in starting new churches across the Lone Star State.

Jacksonville College has more students enrolled than ever before in its history. Scores of students are coming to know Christ and are being equipped to be disciples and makers of disciples.

Texas Baptist Home for Children now ministers to more children and families than it has since it was established in 1910.

The Baptist Missionary Loan Association has more funds on hand to loan to churches and missions than ever before. Should your church or mission need a loan, contact the Loan Office at 972-923-0758.

*Baptist Progress* is expanding its communication ministry to include resources. A few years ago, *e-News Update* began being emailed to *Baptist Progress* subscribers on most weeks when the paper was not published. Now, the *Ministry Connection* email newsletter is being delivered to BMA ministers and email subscribers of *Baptist Progress*. Also, *Ministry Connection Workshops* and a *Ministry Connection Conference* have and/or will be offered this year.

And, I would be remiss not to shower some praise on the directors of BMA of America Missions, BMA Theological Seminary, Lifeword Media Ministries, DiscipleGuide, Ministers Resource Services and

Moral Action. The vision the Lord has given the leaders of BMA of America is being led of His Spirit to change the world for His glory. I appreciate their efforts.

I urge every pastor, staff member and church member to become as involved as possible in the work of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas and the Baptist Missionary Association of America. I am excited about the progress we have and will continue to make together, as the Lord leads.



▲ Jerry Fulton

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to **Pastor Richard Smith** for inviting me to perform a concert at **Farley Street, Waxahachie** Feb. 24. Next to preaching, there is nothing I love more than singing praise to our awesome God.

Thank you to **Pastor Keith Prather** for the opportunity to sing and preach at **Forest Hill, Quitman**. What a friendly church Bro. Prather is blessed to pastor. My wife, Cassie, and I enjoyed being with them March 6, 2016.

Thanks you to **Pastor Johnny Veretto** for the opportunity to speak at **Cedar Creek, Teague**. Cedar Creek has a special place in my heart, as I have preached numerous revivals there, and my parents were members of the church for a time. I consider the members of Cedar Creek among my favorite people in the world. As of this writing, I am scheduled to preach there March 13, 2016.

Finally, I look forward to performing a concert at First, Palmer, where **Paul Gauntt** is pastor. at 5 p.m. April 3. All offerings and sales of CDs at my concerts, as well as all offerings received when I preach or speak at a church, are given in their entirety to the ministry of *Baptist Progress*.

## HAVE YOU REGISTERED? NEXT MINISTRY CONNECTION WORKSHOP, MARCH 31, 2016



*Baptist Progress* will host the second Ministry Connection Workshop of 2016, Starting Ministries for Those With Hurts, Habits & Hangups (Celebration Recovery, DivorceCare & GriefShare), Thursday, March 31, 2016.

Alan Rogers, care pastor, The Avenue Church, Waxahachie and former president of Texas Baptist Home for Children will facilitate the workshop.



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

To register email editor@baptistprogress.org or call 972-923-0756. You may also preregister for future workshops by visiting <http://www.bmatexas.org/registration.html> or calling the number above.

# BMA of America News

## Johnny Hunt to be featured at BMAA National Meeting

By SCOTT ATTEBERY

Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church in Woodstock, Georgia, will be the featured keynote speaker at this year's BMAA National Meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27. According to BMAA president Jason Aultman, "His love for and knowledge of church revitalization will deliver a timely message for our churches. Hunt's message will be an excellent complement to our missionary commissioning that evening."

In his 29 years as pastor of First Baptist Church, Hunt says his focus has been on "others." While the church has experienced significant growth under his leadership, it is growth of the person, not the platform that continues to energize a ministry that sees its best days ahead.

Foremost among the "others" he lives for are his wife of 45 years Janet Allen Hunt, his two daughters Deanna Carswell and Hollie Hixson, and his four grandchildren Katie, Carson, Hope and Addie.

Before coming to Woodstock, Pastor Johnny served at three churches in North

Carolina: Lavonia Baptist Church in Mooresboro, Falls Baptist Church in Wake Forest, and his home church, Longleaf Baptist Church in Wilmington.

Pastor Johnny's educational credits include a B.A. in Religion from Gardner-Webb College where he was voted Ministerial Student of the Year in 1979. He continued on to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary where he earned a Masters of Divinity in 1981. Southeastern honored Pastor Johnny in 1997 by naming him Chair of Biblical Preaching in 1997. He has also received several honorary doctorates over the years for his work in ministry.

For more information on the BMAA national meeting, go to [bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting](http://bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting).



▲ Johnny Hunt

## SOAR 2016 Conference registration open

By THOMAS MOBLY

*DiscipleGuide Chief of Operations*

Registration for the SOAR 2016 student conference is now open!

Thousands of students will gather July 6-8, 2016, at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas, to discover God's heart for the nations at SOAR 2016. Conference messages will inspire students to engage the world with the gospel while the global village will provide hands-on mission experiences.

SOAR 2016 will cover the subject of global missions. A heart for Christ must include a heart for the world. From the beginning, God has proclaimed his desire to be glorified around the nations. Every believer should be involved in the global cause working together to see people from every tribe, tongue, language and nation come to Christ! SOAR 2016 will uncover the biblical story of God's heart for the world and challenge students to become passionate about his global glory.

This year's guests will include speaker

Clif Johnson, worship leader Aaron Williams, conference emcee Jordan Bowen, and concert artist We the Union.

For more information on SOAR 2016, including conference registration and hotel reservations, visit [gosoar.com](http://gosoar.com). Early registration is only \$110 per person. Early registration and hotel room rates are available for a limited time. Don't miss out on this year's SOAR conference. Register your group today.



## DiscipleGuide CHURCH RESOURCES

## Larnelle Harris to perform at BMAA National Meeting in Gatlinburg

By SCOTT ATTEBERY

Legendary vocalist Larnelle Harris will perform at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27, at the BMAA National meeting in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. BMAA president Jason Aultman explains, "I believe our people will be blessed and encouraged by Larnelle's powerful voice and inspirational ministry."

The only person in history to be a member of the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, the Amateur Radio Hall of Fame and the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame, Larnelle Harris is admired by fans and peers alike for his majestic tenor voice. Larnelle has become the epitome of talent and integrity in a career that spans over three decades and includes numerous accolades for his music including five Grammy Awards, eleven Dove Awards (three of which were for Male Vocalist of the Year), and a Stellar Award among other honors. He has garnered nineteen #1 radio singles and countless top ten hits. Songs such as "How Excellent Is Thy Name," "I Miss My Time with You," "I've Just Seen Jesus," plus many others including his signature song, "Amen" are now considered modern classics.

From the White House to the danger zone of the Thirty-eighth Parallel, Larnelle has impacted audiences across the globe with his music and ministry. He was the first Christian artist to perform inside the Kremlin after the fall of the Soviet Union. He is one of a handful of celebrities to receive the Ad Council's Silver Bell Award for Distinguished Public Service in recognition of his song "Mighty Spirit" as the theme song for the longest-running Public Service Announcement in television history. Larnelle was recently honored by his home state of Kentucky with the Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award in the Arts, making him the first Christian artist to receive the honor.

Larnelle continues to tour



▲ Larnelle Harris

worldwide, with recent dates at Carnegie Hall and in Paris, France. He performed for the National Day of Prayer event in Washington D.C. in May of 2015 and will sing for the United Nations Ambassadors later in the fall. In addition to his numerous solo dates, Larnelle also travels with various multi-artist tours including this fall's Compassion International *Savior Tour*, the *Gaither Homecoming* tour, the *God of All Glory* tour, and the *Sandi Patty & Friends* tour, the latter of which *CCM Magazine* reviewed and described Harris as having a "larger-than-life stage presence with impeccable vocal prowess."

The BMAA national meeting begins Monday, April 25, and will conclude on Wednesday, April 27. For more information, including a list of official hotels, visit [bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting](http://bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting).

Dr. Scott Attebery is the executive director of DiscipleGuide Church Resources. Contact him by email at [scott@discipleguide.org](mailto:scott@discipleguide.org), on Facebook: Scott Attebery or Twitter @scottattebery. Visit [www.DiscipleGuide.org](http://www.DiscipleGuide.org).



# LEAVE IT TO CLEAVER



## Cruise observations from an old salt

By DR. TONY CLEAVER

A few years ago my wife and I were able to fulfill a lifelong dream of going on a cruise. Our adult children recently insisted we go on another cruise. We enjoyed the first cruise so much that our compliance with our children's wishes was a no brainer. I would like to share with you some of the "people watching and listening" events I encountered aboard ship.

The award for the best T-shirt went to a lady I saw in the elevator. The shirt had a picture of a ship with these words below it: "I have no cruise control; the cruises just book themselves."

Passengers and crew are affable onboard. They speak to each other easily as they pass in the halls and on the decks. I observed one man dressed in brown khakis (I figured out the brown color represented the engineers who "fix" things onboard). He was kneeling with his body half into a large electrical panel. I stood behind him and quietly said: "The green cord connects with the red one; the black one connects with the blue board; the yellow line goes into the white connector." Without missing a second, he pulled his head from the panel opening to respond with a large smile: "Thank you. I'm color blind!"

There was a reception where the passengers got to ask

questions of the crew who "drove the boat." Here are some of the winning inquiries (Yes, there were more like this):

- "Has this ship ever sunk before?"
- "Are we cruising at sea level?"
- "Do the workers (cabin attendants, culinary staff, etc.) go home at night?"

The elevators onboard have large, very large, arrows on them to indicate which direction they are going—that is up or down. (One lady wanted to know if it would take her to her cabin down the hall.) As passengers wait for the elevator, the large arrow, I mean large arrow, indicates this car is going up or this car is going down. Inevitably the door would open (with me inside in a hurry to go to my next sit down if not reclining position) with the people waiting to get on with these words: "Is this elevator going up or down?" By the end of the week those of us inside the elevator going only one of two ways would point to the large arrow on the outside panel—of course we rolled our eyes to one another with great smugness.

In a related elevator incident when we were on the highest deck of the ship, I asked a lady standing at the elevator if she was ready to go down. "No, I'm going up," she said. I replied, "Unless you are going to meet Jesus,

I don't think so. We are up as high as we can go." She sheepishly boarded the elevator with us to go down.

One of the best things about cruising for me is to be still and quiet. It is good for me to reflect on the good things the Lord has done and is doing in my life. I like to utilize the Nicene Creed in my devotional time. One of the phrases that really struck me on this cruise were these opening words of the creed: "We believe in one God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible...." There were many visible things about His creation I observed on this cruise, from gorgeous sunrises to a magnificent rising red moon. With all that was visible to us, I understand why humankind is still pondering those things we cannot see.

Until next cruise...

*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@bmat.edu](mailto:tony.cleaver@bmat.edu).*



## A little girl with a big dream and a big heart cont.

Since Emily can't drive she would need a little help from her dad, Kenneth. The plan was for her to meet with key businesses in the community and solicit their assistance. She sat down with the president of one of the banks who in turn introduced her to the marketing manager. He said that they would have a contest between the three bank locations in Waxahachie and see "who could come up with the most supplies." Emily was not finished. She also met with the owner of the local radio station and the editor at The Waxahachie Daily Light.

The time for collection would be two weeks. Boxes were placed in location in the city and circulars were placed in restaurants and businesses identifying where the boxes were located for distribution.

As you can see from the pictures, her efforts were highly successful. The fulfillment of her mission will save the Home many dollars that would have been spent for the items. Emily and her parents returned to the Home and delivered the boxes. Words cannot properly express the gratitude we feel for a little girl with a big dream and a bigger heart.

A child helping children, what a blessed thought.

*Eddie Marsh is president of the Texas Baptist Home for Children in Waxahachie, Tex. Contact him at [emarsh@tbhc.org](mailto:emarsh@tbhc.org) or 972-937-1321. You may also visit the TBHC website, [www.tbhc.org](http://www.tbhc.org).*



### 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.

# Church Health

## Pastoral Care

By LARRY BARKER

How do you make sure that you are caring for the people in the church properly? Is pastoral care completely the pastor and staff's responsibility? Is it possible that pastoral care is actually keeping many churches from reaching more lost people? How do we balance loving people more and the call to love more people? We have the challenge to help and care for people but also are to share the gospel with those who are far from God.

In *Lasting Impact*, Carey Nieuwhof makes these observations. "Practically, churches cannot run simply on paid staff. The model is unfeasible and the work is simply too great!" Also, "Ironically, it's in caring for others that most leaders make the mistake of neglecting self-care!" He has even written a blog article on how pastoral care stunts the growth of most churches, which is well worth the read, at [careynieuwhof.com](http://careynieuwhof.com). It will challenge you!

The early church had a problem in this area that we are told about in Acts 6. When the apostles saw that there was a lack of adequate pastoral care they did not work harder or try to do all the work themselves. They did not work longer hours and neglect their families because they were the only ones who could do the work of the ministry. They did not rebuke the widows and tell them they were too demanding but, instead, chose seven other men to help in the needed pastoral care.

Your church will struggle to grow, and the pastor and staff will become overwhelmed, if the church does not take steps to appoint a pastoral team. When we follow the biblical model it ensures that people are properly cared for and that a few are not so overloaded that they eventually burn out.

Here are a few ideas from Dynamic Church Planting International's *New Church Dynamics* on how to develop a pastoral care team:

**First, find someone with a pastoral gift to lead the team.** Prayerfully ask the Lord to raise up an individual who has a passion for this ministry. They need to be someone who loves loving others and visiting people in their times of need. If you structure small groups to oversee those in their groups, they are the first responders. Then, this leader can help come alongside of the small group to make sure they are properly ministered to and cared for.

Look for people with the gifts of shepherding and mercy. There may be retired individuals in your church who would love to help in making hospital visits,

home visits, and even calling to check on shut-ins and those who are sick. Remember, the number one reason many say they have never volunteered in the church is because no one ever asked them. There are those who would love to help if they were asked and shown what to do. This brings us to the next step:

**Second, make sure you give this individual the training they need in this ministry.** Here is a simple, but effective, four step process:

- **Model** care ministry by encouraging your potential leader to accompany you as you care for people. Never go alone, but always strive to take someone with you so they can see first hand how to handle different situations.
- **Mentor** the leader by sharing what you are doing and why you are doing it. They will learn a lot by watching how it is done and then discussing it after the visit has been accomplished. Answer their questions when you debrief immediately afterwards.
- **Monitor** the care leader as you begin to give care assignments. Always be prepared, ready to give encouragement and guidance, because you will need to continue discipling them in this area. Continually ask what you can do help and resource them.
- **Multiply** by asking the leader to recruit others to the care ministry. If they truly are a leader they will easily recruit others to help in pastoral care. If you do not see multiplication then you will need to pray that God will raise up another leader who can multiply themselves.

**Third, empower care team members to visit on behalf of the pastor and staff.** Like an ambassador represents his country's leader, your care leaders represent the leadership of the church. Ask team members to make it clear that they are representing the pastor of the church. People should feel loved and cared for by the church when they are visited by members of the pastoral care team, small group leaders, or any other designated individuals you have trained to provide care.

If you want more out of your team then you must put more into your team. Make sure you have clear expectations spelled out for those serving in this area. Also, they need to know who to call if they are unable to follow through on their visits. There must always be

Pastoral Care  
Ministry  
Team



a back up plan. The goal here is that they are loved, cared for, and prayed with. This can be full time job and the pastor does not have the time to do all of this himself.

The model of the pastor doing it all will only lead to people being mad, a lot of frustration, and the pastor becoming totally overwhelmed. Jethro said this to Moses, when he saw the way he was trying to do it all himself, "You will certainly wear out both yourself and these people who are with you, because the task is too heavy for you. You can't do it alone!"

Healthy churches develop pastoral ministry teams!

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).





By HEITH MITCHELL  
BMA Texas Missions Director

**Journey Community Mission, Allen  
Cecil Linke, Missionary**

Journey was able to partner with another church in our association of churches in Rowlett—Crossroads Community Church—in an effort to serve the people impacted by the tornado this past December. Serving others is always very rewarding and helps us grow in our faith while providing comfort and relief to others. One missed benefit from this kind of service is how you can take one more



▲ Cecil Linke

step in connecting your other friends and coworkers to your church family and ultimately to the gospel. Journey had 50 people to invest nearly 200 hours. The state of Texas sets the value of a volunteer hour at over \$24 an hour. So, the benefit to the community in a short amount of time is over \$4,000! However, the couple of guests who joined us in the field were even more valuable for Journey's reputation and our goal of sharing the love of Christ. Find great causes in your community and invite all of your unchurched friends to join you. It's a great first step in getting people connected to the gospel message.

**The Refuge Mission, Terrell  
Darren Lemons, Missionary**

Please be in prayer as we are doing some big outreach in the next couple of months. Pray for discipleship and life transformation in our church and for individuals we reach out to help. Also, pray for our women's and men's discipleship that has kicked off. We are praying for new leaders in the church to be raised up through this process. Please pray and look at supporting our second phase of building renovations which include, kitchen, third kids area and a church sign. Lastly, we are seeking some help with an outreach effort in April where we could use adult volunteers and finances to help reach out to our community.



▲ Darren Lemons

**Resonate Mission, Hutto  
Will Hutchinson, Missionary**

Hutto is a moving community. People are always moving and changing. It is difficult to meet people in the limited time window of 6-9PM and weekends. We pray continuously that God will open the lives and hearts of those he is sending us to minister with and he is! People are responding to the gospel and many people are asking to get deeper in the word and growing. With this comes new challenges and one of those is worship. We are in need of a music leader. Please

pray with us that God will send the person we need for this position. Also, continue to pray for us as this Sunday our sound board quit in the middle of church. What could have been a huge issue was a blessing as our group just huddled closer and opened their hearts to listen closer. It was great, but we will need to get this fixed and replaced soon. Thank you for your prayers and support.



▲ Will Hutchinson

**The Bridge Mission, Celina  
Matthew Prather, Missionary**

Please be in prayer for The Bridge in the upcoming weeks. Recently, we were informed that the school we are meeting in will no longer be renting their facilities to anyone. We asked and were given a 60 day extension. Celina is on the northern most point of the growth-taking place in DFW Metroplex. Because it was such a small town before it began to grow, there are very few buildings from which to choose. We ask that you would join us in prayer for this situation. Spring is almost here and it will allow us to be back outside in our community serving and doing outreach. Pray for lives to be changed and disciples to be made as we continue to reach out to our community.



▲ Matthew Prather

**The Church at Valley Ranch Mission, Porter  
Gary Southard, Missionary**

Small groups at The Church at Valley Ranch are important to assist in growing the mission. This gives us another door for people to enter into our church by building new relationships with our neighbors and friends other than a Sunday worship service. We currently have four small groups: A Men's Fire Pit where we meet every Saturday morning from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. with our men for prayer and devotional time usually discussing the role of the man. We have a monthly Ladies Night Out so our young mothers can get some good fellowship and a break from having to tend to their children. We have our newly formed youth group called "Tenacity." We have a weekly meeting that provides the opportunity to develop, train and equip new members. We use this time to share our vision, core values and discipleship training.



▲ Gary Southard



▲ Men's Fire Pit



▲ Ladies Bible Study



▲ Tenacity

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





# Revival

By **DR. MIKE SMITH**

*Jacksonville College President*

The word *revival* in the New Testament is a translation of the Greek word *anazao*, which literally means “to live again.” We see this word used in the physical resurrection of Lazarus, the resurrection of Jesus, and each believer’s bodily resurrection. Revival also refers to the process of bringing back to life a Christian who has been spiritually alive but has drifted away into sin.

America needs revival. Churches need revival. Christians need revival. Jacksonville College needs revival. I need revival.

The long held “Revival Passage” of the Bible is found in 2 Chronicles 7: 14: “If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

When revival comes, God promises that He will:

1. Hear from heaven

2. Forgive sin
3. Heal the land

We desperately need all three. Notice the passage begins with the word *if*. This is a conditional word. For revival to come man must:

1. Humble himself
2. Pray
3. Seek God’s face
4. Turn from wicked ways

God is not waiting for the White House or the Supreme Court to overturn abortion or same-sex marriage. God is waiting on the “church house”—Christians—to repent of sin and seek Him.

If Jacksonville College is to be of any value, it must also have revival. During this Easter season, please pray for revival on our campus and across our nation.



▲ Completed display of crosses at night on the Jacksonville College campus

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### EASTER BREAK

March 25-28: Offices closed

### SPRING SHOW: D. K. Molar, the Devious Dentist or...There's Gold in Them Thar Teeth!

April 7 (Student Night), April 8-10 (General Admission) at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary S. Lewis Theater

### SPRING CHOIR AND BAND CONCERT

April 12 at 7:00 p.m. in Buckner Chapel

Jaguar Day Across Texas (annual day of giving for Jacksonville College)

Sunday, May 1

**EARLY REGISTRATION** is ongoing for Maymester and Summer I and II



# Lifeword

MEDIA MINISTRIES

## Lifeword Community Radio: Creating a culturally-relevant Swahili broadcast



By **RICK RUSSELL**

*Lifeword Media Ministries*

“Bro. Rick, there has never been a Swahili radio program like this. I believe the people will like it a lot!” Those were the words of one of our Swahili broadcasters at the end of our first day of training in December 2015.

The idea for this format came from our Garifuna brethren in Central America. At their first opportunity to create a broadcast format all of their own in 2009, they did something that no American broadcaster would *ever* do, which may be exactly why it works so well in their culture. The Garifuna program has eight pastors sitting around a table, all talking at once! When Lifeword Program Director Luis Ortega questioned the advisability of so many voices talking at once, it was explained, “This is how the Garifuna *always* do!”

Since the Garifuna people group has its origins in Africa, Luis and I suspected that a similar format might work well in the Swahili culture. Sure enough, in our planning conversations last year with Renatus Kanunu, we discovered that there is a well-known Swahili custom for making village decisions. The chief calls together the heads of the various families and presents the issue. One by one, they offer possible solutions. If the group cannot come to a consensus, it falls to the chief, as the village’s ultimate authority, to render a decision.

In Lifeword’s new Swahili program *NenoUzima (WordLife)*, the Bible is personified as the words of our “chief”. It is his directives and principles which we look to in order to make the proper decisions in all aspects of our lives.

The first thing we do on each week’s program is to have the discussion leader (personifying the chief) explain the issue or question under discussion. The pastors then take a couple of minutes to put forward “man’s answers”, prefacing each statement with things like, “My father used to say...”, or “It’s always been the Swahili custom to...”, or “Some religions say...”. Then relevant Bible passages are introduced. In the last five minutes of the program, the “chief” correlates the instruction of those verses, allowing the Bible to interpret the Bible and bringing the group to agreement regarding the Bible’s instruction on that particular question. The program then culminates in a prayer thanking God for providing his Word as the trustworthy guide for our lives.

After BMA Productions puts the finishing touches on the broadcast, TWR will broadcast *NenoUzima* by shortwave and satellite and we will find local FM affiliates in as many cities as possible where the churches of the Taborah Baptist Association are located (widely dispersed across western Tanzania and into Burundi and Rwanda).

Pray that *NenoUzima* will be used by God in a powerful way to touch the lives of Swahili believers *and* non-believers to bring his light to this still-unreached people group.—Rick Russell.

# Christian Living

## Pastor's job description — the Word

By PAUL GAUNTT

There is a vast array of duties, which the average church member perceives to be the pastor's job description.

This includes every kind of manual labor, people skills, counseling expertise, administration and community participation. In fact, the sad truth is, in these days, the pastor, especially those of larger churches, are not looked upon so much as a spiritual leader, but a chief executive officer of a corporation.

On the flip side of the coin, I'm afraid a large number of "people-pleaser" pastors (self included) have fallen into the trap of tackling menial tasks (i.e. plumbing, sweeping, framing, mowing, etc.) to make an impression on people, shore up job security and hopefully bolster their own self-esteem. It was jokingly said of one pastor that one could always tell when he had been working on a toilet bowl tank in the church restrooms because of the watermark halfway up his necktie.

Because of the mores of our industrialized American society, it's a hard pill to swallow by some church members to think a handsome salary is paid to a pastor to sit behind his desk hours a day and study to preach a couple of sermons each week. Then there's always a comedian who quips, "Boy, I wish I had a job like that — work 90 minutes a week and play golf the rest of the time."

Of course, a pastor's spiritual ministry goes further than just behind the pulpit — he is to be engaged in seeking to grow people in the Word and in faith as he interacts with them personally. This especially includes his own wife and children. In fact, Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 3:4-5 that to care for the needs of his own household is imperative if he is to be an effective pastor. If he loses his family, his ministry is over.

It behooves us to consider the supernatural working of God upon the church, in which the pastor passionately and thoughtfully feeds them weekly from the pure, unadulterated Word of God. When Dr. W.A. Criswell met with the pulpit committee of First Baptist Church of Dallas in 1944, it was noted in his biography that he told them, "If you'll give me the mornings for God, I'll give you the afternoons."

For 50 years, the good pastor arose before daylight, retired to his study, adjacent to his bedroom, and before he changed out of his pajamas, shaved, showered or ate breakfast, he buried himself in his Greek lexicon, commentaries, Bible dictionaries, and of course the Word of God, and in prayer and meditation in preparation to feed the great church from the Word. This he did until almost noon each day.

Sadly, a pastor once told me, "I don't get my message

from God until Sunday at about 7 a.m. before I even get out of bed." Is it any wonder the church where he was pastor no longer exists?

There is no more tedious, nor grueling labor than to labor in Word and doctrine — and experts have revealed that the stress of a 30 minute sermon on the pastor's body and emotions is equal to an eight-hour workday.

It was said of the great pastor-teacher of Grace Community Church of Sun Valley California, John McArthur, that he studies on the average of 35 hours per week. His secretaries vehemently guard his privacy in his study while he labors in the Word. Consequently, in the past 46 years, he has led his church through a systematic, verse by verse study of God's Word. Today, the church is a bastion of faith and holy living in the Los Angeles area — and it is a large church too.

One of my preacher friends once said, "A church would render a great service to herself if her pastor were chained to his desk with his Bible and study books, and not unchained him until he came forth with a message from God."

It's true that a church may grow numerically with a lot of "excitement" generated if the pastor is an entertainer, a referee, an organizing whiz, a politician who slaps every back in the county every week, an excellent lawn keeper, floor waxer, plumber and a counselor. But if he doesn't labor in the Word, and have his own heart filled with God's message, and come forth preaching it from the overflow of his heart, then whatever growth the church might have experienced will dry up after he's gone. But what is built upon faithful labor in, and the deliberate exegesis of the Word, shall stand the test of time.

The disciples realized this after they delegated responsibilities to seven new deacons. After that ministry was set in motion, Acts 6:4 said that they (the disciples) gave themselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word; Acts 6:5 said that the new arrangement pleased the whole multitude; Acts 6:7 said the Word of God increased, the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem, and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Such is the result in a fellowship where the Word is the central to the ministry.



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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).



# Auxiliaries

## Meet our state missionaries

By SHARON COLE

The Women's Missionary Auxiliary is and always has been missions minded. First, because Jesus was missions minded, and if we are to be Christ-like, then we must love what He loved. Periodically we will feature a Texas State missionary on this page. Meet Darren Lemons and his family. He and his wife Becky have been married 12 years and have two boys, Daylen, 6 and Jase, 2. He writes: "We started The Refuge Church in Terrell, TX on October 9th, 2011 with Todd and Tina Cox. We started off meeting once a month for services and weekly for Bible study for the first year. In January, 2012 we went to two services a month and continued weekly Bible studies. We launched weekly services in January 2013. In June 2015 we sent Todd Cox to start a new work in Cumming, GA (near Atlanta). We had been having services all of this time in a movie theater in the Tanger Outlet Mall. In August 2015 we found an old church building and was able to move into it. It is still a rental facility but we do not have to load or unload every week. We have been able to have a wedding, funeral, community events, as well as other various church events. This year we will go off of National support from the BMAA and we are attempting to go off state support by the end of the year. If all goes as planned we will organize the first Sunday of January 2017. Our goal is to continue to grow and reach people in the community and let God transform lives with the intention of planting future churches and supporting missions around the world. We are blessed that God continues to open door after door for us as we see lives changing. People have trusted Christ as their Savior, marriages have been saved, lives have been saved by God's transforming power. Our biggest need is obviously financial as we try to take on the contributions of

about \$4000 a month this year. We trust God will provide as He always does. Also, with our new building we are making many renovations and trying to raise funds for those needs. Some of those needs are: arranging a new kids area which will need to fix a wall, paint, and create a safe area for kids; continue fixing a few plumbing issues, paint the outside of the building, and fix the ceiling in the foyer. Thanks to all for your interest and please pray that God's name will continue to be glorified." Pray for Bro. Lemons and his family. Bro. Lemons can be reached at 972-822-1690 or 2051 Griffith Rd, Terrell, TX 75160, mailing address: P.O. Box 2068, Terrell, TX 75160 or [www.gototherefuge.com](http://www.gototherefuge.com).

### MISSIONS BOOKS OPPORTUNITIES

Several years ago Texas WMA embarked on a project to publish Missions books. The first ones we published were "Pablo" and "Rosas." Do you remember them? They were written by Martha Johnson. Later after Martha went to be with our Lord, Buddy Johnson wrote "Martha." Since then we have published many others, most written by Bettye White and later Bettye White Wilson. The last one was published in 2006, "The Heflins in Costa Rica." After we paid for the cost of each of these books, the funds raised from the sale of the books went to the mission work of the missionary the book was written about. We still have 3 books that have not all sold: "The Elliots in Brazil," "The Arringtons in Bolivia," and "The Heflins in Costa Rica." We have already paid for all of these books so all sales now go to the Missions Office to go to the works of the missionaries in Costa Rica, since that is our last book. You can help by buying these books. The good news is that we have a bargain for you. If you buy the Heflin

book, then we will give you the Elliot's and Arrington's book free. The books normally sell for \$5, but since we will need postage to mail them, we are selling them for \$7.50. Please use the order form below and I will mail the books to you. (Perhaps you or your church group already have these books. Consider purchasing them to give as gifts. Give them to your church library. Give them to GMA or Galilean groups or individual young people to teach them about our missionaries that they would not otherwise learn about. It is important to help people know about the brave men, women and children who have given their lives to tell others around the world about Christ.)

### DISTRICT NEWS

The Houston-Anderson District WMA met Jan. 9, 2016 at Ephesus Baptist Church, Latexo. President, Sherry Lasiter presided at the morning meeting. The Share Time segment was an inspirational lesson by Barbara Simpson. The guest speaker was Stacie Bostic, of Gun Barrel City. She brought an excellent lesson from Titus 2:3-4. The April ninth meeting will be hosted by Sheridan Terrace Baptist Church, Palestine. Guest speaker at that meeting will be Bro. Dale and Celia Broom, missionaries to Ghana, Africa.

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



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## EVENTS

### MARCH 31, 2016

Baptist Progress  
Ministry Connection Workshop,  
How to Start Ministries to  
Those with Hurts, Habits & Hang ups  
with facilitator, Alan Rogers,  
care pastor at Avenue Church  
BMA of Texas Building,  
632 Farley St., Waxahachie, Texas  
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
No cost -- RSVP  
editor@baptistprogress.org  
or 972-923-0756.

### APRIL 4-8, 2016

Revival  
Woodland Missionary Baptist Church,  
Gilmer, Texas  
(Off SH 300 at 6049 FM 3358)  
Services begin at 7 p.m., nightly  
Messages by:  
Monday: Jayson Coker  
Tuesday: Eddie Strachan  
Wednesday: Dicky Mauk  
Thursday: The Hamptons  
Friday: Jim Crump  
David Mayhan, pastor

### APRIL 25-27, 2016

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

### MAY 1, 2016

Jaguar Day Across Texas  
Annual Offering for  
Jacksonville College

### MAY 7, 2016

Commencement Ceremonies  
105 B.J. Albritton Dr.,  
Jacksonville College  
1:30 p.m.

### MAY 14, 2016

Baptist Progress  
Ministry Connection Workshop,  
How to Make the Most of Media,  
Design & Communication  
with facilitator Brandon Cox,  
pastor of Grace Hills Church,  
Bentonville Arkansas  
& editor of Pastors.com  
BMA of Texas Building,  
632 Farley St., Waxahachie, Texas  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
No cost — RSVP  
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## PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

### AVAILABLE MINISTERS

**TOBY GOODMAN** is available for pulpit supply. He is currently planting a church in Lindale. Contact him at 903-353-6719 or T\_Goodman@sbcglobal.net.

**TOMMY HALL** is available for pulpit supply or to serve as interim pastor. He is a member of Davis Street, Sulphur Springs. Contact him at 903-335-0581 or oldbishop53@yahoo.com

**JOHN HENDERSON** is available for pulpit supply. He is a member of First Providence, Livingston. Contact him at 936-327-9228 or Henderson2@livingston.net.

### AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**PASTOR**—Glenfawn, Cushing is seeking a pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 126, Laneville, Texas 75667 or call Dean Risinger at 903-404-0292.

**PASTOR**—Blackjack, Troup is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to the church at blackjackbaptistchurch@gmail.com or P.O. Box 605, Troup, Texas 75789.

**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.

**MUSIC/YOUTH**—Lake Highlands, Sulphur Springs is seeking a fulltime youth/music minister. Send resume to Lake Highlands Baptist Church, P.O. Box 441, Sulphur Springs, Texas 75483-0441. 1/20/16

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

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

**PASTOR**—Sand Flat, Grand Saline is seeking a pastor (fulltime or bivocational). Send resume to Loyd Nations, 1950 FM 1519, Grand Saline, Texas 75140, loydeenations@gmail.com or call 903-312-8001.

## PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

**GENE R. LEE** is the new pastor of East Mayfield, Hemphill.

## OBITUARY

### ROYCE EUGENE CAMPBELL

Royce Eugene Campbell went home to be with his Heavenly Father March 4, 2016, surrounded by his family and friends at Manchester Place in Dallas. A celebration of his life was March 7, at Green Funeral Home, 207 S Wood Street, Ferris. A family burial followed at Clark Cemetery in Weatherford. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, June Campbell. Campbell is also survived by one son, Kevin, and his wife, Sue Campbell, of North Richland Hills, and one daughter, Karin Campbell Green, of Dallas. He is also survived by five grandchildren, and four great grandchildren, one Sister, Nelda Jane Smith, and her husband, John, and their children. Campbell was born on Feb. 23, 1929, to Luther and Opal Campbell. He served in the Navy during WWII, and dedicated his life to serving others in his role as a minister and pastor for 55 years. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church, 1020 RS CO RD 3235, Emory, Texas 75440.



## CHURCHES IN REVIEW

### FEBRUARY 28, 2016

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	51	95	
Antioch, Gilmer	52	118	
Cedar Creek, Teague	15	23	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	510	586	
First, Blooming Grove	211		
First, Palmer	52	85	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	17	44	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	15	15	
New Hope, Mineola	54	102	4 By Baptism
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	45	57	
Pine Brook, Tyler	26	60	1 By Baptism
Rosewood, Gilmer	127	210	2 By Baptism
Round Prairie, Fairfield	83	151	3 By Letter

### MARCH 6, 2016

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis		91	
Antioch, Gilmer	50	111	1 By Letter
Farley Street, Waxahachie	537	719	2 By Statement
First, Blooming Grove	206		5 By Baptism
First, Crandall	61	85	1 By Letter
First, Palmer	63	93	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	22	49	
Harvest, Lufkin	26	29	
Little Flock, Lufkin	12	11	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	10	10	
New Harmony, Tyler	310	340	
New Hope, Mineola	62	126	
Pine Brook, Tyler	28	56	
Piney Creek, Kennard	15	25	
Rosewood, Gilmer	116	191	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	21	35	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	19	24	

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

# Sunday School Lessons

## Amos—Justice

By PAUL GAUNTT

**DATE:** March 27, 2016

**TEXT:** Amos 2:6-8; 5:14, 15; 9:8-10, 14, 15

The prophet Amos was raised up by God to warn of His judgement on the Northern Kingdom, and calling for them to turn from their idolatrous ways and self-righteousness. Although they continually neglected and disobeyed Him, still, God's raising of His prophet was an act of mercy.

Not only did Amos warn the Northern Kingdom of their sins, but also neighboring nations, including Gaza, Edom and Tyre.

Amos also warned that Israel would be destroyed, and exiled by the Assyrians. He told them in 5:14, "Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and thus may the Lord God of hosts be with you, just as you have said."

Amos also tells, in 9:11 of the restoration and hope of Israel. "In that day will I raise

up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:

In Revelation 3, John writes to a church (Laodicia) which was in a similar state — being self satisfied, increased with goods and "having need of nothing." God's pronouncement on them was also similar, telling them that they were "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:" Revelation 3:16.

God told them they were a sinful kingdom, and He would destroy it off the face of the earth, although He said he would spare the house of Jacob.

But Amos' message concluded with the word that one day the kingdom would be fully restored. God is a God of wrath, but He is also a God of mercy.

## Obadiah—Pride

By PAUL GAUNTT

**DATE:** April 3, 2016

**TEXT:** Obadiah 1-4, 10-15, 17-21

God, through His prophet, Obadiah, pronounced judgement on Edom because of their pride.

The Edomites placed stock in their so-called "protected" place, high in the mountains in "the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?" verse 3

In verse 1-9 Obadiah proclaims God's judgement on them. "Will I not on that day," declares the Lord, "Destroy wise men from Edom and understanding from the mountain of Esau?" verse 8

Judgement would be

pronounced upon Edom because of the violence of Jacob. "You will be covered with shame, and you will be cut off forever." (verse 10)

In verse 15-21, we read about the victory of Israel in the end, "Esau's house will be as stubble" and "The house of Jacob will be afire" (verse 18)

God the Father will not tolerate a lofty spirit which makes one feel they are above judgement. Such was the spirit of Edom.

*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.*



Thank You

Charlotte and I want to take a moment of your time to thank you for honoring us at the meeting of the Jacksonville College alumni. We were rendered speechless in the surprise honor of "Coming Home Royalty." Jacksonville College has been special to us and our family for three generations but we never dreamed we would be recognized in such a manner. God bless the committee who made this choice and surprised us.

Bro. Duane and Charlotte Turner

## SEMINARY DINNER CANCELLED

Due to the shortage of available facilities and caterers, the BMA Seminary Dinner scheduled for 5 p.m., April 26 has been cancelled. We look forward to seeing you at the BMA Seminary Dinner in 2017 in Arlington, Texas.

## Bibles, Books, Music & Gifts

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▲ Patricia Hernandez  
from Van Zandt District



▲ Adilene Gutierrez  
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▲ Carrie Buck  
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▲ Ricki Ricks  
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