

Baptist Progress

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Slayton to receive Kellar Award

JACKSONVILLE, Texas — The BMA Seminary will hold its annual Seminary Friends Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 29, at the 65th annual meeting of the BMA of America. The 2014 dinner will be in Salon C of the Marriott (Headquarters) Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas. It is approximately a 5-minute walk (indoors through hallways with elevators or escalators) to the headquarters hotel. Once again, the cost of the dinner will be **\$25 per person**.



▲ Dr. Joel Slayton

The 2014 Kellar Award will be presented to Dr. Joel Slayton. Dr. Slayton is the eleventh Kellar Award recipient. This award, named in honor of the late Dr. Gerald Kellar, the founding president of BMA Seminary, recognizes a seminary alumnus for outstanding contributions in ministry typifying the legacy of Dr. Kellar.

Kellar Award Honoree

The Kellar Award honoree, Dr. Joel Slayton, was converted at the age of 12 and was ordained at the age of 19. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree

from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, a Master of Divinity from BMA Seminary, Jacksonville, Texas, and a Doctor of Theology at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tennessee. He also did post-doctorate studies at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California and Jerusalem University College in Jerusalem, Israel.

Dr. Slayton is married to Dianne (Kelly) Slayton and they have two children, Joey and Amy Slayton South. They also have 5 grandchildren, Casey and Candyce Slayton and Connor, Claire, and Christopher South.

Dr. Slayton has pastored and served as interim pastor of BMA churches in Arkansas, Texas, and Alabama and is currently interim pastor of Oak Park Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. During his ministry he has preached in ten states and four foreign countries. In addition, he has travelled in Asia, Europe, Africa, North and South America.

Dr. Slayton has served the BMA in several areas: writing approximately twenty quarterlies for the Baptist Publishing House, serving as editor of the Alabama Baptist Banner, serving on committees for the BMA of America and the BMA of Arkansas, in addition to responsibilities in local associations. He has been a commencement speaker, a Bible conference speaker, a guest lecturer for the Fall Lecture Series at BMA Seminary and delivered annual messages at both the BMA of Alabama and

BMA of Arkansas.

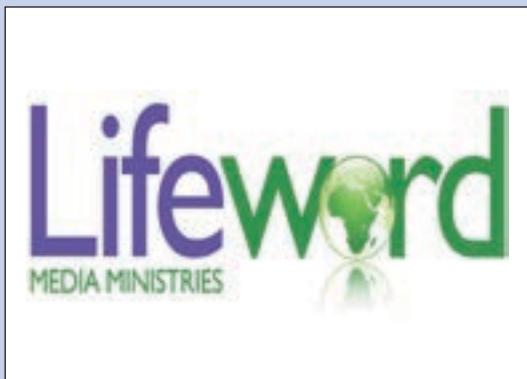
Dr. Slayton has been a teacher at Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas since 1976 and has served as instructor, professor, Chair of the Bible Department, Vice President of Graduate Affairs, Graduate Dean, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Interim President, as well as serving on numerous committees. He states that he enjoys the classroom experience the most.

Sharing the Rock with Little Rock

BMAA Department Directors and Brother Paul White, BMA of Arkansas Missions Director, have planned *Sharing the Rock with Little Rock*. Those who will be willing to “do the work of an evangelist” should meet at 1:00 p.m., Monday, April 28, 2014, near the Northeast corner windows overlooking the river on the Ballroom Level of the Convention Center. Participants will receive survey forms, tracts, and instructions. Teams will be formed and sent from there to witness in selected neighborhoods where BMA Churches are located. Dr. Holmes will lead a team that will reach out to the area around the hotel and convention center. Just bring your New Testament and an expectant, prayed-up heart. **There is no admission fee for this event.**

To make reservations for the Seminary Dinner, join *Sharing the Rock*, or volunteer for a support prayer group, contact Carol Shine at 800-259-5673 or carol.shine@bmats.edu.

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Which Team Is God On?

By SCOTT ATTEBERY

How many times have you caught yourself praying when your favorite team is down by two and has the ball with three seconds left? Maybe it's just me, but I doubt it.

When we get caught up in the excitement of the moment, we tend to forget that God has children who are fans of the other team as well!

I imagine it's that way with just about everything in life. For instance, after a terrorist attack or act of war, we are less likely to pray for the citizens of the nation who attacked us. And when your own government's leaders make policies you disagree with, it becomes harder to pray for God to give them wisdom and guidance to do their job. And yet, Jesus has said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44).

God has important purposes for our differences. Specifically, we display what is most important to us by what we will set aside our differences for. For example, when fans from rival teams stand together for the National Anthem, you know that they value their mutual allegiance to America more than their loyalty to their team. Likewise, when

believers from opposing nations worship together, you know that Christ is more important to them than political interests.

Ultimately, favorite teams, national citizenship, and political affiliation have less importance in the Kingdom of God. In Christ, all believers are citizens of Heaven, servants of the King, and members of one team (Phil. 3:20, John 12:26, Eph. 4:5). One day, we will all be together worshipping at His throne!

One way we can express our submission to Christ in this life is to begin living in unity with all believers. Instead of waiting until Heaven to worship together, let's welcome people from all backgrounds into our Churches. Jesus said, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations" (Matt. 21:13). Instead of harboring anger toward governments and political parties, let's pray for the citizens of all nations (including our own). Remember, God is over all things, (Col. 1:17), all nations (Psalm 86:9), and all kings (Prov. 21:1).

Now, I know what you're wondering. Yes, I'm still a huge fan of my favorite team, -I'm just a bigger fan of Jesus!

BMA Theological Seminary Brand Lectures March 25 and 27, 2014

JACKSONVILLE, Texas—The 2014 "Brand Lectures" will be held March 25 and 27, 2014 in the Dorman Memorial Chapel on the campus of Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Theological Seminary in Jacksonville. Guest lecturer will be Dr. Gary O'Neal, pastor of Greenwood, Fulton, Miss. and writer of one or two Compass Teacher (Advancer) Publications each year for DiscipleGuide (formerly Baptist Publishing House).

The public lectures will be presented in four sessions:

Tuesday	10:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	Truth Which Leads to Godliness Leadership Which Promotes Godliness
Thursday	10:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	Lifestyles Which Become Godliness Grace Which Produces Godliness

Dr. O'Neal was raised in Perkinston, Miss., attending Paramount Baptist Church. In 1972, his pastor, George Reddin, led him to trust Christ as his personal Savior. In 1982, after surrendering to the ministry, he earned a bachelor's degree from Trinity Baptist College in Jacksonville, Fla., and while there, he met and married Lynn Smith. Gary and Lynn moved to New Hampshire where they served for 10 years before moving to Texas to attend the BMA Theological Seminary where he earned a Master of Divinity degree in 2000. Then in 2013, he earned a Ph.D. degree in New Testament Studies from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Cordova, Tenn.

Gary and Lynn have four adult children and two grandchildren.

The Brand Lectures are named in honor of the late Dr. and Mrs. Ralph A. Brand of Hattiesburg, Miss. They were faithful servants of the Lord for over 50 years.

Mrs. Brand retired as head of the cataloguing department of the library at the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Brand worked in prison ministries for over 30 years and was Director of New Directions Prison Ministries until his resignation in 1998.

Dr. Brand traveled extensively and authored several articles and books. Three of his best known works include *Simplified Techniques of Counseling*, *Analysis of Revelation* and *Techniques of Counseling: An Aid to Pastoral Efficiency*.

Deadline to Make Hotel Reservations for BMAA Meeting Approaching

The deadlines to reserve rooms at the discounted rate for the upcoming BMA of America meeting in Little Rock are as follows:

Marriott- March 28, 2014

Call 501-906-4000

Holiday Inn Presidential- March 28, 2014

Call 501-375-2100

Comfort Inn & Suites-Downtown- April 13, 2014

Call 501-687-7700

You are encouraged to make your reservation as early as possible. Please indicate you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of America to receive the discounted rate.

BMAA Committee on Arrangements



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America - crumbling from within; who's to blame?

By PAUL GAUNTT

Throughout my growing up years, we seemed to live with the notion that if our nation is taken down, it would be by a button being pushed from without. Protest anthems (i.e. Eve of Destruction) prophesied the impending doom of our great nation.

Over a generation ago, Soviet Premiere Nikita Khrushchev made his infamous declaration that, "We'll take America without firing a shot."

Although Khrushchev wasn't the one to do it, it's systematically being done with great success. But it might startle us if we recognized who the real culprits are.

In these days of political upheaval, the unleashing of the political correctness policy, and an all-out concerted effort on the part of the secular progressive movement to undermine everything biblical and moral, it's refreshing to see some unlikely personalities (like members of the Hollywood set) taking a stand for truth and Americanism, including Steven Segal and Jeff Daniels (*Dumb and Dumber*).

While these two may not necessarily be coming from a Christian standpoint, their assessments of what is considered to be a sinister movement against our culture, could, ironically, signal a new burst of moral and spiritual courage on the part of believers—including myself.

I'm afraid the New Testament Church—as a whole—has rolled over today and has played dead. We have, for the most part, acquiesced to progressivism and the shrill whines of the Godless who voice their "offense" because a kid wears red, white and blue, or a "What Would Jesus Do" bracelet to school? I'm so afraid we have rested on the laurels of our Laodicean increase with goods, having need of nothing. Why? If we stand for what's right, and just—and biblical, why should we fret over the IRS taking our 501©3 away? Who are we—as people of God, who proclaim Christ

as the Savior of the world,—to refuse to come against abortion, same-sex marriage, legalization of marijuana, and a government bent on taking down every principle and precept of our Constitution, which was developed and penned by men who bathed it in prayer? Why do we seem to be hunkering in the corner of our sanctuary, trembling and intimidated by a hell-immersed culture?

Folks, our nation may well become the late, great United States of America—but she won't become that way because of a wayward administration, a spineless Congress or because a complete state legalizes marijuana, or the passing of *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, or the dogma that appears on the silver screen, compliments of Hollywood. She won't be destroyed because of atheism, new age mysticism, and a push for a wide diversity of sexual orientations, and the assault on the traditional family. It won't be because of the Godless spewings of liberal professors in institutions of higher learning or a media that turns and looks the other way when our culture is assaulted. No! It will be because we, as God's people just simply live as though he that is in the world is greater than He who lives in us. Surely we don't believe that.

On the eve of God's decimating Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham ". . . drew near and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?" Genesis 18:23-24.

God's answer was, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes."

Why would that not apply to God's people today? Could it be the New Testament Church has become distracted—yea, even blinded? Are we so busy building our own little kingdoms, preaching feel-good sermons, and essentially

welcoming, with open doors and arms, the world into our midst?

Have we turned II Chronicles 7:14 into nothing but a cliché? Oh, but we preach it—and it's easy to preach because God outlined the sermon for us. But have we really taken seriously, the promise that if we, who are called by His name, would humble ourselves, and pray, and seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways, then He would hear our cries, and forgive us—and heal our land? Is it just a nice sermon—or is it a command, with promise, that we can count on?

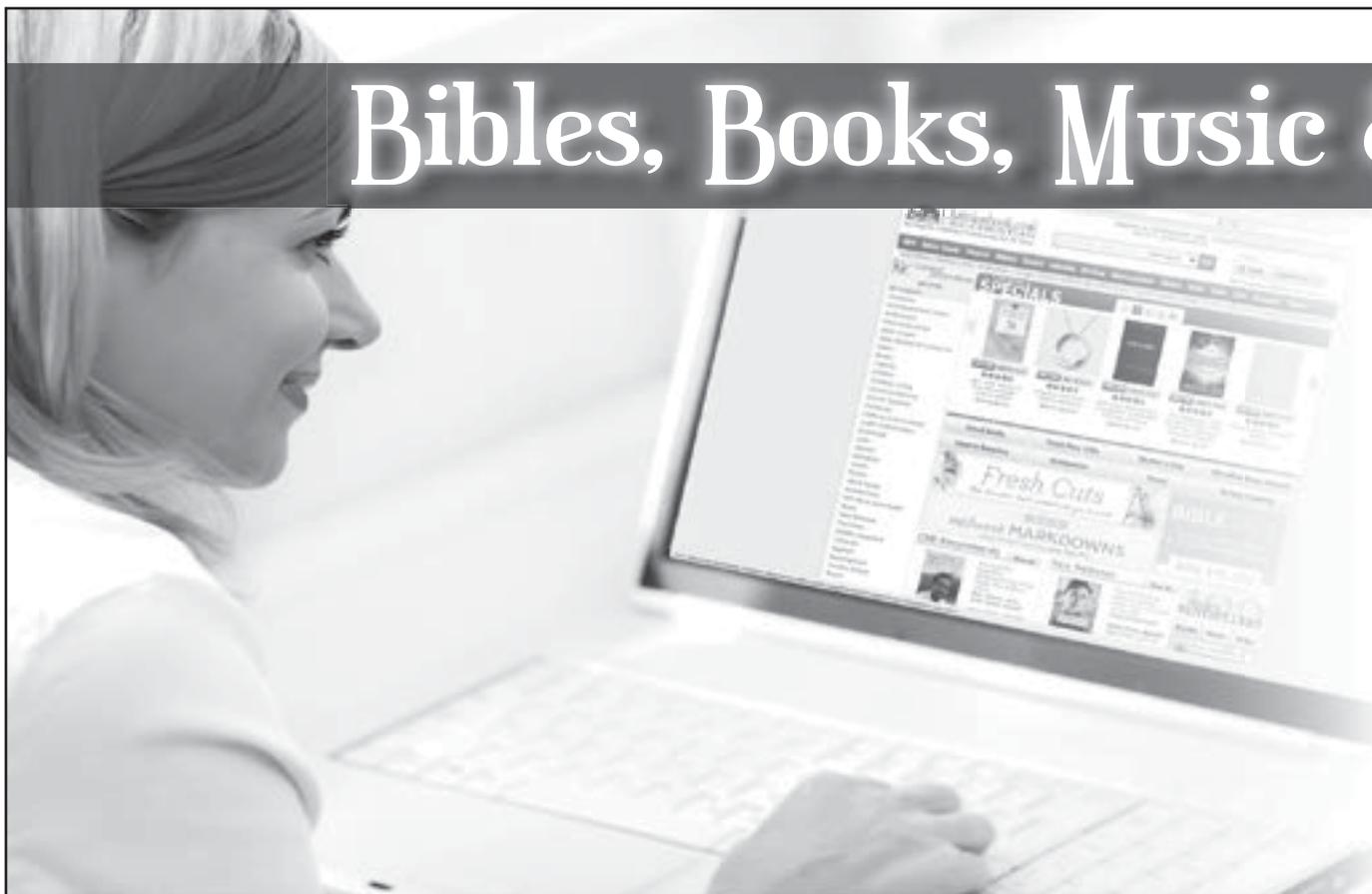
What if every New Testament Church in America, set aside every weekday for an entire month, opened her doors, and encouraged God's people to come fall on our faces on the altar and do what II Chronicles 7:14 says? No singing—no sermon—no announcements, no potluck, no refreshments, no coffee, and no visiting.

If our nation crumbles from within, as it appears to be doing right now, it won't be because of nationalized healthcare—or an IRS leader who perjures herself before Congress, or a Benghazi cover up, or a 20 trillion dollar deficit—she will crumble because of the apathy of God's called out ones.

Paul Gauntt is the former BMA of Texas Department of Church Ministries director. He has served several churches as pastor, and is a correspondent and featured article writer for *Baptist Progress*. Contact him at paul.gauntt@att.net.



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Ten areas where pastors need to be trained for the 21st century



By **THOM S. RAINER**

Any pastor or other church staff member should be prepared in biblical truths. Theology is a key discipline as well. Indeed none of the classical disciplines should be forsaken, nor any of the practical disciplines, such as missions, evangelism or church planting.

But the American culture has shifted dramatically in a relatively short period. The United States is becoming more like an international mission field. As a result, ministry training, whether formal or informal, should reflect this reality. Missionaries are typically required to receive intensive cultural and language training before they go overseas. Frankly, a similar need exists today for those in American congregations, or those planning to go to these churches.

So where are the greatest needs? My list is certainly not exhaustive, nor is it in any particular order. But I do see all of these areas as key to reaching our new and challenging culture.

A new language. If a pastor or church staff member does not “speak” social media, he or she is neglecting one of the fastest growing trends in our nation, indeed in our world. It is no longer a fad; it is a primary means of communication.

A non-Christian culture. Our nation is fast becoming a non-Christian nation. While we lament the relative decline in the numbers who follow Christ, we must also accept the reality that those in our community cannot be assumed to be like us, or to hold our values.

The decline of cultural Christians in churches. The Pew Research project confirmed the dramatic increase in the numbers of people who have no religious affiliation. For our churches, this development means that most people do not feel cultural pressure to attend churches. More and more, those who are there are convicted Christians and not Christians in name only.

A new work/life balance. Pastors and church staff members have always been on call 24/7. But now they are connected 24/7 as well with computers, smart phones and other technological advances. For better or worse, the world of work and personal life is becoming increasingly blurred.

Unregenerate church members. Cultural Christians are those who really know they are not believers, but are affiliated with churches for cultural reasons. But another group includes those who may cognitively assert a belief in Christ, but have really not had a conversion. For certain, this development is not new. But we are seeing the cumulative cost of weak discipleship and false conversions in our churches. How will we respond to the issue of numbers of

members who are not truly believers?

The community as a mission field. Can we change our mindsets and be better prepared? Our communities are not just changing because there are fewer Christians. They are changing with an influx of new ethnic groups and people of other religious beliefs.

Less automatic cultural respect of church leaders. In past years, those who held the title of “pastor” or some similar nomenclature were revered in the community just by the position they held. Such is not the case today. Respect must be earned one day at a time.

A more critical world. Many pastors and church staff members do not deal well with the more transparent and critical world in which we live. Some retreat to a form of passivity or paths of least resistance. And some quit altogether.

A greater need for leadership skills. The world in which we live is complex. We may long for simpler times, but that won’t change our realities. Church leaders must be better leaders in more challenging times.

More churches in need of revitalization. This last item may be last on the list, but the need is huge. As many as nine out of ten of our churches are in need of some level of major revitalization. There are tens of thousands of these churches, and the implications for equipping leaders for them are vast.

This list may be discouraging to you as you read the cumulative implications. I see it, however, from a different perspective. I see this new reality and this new mission field as a great opportunity. No, it’s not your father or mother’s church. It’s a new and challenging reality requiring a missional mindset. It requires total dependence on the One who sends us to the mission field. And that is exactly where God wants us.

Thom S. Rainer serves as president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources. Among his greatest joys are his family: his wife Nellie Jo; three sons, Sam, Art, and Jess; and seven grandchildren. Dr. Rainer can be found on Twitter @ThomRainer and at facebook.com/Thom.S.Rainer.



Letting go of adult children

By DR. TRAVIS PLUMLEE

You hold on to them and feed them as babies. You help them stand on their own, and are delighted when they take their first steps. If they get hurt, you patch them up, rock them and kiss their “ouchies.” Most parents would do anything to help their kids. We don’t want them to get hurt. We want to always be in rescue mode to prevent harm coming to one of our babies.

I remember when our oldest daughter, Alison, was almost taken from us by a vicious dog attack. I would have gladly lain upon that operating table in her place. We could do nothing but wait. This is what it means to be a parent. We love them, and do not want them to be hurt.

However, our children will all be hurt in this life, just as we are, because we live in a sinful, broken world. We all have flesh to battle. We have an enemy named Satan who constantly wars against us and our children. So, we cannot protect them from all hurt and pain. We actually cause them more pain in the long run when we do not allow them to suffer the consequences of their own wrong choices.

Always rescuing one of your children because you do not want them to have any pain is the wrong thing to do. Maybe they will have to go through a storm. Maybe they will indeed have to pay a hurtful price for choices they make.

Have you ever considered that God is trying to teach them something? Jesus put the disciples in a boat in Matthew 14. He knew a storm was coming. He sent them out so that He could teach them a lesson.

Perhaps God is trying to grow your child. Perhaps He is trying to bring about a change in a prodigal son or daughter. You cannot always step in, rescue them and subvert what God desires.

Instead, pray and seek wisdom from God. He will

lead you to the correct decision about how best to help your child. Sometimes, the best way to help them is to prayerfully stand aside and let God deal with them. Let go and let God have His will and His way in their life.

Sometimes, your kids are really good adult kids. They are trying to do their best. Then something comes along and changes things. Maybe your child is a sweet Christian child who has married the wrong person, a person who is hurting them in some way.

It may be their choice of friends. And now, these friends have caused them pain. Maybe a job has not worked out successfully. It could be financial disasters, emotional or physical problems. The list is endless.

It is not always that your adult child is living wrong. Sometimes, they are living right. God just wants to show them something, and grow them closer to His image. This can only be accomplished by them going through a valley.

The disciples were not doing something wrong in Matthew. Jesus wanted to teach them that even when they could not see Him, He was on the mountain top praying for them. If they would call out to Him, He would come to them walking on water. They would never have called out to Him and been afraid, if they hadn’t gone through the storm.

It isn’t any consolation to us parents to stand back and watch our kids get hurt, whether it is God correcting them, or perfecting them. It is in our nature to reach out to our babies. We do not help them by bailing them out financially or by trying to fix their marriage. Whatever the situation is, parents must also grow through this spiritually.

God may be trying to teach you as well as your adult child. Paul writes in Romans 8:28, “...all things work

together for good to them who love God.” In any situation, parents must let go, and allow God to work His will into their children.

You don’t ever stop praying for them. You don’t ever slack off in crying out to God for them. You always will love them and be there for them. You can be a listening ear to them, but you best be a quiet mouth unless you are asked for advice; and even then, you may need to be quiet.

The Bible has many scriptures that caution us to speak slowly or not at all. The Holy Spirit will guide you whether to speak up, or hush up. Your prayer life should be about asking God to give you the wisdom to know what to do, what not to do, what to say and what not to say.

Keep praying for your kid, but release the outcome of their life to God. He has decided the best plan. Just trust Him. I know it is hard. God has all the power in the universe to affect the outcome He desires. He can change hearts, break addictions, heal marriages, etc...

The more you read the Bible, pray and worship, the closer you will be to God personally. The closer you are to Him, the more you can trust Him with your life and those you love. Give them to God and let them go.

Dr. Travis Plumlee is a full-time professional speaker and leads Family Ark Ministries. He is national board certified as a therapist/specialist in various areas of human behavior. For more information or to contact him, visit www.travisplumlee.com.



Drivers needed

By DR. TONY CLEAVER

I don’t spend a lot of time thinking about juxtaposition. I know it when I see it. I saw it the other day while I was driving by two buildings adjacent to each other. One building was a church. The business next door to the church was a taxi company. The very prominent billboard between these buildings had a large letter message which was easy to read from a considerable distance:

“JESUS IS COMING SOON – DRIVERS NEEDED.”

I was very confused when I saw this sign. What would a driver have to do with the coming of Jesus? In order for Jesus to come, does He need a driver? Is He coming in a taxi, rental car, or perhaps limousine? Would the newly hired drivers be chauffeurs for the saints who are to come in the glorious entourage that will accompany His coming?

As I got closer and passed the sign along the road, I realized there were two billboards each with a separate message. One had nothing to do with the other. Or did they have a lot to do with each other?

For me they certainly did as I began to ponder the two signs. I remembered His words: “*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done...on earth*”. Many times I neglect the fact that His kingdom and His will are both to be within me. On the public highways, I am His driver if I profess to be called by His name.

A lot of times all hell breaks loose on public highways. Drivers are rude. They curse one another while behind the wheel. They motion each other with abhorrent hand gestures. They question the parentage, the intelligence level, and the ability of the “other” driver. Amazingly these are the Baptists, Methodists, Catholics, and the Assemblies people coming home from church on Sundays!

If you promise to tell no one else, I’ll tell you that I am at times an unpleasant driver! I get upset and angry with the “other” drivers on the road. “They are not driving like they should!” “They are not driving as ‘good’ as I am”. One man said, “Lord, I thank you that I am not as other men are...especially like the lady in the blue van who just cut me off without a

signal.”

Jesus is coming soon—drivers needed. I think Jesus needs me as His driver right now. On the paved four, six, or eight lane highway or the back country gravel road, I want to be His driver. In fact if I am not His driver—that is if I don’t clean up my act to become a more considerate and focused driver—He may come sooner in my life than I thought He would—even at the next intersection.

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



2013 Regional Walk Winners



By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**
BMA Development

Lifeworld Media Ministries is pleased to announce the 2013 Walk for the World regional winners. The highest-giving churches from each of the fourteen regions are listed below, with the overall and per capita winner for 2013 being Hall Summit Baptist Church in Hall Summit, Louisiana (Louisiana region) who contributed the most to Lifeworld through the Walk.

There are five churches that are new to this year's list: Calvary at Fayetteville, Arkansas; Victory at McNeil, Arkansas; East Amory of Amory, Mississippi; Peniel at Bethany, Oklahoma; and New Home at Lansing, Michigan. All fourteen of these churches are faithful contributors year after year, and we appreciate their support. It is very humbling for all of us at Lifeworld to think about and

pray for all the walkers/contributors from the following churches who participated in the 2013 Walk, enabling the Gospel to be further spread throughout the world.

This year 136 churches officially registered for the walk, down from the over 500 who registered in the past. Our goal for the 2014 Walk is to increase that number substantially. We hope you and your church will be a part of that increase by naming a contact person to register your church, order t-shirts and organize your fundraiser.

Please check out our website (lifeworld.org), facebook and Twitter (Lfeword Media) for the Walk's new logo, information about the new long-sleeved t-shirts and reports from our broadcasters and listeners around the world.



Investing in a dream

By **EDDIE MARSH**

The Change for Children Campaign for the Texas Baptist Home for Children runs from March through May. The goal for the year is \$55,000. In the last couple of years by your kindness and the blessing of the Lord, we have exceeded that amount.

How is the money collected?

There are many ways that the cans are utilized. They may be placed in a Sunday school classroom to collect change each week. A can may be placed in a business. One might choose to place it in an area where they dress for the night and place their loose change in it at the close of each day.

A country store in East Texas provided free coffee to their customers and had a Change for Children can close by where those who chose to do so could put in a little change. A church in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex is not using the cans, but they have a large jug in the auditorium and members are encouraged to give each week.

One of the churches that help each year allows small children to go around each week with an offering plate to receive money for the campaign. Grandparents often assist their grandchildren in filling cans. The cans are provided for your convenience, however, any method that you may have found effective in receiving funds is appreciated. If your church has not participated in the past but would like to do so, please contact the Baptist Home and let us know how many cans you need.

What are these funds used for?

The short answer is that it goes for activities for the children. The long answer is that six young ladies from our girls' cottage were baptized on the same morning at First, Red Oak. Teenagers—both boys and girls—were baptized at Farley Street, Waxahachie. All of these were the result of the teens attending church camp. Your Change for Children funds helped to pay for

their trip to camp.

Every year a group of our children along with foster parents attend a presentation of The Promise in Glen Rose. This trip usually results in professions of faith or children starting a closer walk with the Lord.

Your change also helps to provide a time of vacation for the children and their houseparents. Some children experience their first night of sleeping in a motel. There are memories built from going rafting or just enjoying the great outdoors and seeing animals in their natural habitat. All of the children who live on campus receive season passes for Six Flags each year. There are also many other church and school activities through the school year in which the children are involved. Your assistance helps to provide the funds needed.

What part do you play?

At this writing, there are 134 children in care through the ministry of Texas Baptist Home for Children. Because the staff and management of the Baptist Home feel that it is critical that the children be involved in as many activities as reasonable, we would try to provide these even if we did not receive funds from this campaign. But, as you can see, it is much easier with your assistance. Your kindness and love for these children is evident throughout the year, but there are times that you really come through for the kids. This is one of those times.

What's Next?

In June there will be a time of celebration for what the Lord has provided. We want an opportunity to express our appreciation and we want you to have the opportunity to see some of the children you help to support. This day also provides an opportunity for you to see the cottages and observe how the children live. The date is June 28. Please mark your calendar and make a special effort to visit the campus on that day.

LIFEWORD 2013 WALK FOR THE WORLD REGIONAL WINNERS

Region	Church	Location	
Louisiana	Hall Summit*	Hall Summit, LA	Overall & per capita winner
Missouri	Kewanee	Kewanee, MO	
North Central Arkansas	Calvary	Fayetteville, AR	
Northeast Texas	Rosewood	Gilmer, TX	
South Mississippi	Evergreen	Seminary, MS	
MetroPlex	South Park	Fort Worth, TX	
Central West Texas	Beacon Hill	Waco, TX	
South Arkansas	Victory	Mc Neil, AR	
Southeast Texas	Mahl	Nacogdoches, TX	
Southeastern US	Helton Road	Theodore, AL	
North Mississippi	East Amory	Amory, MS	
West Coast	Memorial	Fremont, CA	
Oklahoma	Peniel	Bethany, OK	
At Large	New Home	Lansing, MI	

An expression of everlasting love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from February 1, 2014 – February 28, 2014.

ENDOWMENTS

E. ANN PACE: Mr. & Mrs. Karl Pace;

MYRA STOKES: Mr. Bill Stokes

HONORARIUMS

VICKI GARNER: Daniel & Beth Wallen; Mrs. B. H. Conn; Harold M. & Jocie Lewis

MARY TAYLOR: Mrs. Joan Hartsfield

ALL TBH STAFF: Mr. James D Murphy

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MARY JENNETTE BRYANT: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson; Rosewood Baptist Church

JACOB COATS: Don & Mary Ann Vaughn

CECIL DOWNEY: Carlie Downey

CATHY HARTLESS: William & Dorothy McAdams

JEAN HOLLAND: Mr. & Mrs. O. W. Williams

LOUCILE HOWELL: Oaks Grove Baptist Church

HOWARD JACLSON: Johnny & Phyllis Howell

MADIE LEE JAMES: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

NORMAN JOHNSON: Leora Johnson

CLYDE MCLEOD: Peggy Ibrahim

MARCIE MEREDITH: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson; Mrs. Lena Ruth Green;

BUFORD MIZELL: Louis Rhoden Agency

AIDEN MATTHEW MONREAL: Toby & Stephanie Corley

JERRY MORROW: New Hope Baptist Church

SIDNEY REX MOUGHON: Gilmer National Bank; David & Karen Skinner

ANNA NEWMAN: J. C. & Anita Lassiter; E. K. & Peggy Standifer

CLARICE PENDLEY: Mrs. Velma Shelton

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LARRY RICHMOND: First Baptist Church

JUNE ROBINSON: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

MARY STANLEY: Dorcas Class FBC Longview

EDWIN STOVALL: Johnny & Phyllis Howell

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National Brotherhood Project

Thai Missions (65%) • Galileans (25%) • General Fund (10%)

Although the books are closing on this project, offerings for the project and the Arthur Smith Scholarship Fund may still be brought to the national meeting or sent to:

Robert Bynum, 43 Bear Pen Creek Rd., Laurel, MS 39440.

Missionary—our middle name

By SHARON COLE

Shirley Ladd to speak at National WMA Meeting

Most of the time, we see missionaries from afar. Even when they are in the same room with us, they are on stage speaking, and we are several rows back listening. It is rare to have a personal, face-to-face conversation with them, since they are usually surrounded by friends and official business. Well, not this time!

We will meet and talk one-on-one with Shirley Ladd, long-time missionary to Mexico, at the National WMA meeting April 29, 2014 in the State House Convention Center in Little Rock, Ark. We will be able to talk with her about her mission work, her life and her spiritual journey. Shirley is married to Dr. John Ladd and is the mother of three children, Melanie, Tim and Steven, all of Tyler.

Shirley served alongside her husband for over 40 years in Nicaragua and Mexico. Much of their time was spent ministering in the Good Samaritan Clinic in Aquismon, Mexico. The Ladds have transitioned to Tyler. Dr. Ladd serves as the associate director of BMMI (Baptist Medical Missions International).

The Ladds continue to make trips back to Mexico, as well as travel to Europe, Asia, South and Central America and Africa. When Shirley is at home in Tyler, she enjoys reading, SUDOKU, cooking, going to garage sales, and especially being a part of the lives of her grandchildren.

Shirley was the keynote speaker for the recent Asia-Pacific Women's Conference in Manila, Philippines. The theme was "Flying Again." Her lessons focused on dealing with difficult life circumstances and learning to move forward, or "fly again." Shirley will share her experiences from this conference during the interview with the program chairman, Jerene Reddin. We are also planning an audience question-and-answer session, if time permits.

You will enjoy Shirley. She is a lovely, engaging lady with deep spiritual roots—a role model for all of us. She will inspire you and encourage you, too, to "fly again."

National WMA Project

The National WMA Project for the year has been *I AM WOMAN* ministries in Lebanon. Supported by our BMA missionaries in this region, this ministry provides a safe haven for Arab women to learn basic skills to help them better provide for their families.

The center offers classes like computer skills, English and French, cosmetology, culinary arts and jewelry making as well as workshops on women's issues such as parenting, marriage, depression, CPR training, legal issues, nutrition and diet and so much more. Trained counselors are also available to help women with the burdens they face. The most important part of every day is a coffee break when through informal socialization the staff is able to introduce women to Jesus Christ.

We invite you to be a part of this ministry by sending your offerings directly to the ministry or through the National WMA. Designated offerings may be sent to: National WMA Project—Mrs. Pat Duncan, P.O. Box 30, Hardy, Ark. 72542. Offerings may still be sent at any time and will be counted, but the deadline for being listed in the official record books has passed.

If your church does not have a WMA or a Women's ministry,



your church can still participate in the project. If you have questions or would like someone to come speak to your church or women's group, please feel free to contact one of the project committee members: Valarie Fish, 870-299-2890; Ruby Poteet, 870-879-1378 or Alice Smith, 575-746-2694. Information can also be obtained from the national WMA website: www.nationalwmaofbmaa.net.

Standard of Excellence

"But let each one examine his own work, then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another" (Galatians 6:4). The following suggestions are given as criteria for each local WMA to attain as a Standard of Excellence.

That a local WMA hold at least 75 percent of the total meetings scheduled each quarter

That the average attendance be at least 75 percent of the enrollment each quarter

That at least 75 percent of the enrollment be Daily Bible Readers each quarter

Financial reports: prepare four copies per quarter (local records, district secretary/treasurer, state corresponding secretary, and national corresponding secretary.)

That the Auxiliary be represented in at least four associational meetings each year, either district, state or national. (If there are fewer than four in the area, they may be represented in as many

as are available.)

Financial support: support the district, state and national WMA each quarter by completing the respective forms and sending them with offerings to each respective auxiliary.

That the WMA promote and sponsor youth auxiliaries in the local church (if there are children of auxiliary ages) as well as in the district, state and national levels

That the auxiliary follow the WMA Plan of Work, and/or the suggested Alternate Study in the Women's Missionary Auxiliary Manual and Guidebook, or a plan of activities and study appropriate to your local group

Ladies, if your group has met the above standards over the past 12 months, please send your church name and address to Janet Widger, 7409 Rupert Ave. Richmond Heights, Mo. 63117. To receive a certificate at the 2014 National WMA Meeting, please send the above information no later than April 21, 2014.

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



Mission Life

By JERRY BURNAMAN

Here's my heart. North American churches are in trouble because they have lost their purpose and their passion. They do not strongly identify with either the Great Commission or the Great Commandment. Instead they have become defenders of doctrine or tradition in the face of changing culture. Some are busy serving one another, attracting new believers from other congregations, or just trying to keep the lights on and a few leadership positions filled.

Most churches no longer hold a place of prominence or influence in their community. That is, they are significant only to their members. They are no longer seen as viable or significant by the community. Often, the pastor once viewed as a professional and civic leader, is barely known in the community.

During my lifetime I've witnessed churches evolve through three major paradigms, or models, of ministry. First, the traditional church, the one in which I grew up in. Second, the contemporary church, that began with the church-growth movement and including the seeker-church movement. The third paradigm is now referred to as the missional church. This is the model ministering to a postmodern world.

Whether you believe this assessment or not, it is a proven fact that 85 percent to 90 percent of all churches have either plateaued or in a declining spiral. It is essential for every church to follow New Testament principles and those found in the Book of Acts as our blueprint to have mission, purpose and passion to reach our communities with the Gospel.

It's amazing to me that 20 believers in an upper room received the power of the Holy Spirit and in one generation changed their world. The same Holy Spirit lives in every believer. We are challenged to change the

world around us, and perhaps it could become a national and world-wide movement. How can we change the world around us?

1. Seize Jesus' Mission. Embrace the mission of Jesus as our own. Jesus said, "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you" (John 20:21). Here is the missional idea—being sent.

- How are your church and your life aligned with Jesus' mission?
- What areas of misalignment need to be addressed/

2. Adopt Missional Thinking and Behavior. Think and act like a missionary in your zip code.

- In what ways are you embracing missional living?
- Where do your thinking and/or habits need to change?

3. Exegete the Culture. Identify your unique circle of accountability, that is the community around you.

- What have you discovered recently about the people and subcultures around you?
- Who are you sensing responsibility to reach with the Gospel?

4. Incarnate the Gospel. The idea is being Jesus to everyone everywhere around you.

- How have you blessed/served the needs of others recently?
- With whom have you shared your grace story this week?

5. Multiply Disciplemakers. Help others to help others to follow Jesus.

- Who are you helping to follow Jesus?

- How are you helping others to help others follow Jesus?

6. Form Communities or call it Churches. Multiply by gathering disciplinarians into Missional Communities.

- How are you experiencing genuine Christian community?
- When/How are you preparing to start a new Missional Community? If you don't have the resources, personnel and finances, partner with other churches.

7. Mobilize Leaders/Teams. Empower others to lead on mission.

- How are you developing yourself as a leader?
- How are you mentoring leaders around you?

Obviously this is a process and only becomes reality over time. One suggestion, as the pastor you have a passion for reaching your community, then gather some like-minded people around you and begin praying. Ask yourself and your prayer group some of these questions and the Holy Spirit will guide you to make a start. Talk with other pastors, discover if and how they are engaging their communities. Then persevere, don't give up!

Jerry Burnaman is the executive director of State Missions and the Baptist Missionary Loan Association. Contact him at jerryburnaman@yahoo.com or 972-923-0757.



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EVENTS

MARCH 22, 2014

Ladies Renewal Conference
@ Lake Highlands, Sulphur Springs
Charlotte Johnson, featured speaker
Registration, 8:30 a.m.
Conference, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

APRIL 7-11, 2014

Revival
@ Woodland, Gilmer 7 p.m.
nightly Messages by:
Monday: Jack Hoffpauir
Tuesday: Hugh Casey
Wednesday: Kenneth Montgomery
Thursday: Rily Pate (age 13)
Friday: Jim Crump
David Mayhan, Pastor

APRIL 28-30, 2014

Annual Meeting of the BMAA
@ Statehouse
Convention Center, Little Rock, Ark.

MAY 15, 2014

BMMI Rally
@ Willow Oak, Gilmer

JULY 22, 2014

Smith County District
Brotherhood & WMA Meeting
@ Omen, Arp
Jerry Fulton, editor of Baptist Progress,
guest singer & speaker Meal @ 6 p.m.
Meeting @ 7 p.m.

AUGUST 14, 2014

Lifeword Media Ministries Rally
@ Woodland, Gilmer

OCTOBER 13-14, 2014

Annual Liberty Baptist Association
@ Little Mound, Big Sandy

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2014

Annual Meeting of the BMA of Texas
@ Keltys First, Lufkin

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

Music or Music & Youth—First, New Caney is seeking a bivocational music or music & youth minister. Send resume to Pastor Jonathan Fitzgerald, P.O. Box 1027, New Caney, Texas 77357 or to fbcnewcaney@att.net, or call 281-399-9930.

Pastor—Piney Creek, Kennard, located at 7015 Farm Market Road 2781 in Kennard is seeking a bivocational pastor. Contact Billy Don Davis at 936-655-2938 or send resume to Billy Don Davis at 822 County Road 4615 Kennard, Texas 75847.

Youth—Soda, Livingston is seeking a full time youth pastor. Send resume to the church at 8135 US Highway 190 East, Livingston, Texas 77351 or to youthguywayne@yahoo.com.

PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

Dicky Mauk has resigned as pastor of Little Mound, Big Sandy.

OBITUARY

Mrs. E.L. (Ruth) Jones

Funeral services for Mrs. Ruth Jones, 102, formerly of Brachfield, were Friday, March 14, 2014 in the chapel of Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home with Dr. Paul Powell officiating. Mrs. Jones was the widow of Bro. E.L. Jones who was a longtime BMA pastor. Interment followed at Welch Cemetery under the direction of Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home.

STILL GOT A FEELING

Editor Jerry Fulton sings! Order his new CD, Still Got a Feeling, by calling the Baptist Progress office at 972-923-0756, emailing him at editor@baptistprogress.org, or directly from his website, www.jerryfulton.com. **ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE BAPTIST PROGRESS.**



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Price: \$12

CHURCHES IN REVIEW

MARCH 2, 2014

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	70	89	
Cedar Creek, Teague	12	17	
Elwood, Wills Point	12	31	
First, New Summerfield	31	41	
First, Palmer	48	63	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	17	30	2 Additions By Letter
Harvest, Lufkin	13	21	
Jackson, Joaquin	73	126	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	36	44	
Long Creek, Sunnysvale	58	66	
Oak Hill, Gilmer	28	62	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	49	69	
Pine Acres, Gilmer	35	53	
Rosewood, Gilmer	114	167	
Temple, Mexia	34	41	
Tundra, Canton	83	100	

MARCH 9, 2014

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	59	93	
Cedar Creek, Teague	12	20	
Elwood, Wills Point	18	41	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	419	559	1 Profession of faith
First, Palmer	44	73	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	17	33	
Harvest, Lufkin	20	25	
Jackson, Joaquin	58	93	
Little Flock, Lufkin		25	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	36	52	
Long Creek, Sunnysvale	50	76	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	15	18	
New Hope, Mineola	58	101	
Oak Hill, Gilmer	31	56	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	49	78	1 Profession of faith
Rosewood, Gilmer	100	179	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	73	94	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	14	27	
Temple, Mexia	36	48	
Tundra, Canton	84	105	
Woodland, Splendora	37	45	

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

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

A Time For All Seasons

By GARY HOUSE

DATES: March 23

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

CENTRAL TRUTH: Life's ups and downs without divine stability can lead to despair. Trust God with all the challenges of life to find help and hope. Life without God is meaningless.

There is a saying that goes, "The reason for time is so that everything doesn't happen all at once." But doesn't it feel like that sometimes? We look at our lives and everything seems to be happening at once. At other times, we may look and wonder if anything is really happening at all. Sometimes it seems like only good things are coming our way, and sometimes only bad.

And it's hard to sort it all out. Why is all this stuff happening, or not happening? Why was someone miraculously healed and another suffered and died? Why did they get rich while I am struggling? Why do some get much, while I can't have all the things I want? Why is all this happening? The Bible answers those questions quite profoundly.

Throughout Ecclesiastes, Solomon tells us over and over that he did all the right things, and in many cases all the wrong things, and in the end it really didn't affect anything. It was all vanity, like chasing the wind. Working hard to better himself didn't always work, and being lazy didn't always lead to ruin. Saving money didn't always make him rich, and spending it wildly didn't always make him bankrupt. Living a healthy lifestyle didn't keep him always from being sick, and so on. All the things he tried, from knowledge to pleasure to hard work, just didn't change some things (verse 9).

Solomon reminds us that every season is transitory, but every season has a purpose. The only constant in life is change. But God never changes. Note the

contrasts in verses 2-8.

1. "A time to be born and a time to die." Solomon begins by looking at the two extremes of life. These are the bookends of our earthly existence. There is a time when you are born and there is a time when you die and everything else takes place between these two times. Every other time it is mentioned in this chapter includes a choice. We can decide when to plant or when to uproot or when to kill or when to heal or when to weep or when to laugh or when to mourn or when to dance. **But there are two things we don't decide. We don't decide when to be born. And as God has ordained, we don't decide when we will die.** This is really the heart of the entire teaching. We really don't have control of anything. We could stop breathing in the next moment if that is God's will. Real faith is knowing that it's all in God's hands, and He's got it! It's kind of cliché, but He really does have the whole world in his hands, and there is a time for everything under heaven. We must surrender to Him. This is not fatalism, nor does it take away our responsibility.

2. "A time to kill and a time to heal." The Hebrew word used here for kill is not the same word as is used in the Ten Commandments for murder. The word here refers to righteous and lawful life taking. It's in God's hands. He knows those circumstances, and clearly saving life and bringing about death, are sometimes part of God's plan.

3. "A time to tear down and a time to rebuild." God tells that just like a building, many times it is appropriate to build up but there are times when the most constructive thing to do is to tear down. "A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones." Sometimes there is nothing better to do than knock down all our best laid plans and start over.

4. "A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance." There are times when we Christians ought to weep, but Solomon tells us that truthfully there is no purpose to this life if we cannot enjoy it. All emotions are there for us and are a part of life. But we cannot live life if we always mourn, nor can we honor death if we always dance. There is a time for each.

5. "A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing." Quite simply, there is a time to mend fences and sometimes it's just not the right time yet. But it could go even deeper than that. Embracing was a common form of greeting in the ancient world. When you saw someone you knew, it was just not polite if you didn't run up and grab them by the arms, and pull them toward you. But there is a time when that would not be welcome, or appropriate. Sometimes a kiss or a handshake is not the right thing to do. There is a time for hello and sometimes there is also a time for good-bye.

6. "A time to search and a time to lose." The Bible and common sense tells us that you cannot and should not spend your entire life searching for that which has been lost. There comes a time when you have to face the facts that what is lost is now lost and can no longer be found. This is the story of the mid-life crisis. We cannot accept the passing of youth. And people will then attempt to regain their youth by doing youthful things—new styles of clothes, a hairpiece, a new sports car, a new wife.

God says nothing lasts forever. There is a time to grasp, but there is also a time to let go.

Nothing is permanent. Everything decays. Everything, even life itself, is eventually lost. There is a time for everything. But one thing is true. God is in control of it. Solomon eventually concedes that in the

end it's all in God's hands.

Enjoy the eternal perspective (verse 11). One day we are promised we will leave the confines of time. If we trust Christ as our Savior, we will enter eternity with Him. Mankind instinctively KNOWS that this life is not all there is. We are not going to find satisfaction through observation or speculation, as Solomon continues to show us; it is only through God's revelation that we can find real meaning. If we trust Christ as our Savior, we will enter eternity with Him.

Many troubles come as a result of leaving God out of your life. God does have a plan for you. He does have a purpose for your life. Know this, accept it, believe it, and find joy and happiness in your life. It isn't worth spending too much time on the negative. Each day comes as a gift wrapped from God, and if you cannot find happiness right now, be about doing good, for if you seek out ways to do good, the happiness will come. God will be with you, even if it doesn't seem like it. And he promises a great eternity ahead. But for today, for this life, do as the author of Ecclesiastes recommends: eat, drink and do things that bring you satisfaction. This is truly a gift from God (verse 12).

Summary of the Lesson: The fear of life is often seen in resisting change and living in denial of the seasons of life. If we try to fight the seasons of life rather than accept them, we will miss the blessings God has for us and we will fail to mature. We need to embrace life and the wonder of being human. Ecclesiastes as a book talks about the fact that there is so much that we just don't have control over, it is better for us just to live our lives to the best of our ability and let God sort it out (Ecclesiastes 3:14.)

Strength in Numbers

By GARY HOUSE

DATE: March 30

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 4: 1-12

LESSON SUMMARY: Solomon contrasts the man who lives alone, apart from the community (fellowship) that God intends him to be a part, with the benefits of having a strong relationship with others. Develop godly relationships with others to endure the storms of life.

In the late 60's a group called Three Dog Night had a hit song whose lyrics included the phrase "One is the loneliest number you will ever do." The idea behind that song certainly isn't new. In fact, we can trace its origins all the way back to the book of Genesis (2:18). And it is also a theme that Solomon picks up as we continue with our journey through Ecclesiastes.

The burdens of living in isolation (verses 1-8).

Trouble. In this world there are injustices—oppression; inequities—discrimination, bias; indignities—insults. There is wretchedness in life "under the sun." But the testings turn into testimonies. We never lose our message.

Toil (verses 4-8)—In this world there is difficulty—years of practice/work (4a), futility, jealousy, envy, vanity, selfishness (4b), reality—sloth, little contentment, workaholics (5-8). The person in this situation has no one else to turn to. He has no comforter, a reality that is emphasized by repeating it twice in verse 1. He has no relationship

with his neighbors. He has no companions or family. There is a feeling of utter helplessness that comes from trying to navigate life's troubles on our own. Solomon indeed paints a bleak picture of life lived in this way.

The benefits of living in community (strength in numbers verses 9-12).

1. **Effectiveness (verse 9).** God has wired us so that we are more effective when we work together with others. That began when God created Eve to be a helper for Adam. His purpose was that they would be more effective together than they could be alone. God uses others to join together with us to make up for our weaknesses in a way that the whole really is greater than the sum of the parts.

2. **Help (verse 10).** One great advantage of living in community is that when we need it, we have others around us who can help us. When we get sick or injured, or lose our job, or our kids rebel, or our spouse is unfaithful, it is hard enough to get through those times when we do have someone to come alongside of us and lift us up. But as Solomon writes, "woes to him who is alone when he falls." It is good to have those who know our faults and our weaknesses. They can help us through the times when we fall and when we fail.

3. **Companionship (verse 11).** We live basically in a very cold world. And the warmth of a friend who knows us is something we all need.

4. **Protection (verse 12).** There is strength in numbers. Many of the relationships that God has established in our lives and the roles of the individuals in those relationships are there for our protection. When husbands love their wives and wives submit to their husbands, when children honor their parents and parents bring their children up in the training and instruction of the Lord, God uses those relationships to protect everyone in the relationship.

While this has an obvious physical side, I also see in this a spiritual side. The one who would want to overpower us is Satan. But we can resist him even more when we stand in companionship with other believers. It will be our friends who will warn us, encourage us and help us shoulder the load when the load begins to wear us down. Two are stronger than one.

And that should be true of the local church. We are stronger because of relationships one with another. God provides leaders within that body to equip the members of the body and to protect them from false teaching that would bring harm. It will be our companions, our friends, who know us and know our weaknesses that will be there with honesty and love and doctrine for us and will stick with us to the end.

So, if living in community has all these advantages, why do we live in a culture that is

becoming increasingly isolated? People retreat into gated communities where they can drive right into their garage and enter their house without having to ever speak to their neighbors. They spend hours on the internet and texting so that they never have to have actual face-to-face contact with another human. Even churches aren't immune. One reason that mega-churches have flourished in our culture is that people can go there and remain anonymous if they wish and never have to enter into any meaningful relationships with other members of the body.

Until you commit your life to Jesus and become a new creation you are going to continually struggle with isolation.

One is the loneliest number. That is why God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone." What are you doing to make sure that you are living your life in community with God and with others?

Gary House is the writer of the Sunday school lessons for Baptist Progress. He serves as pastor of Tundra Baptist Church in Canton. Contact him at Tundraparson@aol.com.



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Peace and Harmony

By DR. MIKE SMITH

While writing to the church at Corinth about tongues in the church and women being silent in church, Paul admonished, "Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40). Although the verse addresses orderly worship, the heart of the passage reveals that God is a God of peace and harmony, order and clarity, not strife and confusion.

While some people criticize organization because they propose that it stifles the spirit, the Bible clearly teaches that God is a God of order. Organization is not being less spiritual; on the contrary, order is a reflection of God.

My desire is for Jacksonville College to be a reflection of God; therefore, the College operates according to an organizational chart. At the top of the chart is the Board of Trustees. Ten trustees shall be members of Baptist Missionary Association of Texas Churches. Three trustees shall be submitted by the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. Two trustees are recommended at-large.

The Board of Trustees is the ultimate source of authority in all the affairs of the college. Trustees can perform no valid act except as a body at board meetings and cannot act or speak alone. Each member of the Board serves without compensation. We are thankful for the service of our trustees and the order they provide to Jacksonville College.

In future articles, I will be sharing more details about the organizational structure of the College. My daily prayer as President is that all those involved in carrying out organizational responsibilities will help bring order, peace, and harmony into the lives of our students so that Jacksonville College can fulfill its purpose to provide a quality education from a biblical worldview that challenges minds, transforms lives, and equips students for servant leadership and lifelong learning.

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



◀ In Chapel on February 28, Charles Johnson, president of the BMA of Texas and a JC alumnus, challenged students to seek what God wants for their lives. Bro. Johnson has pastored the Rosewood Baptist Church of Gilmer, Texas for over thirty years.



Under the leadership of coach Leasa Ailshie (far right) and assistant coach Rocio Medrano (far left), the JC Lady Jaguars beat Paris Junior College in the quarter-finals of the NJCAA Region 14 Basketball Tournament. ▼



▲ Under the leadership of coach Leasa Ailshie (far right) and assistant coach Rocio Medrano (far left), the JC Lady Jaguars beat Paris Junior College in the quarter-finals of the NJCAA Region 14 Basketball Tournament.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EARLY REGISTRATION FOR MAYMESTER AND SUMMER 2014

Begins March 31
Online registration is available

MAYMESTER AND SUMMER SESSIONS

Maymester: May 14 - May 30
Summer I: June 2 - July 3
Summer II: July 7 - August 7

THEATER DEPARTMENT'S SPRING SHOW

Murder's Bad But Monday Can Kill You!
April 10-12, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the new theater on the Joe Wright Campus

SPRING CHOIR CONCERT

April 15 at 7:00 p.m. in Buckner Chapel