

# Baptist Progress

Baptist Progress, P.O. Box 2085, Waxahachie, Texas 75168  
Postmaster: send change of address to:  
500125

Official Publication of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas | March 5, 2014 | Vol. 101 | No. 05

## Third annual run for their lives 5k

By DANA HOLT

Texas Baptist Home for Children

Adoption Services by Texas Baptist Home for Children hosted their Third Annual Run for Their Lives 5K on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014, at Getzendaner Memorial Park in Waxahachie. The event was strategically planned to be in January, Sanctity of Human Life Month, and a few days after the 41st anniversary of Roe v. Wade (the case legalizing abortion in the U.S. in 1973). Because of gracious sponsors and donors, the event was organized with minimal costs and was a successful fundraising event bringing in an astonishing \$8,390. This year the theme of the run was *Hero's*. Families and workers of the Texas Baptist Home dressed in their family hero costume for the event.

This year the run had 198 participants registered for the Run for Their Lives 5k benefiting the Texas Baptist Home's Adoption department. On Sept. 14, 2013 the Second Annual Faith for the Journey 5k was hosted in Mineola at the Mineola Nature Reserve by Toby and Stephanie Corley and Rose Hill, Mineola, raising over \$4,681 and having over a hundred participants in the race. The two races yielded a total of \$13,071 for post adoption services. After expenses, all proceeds will benefit Post Adoption Services which we seek to provide at no cost. Services include:

- Search and assistance services for adult adoptees and birth family members
- Copies of adoption records for adoptee upon request
- Medicaid and subsidy assistance
- Individual, group, and family counseling
- Counseling/Therapy for birth parents
- Parental education and support
- Adoption Alumni Association support and annual event
- Psychological Testing
- Respite care

3rd Annual 5k continued on p. 2



Inside



Jacksonville College  
Page 2



ABS Spring Retreat 2014  
Page 6



The Tanzanian Call  
Page 12

# Third annual run for their lives 5k cont.

Creating awareness is an important aspect of fundraising for a cause such as this one. Signs were displayed at the 5K along the hike and bike trail educating the participants on statistics surrounding abortion, children in foster care, and those waiting to be adopted into a forever home. For example, did you know that 2013 there were 6,000 children available for adoption in the state of Texas alone. Fortunately, agencies like TBH offer hope to these children. There is HOPE!

There are more than 2,000 Crisis Pregnancy Centers in the U.S. that offer life-giving support to expectant mothers. In 2012-2013 TBH completed 47 adoptions through their adoption programs and offered services to 23 expectant moms. In 2013 TBH opened a home on campus to expectant mothers who are considering adoption called ABBA's Heart. For more information about ABBA's Heart house email nnanguata@tbhc.org.

What will you do with the information you have been provided. Will you read it and go about your daily business, not giving it a second thought? Or will you respond as this verse says, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" 1 John 3:16-18.

Our hope is that through our Run we will bring awareness to others for the need to preserve the sanctity of Human Life and those others will find the desire to get involved. Likewise, we hope that you will consider becoming a foster or adoptive parent or volunteering your time and talents to the Texas Baptist Home for Children, meeting a variety of tangible needs. For more information about ways that you can get involved, contact Jennifer Walker at 972-937-1321 ext. 227 or jwalker@tbhc.org.

We want to thank our race sponsors SAGU, The Counseling and Diagnostic Center, CNB, Travis Vick L.P.C, Tim and Shannon Mayville, Remedy Church, Whataburger, Sonic and Chick-Fil-A for providing food for the volunteers and race coupons for the runners/walkers. Special thanks are in order for all of our supporters: foster parents, adoptive parents, trustees, and staff. We are so delighted that you stand with us and for those whose lives are on the line. Also, thank you to all of our volunteers, staff and families, who gave of their time to help out in so many different ways! You were a blessing!

The process leading up to the 5K and during the day of the event were miraculously smooth, and we praise God for His provision and peace from beginning to end. Praise Him!

## Rusk high school student takes a stand for religious liberty

RUSK, Texas—Cameron Franks, a senior at Rusk High School in east Texas, has received attention around the world for the stand he took against what he calls, "religious persecution" at the school.

Franks protested the removal of a poster with a Christian message from the classroom of one of his teachers. The Freedom from Religion Foundation (FFRF) sent a request for the poster to be removed because it was religious in nature. Another student took a photograph of the poster and sent it to the FFRF.

The Rusk Independent School District received a letter on behalf of the student, who was offended by the message on the poster, and asked that the poster be taken down.

Scott Davis, the Rusk ISD superintendent had the teacher remove the poster and said, "A teacher acting in that manner is in violation of the Establishment Clause," in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Franks said, "We've walked our halls for four years and we've been persecuted and called hypocrites and everybody that's a Christian, I'm sure they've had that time in their life when they've been persecuted and I knew it was time

to take a stand."

In response to the removal of the posters, Franks designed a t-shirt that reads, "Let God rock your world if you want God to rock your world." The back of the shirt includes Romans 8:31, "What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?"

The student said, "I didn't think this was such a good idea at first but then I was like you know what I don't care anymore. I'm tired of it. I'm tired of hiding in the corner and so I was like, 'I'm going to do it and I'm going to see how, how the reactions are and if they're negative so-be it and if they're positive so-be it.'"

Franks has received orders for approximately 3,000 t-shirts, which are being sold for \$5 each. He is using the money received in sales to have more t-shirts made to give to those who want one but cannot afford it.



## Kodak Moment



▲ JC alumnus Shelby Race, music director at Calvary Baptist Church in Fairfield, led in praise and worship in Chapel on Feb. 5. His pastor, Bro. Terry Skinner (on right), was the speaker.

By MIKE SMITH, PHD  
Jacksonville College President

In 1972, I visited a friend in Rochester, New York. We went by the Eastman Kodak Company, commonly known as "Kodak," headquartered in Rochester. Founded in 1888 by George Eastman, Kodak dominated the photographic film market for over 100 years. In 1976, Eastman's company controlled 89 percent of the film market.

The phrase "Kodak Moment" became a common expression used to describe a special photographic opportunity.

In 1975, Kodak engineer Steve Sasson invented the first digital camera. However, management feared that the new digital technology would hurt Kodak's prosperous film business. Instead of marketing the new camera, Kodak continued to focus on film. In January of 2012, Kodak filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. How did this happen?

### FAILURE TO CHANGE

A Christian, a church, a company or a college that does not respond to the time and change will not last. In 1 Chronicles 12:32, the Bible tells us that the children of Issachar were respected as "men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do . . . ."

Though change is often painful, it can also be exciting as we see how God is at work through change. Jacksonville College, a fully accredited, two-year college, recognizes the need for change.

### CHANGE IN POPULATION

Every semester, some students graduate; some drop out; some fail; some are asked to

leave; some apply for admission, and some enroll. This semester we have 399 enrolled. This is our second highest enrollment for a spring semester in the last several years.

### CHANGE IN PROPERTY

Hobby Lobby bought the Joe Wright property in December and leased it to Jacksonville College. Volunteers are working to convert the elementary school classrooms into college classrooms, which will be equipped with new technology. As money is given (\$8,000 per classroom), we will continue to change the looks and use of that property.

### CHANGE IN PLACES TO EAT

Students eat in the cafeteria Monday through Friday, but because of a new voucher system, they can now eat at various local restaurants on weekends. The college food service staff prepare excellent meals, but the voucher system gives students more dining choices, as well as the opportunity to interact more with the community.

### CHANGE IN PERSONNEL

Personnel changes, however, were the most difficult of all. Even though saying goodbye to friends was not easy, Jacksonville College has made some changes in staff. The next several articles in the *Baptist Progress* will introduce you to our new staff.

We are excited to see God working through the changes at Jacksonville College, where our Mission remains unchanged: to challenge minds and transform lives.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support.

Dr. Mike Smith is the president of Jacksonville College. Contact him at [msmith@jacksonville-college.edu](mailto:msmith@jacksonville-college.edu) or 903-589-7106. You may also visit the Jacksonville College website, [www.jacksonville-college.edu](http://www.jacksonville-college.edu)



# Update on LYNCO request



A few months ago LYNCO-Love Your Neighbor Community Outreach, brought to you the story of the Smith Family. We would like to remind you of their story and update you on month one of our LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR EMPHASIS. During the month of February, LYNCO with the help of our BMA churches in Arkansas, Mississippi and Texas donated/raised nearly \$8,000! Our goal is 20,000 and as you can see God has blessed tremendously, however, we still have a way to go.

We have full faith that God will meet our needs. If you would like to view a PowerPoint presentation please email suzieannd@gmail.com and we will send this to you. We encourage any church or individual that has not given to prayerfully consider becoming a part of this wonderful ministry opportunity. There are many opportunities in which you may do so:

1. Prayer warriors
2. Sponsorship (3 level of sponsorship and free advertisement)
3. Purchase LYNCO t-shirts at \$13 each (\$16 for 2X and up)
4. Volunteer to help build, clean, etc.

To find out about any of these opportunities you may contact us at 662-228-1240 or email us at suzieannd@gmail.com . If you would like to donate please make all checks payable to LYNCO at 140 Ballardsville Church Rd. Tupelo, MS 38804. Again here is the Smith family story!

Larry Smith surrendered to the ministry in 1972 at Woodlawn Baptist Church in Pascagoula, Miss. He and his family have served churches in Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Texas.

In 2009 Bro. Larry bought some land and home with the intent to refurbish and repair. He pastored a church an hour from the home's location and began working on repairs and cleanup of the property. Shortly after Bro. Larry resigned his church and was offered a job in the county where his property was located, only he had to move his family immediately to secure the job, and he did so. After a series of events--his mom moving in and dying, his son-in-law

passing--Bro. Larry was injured on the job and was no longer able to work.

One morning Bro. Larry drove into town and was gone for several hours. He returned home to pick up his adult son, Terry, and together they went back to town. Bro. Larry told his son, "I don't want to leave your mother and sister with any debt when I am gone." This same day Bro. Larry paid off all the family debt and bought his wife and daughter a reliable vehicle. Some three months later, Bro. Larry lost his battle with cancer and went to be with His Lord.

While visiting the family to see about repairing electrical work we discovered the home was beyond repair. The structure is crumbling beneath them, beams under the home broken and rotting from termite damage. The mold is beyond manageable although the family has tried tirelessly. The home must come down in order to build a new home for this family who has served so many over the years.

Mrs. Linda, the mom, stays home to help take care of her adult daughter who has medical issues and disabilities. The two do arts and crafts to try to bring in extra income for their family.

While in Texas, my family formed a non-profit organization called LYNCO-Love Your Neighbor Community Outreach. The organization was formed for the distinct purpose of reaching out to the elderly, disabled and those truly in need. LYNCO along with several churches, family and friends, has started fundraising events to raise money to build the family a new home by the end of the summer, as the house will not last beyond this time.

The building plans have been donated, electrical has been donated and much more. LYNCO has been in contact with Classic Builders of Mississippi who, if available, will join in the building of the home.

Thank you so very much for your support and for LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR!

**Pastor Jimmy Daugherty  
Ballardsville Baptist Church  
LYNCO**

# BMA of Texas Administrative Committee meets in Waxahachie



\$4,048 offering.

Fulton said, "An offering of \$4,048 might not seem like a lot to some departments, but it will go a long way in helping *Baptist Progress* to meet our annual budget."

The editor reported that 18 churches are on the *Baptist Progress* Every Sunday Bulletin Service, with new churches joining almost weekly. Online sales of books, music, gifts and church supplies are also increasing providing a few more thousand dollars for the department annually. *Baptist Progress* will receive an anniversary offering in June, asking each church, group or willing individual to give \$102 for 102 years of ministry to the department.

Eddie Marsh told the committee that there are 123 children in foster care at Texas Baptist Home for Children. There are 10 foster care families in training, with 10 more prospective families enrolled in foster care parenting orientation. Marsh said that in recent month's 14 children have been adopted through TBHC Adoption Services. The Home's annual campaign, *Change for Children* will begin in March.

Dr. Mike Smith, president of Jacksonville College, shared that each Wednesday morning, a chapel service is conducted on campus. Seven students were saved during the Feb. 19 chapel service. The Jacksonville College Mission Band, a group of students who teach and/or preach, have been traveling the state teaching Sunday school classes and preaching in worship services. The Jacksonville College Choir, the Jacksonville College Singers and a group known as The Overcomers are also on tour.

An elementary school campus, located in front of the college campus, has been purchased by Hobby Lobby. The company will soon give ownership of the property to Jacksonville College. The school is being renovated with the help of men sentenced to community service. A local probation officer makes the men available to do the work. Jacksonville College continues to enjoy record or near record enrollments.

Jerry Burnaman, state missions director and manager of Baptist Missionary Loan Association, reported a new church plant underway in Valley Ranch, near Porter. Gary Southard is the church planter of the new work. Will Hutchison, who served as student pastor at First, Jacksonville, has been assigned to lead the work of the already established church plant in Hutto, near Austin.

**BMAT** continued on p. 5



[www.bmatexas.org](http://www.bmatexas.org)

**Baptist Progress**

Jerry Fulton, Editor/Business Manager  
P.O. Box 2085, Waxahachie 75168  
972-923-0756 • [www.baptistprogress.org](http://www.baptistprogress.org)

**BMA of Texas Missions/  
Loan Association**

Jerry Burnaman, Director  
PO Box 73, Waxahachie 75168  
972-923-0757  
[www.texaschurchplanting.com](http://www.texaschurchplanting.com)

**Jacksonville College**

Dr. Mike Smith, President  
105 B. J. Albritton Drive  
Jacksonville 75766  
903-586-2518  
[www.jacksonville-college.edu](http://www.jacksonville-college.edu)

**Jacksonville College Bookstore**  
800-545-2791

**Texas Baptist Home**

Eddie Marsh, President  
PO Box 309, Waxahachie 75168  
972-937-1321 • [www.tbhc.org](http://www.tbhc.org)

**Church Relations Coordinator**  
David Pittman, Coordinator  
972-935-0755

# Baptist Progress

USPS: 043120 • ISSN: 005-5751

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

**Jerry Fulton, Editor/Business Manager**  
[editor@baptistprogress.org](mailto:editor@baptistprogress.org)

P.O. Box 2085 • Waxahachie, Texas 75168  
972-923-0756 • 972-923-2679

[www.baptistprogress.org](http://www.baptistprogress.org)

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

**SUBSCRIPTION RATE:**

**Mail Church Plan:** \$1.50 per month  
**E-Mail Church Plan:** \$1.00 per month  
**Mail Subscription:** \$21.00 per year  
**E-mail Subscription:** \$15.00 per year  
**Mail & E-mail:** \$25.00 per year  
(Advertising Rates Available on Request)

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

## FROM THE EDITOR

# Church bylaws need to clearly define marriage

The Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF)--a religious liberty legal organization--is urging churches to get ready for what might be to come concerning the issue of church weddings in America. ADF cautions that a number of situations could place churches in legal trouble. Should same-sex marriage be legalized in Texas, discrimination lawsuits could be filed by same-sex couples desiring to marry in a church building, but being refused by pastors and congregations. It is then imperative that churches clearly define that marriage is to be between one man and one woman, and include the statement in their bylaws.

Following is ADF's suggested language on marriage and sexuality for church bylaws:

"We believe that the term 'marriage' has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture."

"We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman."

"We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God."

"We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly."

"We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ."

"We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the church."

The devil is on the warpath. Pastors, lead your church to head him off at the pass!



▲ Jerry Fulton

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

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

In addition to receiving each issue by email, you will get our e-News Update between issues.

News alerts are also emailed periodically.

The cost of an email subscription is \$15 (\$6 less per year than mail subscriptions).

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

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



# Caregivers must care for themselves

By DR. TRAVIS PLUMLEE

Many people have to care for others at some point in their life. It can be for a short time or for years. Trying to balance your life as a caregiver is difficult. There are some things you should know when it comes your time to be a Christian who has a ministry of caring for someone you love.

It is the Christian way to be. Don't let Satan or other people tell you that you shouldn't do this. There may even be times in your own mind when you want to quit. You may have selfish thoughts of wasting your days caring for another. But always know you are doing what Jesus would have you do. Too many people don't take the time, money and effort to care for loved ones in this selfish, self-centered world we live in today. But it does not mean that God has changed. He commands us to love one another (1 John 4:7-12). The law of Jesus Christ is that we bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2). The Bible is full of scripture letting us know that we are doing the right thing when we take care of and love one another. How does God's love dwell in us if we see someone with a need and are not filled with compassion?

So, this is what we do as Christians. You are doing the right thing, a good thing, a godly thing. You have to see the job of caring for someone else as a ministry. God has found you worthy of this ministry. At this point in your life, God wants to use you as His arms, feet and mouth in service to someone else. It doesn't matter if the person fights you or doesn't appreciate all you do; you are doing this as unto the Lord and not to a person (Colossians 3:23). Maybe the person doesn't deserve it, but Jesus does. Do all things in service for Him.

Don't let Satan fill your mind with selfish desires. When

we are helping take care of a sick or dying loved one, we are exhausted some times. This is when the enemy really likes to work overtime on us. Our enemy is compared to a lion in 1 Peter 5, and we are the Lord's lambs. Our enemy, the lion, loves to run and devour a little lamb that is mentally and emotionally drained.

Therefore, it is very important that you take care of yourself. It is not selfish. It is self-preservation. If you don't take care of yourself and get sick or down, then you will not be able to care for your loved one like you want or need.

You have to have a break sometime or you will get not just physically, but emotionally or mentally down. Your mental state is critical when caring for someone else. Here are some things to make sure you are doing when you have to take care of someone else. Failure to address these may cause you to not be able to minister to this other person.

**Ask others for help.** Sometimes, we think we are the only ones to do the job because we never ask others. You don't have to be a martyr and do it all. If family won't help, seek your pastor and ask him to find church family that could volunteer on occasion to give you a break. You need to get away from the house or hospital some time. Even a short trip to a park for a walk, or a trip to the mall can refresh you mentally. You must do this. Let others come and relieve you if you need it.

Also, if you are up at a hospital or hospice all the time, you can "sleep in" some morning. You can go home early some evening. I know you may feel guilty, but don't. If you drag yourself up there all the time, and never get good rest, then you will get sick yourself. You cannot run your body down and not expect consequences. You are not going to get a special blue ribbon for never leaving the hospital.

You are a human. You have to have rest. You need to eat. There is nothing wrong in going out to eat a bite at a restaurant. Be very careful to not skip meals because you are busy. Do not neglect taking rest periods during the day and sleeping in a bed at night—even YOUR bed sometimes. Take a multi-vitamin to help your immune system and body at this time.

Finally, it is very easy to forget your daily bread. Of all times, you must carve out a niche of time to read your Bible and pray. If you neglect this aspect of your life, you will really pay a price. It is at times like these, that you need to even read more of the Bible. You may need to pray even more. Dear friend, never give up. You are doing a great job, but please take care of yourself physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. You have to take care of yourself when taking care of someone else.

Stop listening to all the advice from others, the thoughts Satan puts in your head. Listen to God. You have a wonderful ministry right now. Serve the Lord by serving others. Be a cheerful giver of your time and take care. You think no one else notices or appreciates you, but your heavenly Father does!

*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](http://www.travisplumlee.com).*



## BMA of Texas Administrative Committee meets in Waxahachie cont.

Suburban Wood, Humble asked State Missions for help to overcome a decline in membership and attendance. Dean Refro is leading the Humble church in a renewal effort. Burnaman said the congregation's attendance has increased from 35 to 65. The church has a goal to begin a Hispanic work in their gym, and possibly start a new church plant in the area. State Missions is referring to Suburban Wood as a renewal center. Requests have been made by churches in Nacogdoches to start a new church plant in that east Texas city.

Burnaman said that Baptist Missionary Loan Association is in excellent condition, boasting \$9.2 million. BMLA is offering certificates of deposit at 2.5 percent to churches, groups and individuals.

The next meeting of the BMA of Texas Administrative Committee will take place The next meeting of the BMA of Texas Administrative Committee will take place at 10 a.m., Thursday, June 12 at Jacksonville College in Jacksonville.

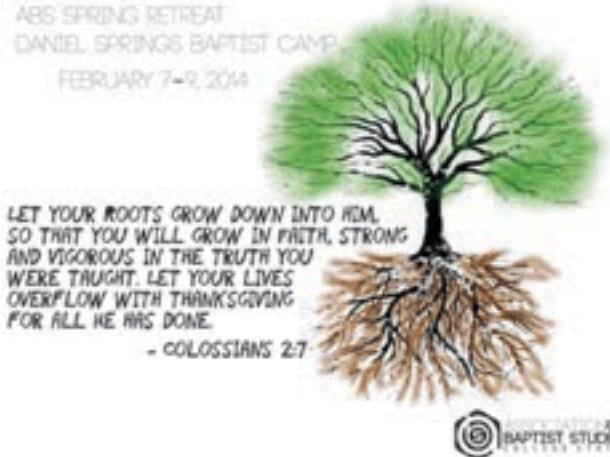
## Bibles, Books, Music & Gifts

To order Bibles, books, music and gifts from *Baptist Progress*, visit [www.bmatexas.org](http://www.bmatexas.org) and click the flashing box at the top of the right hand column.

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

# Association of Baptist Stud Workplace Evangelism: Ta

ABS SPRING RETREAT  
DANIEL SPRINGS BAPTIST CAMP,  
FEBRUARY 7-9, 2014



GARY, Texas — The Association of Baptist Students (ABS) held a joint spring retreat at Daniels Springs Encampment Feb. 7-9. The theme for the weekend was “Workplace Evangelism: Taking your faith to work. Bro. John Boland, missions director, adjunct faculty, and author of *Workplace Evangelism* brought a message which inspired and challenged students. Bro. Boland also currently serves on the workplace network committee for the Lausanne Movement founded by Billy Graham during the 1966 World Congress on Evangelism.

Students from Louisiana Tech University, Tyler Junior College and Texas A&M University attended the weekend event. Texas A&M University ABS President Brandon Orr, and Seth Quinnoes, a student at Texas A&M, led worship services before each Bible study session. Between Bible study sessions, each ABS chapter met in open forums to reflect on and discuss the message.

Many of the students are preparing, right now, to go into professions such as teaching, engineering and other careers outside of ministry. Bro. Boland offered biblical and spiritual insights into how believers in the secular workforce can spread the gospel in their mission field. Students learned about the extent to which Christ wants their hearts, commitment and focus in the workplace in order to draw others to a relationship with our Savior.

*Workplace Evangelism* offers an honest discussion of the issues related to responsibilities of church membership, the blessings of conflict, the role of non-verbal communication, how to avoid offending others, understanding bias and bigotry, and how to be a creative Christian.

Saturday afternoon, students put their faith to work by clearing limbs from the property of Daniel Springs Encampment. Bro. James Speer, camp director, and Dr. Kyle Ritter, director of Texas A&M ABS, organized the event.

During this past winter, the East Texas area was hit hard with unusually long cold fronts, which brought down many large limbs. A workforce of 40 college students cleaned fallen debris across the camp and in full Aggie spirit built and burned an Aggie bonfire.

Sunday morning, Dr. Kyle Ritter and 20 students from Texas A&M University led services at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Carthage. Texas A&M University students performed under the direction of Brandon Orr, while Dr. Ritter brought the message and shared what God is doing through the ABS ministry at Texas A&M University. Three college students, Brandon Orr, Katelyn Lawyer and Paige Ferrell gave testimony to the impact the ABS ministry has had on them during their college years.

To watch video testimonies from the ABS students across the state of Texas and Louisiana, visit: <http://goo.gl/ygxZ5n>.



▲ Louisiana Tech University, Tyler Jr. College, and Texas A&M University ABS chapters with John Boland

▼ Texas A&M University ABS- Back-L to R: Dylan Brown, Sean Gibson, Eva, Danielle Carlisle, Seth Quinnoes, Katelyn Lawyer, Lyndzie Litchfield, Nathan Quinnoes, Brandon Orr, Kyle Ritter; Front L to R: Taylor Jackson, Kristen Gerhart, Nikki Ritter, Paige Ferrell



# Students Spring Retreat 2014

## Making your faith to work!



▲ Service Project for Daniel Springs Encampment L to R: Kristen Gerhart, Danielle Carlisle, Dylan Brown, Katelyn Lawyer University ABS chapters with John Boland



▲ Small Groups – Texas A&M University and LaTech University



▲ Service Project for Daniel Springs Encampment – Nathan Quinnoes



▲ Service Project for Daniel Springs Encampment: Danielle Carlisle, Kristen Gerhart



▲ Bonfire Daniel Springs Encampment



▲ John Boland



▲ Worship Nathan Quinnoes & Brandon Orr



▲ Services

# AUXILIARIES

## Ecuador for his glory

By SHARON COLE

The Texas GMA Project for this year has been Trevor and Nafisa Morris, missionaries to Ecuador. The Morris' and their children, Kylor, Cole, Lane and Cana have begun their work in Cuenca, Ecuador. Their journey began with God giving them a love and passion for the people of southern Ecuador. They have a desire to reach them with the gospel.

After language school in Costa Rica they arrived in Ecuador in mid-September. They didn't know anyone in the city except their landlord and his wife. By way of a cab ride, Trevor met a man named Louis and invited him and his family to dinner. From that meeting, Louis brought others, and with that the Morris' first Bible study was begun. The group has continued to grow in number and also their faith has grown.

Reaching children in mountain villages became their first mission project. The Sunday before Thanksgiving they hosted their first worship service in their home. They had 13 people plus their family and good friends, Preston and Christie Burton and children. With the help of YouTube, they sang some songs in Spanish and Trevor preached a message about the atoning work of Jesus. He also translated it into English for their friends. Two people, a brother and sister, committed their lives to Christ. Their mother is already a believer and they continue to pray for their father to also become a believer.

It was an exciting time at the new Mision Bautista de Santa Ana de Los Cuatro Rios. Wanting to keep their family traditions, they planned a Christmas party last December and were so excited when 80 children and 35 adults attended. Each one received a gift, enjoyed food and entertainment from a Christian clown and also heard the gospel.

The hearts of the people were touched by learning of two families in desperate need of food and other personal items. The next day food and necessary items were gathered and given to these families, showing the love of God through their actions.

Nafisa had been praying for someone to share Christmas dinner with and the Lord answered that prayer by bringing 32 people to their Bible study/dinner while Trevor shared the story of Jesus with them. Trevor and Nafisa have been using a unique way of teaching the Bible by telling it in drama style with the Orality method. People respond to Bible storytelling better than listening to someone lecture or read to them. It takes dedication, effort to study the specific Bible story and memorize it so the person telling it does not have to refer to a book or paper.

It is all done in Spanish with emotion and passion so that it captivates those who are listening. A different person does it each week, then groups form and it is retold again. By the end of the



▲ The Trevor Morris family

Bible study, it has been repeated at least five times.

A series of eight questions help to study the story. The same eight questions are used so the people also memorize them. Within no time everyone has a set of Bible Stories memorized and a list of questions used to develop a biblical worldview, expose sin, convict hearts and reveal the gospel. They ask that you continue to pray for them that they will have the opportunity to share the gospel message with everyone they meet. Pray that they can continue to build relationships with the people of Ecuador and that the Lord will open doors for them to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Consider partnering with them. "*O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.*" Send your offerings to the Texas GMA Project: Kristi Key, 17304 CR 2854, Eustace, Texas, 75124. For more information contact her at [outnumberdad@aol.com](mailto:outnumberdad@aol.com) or 903-451-1929; 903-340-0845.

The 2014 Texas GMA Houseparty will convene at Daniel Springs Encampment March 14-15 with the theme, "He's the One that I Want." Registration fees are \$22 for cabins, per person,

and \$25 for dorms, per person. Registration can be done online at [discipleguide.org](http://discipleguide.org) or calling the camp at 903-685-2433. A new item this year is for every \$20 each individual girl brings to registration for the project, she will receive a chance to win a variety of awesome prizes. Each girl must turn their money into Ms. Jayna Williams. Even if your church currently doesn't have a GMA program, please consider bringing your girls between 4th and 12th grade. Give them the opportunity to come and have fun, meet new people, and most importantly worship the Lord with girls their own ages.

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).



## Missions—The heart of the matter

By LYNDA MARSH

Texas WMA 2nd Vice President

The 2014 Texas WMA theme is "Missions: The Heart of the Matter." This year we will be turning our hearts toward missions. The theme verse is Romans 10:1, "*Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved.*" We should fill our hearts with different areas of ministry. The saved group needs our love and encouragement. The lost needs our deeds of kindness and human touch.

Our home needs to be filled with ministry to others who need the extra touch. Those who live close to us need to feel and see the love of God flowing to them. Extra time needs to be spent in Bible reading and a stronger prayer life. Our hearts can be filled with Texans, neighbors, special ministry needs and much more.

My heart's desire and prayer to God is that many will be

reached through salvation and the growth of new believers. As your second vice president, I would like to make a few suggestions for the four district meetings during the year: January meeting—focus on a local project. April meeting—focus on a state mission field. July meeting—focus on your district GMA. October meeting—focus on our Texas WMA project.

# Mission Life

By JERRY BURNAMAN

It's my joy to provide information about two mission projects to inspire your thinking about BMA of Texas Missions. This will help you to pray for them more intelligently and fervently and perhaps offer opportunities for you and your church to have personal involvement.

## Gary & Rhonda Southard

The first project is Valley Ranch, near new Caney, Texas. After we organized LifeQuest at Porter, Gary and Rhonda Southard are now working to start a new church at Valley Ranch. LifeQuest is the mother church and this represents our multiplication process. Gary and Rhonda have been busy performing the usual behind the scene activities like establishing the name, getting a bank account and developing a web page: [www.churchvalleyranch.com](http://www.churchvalleyranch.com). You can visit the web site and be more informed about their ministries.

Gary asks you to pray with them as they move forward with this new project:

- Pray for life change in new people.
- Influence in the Valley Ranch community and area.
- Outreach events to build awareness.
- Thursday evening small group to grow
- James & Jennifer Hearne, planting team members.
- Encouragement and guidance.



▲ Bro. & Mrs. Gary Southard

- Locating a larger meeting place.
- Mrs. Cox, Valley Ranch Bible Club
- Danny Signorelli, Valley Ranch developer.
- More funding.

Gary has a network of about 20 people and the number is growing weekly. Your individual and cooperate prayers are appreciated very much.

## Will & Kelly Hutchinson

The Second project is the mission at Hutto where Will and Kelly Hutchinson and their children have recently assumed responsibilities. When a church planter or pastor leaves a place, some people usually leave. This occurred at Hutto and Will's challenges are to revision, re-focus on people in the community, and re-develop ministries to provide people's spiritual needs.

In a recent phone conversation he told me that his immediate perception is the people are very receptive and hungry for meaningful relationships. While moving a next door neighbor couple came to introduce themselves and helped unload. Also, two teens from across the street came to help and remained to hang-out and have pizza.

I asked him about some of the first steps he was going to take in order to develop ministries to reach people. Here are some ideas he gave me for building a network:



▲ Bro & Mrs. Will Hutchinson

- Work with the people who attend. There are about 30 and they have friends and acquaintances that are potential prospects.
- Be involved in community activities, soccer is an example. Will's daughter is already signed up to play soccer and the mission will provide hotdogs.
- He is planning a barbecue at the park on a Sunday afternoon and everyone is to invite family, friends a neighbor.
- City teen ministry. The churches in the area have no teen activities, so the city started a teen ministry. They asked Will to lead this ministry and the two teens that helped him unload are members of this ministry.

These are exciting activities about a mission that could explode and impact an entire city, and cities nearby. Your fervent prayers offer encouragement and strength to his new church planter and Family.

I encourage you to keep up with all our church planters and give them words of encouragement very often. Our Lord is doing great things through BMA of Texas Missions and I would like to share them with our churches. Just give me a call and it will be a joy to come to your church or group and share State Missions with you.

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



## EVERY SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE IS NOW BEING OFFERED THROUGH BAPTIST PROGRESS!

Simply set up your account with Baptist Progress for the number of bulletins you regularly need on Sunday, and they will be shipped right to your door. We have a wide selection offering six bulletin styles in various sizes to fit the worship style of nearly any church. Extra bulletins are available to add to your regular order for special days such as Easter, Christmas, Mother's Day, etc. To order or for more information, visit [www.baptistprogress.org](http://www.baptistprogress.org), click MORE at the top, then click Every Sunday Bulletin Service or give us a call at 972-923-0757 or send an e-mail to [info@baptistprogress.org](mailto:info@baptistprogress.org).

If your church currently purchases bulletins directly from Warner Press, please allow us to add your church to our customer list. Baptist Progress will receive a commission if you are added to our customer list. The price for your church will be the same. Just give us a call to make the change, 972-923-0756 or email [editor@baptistprogress.org](mailto:editor@baptistprogress.org).



## EVENTS

### MARCH 7-8, 2014

2014 Texas Galilean Explosion  
@ Jacksonville College

### MARCH 8, 2014

90th Birthday Reception  
for Katherine Arrington,  
former missionary to Bolivia  
@ Trinity Assisted Living Facility  
131 Zimmerman Drive, Jacksonville  
2 to 4 p.m.

### MARCH 13, 2014

Texas Baptist Home Rally  
@ Brumley, Gilmer

### 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.

## 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.

**Youth**—Smyma, Winnsboro is seeking a part-time youth director. Send resume to smymabaptistchurch@yahoo.com.

## ORDINATION

**Lakeside, Trinidad** will ordain their youth minister Dane Goode, who will become assistant pastor at 2:30 p.m. on March 16, 2014.



## Hotel information for 2014 BMA of America Meeting

Baptist Missionary Association of America

April 28-30, 2014

Statehouse Convention Center • Little Rock, Arkansas

### HOTEL ROOM RATES:

#### Marriott

(formerly Peabody) Single: \$119  
3 Statehouse Plaza Double: \$119  
(501) 906-4000 or Triple: \$129  
1-877-759-6290 Quad: \$139  
Cutoff Date: March 28, 2014

#### Comfort Inn

\$90  
707 Interstate 30  
(501) 687-7700  
Cutoff Date: April 13, 2014

#### Holiday Inn

Presidential \$105.99  
600 Interstate 30  
(501) 375-2100  
Cutoff Date: March 28, 2014

## CHURCHES IN REVIEW

### FEBRUARY 16, 2014

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	68	104	
Cedar Creek, Teague	14	20	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	492	879	
First, Blooming Grove	219		1 By Baptism
First, Judson	29	54	3 By Baptism
First, New Summerfield	37	52	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	14	23	
Harvest, Lufkin	29	40	
Little Flock, Lufkin		25	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	42	48	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	17	17	
New Harmony, Tyler	281	373	1 By Letter
New Haven, Dallas	18	48	
Pine Brook, Tyler	38	92	
Rosewood, Gilmer	102	148	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	17	29	
Simmons Hill, Diana	34	69	
Temple, Mexia	40	52	

### FEBRUARY 23, 2014

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	70	97	
Cedar Creek, Teague	15	23	
Elwood, Wills Point	11	34	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	499	715	
First, Blooming Grove		217	
First, New Summerfield	32	47	
First, Palmer	43	73	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	18	28	
Jackson, Joaquin	79	118	
Long Creek, Sunnyvale	63	79	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	16	19	
New Harmony, Tyler	290	367	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	43	49	
Pine Brook, Tyler	37	82	
Rosewood, Gilmer	101	169	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	17	28	
Temple, Mexia	31	35	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	14	17	

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

## HALL FURNITURE LTD.

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



# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

## Wisdom that satisfies

By PAUL GAUNTT

March 9, 2014

**Lesson Aim:** Seek God in His Word everyday to know wisdom that truly satisfies. "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." Psalm 19:7

**Lesson text:** Ecclesiastes 1:13-18; Psalm 19:7-14

### A Look at Solomon

Solomon was off to a great start, taking over his father David's throne and reigning as king of Israel. And that great start was because Solomon asked for the right thing as he prayed to God -- he asked for divine wisdom.

In I Kings 3, it is recorded that God the Father appeared to Solomon in a dream and asked what He could give to the new king. God loves to confer good things on His children. Solomon's humble prayer pleased God; "*Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?*" I Kings 3:9 God is glorified when His children sincerely petition Him for divine wisdom and an understanding heart.

Because Solomon asked for God's wisdom, God bestowed upon him ". . . both riches and honor so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee." (3:13) God blessed Solomon with super abundance, because abundance, honor and fame were not what Solomon wanted.

But after God conferred great blessing on the new king, something happened to him along the

way. He became sidetracked by the trappings of the world, or in his words, "*under the sun.*" He had amassed a fortune through several venues, not the least of which was through trade and commerce through his alliances with numerous empires and nations. The queen of Sheba showered him with extravagant gifts from her homeland, including expensive and much sought after almu wood, which he used for pillars for his temple and his own dwelling. It was also used to make musical instruments which were probably used by the orchestra he assembled for his own entertainment. (Ecclesiastes 2:8)

According to I Kings 10:14, Solomon's annual salary in gold was 666 talents, not including "*revenues from merchants and traders and from all the Arabian kings and the governors of the territories.*" One financial source revealed that a talent of gold on the market as of 2009, was valued at \$1,080,000. Multiply that by 666, and the total of Solomon's annual income, in today's terms, was \$719,280,000,000. (that's billion) That was just in gold -- not to mention revenue from his other vast enterprises. With the finances Solomon had in his day, if he were living in America today, he could write one check and totally obliterate our nation's deficit.

It's easy to understand how Solomon, who had originally asked for God's wisdom, gradually slumped into the trappings of a lavish lifestyle, probably becoming intoxicated on his own power. When one operates on his or her own power, God's power is blatantly disregarded. But according to his writing in Ecclesiastes, he

came to an epiphany -- that nothing "under the sun" can ever fill the void in a life. Only He, Who is "above the sun" can bring satisfaction peace, contentment and joy.

### Solomon concluded earthly wisdom cannot satisfy: Ecclesiastes 1:13-18

1. Acquiring wisdom under the sun could not alter the "*sore travail,*" the tragic destiny of the human race. (verse 13)

2. Acquiring wisdom under the sun was empty -- an exercise in futility. He repeatedly referred to it as "*vanity and vexation of spirit.*" (emptiness, and trying to catch the wind) (verse 14)

3. Acquiring wisdom under the sun cannot right wrong or recover the missing 19:15

4. Acquiring wisdom under the sun - everything from wisdom to madness -- and realized that it only increased his grief and sorrow. Perhaps Ecc. 1:16 was the basis for the unknown person coining the phrase, "ignorance is bliss."

Then there is wisdom which is from above.

James says, "*But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.*" James 3:17

### Wisdom that satisfies: Psalm 19:7-14

1. Satisfying wisdom from above revives the soul - 19:7

2. Satisfying wisdom from above is not

just reserved for the intellectual - 19:7

3. Satisfying wisdom from above brings enlightenment to the heart, giving guidance for living - 19:8

4. Satisfying wisdom from above causes one to have reverential awe for God the Father. 19:9

5. Satisfying wisdom from above is more desirable and more rewarding than fine gold - 19:10-11 Incidentally, gold is the asphalt streets are paved with above the sun.

6. Satisfying wisdom from above gives one a desire to confess sin and ask for cleansing from secret sin. 19:12-13

7. Satisfying wisdom from above inspires prayer and meditation. 19:14

### Conclusion

If we diligently pursue God, earnestly desire "an understanding heart," it will prevent us from experiencing an empty, futile, meaningless life of trying to catch the wind.

Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, came from "above the sun." "He left the splendor of Heaven," and became God incarnate, condescending down here "under the sun" to die on a cruel cross, be buried in a tomb, and then be resurrected, to go back to the right hand of His Father, in order that we, who were condemned to death, might have a home one day "above the sun." John 14:1-2

## Finding lasting contentment

By PAUL GAUNTT

March 16, 2014

**Lesson Aim:** Worldly attainments do not bring lasting fulfillment. Make God a priority in your daily life to find real contentment. "There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God." Ecclesiastes 2:24

**Lesson Text:** Ecclesiastes 2:4-11

Solomon seemed to not be able to fail at anything. He had everything other people could only dream of having. But he was unfulfilled, almost to the point of despair.

He sought meaning to life and fulfillment in at least six areas -- the same areas that people strive for today only to be disillusioned when they attain them.

Usually when people desperately try to crowd folly, mirth, music, laughter, strong drink, and crowds of entertainers, they're trying to keep from confronting themselves - their weaknesses, disappointments and failures.

**He tried laughter:** 2:1-2 He hired people that we might call stand-up comics today, to entertain him -- to make him laugh. Laughter is not bad - in fact, Proverbs 17:22 says, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine, but a broken spirit drieth the bones." God has built all these emotions into us when He created us, and He intended them for a grand purpose. But how many people are desperately seeking laughter to conceal a life of futility and

sadness?

**He tried music:** 2:8 He hired a great chorus to sing to him - and a great orchestra to play for him. But when the concert was over, he returned to his empty life. Heaven will be filled with music. The heavenly host will be singing "Holy, Holy, Holy to the Father. Music is a wonderful medium through which to glorify the Lord, but music, in and of itself, is often utilized just to make our flesh feel good.. But if there is no spiritual objective in the music, one can walk away from it feeling just as empty as before.

**He tried wine 2:3 :** Why do people resort to alcohol? They do it in a futile attempt to numb the pain and suffering of a lonely, unhappy, unfulfilled life. Solomon said in verse 3, "I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; This is such an oxymoron because who, in the history of the world, ever gave themselves to alcohol, yet tried to retain wisdom? Notice, Solomon didn't just take a sip -- he gave himself to it.

**He sought solace in materialism** 2:4 -- houses, vineyards, gardens, orchards, fruit trees, and pools of water to water his great trees. Why? To show them off to guests and other visitors who were passing by his compound. Something else that's curious -- he built himself "houses." Not just one house, but apparently many. I could never understand

the reasoning of people who were fabulously wealthy, having to have lavish dwelling places all over the world.

**He acquired silver and gold and "peculiar treasures of kings and provinces:** 2:7. I am reminded of carting up a large box of trophies won from pee wee baseball games, soccer, basketball and football leagues, and sending them off to the dump. They were symbols of a tiny, fleeting glimmer of honor in a child's life, and then they were forgotten and left on a shelf somewhere to collect dust, then to the storage room, and finally to the landfill. That must be how Solomon felt as he viewed his vast display room of trinkets he received from people of royalty.

**He bought slaves 2:8:** Why would he want slaves? To do all his work, so that there will be nothing left to do in life but sit back and acquire things. In verse 10, "*And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy;*"

I like the way The Message paraphrased verse 10. "Everything I wanted I took -- I never said no to myself. I gave in to every impulse, held back nothing. I sucked the marrow of pleasure out of every task-my reward to myself for a hard day's work."

Such is the epitaph of the one whose tombstone said, "The man who dies with the most toys is still dead." No one in his or her right mind, will come to the final moments of

their lives, gasping for those few last breaths, and exclaiming how they regret not having more things.

### Conclusion

Solomon realized -- perhaps late in his life, what the true meaning of life is about, and he worded it in Ecclesiastes 12:1 "*Remember now thy creator, in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.*"

Solomon finally realized that it's best to honor the Lord during young years, before the years take their toll on the body.

*Editor's Note: Thanks to Bro. Paul Gauntt for providing the lessons for this issue. Bro. Gary House suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized. Please pray for Bro. House.*

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.



# The Tazanian Call

By DANNY BULLOCK

Barnabas Touch Trip Coordinator

Every BMA pastor and most members are familiar with the Macedonian call in Acts 16 where Paul unexpectedly received a plea from a man saying, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." That request changed all of Paul's plans for the next few years and redirected his efforts. The result of all this, of course, was the spread of Christianity throughout all of Europe and the known world.

In 2013 Mike Goodwin, President of Evangelistic International Ministries, received a similar plea. He and his dad Rocky had been praying for two years about the possibility of going into Kenya and/or Tanzania. Ironically, shall we say providentially, Mike received unsolicited emails through the EIM website from both countries on the same day. He receives multiple emails monthly asking for help, and most are deleted due to doctrinal differences, just being pleas for financial help, or because he felt no leading from God. However, the email from Tanzania grabbed his heart. A 33 year old Baptist pastor, Renatus Kanunu, was not asking for money but for someone to come teach/train their pastors and leaders. His dad Cosmas had come to the Tabora region of western Tanzania and planted a church 20 years ago. He then began to send men into other villages to spread the Gospel and plant churches. At one point there were over 40 churches. Now only 22 remain, and the pastors are teaching different doctrines due to being untaught.

These men now know that they went about this wrong. Their zeal and vision were commendable, but they realize they sent men without proper discipleship and training. Renatus pled with Mike to come help them so that they can continue reaching their people. Plans were made for Mike, Rocky, and me to go, meet the men face to face, assess the situation, and determine if we felt we could work together. Rocky was unable to go so Mike and I left Shreveport on Feb. 9. Almost 40 hours later we arrived in Tabora and went to visit the first church and pastor. What we found there would be repeated at each stop; 90 percent of the church members do not have Bibles. How can a believer grow in Christ without God's Word? Even some of the pastors only had little Gideon New Testaments.

The first and most obvious need is for Bibles so Mike has committed to try and raise \$10,000 to place a Swahili Bible in the hands of every church member in these 22 Baptist churches. After getting home he is going to wire money to buy reference Bibles in Swahili for each pastor. Anyone wishing to help with this project can send checks to the EIM office at P.O. Box 297 in Magnolia, AR 71754.

Then the real work begins! We have pledged to return Nov. 3-22 for two weeks to teach Old and New Testament survey courses to the pastors. We found that none of the pastors have ever read all of the books of the Bible; some have only read portions of the New Testament. Mike and I plan to lead two teams of three pastors so that no one will have to miss more than one Sunday. The first group will teach Old Testament, and as they are leaving the second group will arrive to teach the New Testament.

Who will return with us to teach men hungry to be taught? When we told them of our plans, they begged us not to wait until November. They want the teaching now! These will truly be Barnabas Touch trips as we "come alongside" them to give encouragement to some desperately desiring help. After these survey courses we plan to take multiple trips the



following years to complete the training with other subjects. Anyone willing to go and invest in these men can contact me at [danbull0550@gmail.com](mailto:danbull0550@gmail.com) or 870-904-5032.

One thing that excites Mike and me is the potential we see for these men to reach East Africa if this is successful. Their Swahili language is not only spoken throughout all Tanzania but has now spread to the eight countries that border it, as well as 4 or 5 other surrounding nations. A Swahili broadcast would reach much of East Africa.

Mike left Renatus copies of the BMAA Doctrinal Statement and Principles of Cooperation. Could this become a partnership with our Missions Department? Could Tanzania become a sending station into this part of the world as The Philippines has become in the Pacific Rim area? Only time will tell.

Would there be a young couple who might be willing to move to Tanzania and establish a permanent Bible Institute so that sending various teams throughout the years would



become unnecessary? We will see if God has already been working on that. Mike referred to Blackaby's "Experiencing God" and said it looks like God is already working here so let's join Him. Now who else is hearing "Come over to Tanzania and help us"