

Baptist Progress

Baptist Progress, P.O. Box 2085, Waco, Texas 76788
Postmaster: send change of address to:
Baptist Progress, P.O. Box 2085, Waco, Texas 76788

THE INFORMING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRY OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS | MAY 2022 | VOL. 109 | NO. 05

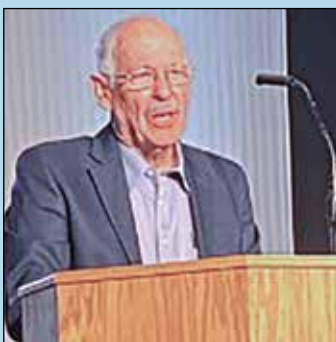
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HONORED

2022 BMA of America Meeting concludes in Springfield, Missouri



▲ BMA of America Missions Commissioning Service

By **JERRY FULTON**

Baptist Progress Editor

Messengers of the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America (BMAA) gathered in Springfield, Missouri April 18-20, 2022. On the first evening of the meeting, the Honorable John Ashcroft, who served as governor of Missouri, United States Senator and Attorney General of the United States, welcomed those in attendance. In keeping with the theme of the meeting, *Preach the Word*, BMAA President, Clif Johnson, pastor of Garrett Memorial Church, Hope, Arkansas, preached a message by the same title.

Tuesday's sessions included the election of BMAA officers for the 2022-23 associational year. Elected were the following: Clif Johnson of Arkansas, president; Charles Johnson of Texas, first vice president; Gary Longstaff of Missouri, second vice president; Greg Medenwald, Jerome Cooper and Randy Shepherd, recording clerks.

New churches petitioning the association were the following: Immanuel, Littleton, Massachusetts; StonePoint, Cummings, Georgia; Connection Point, Jonesboro, Arkansas; Midway, Batesville, Mississippi; Cain, Van Buren, Arkansas; and Redeemer's Love, Houston.

BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE

Each BMAA department and agency director gave reports for the departments and agencies. Dr. Charley Holmes, who served as interim executive director of Baptist Publishing House reported that within the first year of his overseeing the department, Baptist Publishing House gained secure financial footing. He shared that it was time for a new executive director to be elected and encouraged messengers to elect the department trustees' nominee, Jordan Tew, who served as his assistant. Tew, former pastor of Eighth Street, Grand Prairie, was elected as the new executive director.

MORAL ACTION

Dr. John Adams, director of Moral Action, an



▲ The Honorable John Ashcroft



▲ Jordan Tew

agency of BMAA, encouraged messengers to observe the National Day of Prayer, May 5, 2022, and to receive an offering for Moral Action June 26 or July 3, 2022.

DANIELS SPRINGS

Jason Prewitt, director of Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment in Gary, spoke of the various uses of the campground, including summer camp for children and youth, conferences and retreats. He also provided information regarding 2022 camps.

MINISTERS RESOURCE SERVICES AND BMA FOUNDATION

Dr. Steve Crawley, director of Ministers Resource Services and the BMA Foundation, reported that a feasibility study will be undertaken to consider the possibility of merging the two ministries.

LIFEWORD

Donny Parrish, director of Lifeword, reported that plans are underway to expand the ministries media efforts by adding more languages in order to reach more people-groups with the gospel. Also, he spoke of how exciting it was that technology allowed him to meet on a regular basis with Lifeword personnel around the world in one setting.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Dr. Charley Holmes, president of Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary spoke of how the COVID -19 pandemic caused a change in the way students receive their education. Since the pandemic began, more students are simply attending seminary classes online. It is the president's hope that reality will reverse as he believes one receives a better education in person with professors and fellow students in the same learning environment.

COORDINATING COUNCIL

As the result of this editor's motion, "That the Coordinating Council consult with the arrangements committee, the enrollment and finance committee, and the director of conference ministries to determine a more efficient and effective way to plan and carry out the annual meetings of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and present recommendations to that effect at the Association's 2022 annual meeting," that was presented and passed at the 2021 BMAA Meeting, the Coordinating Council brought forth several recommendations.

Recommendations to dissolve the BMAA arrangements committee and assign

2022 BMA MEETING continued on p. 11



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BAPTIST PROGRESS

Jerry Fulton, Editor/Business Manager
P.O. Box 2085, Waxahachie 75168
972-923-0756 • www.baptistprogress.org

BAPTIST MISSIONARY LOAN ASSOCIATION

Jerry Fulton, Director
PO Box 73, Waxahachie 75168
972-923-0758

BMA OF TEXAS MISSIONS

Heith Mitchell, Director
PO Box 73, Waxahachie 75168
972-923-0757

JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

Dr. Joe Lightner, President
105 B. J. Albritton Drive
Jacksonville 75766
903-586-2518
www.jacksonville-college.edu

TEXAS BAPTIST HOME

Jason Curry, President
PO Box 309, Waxahachie 75168
972-937-1321 • www.tbhc.org

Baptist Progress

USPS: 043120 • ISSN: 005-5751

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

Jerry Fulton, Director/Editor

editor@baptistprogress.org
P.O. Box 2085 • Waxahachie, Texas 75168
972-923-0756 (office) • 972-923-3534 (fax)

www.baptistprogress.org

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATE:

Mail Church Plan: \$2.00 per month
E-Mail Church Plan: \$1.50 per month
Mail Subscription: \$27.00 per year
E-mail Subscription: \$21.00 per year
(Advertising Rates Available on Request)

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

BMA, alive and well

By JERRIE SUE KELLAR CLEAVER

Full Disclosure: I am not the Cleaver who usually does the writing. But I feel compelled today to make some observations from attending the 2022 meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of America in Springfield, Missouri. These are random thoughts that crossed my mind over the last five days and 1,243 miles.

Number 1: I am overjoyed to report that I found the BMA to be alive and well! Thanks be to God who has raised up men and women to carry on the traditions and practices of this association. It was my joy and privilege to meet new (young and not so young!) people whom I now feel I can call friend. Their spirit, demeanor and zeal were apparent. They displayed a love for the Lord and His Word as well as maturity and insight beyond some of their years. I, for one BMA Baptist, am delighted that the Lord has impressed these folks to carry on the traditions of this association.

Number 2: I was elated to hear gospel preaching; I feel that the theme of the meeting, *Preach the Word*, was indeed carried out. We live in perilous times, and the gospel message is not always

the most popular. But I was inspired and challenged by the presentation of the Word of God. Indeed, the Lord is providing young men like Timothy to carry on the work of the ministry.

Number 3: This meeting afforded me the privilege and opportunity to renew “old” friendships—it is always so good to shake hands and hug necks of friends. I carefully do not refer to “old” friends, but friends of long standing. How wonderful to see and visit with folks I have known, admired, and respected over the years.

Number 4: I look and long for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, but until then I am challenged and inspired to continue the work that He has set before us. May the Lord bless the BMA of America!



▲ Jerrie Sue Kellar Cleaver

MINISTRY CONNECTION WORKSHOPS

DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING MINISTRY CONNECTION WORKSHOPS!



Jerry Fulton

Interim Pastor Training (This workshop would benefit any pastor!)

- Led by Jerry Fulton, who has served numerous churches as an interim pastor
- Those who complete the training will be certified as an interim pastor for the BMA of Texas.
- All potential interim pastors must have pastoral experience.

DATE & TIME: Aug. 17, 2022, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch

PLACE: BMA of Texas Building, 632 Farley Street, Waxahachie

REGISTRATION FEE: FREE!

Even if you are not interested in serving as an interim pastor, those who have attended this workshop have said that any pastor would benefit from the training provided in the workshop!



Karl Vaters

Leading the Smaller Church Without Settling for Less

- Led by author, blogger and small church pastor Karl Vaters
- You will learn how to redefine success in ministry, the difference between big churches and small churches, how to discover and use what your church does well, as well as how to find and mentor volunteers in today's and tomorrow's small church.

DATE & TIME: Sept. 13, 2022, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch

PLACE: BMA of Texas Building, 632 Farley Street, Waxahachie

REGISTRATION FEE: FREE!

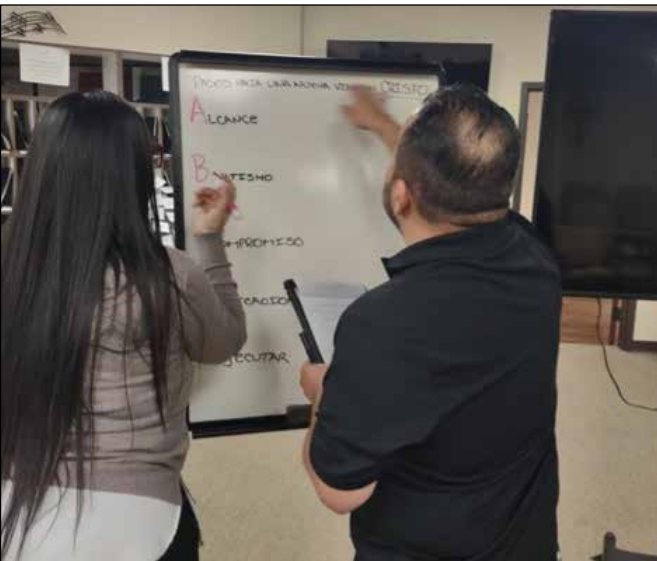


A word from your Missions Office

By HEITH MITCHELL

This week is a big milestone for your BMA Texas Missions. Spanish missions are fully on track with each of our English-speaking networks. Our core training piece has never been fully translated into Spanish until recently. This has caused us to use some other tools.

This week, we trained our Spanish-speaking missionaries in The Multiplication Workshop. We had over 30 present, which included all of our missionaries but one and some of our Spanish-speaking BMA of Texas pastors. We missed you, Jaime Henriquez. Todd West and Elvis Garcia did a good job training together. We are glad to be equal and together now with training, coaching, cohorts and accountability. Here are a few pictures.



A word from your missionaries:

CHRIS MINDI—
ANCHOR AUSTIN MISSION IN LEANDER
CHRIS.MINDI@BMATS.EDU

Our strength as a church planting family has always been in finding solace in our Living God, who is our Rock. Often the question were asked, “Where do we go when life presents challenges?” and “Where is our safe place?” Psalms shows us constantly that David had a hiding place. He knew where to take refuge; he knew where to go when things didn’t go as planned or well. When he was feeling overwhelmed, David depended on God. In Psalm 81:3, I love that David addresses God as his stronghold. Almost all of us have a hiding place, a refuge to go to only in times of trials and challenges, but also in times of peace and tranquility in our everyday lives. As a church planting family, no matter what our challenge is, we are safe and sound with our God, Who provides shelter and protection.

Prayer Needs:
Pray for the souls that we are nurturing with gospel, that they see the true Living God, put their trust in and confess their sins to Christ Jesus. Pray for Christians that with whom we are having relationships, as we are meeting more who are willing to be on His mission effectively.

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

My mama always told me that to keep moving you just have to keep putting one foot in front of the other, one step at a time. That’s exactly what we are doing at Oasis. The steps we took this month were our first Lord’s Supper on Good Friday and our first Sunday morning Bible study. We had 21 on Good Friday and 16 for our first Sunday morning. Please join me in praying that next month’s steps will be the start of demolition and remodel! Thank you again for all your support. We still have need of some financial help for the remodel and furnishing it when we are done. If you’d like to help, please contact the missions office. Thank you again for all your love and support and prayers as we keep putting one foot in front of the other.

Prayer Needs:
Pray for our remodel efforts and process, connections and relationships with SPC, open doors for the gospel in Levelland and surrounding communities.



▲ Chris Mendi



▲ Chris Driver

JAIME HENRIQUEZ—
FUENTE DE VIDA ETERNA MISSION, HOUSTON
DAIRYJENY@YAHOO.COM

I just want to thank all of the churches of the BMA of Texas for your support and prayers for our mission. We continue to work to enhance His Kingdom by taking the gospel to the lost and equipping the saints. The mission is healthy and growing slowly. Continue to pray for us and all the members of this church.

Prayer Needs:
Please pray for all the funds needed to purchase the building for our mission.



▲ Jaime Henriquez

GUADALUPE ROBLES—
GOFORTH MISSION, KILGORE
ROBLESQUADALUPE51@GMAIL.COM

We give thanks for the help they gave us and our desire is to continue doing the work although many times we cry for not seeing satisfactory results.

Prayer Needs:
Pray for encouragement and strength to follow.



▲ Gaudalupe Robles

TIM ALBA—
THE BRIDGE IN SEAGOVILLE

As things get tough, I often wonder if there is a light at the end of the tunnel. I know seasons are for a moment, but it can’t often be stressful. We have grown as a church but I have also become very busy meeting the needs of 40 people. I am learning right now to let go of things that I cannot control or change. I can only do what God has intended me to do during this time. I pray that God would give us wisdom as we grow not in finances or members, but in Him. God bless!

Prayer Needs:
Please pray for me and my family as we navigate this difficult season of being busy.



▲ Tim Alba

GOD'S GIFT

HEAVEN IS A FREE GIFT!

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

MAN IS A SINNER.

"For all have sinned . . ." (Rom. 3:23) Because of this, man cannot save himself. GOD. On the one hand, God is merciful and does not want to punish us. Yet God is just and must punish sin. God solved this problem for us in the Person of . . .

JESUS CHRIST.

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

THE GIFT IS RECEIVED BY FAITH.

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

SO MAY WE ASK . . .

Have you received God's free gift of eternal life? The Bible assures us in 1 John 5:13 that we can know we have eternal life.

Do you know for sure that you are going to heaven when you die? The Bible says, *"Whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

If you are willing to repent (turn away from your sin and to the Lord Jesus) you can receive the free gift of eternal life by simply praying: Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner and do not deserve eternal life. But I believe You died and rose from the grave to purchase a place in heaven for me. Jesus, come into my life, take control of my life, forgive my sins, and save me. I am now placing my trust in You alone for my salvation, and I accept your free gift of eternal life.



Jacksonville College Celebrates Homecoming 2022

By **WENDY EMPIRO**

Jacksonville College Alumni

Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word relationship as "the state of being connected." "Relationships" would absolutely be the "unofficial" theme of the Jacksonville College Homecoming for 2022, which was celebrated the weekend of Feb. 11-12, 2022.

The festivities began with lunch in the campus cafeteria on Friday, which included visiting with alumni and current students. Later that evening, things continued with more fellowship, fun and amazing food (courtesy of Joan and Craig Salisbury). Entertainment was provided by former choir members from the classes of '74-'76 -- with some "younger folk" from the '80s and '90s joining.

The weekend continued Saturday, with breakfast being served to the alumni by the men's basketball team. Their smiles, impeccable manners, and greetings of "good morning" started everyone's day off right. Coach Truscott is doing an excellent job with these young men.

Saturday's gathering in the chapel was a family reunion with so many more joining that morning, including the "Jacksonville College Traveling Sisterhood." This is a fantastic group of ladies who are the very definition of relationship, several of whom knew each other in high school while living in Lamesa. The rest of the ladies met while attending our beloved Jacksonville College and are from the classes of '66-'69.

The ladies formed strong friendships that extended after their time at Jacksonville College, raising their children together and staying connected. They began taking annual trips in 2013, hence the name "The Traveling Sisterhood." The Sisterhood is made up of members Beth (Emmons) Green, Beverly (Alexandra) Capel, Brenda (Vaughn) Hornaday, Debbie (Meadows) Jackson, Dianne (Gunnels) Watkins, Elaine Jordan, Esther (Edge) Salisbury, Joan Hopson, Rosa (Mingus) Gordon, Sheila (Ivins) Prestridge, Nell (Stanley) McCuistion, Kathy (Hall) Nunn, Sandy (Singleton) Brown, Cheryl (Driskill) Bass, and Sheryl (Middleton) Schroeder. Several of these sisters have gone on to glory but are most definitely not forgotten.

One of those who has passed on is Sheryl (Middleton/Kinney) Schroeder, whose son, Brandon Kinney, made a "special appearance" in honor of his mom and the Sisterhood. Brandon (class of '94), sent a video in which he spoke about his mom and the special relationships he made while at Jacksonville College—relationships that continue to this day. Brandon is a singer/songwriter living in Nashville, Tennessee and co-wrote the song, "Bye Mom," in honor of his mother Sheryl. Since Brandon could not attend homecoming in person the official video featuring Brandon and his family was played. To say there was not a dry eye in the chapel would be an understatement.

The celebration continued by awarding Chris McCurry "Coming Home Royalty" and Tim Evans "Distinguished Alumni" for their faithful support of the alumni and to Jacksonville College. They truly embody the spirit of Jacksonville College by "exalting Christ" everywhere they go.

After attending their respective chapter lunches for more food and fellowship, attendees reconvened for the basketball

game that evening. The weekend can only be described as "a celebration of relationships"—some by birth or marriage, many by "sisterhood/brotherhood" in Christ. For most of us it began with our time at our beloved Jacksonville College and continues to this day in friendships that are truly a gift from God.





I’m just sayin’

By JASON CURRY

In 1925, the orphanage faced incredible financial hardship. Mrs. Dove was given help in the form of her husband’s election to lead in the fundraising efforts. He brought a lot of experience and background to his new responsibilities. Mrs. Dove continued to lead in the running and oversight of the children in care. The challenges that they faced continued to grow. Debt grew, needs grew and gifts of support declined.

Matthew 6:25, Jesus said that we were not to worry about what we eat or wear. Helping us understand that, God supplies needs so we can count on His provision. Is this an indictment on the Doves? Discouragement is also expected in our walk with Christ, as the Doves saw the needs and the lack of response around them to the circumstances of the children in their care. I’m sure that this scripture came to mind repeatedly. And if I were them, I may have felt guilty of worrying about how we were going to provide for the dire needs of the kids for whom we cared.

But see, Jesus called us to more than the needs of this life; it is the needs of eternity. Yet, just as the Doves spoke of the earthly needs of kids in their care, they knew that meeting those needs helped children understand that God wanted to meet deeper needs in their lives. Because Jesus also said in Matthew 25:40 that if you see someone in need and serve them it is as though you did it for Him.

The Doves were so discouraged, and when they left, Mrs. Dove said, “I have given eight years of my life to the care of the Home, and I will leave in a short while, worn out in body and mind, in debt to the bank and to others for borrowed money that is owing me for my work here. We are humiliated for our own business failures and yet we are not responsible for it. We have not complained, we have gone on with our duties from day to day, faithful to the needs of the hour; hoping for a better day, paying out what little came in on the food for the children to keep them from suffering. I plead with you in God’s name, rally to the support of your new force of employees and give them your prayers and your financial support in a way that they may be made stronger day by day

to meet the great needs of the place you ask them to fill.”

Such great discouragement they must have felt to look back on their work and not see accomplishment but failure. I wonder if they could have seen what they were walking through as part of the grander story would they have felt different? To know that God was shaping and preserving through hardship. Would we all see life different if we saw things the way God does?

Psalms 103:11 says, “*For as the heaven is high above the earth, So great is his mercy toward them that fear him.*”

God is overseeing all we do. His story is being told. And you and I are a part of that story. The legacy of the Doves is that they helped preserve TBHC for future generations and helped kids they had in their care. I hope when we meet in heaven, I can tell them that their impact allowed future generations to know Jesus.

When following the Lord sometimes we enter seasons like the Doves. Let me encourage you today to hold tight to Jesus who will supply all your needs. Trust and obey for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey!

Thank you all for helping TBHC continue to be a place that cares for kids even when things get hard or look hard, we know we can hold tight to Christ and because believers know seeing those in need and helping is serving Christ.

I’m just sayin’.

Jason Curry is the president of the Texas Baptist Home for Children. Contact him 629 Farley St, Waxahachie, Texas 75165, 972-937-1321 or jcurry@tbhc.org. For more information, visit www.tbhc.org.



An expression of everlasting love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend, or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in bold letters are those honored or remembered from Apr. 1- 30.

ENDOWMENT:

E ANN PACE: Karl & Martha Pace

MYRA STOKES: Bill Stokes

HONORARIUMS:

CHEROKEE CHARMERS DRILL TEAM DIRECTED BY ERICA WILCOX: Michele Summerall

EVELYN JADE MILLER: Paula Miller

MR & MRS GEORGE PHILLEY: Leon & Johnnie Ross

NISSA ROSS: Leon & Johnnie Ross

RANDY ODOM: Jimmy Woodson

MEMORIALS:

ALEX & EDDIE GUY SHIERS: Linda Beason

BECKY SPHUEHLER: Andy & Nell McCuiston

BILLY PRESTON: Brent & Tammy Swanner

BILLY W KEELING: Ida Keeling

CHARLES MITCHELL: Gay Mitchell

CRAIG OATES: Temple BC, Mexia,

DAVID STANLEY: Betty Wilson

DOROTHY WRIGHT: Thomas Jeter

EDDIE BYRD: Darinda Medcalf

FRANK HOOD: Tiphany Hood

J C LASSITER: Rose Hill WMA, Rose Hill Baptist Church, Mineola

J.D. ODOM: Henry & Renesia Wilburn

JAMES “JIM” CORBIN: Charles & Charolette Johnson; Margaret Robertson

JAMES EDGE: Andy & Nell McCuiston

JIMMY DAN SELLERS: Rosewood Baptist Church, Gilmer; Charles & Charolette Johnson

JOE MORGAN: Temple BC, Mexia

JOHN MCCELHANEY: Duane & Charlotte Turner

JOHN WOLCOTT: Gay Mithcell

KAY WOLOTT: Gay Mitchell

LARRY & ROSELEN BOBO: James Bobo

LOVITA LOU OUIMET: James Ouimet

MABLE JO ODOM: Henry & Renesia Wilburn

MANDY STARK CUSKELLY: Charles & Charolette Johnson

ROBBIE ARRINGTON: Milton & Mary Ann Wylie

RUBEN MATTHEW NIEVES III: Tim & Katy Jennings

TED & THERESA JOHNSON: Tiphany Hood

TERRY BARNHILL: Jimmy L & Carla Shipp; Brent & Tammy Swanner; Margaret Robertson; Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Bertha McCool; Myrtie Langford

TODD M BROWN: Milton & Mary Ann Wylie

WALTER BECKER: Ilona & Dennis

memorials-honorariums

Focus for BMAA 2022—Preach the Word

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

Baptist Progress Correspondent

In these latter days, there is great evidence of the return to the pure, unadulterated preaching of the infallible Word of God as was demonstrated and proclaimed during the sessions of the 2022 BMA of America meeting in Springfield, Missouri.

Dr. Clif Johnson, president of the Baptist Missionary Association of America, and pastor of Garrett Memorial Baptist Church of Hope, Arkansas, opened the series of messages preaching from 1 Timothy 4 on the subject, *PREACH the Word—Preach THE WORD*. Johnson noted the difficulty many pastors experience by losing their focus on the task before them because of discouragement. He also emphasized the gravity and urgency of the ministry of the prophet in the New Testament Church.



▲ Clif Johnson

“God’s primary vehicle for communicating with mankind is through mankind, particularly the prophet,” Johnson said. “As Moses began to prepare people to go into a new land, he also prepared them for his removal from leadership because, as you know, he was prohibited from crossing the Jordan entering the Promised Land with the nation of Israel, so the natural concern for the Israelites at that time was ‘if you, Moses, are not going to be able to communicate to us what God is saying, who are we to listen to?’”

Johnson noted that Moses answered the anxieties of the people by listing in Deuteronomy chapters 16-18, four sources of authority for them—judges, kings, priests, and prophets.

“Out of these authoritative positions for the nation of Israel, the role of prophet is regarded as the most crucial because God promises to put His words into their mouths, so they would speak to His people,” he said.

Johnson referenced other prophets in the Old Testament, including Nathan, who stared King David in the face and boldly proclaimed, “you are the man,” exposing the king’s adultery and murder and cover-up in 2 Samuel chapter 12.

“This proclamation through God-called men as God’s chief means of communicating is not only found in the Old Testament, but is maintained in the New Testament,” Johnson said. “The believers in the New Testament found themselves in a similar situation as the Israelites when it was known that Moses was not going to cross the Jordan river with them, because Jesus was ascending back to His Father, so now who were they to listen to? But just as God gave the command to listen to true prophets, so too, God gives the church preachers who proclaim the revealed Christ in the apostolic message through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Church planter Pastor Jason Goodwin, of the Covenant Baptist Mission in Jones County, Mississippi, dealt with the subject of *The Sufficiency of the Word*, using 2 Peter 1:1-8. He said the Word of God is not just simply there

to inform us (concerning) how we are to live, but it directs us in how we are to live.” Goodwin said, “We must take this word very seriously.”

He noted that the sufficiency of God was the first truth that was attacked in the garden when the serpent slithered up to Eve and said, “Did God really say. . .?”

“Do we really believe that 2000 years ago when it was given that it still applies and in our culture and in our context today, or do we, as some claim, that there are other means, other messages, other ideas that we should listen to?” Goodwin asked.

“Now we may say as BMA Baptists that none of us would affirm that, and yet, just like Eve buys into the subtlety of the serpent’s temptations so we subtly buy into the temptations of the world, our culture—instead of preaching the word, we find ourselves preaching politics; instead of relying on the gospel, we find ourselves forcing morality—instead truly trusting that the Lord will work through His word to redeem Himself a people, we try all kinds of tricks and traps. We may be very well intentioned—who doesn’t want to see a world at peace? Who doesn’t want to see more people come to Christ as Savior and Lord, and follow Him in baptism?—But do we trust the Word to do the work? Do we think that by standing up and saying, ‘thus saith the Lord’ and read it and giving the sense of His Word will truly accomplish (His will)?”

Goodwin said, “Brothers and sisters, it’s very simple, if we believe that the Word of God is truly sufficient, then we believe that it is sufficient for all of life and godliness.”

The annual message was delivered by Richard Smith, pastor of Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, with his subject being, *Preach the Powerful Word*, using his text, Ezekiel 37, emphasizing the truth that God sometimes directs His prophets to go to a hopeless situation—like the valley of dry bones—and preach the Word.

“God gives Ezekiel a vision that is worse than a civil war battlefield,” Smith said. “A sea of dry, scattered disconnected bones scorched by the sun - Ezekiel must have shuddered at the grizzly scene—not just because he was a priest, and forbidden from touching a human corpse, but because of God’s Holy law, bodies that were left unburied was a sign they had fallen under God’s curse (Jeremiah 34) And this gruesome scene is a picture of the most hopeless situation a nation could ever encounter. This is a vision of the most irredeemable



▲ Jason Goodwin



▲ Richard Smith

beyond hope situation ever imagined.”

Pastor Smith said God told Ezekiel that the dry bones are the whole house of Israel. Although hope seemed to be gone, God reveals to the prophet that he is someday going to restore Israel to their land and make them spiritually alive.

In Ezekiel, we learn that God wants the man of God to see the true state of mankind; He wants the man of God to know Him and to make Him known; He wants the man of God to preach as He commands, and God wants the man of God to pray in the Spirit, as commanded.

“The fact that Israel exists today, should reveal to us that God is Lord of all, and the one true God,” Smith said. “There is nothing that He can’t do, including restore and return a nation that for all practical purposes, should be dead and extinct.”

Exodus 14:4 says, “Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them, and I will gain honor over Pharaoh, and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord.”

Smith added, “As odd as it may seem, we often come to know God the most intimately when we are faced with difficult times, difficult leaders, people, and yes, even difficult governments.”

Then he noted, “We cannot breathe love into our marriage, or health into our bodies, or obedience into our children, or passion into our churches, morality into society, any more than Ezekiel could breathe life into those dead bones—but I know Someone who can - and I know Someone Who wants to - but we have to be willing to pray and we have to be willing to preach the Word.”

The final message was *All the Word to All the World*, Matthew 28:18-20, by Johnmichael Poulin, missions coordinator for South America and South Africa. He emphasized that the Great Commission was given to the every New Testament church.

“Our doctrinal statement states that our mission is to evangelize sinners, and that mission was given to the local, autonomous New Testament Church,” Poulin said. “We are to come beside our other BMA churches and encourage each other to evangelize the world. Missions is our mission.”

“All these ministries, brotherhoods, WMA, sound literature—all exist to help the church to carry out the Great Commission,” Poulin said.

He said, “We are to partner with other local, autonomous churches, but I don’t see that the authority to carry out the Great Commission was given to every believer, in and of themselves. Her mission is to evangelize sinners by preaching the gospel, baptizing those who believe, and maturing them by instruction and discipline.”

“The Bible knows nothing of a Great Commission



▲ Johnmichael Poulin

PREACH THE WORD continued on p. 14

BY: Dr. John David Smith
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

THE GLUE OF OUR ASSOCIATION

The first value statement of BMA Global Missions states: Motivated by the Mission of God - The Mission of God is defined specifically as making God's glory and love known to the nations. This aspect of the nature of God expressed in the expansion of His kingdom (missions) to all peoples, it is the primary motivational piece in all that we do.

The Mission of God is that transcendent reality of His nature that is all about His love and glory to the nations. The eternal, triune God is both the source and the example of love and communication. He did not HAVE to create us in order to experience love and communication, He had that from eternity past within Himself (Trinity). He did choose to create, and He manifests His nature in love and communication to His creation in both word and deed. His redemptive plan, through His eternal Son Jesus Christ, was established before the foundation of the world because He is a gracious, merciful, and personal God . . . this is who He is . . . His nature.

He is also a God of perfect holiness, and we are thankful that he is a propitious God. At no point in eternity past or in space and time did God all of a sudden become a missionary God and begin to promote His mission. An element of His eternal nature is His mission.

We are motivated by the mission of God, which includes his glory to the nations,

his redemptive plan, and the ultimate destiny of all things (worship).

The Mission of God must be our identity, meaning it gives us our "why."

Why do we exist and why do we do the things we do? Mission! God's glory and love to the world provides us with our "what."

We are to go and proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness to all people groups, which gives us our "how."

We are to make disciple makers out of the unengaged, unreached, and undisciplined, which gives us our "where" and in this sense, where we are going in terms of ultimate destiny. Mission is all about the ultimate and eternal worship of God around his throne by the redeemed from every language, tongue, and nation.

The legitimacy of our association will be found in a synergistic cooperation to a unifying mission undergirded by like-minded beliefs and values under the watchful eye of biblical accountability. The glue of our association is our

commitment to the Mission of God. Synergistic cooperation, like-minded beliefs, values, and biblical accountability are all necessary, but the unifying mission is the strength and fuel of our association.

May God's love be known to the nations and may His name be famous among all peoples as we stay unrelentingly focused on the Mission of God, that part of His nature that defines us, directs us, and drives us as His people.



BY: Jonathan Montgomery
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

MOTIVATED TO CARE



BMA Missions and its missionaries and churches share one common goal: Make God's glory and love known to every tribe, tongue, and nation. It's the heart of our association and the focus of our first value statement:

We are motivated by the Mission of God.

Making him known to all peoples wherever they are in the world is our passion. Some live in far corners of the world in isolated villages where Jesus' name hasn't been heard. Others live in urban areas, planting churches that reach both local peoples and international expats with the gospel. Every missionary's ministry is different, but individuals and families serving the BMA share a zeal for proclaiming the good news.

Another shared characteristic is our caring support of missionaries as they navigate the good and bad days of ministry. The heart and focus of Missionary Care is to come alongside our missionaries with the aid, encouragement, and support necessary to carry out God's Mission.

Missionary Care also prepares, equips, and ministers to BMA missionaries so they can be fruitful in both life and ministry. This vital ministry exists to serve our missionaries as they serve others. We're invested in caring for their spiritual, physical, and emotional needs because they have invested in caring for the needs of others. Missions Executive Director Dr. John David Smith describes our care team as "missionary medics" to those serving on the front lines.

This ministry of care has made a difference in the lives of BMA missionaries since it began several years ago under the leadership of Jerry Kidd, a legacy missionary and former director. He was assisted by Sarah Hebert Hamilton whose experiences as a missionary to the Philippines burdened her to encourage missionaries. They coordinated several regional conferences for BMA missionaries to worship, fellowship, and encourage each other. Attendees still tell stories of their impact.

Conferences are a central part of Missionary Care's ministry efforts. A mini-conference was offered in the fall of 2020 to missionaries who were stateside and unable to return to their fields due to pandemic travel restrictions. An online soul care conference was produced at the Global Missions Center in Conway to be shared this spring with missionaries on the field. Using conferences to connect missionaries through worship and fellowship remains a goal of Missionary Care.

In addition, Missionary Care provides other essential services for our global workers like counseling, coaching, and prayer support. We offer assistance during each missionary's deputation period, departure, and furlough but also their permanent return to the States. During this reentry process, we offer debriefing and counseling to process their experiences and prepare for a healthy transition.

We are developing procedures to help missionary kids prepare for college during their senior years if they choose to return to America. If families have a specific need, we connect them with trained professionals. Whether it is helping with a vehicle during furlough or connecting them with a midwife to deliver their child in remote regions, we work hard to meet needs.

During the pandemic, BMA Missions provided a new level of care. A team was assembled to check on missionaries weekly and ensure their safety and well-being. An Asia-Pacific missionary heard from a missionary colleague serving with another sending agency that he felt alone during the pandemic because no one reached out. The BMA missionary shared that this was not the case for her family because Missions office personnel and churches remained in contact, making them feel loved and valued. Testimonials like this remind us that Missionary Care makes a difference in their ministries.

We are motivated to support and care for our missionaries who work tirelessly to proclaim the gospel and advance God's kingdom. They are passionate about making God's glory and love known to the world and the reason our churches are faithful to support, encourage, and pray for them.

May we all be motivated by God's mission.

mission:world

NEWS

OPEN DOORS AND CHURCH PLANTS

BY: Dr. Ralph Izard
BMMI Director
bmamissions.org

Baptist Medical Missions International is the humanitarian/benevolent arm of BMA Missions. The primary purpose of this ministry is to provide humanitarian aid or assistance for many nations of the world where care is needed because of economical, geographic, or disaster reasons.

BMMI is opening doors for BMA missionaries to plant new churches and make new disciples for Christ all around the world. Many churches and individuals partner with us to serve with missionaries. The main goal of BMMI is to assist pastors and missionaries in meeting people in their communities. Many people come out to a medical clinic to receive healthcare, but our prayer is that they leave with more than just a few pills. We want them to leave with hope, the kind that comes from knowing Christ.

During our clinics, local pastors and missionaries set up an evangelism station that each patient goes to as a part of our rotation. Here they are introduced to Christ, to the local pastor, and to the church.

Hear from BMA Missionaries Stan and Donna Scroggins about how BMMI has impacted their lives both as volunteers serving with medical missions and also as missionaries on the field:

“We always knew how important Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) was to the local people who received medical care through this ministry. Stan and I started traveling with BMMI back in the 1990s. As a nurse, I relished using my skills alongside doctors and other medical professionals to provide

care otherwise unreachable to the desperately poor around the world.

“Not until we began serving as full-time missionaries in the Philippines did I understand how important BMMI would be to us as BMAA international missionaries.

“Living in the Philippines has afforded us

opportunities to be part of teams in Vietnam and Cambodia, which opened doors for ministry, but it has been joining the teams in the Philippines that has meant the most.

“First it was in Northern Luzon where Missionary Fil Kakilala works with a ChangeMaker missionary planting a church. While part of that team we met an American Filipino who was born and raised on the island of Leyte. She asked us to check on her village of Tigbagwan in the mountains around the city of Maasin. That was four years ago, and now there is a vital mission church in that village.

“Then in 2019 a team came to work directly with us here in Talisay City, Philippines. Well, let me just say that is when the real impact of BMMI’s work became real to us. First, since we live in Talisay City we dreamed of starting a church in our little Jerusalem. BMMI set up a clinic right in our little village and guess what? That village captain is now such a good friend that he allows us to have complete freedom bringing the gospel to his people. This allowed us to take a group of students from BMA Bible College to do outreach there. It was during this time that the village captain accepted Christ and wanted his entire family to be saved also.

“Second, the BMMI team traveled to our mountain ministry in Ahgu to work with Missionary Church Planter Kevin Berayo. Because of this, Kevin has now started his third mission in that region.

“Not only does BMMI bless those desperately in need of medical care but also the hearts of missionaries. God uniquely places a love in the hearts of missionaries for the people He sends them to reach. That love for our dear Filipinos has been the biggest effect of the ministry of BMMI to us personally.

Nothing has brought us greater joy than hosting BMMI teams to love on our dear Filipinos.

“In a time when travel is so difficult, when countries are in lockdown, when funding is limited, BMMI still moves on, breaking down the hindering walls and bringing the love of Christ to all peoples of the world and to BMA missionaries as well.”

Stan and Donna Scroggins





MORE GROUNDBREAKING FOR LIFEWORD

BY: Donny Parrish
Lifeword
lifeword.org

Lifeword Executive Directors Harold Morris, A.R. Reddin, and Paul Bearfield, Sr. were incredible visionaries in their time, remaining on the cutting edge of technology throughout their tenures. Now deceased, they could hardly have imagined where that technology would take the media ministry.

Bro. George Reddin, who served as Lifeword executive director from 1986 to 2011, had the foresight to lead the association to purchase what is now the BMA Global Missions Center. His vision for the studio part of the building was a media production center for audio and video content. Instead, the area originally intended for video production was used as a warehouse for both BMA Missions and Lifeword.

Through the years, however, the world became increasingly video centric with more and more shows and other projects produced from a small

studio. In 2017 Lifeword moved into Internet ministry, which meant the introduction and production of video content plus a redesign of Lifeword's audio production studio to be used for video.

Thousands of video content hours were shot in that small production area. Millions of hours of Lifeword video content have been consumed on the Cloud and social media pages. As the need for video content increased, more studio space became increasingly important until finally there was no more production room.

Director of Operations Luis Ortega says, "It is humbling that the Lord allows Lifeword to come alongside the local church in making disciples of all nations and to play a role as 'the vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language' prepares to stand clothed in white robes in front of the throne before the Lamb."

After years of praying and planning, Lifeword recently broke ground for a warehouse at the back of its present facilities. After that project's completion, the ministry will reclaim the present warehouse facility for the purpose it was originally intended: a video production area. This studio expansion allows Lifeword four times more video production area and more gospel programming.

"What an exciting time for the ministry of Lifeword," Executive Director Donny Parrish says. "The expansion of our television suite will give us four to five times more production floor space than we have now. We need this room to produce more video content to reach more people, and at the same time, this will allow our sister ministry, BMMI, to have more room for shoebox efforts."

This expansion is a huge leap of faith for Lifeword. Please pray that God will provide the resources to complete this project and use the content produced to make His name more famous around the world!



Legacy missionaries honored

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

BMA Global Missions Center

Four missionary couples were recognized as the 2022 BMA Legacy Missionaries in a ceremony at the BMA National Meeting in Springfield, Missouri April 20. These missionaries dedicated their lives to global missions and have impacted countless others.

Dr. John and Mrs. Shirley Ladd served in Mexico for 57 years. The Ladds constructed the Good Samaritan Clinic in Aquismon, Mexico in 1978, and Dr. Ladd served as the medical director of the clinic until 2012. The clinic is still serving the people of Mexico today and is staffed by local medical personnel.



▲ John Shirley Ladd

Bro. Marvin and Mrs. Helen Loyd served throughout Nicaragua, Bolivia and Guatemala from 1966 until 1993. Their ministry included teaching school, volunteering in a medical clinic, assisting with church planting, flying supply planes to missionaries and locals, building a seminary, reaching primitive tribes and more.



▲ Marvin and Helen Loyd

In
Loving Memory



Bro. Dale and Mrs. Barbara Thornton served in Taiwan for 40 years. The Thorntons moved to Taiwan in 1961 and worked alongside Jack and Latrell Bateman planting churches and discipling believers. Although they faced multiple challenges, they remained faithful to God’s calling, and God continued to bless their ministry even after they returned from the field in 2001.



▲ Dale and Barbara Thorton

Bro. Don and Mrs. Linda Newsom served in the Philippines from 1978 until God called them home to Heaven. The Newsoms spent nearly half a century planting over 30 churches and caring for the children of their community. Mrs. Linda passed away in 2012, and Bro. Don in 2021, and they are both buried in the country that they loved so well.

During the ceremony, President of Global Missions John David Smith posed this question: “How will you outlive your life?” He shared that a legacy demands that we must live for things we are willing to die for, commit to others, and realize that we will not see the full effects of our efforts.

Smith stated, “In order to leave a legacy of eternal value after this life, we have to seek things of eternal value during this life.”

The Ladds, Loyds, Thorntons and Newsoms each leave a legacy in their respective fields as the Lord continues to work in the lives touched by these faithful men and women.

JOHN MICHAEL “MIKE” THORNHILL

John Michael “Mike” Thornhill, 77, of Desoto, entered into the presence of the Lord April 18, 2022. He surrendered to the gospel ministry at the young age of 16, graduated from South Oak Cliff High School in 1963 and Jacksonville College in 1966. Thornhill joined the United States Air Force and, soon after, married Donna Swain, his wife of 54 years. In addition to owning his own company and serving in law enforcement, he pastored the following churches: Sand Springs, Mineola; Salem, Marvell Arkansas; and First, Glenn Heights (1976-present). Thornhill also served as a trustee for Baptist Progress and with the BMA of America Enrollment and Finance Committee. Funeral Services were held at First, Glenn Heights, with interment with military honors following, in the Dallas/Fort Worth National Cemetery.



2022 BMA of America Meeting concludes in Springfield, Missouri cont.

the selection of annual meeting places to the BMAA director of conference ministries and his team as well as update the BMAA Statement of Principles of Cooperation were passed. Assigning the responsibility of meeting places to the director of conference ministries and his team will save the association thousands of dollars in the future as they have better connections and work with hotels on a regular basis.

The chairman of the coordinating council is the immediate past president of the BMAA. Jeff Swart, who has served in that position, announced that due to health reasons, he could no longer continue in that role. Therefore, another past BMAA president, Paul White, who serves as director of BMA of Arkansas State Missions, will assume that responsibility.

BMAA MISIONS

Dr. John David Smith reported that he has witnessed or been informed of scores of baptisms around the world. During a commissioning service at the conclusion of the annual meeting, new missionaries were introduced.

BMA SEMINARY FRIENDS DINNER

Each year at the annual BMAA Meeting, the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary hosts a BMA Seminary Friends Dinner. Also, each year, the Kellar Award, named for the late Dr. Gerald Kellar, who served every BMA educational institution as president and was instrumental in forming the Baptist Missionary Association of America, is awarded. At the 2022 dinner, Richard Smith, lead pastor of Farley Street, Waxahachie, was presented the award.



▲ Dr. Charley Holmes, president of BMA Seminary (right), presents Richard Smith (left), with the Kellar Award

ANNUAL SPEAKER

Buddy Johnson, longtime BMA missionary, was elected to bring the 2023 annual message. Dr. Gary O’Neal, pastor of Oak Park, Little Rock, Arkansas, was elected as the alternate.

FINAL ENROLLMENT AND FINANCE REPORT

The final enrollment and finance report showed that 178 churches were represented with 357 messengers and 167 visitors recorded. A total of \$6,575.00 was received for the Associational Fund.

2023 BMAA MEETING

The 2023 BMAA Meeting will be held at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas April 17-19, 2023.

Hispanic church—Mensajeros de la Verdad—finds a place to call home

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

Baptist Progress Correspondent

David and Letty Lopez, who have been members of Farley Street, Waxahachie for 25 years, had a burden to begin a Hispanic work. The burden came to fruition when the first public service was held Jan. 19, 2006, in one of the larger Sunday school classrooms in the old Farley Street location, and the Mensajeros de la Verdad Mission (Messengers of Truth) was born. In those



▲ **David and Letty Lopez**

beginning services, the congregation had Sunday school, and then moved chairs around to prepare for the worship service.

“The first family that came to us was Gustavo and Maria Rodriguez, and they are still with us,” said Letty. “Maria and the kids were the first ones that started coming and then later, Gustavo joined them and they’ve been with us since then—very faithful—we just love them.”

Due to the sudden and unexpected sale of the Farley Street property in 2006, the church moved to a temporary location as its new facilities were being constructed. The Hispanic congregation moved with them, but because of an issue with classrooms in the temporary facilities, the Hispanic group met for Sunday school and worship in the gymnasium of the Texas Baptist Home for Children until the first phase of Farley Street’s new Brown Street facility was completed in November 2008 and the mission resumed meeting in the new Farley Street facilities.

With a vision for Mensajeros de la Verdad Mission to someday have their own place to meet, Lopez was excited to learn that the former First, Bardwell property might be a possibility.

He said, “When I saw that the Bardwell church was available, I talked to Heith [Mitchell] and we went to see the church, and I liked it, and from that point, about three to four weeks, we were making our plans to move there.”

Their first service in the church was a praise and worship service held on Good Friday, April 22, 2022, from 7 p.m. until about 2 a.m. Their first official service was Sunday, May 1, 2022, with the majority of the congregation moving to the Bardwell location.

“We had between 30 and 35 people in attendance on the first Sunday, and there are more that are interested in coming,” Letty said, noting that several church members that have family in the Bardwell area said they had already contacted them and they want to come visit. “Bardwell has a lot of Hispanic population and we’ve got a lot of work to do out there.”

They have plans to do some much needed repairs on the building including leveling it, and doing other remodeling, both interior and exterior and getting ready for their grand opening.

Eddie Ballard, who had led the church for the past five years, shares his heart and the heart and emotions of the First Baptist Church as they have relinquished their property for the purpose of making way for a new church:



▲ **Mensajeros De La Verdad Congregation on their first Sunday at the Bardwell location**

“After more than 128 years of Bardwell Baptist Church (FBC) faithfully serving the Lord, the members brokenheartedly agreed that the time had come to stop meeting as a church. This church faithfully ministered to the Bardwell community from horse-and-buggy days to the day of space travel. One of my most precious memories was on the next to the last Sunday when I was privileged to baptize a young mother while her four-year-old son stood on the stage at the foot of the baptistry, surrounded by the faithful members of the church. It was a sad but uplifting final Sunday in the life of the church. The compelling contribution of Bardwell Baptist Church will live in the lives of those touched by the ministry of this precious church over this long and blessed history, and her influence will continue in the lives of the generations who follow. It was my privilege to be pastor of Bardwell Baptist Church for the faithful members who were there to the very end.”

Heith Mitchell, BMA Texas Missions Director, weighed in on the new church in Bardwell: “It’s been a joy for years to get to know all the senior adults that were over at FBC Bardwell—such sweet people,” Mitchell said. “They recognized that their community was becoming predominantly Spanish-speaking, there was no Spanish-speaking engagement and there was a need. They had told me for some time that they were going to leave their building to a Spanish-speaking church. So, it has been a joy for BMA Texas Missions to assist them in that and we are so thrilled to see Bro. David and the new church there in the new building and we just expect God to do amazing things. It’s always a joy to serve the Lord by serving His people.”

Lopez’ vision for the future is to reach all the community around Bardwell, Ennis, Avalon and Italy. They are planning to expand parking and make other necessary repairs to the building.

Lopez expresses his appreciation for all who helped in the start-up of Mensajeros de la Verdad.

“I want to give thanks to all the staff at Farley Street, Bro. Richard, and all the people who have been helping us all along,” he said. “There’s no word I can say to express my appreciation—we are very grateful.”

David, a native of Durango, Mexico, and Letty, a native of El Paso, have two grown daughters; Debbie, and Cyndi — and grandchildren, Zach, Alexandria, Benjamin and Ryan. Along with being a missionary-pastor, David drives an over-the-road truck.

Farley Street, which is no stranger to church planting, having provided property and first-phase building, planted Heritage, Waxahachie in 1986, in conjunction with the state missions department. Farley Street will continue to participate in the development of Iglesia Bautista Mensajeros de la Verdad by lending support and equipment. First, Desoto has donated a sound system to the new congregation, and Farley Street’s Gorginho Sousa, who is the media director and sound technician for Farley Street will install the sound system.

Bro. Richard Smith, who has been pastor of Farley Street Baptist Church for almost 30 years, expressed his excitement about the church acquiring their own facility.

“We are very excited to be planting this new church. Pastor David and his wife, Letty, have been members of our church for over 25 years,” said Smith. “Several years ago, David became burdened to begin a Hispanic ministry. The Lord has blessed and this past year they doubled in attendance. We hate to see this sweet group of people go, but we know God has great things in store for them.”

For further information of this new church, contact bmatexasmissions.org or farleystreet.com.

Auxiliaries

National WMA Conference held in Missouri

By **GLENDA CHAMBERLAIN**

The National Women's Missionary Auxiliary met in Springfield, Missouri April 19, 2022. The conference was held at Grandview Baptist Church in Springfield. Sharron Page, Missouri WMA President, gave a warm welcome to the ladies. She also thanked Grandview for opening their beautiful church for the conference. National WMA President Charlotte Johnson presided over the business portion of the meeting. Bettye Wilson opened the conference in prayer.

A medley of praise and worship songs were led by Judy Wallace, accompanied on the piano by Linda Strickland. Lisa Rust, GMA/YLA Promoter introduced Lydia Dunlap, the current National Miss GMA. Lydia read Acts 13:47 and introduced three creative methods to share the gospel to non-believers. Jessica Haden, recording secretary, read the officers recommendations.

We were blessed when Tammy Wood shared details about mission work in Ukraine. Tammy and Larry Wood are BMA Missionaries to Ukraine. She spoke of the three churches they were able to plant in their four years as missionaries, and stressed the importance of the churches being pastored by Ukrainian men. While the Wood's barely escaped Ukraine before the Russian invasion occurred, the Ukrainian Pastors are still there, serving their flock. Praise the Lord. The Wood's are ministering to refugees in the nations adjacent to Ukraine, they will soon return to this region. Brenda Hornaday, 1st vice president led in prayer for this ministry. A special offering was taken for Ukrainian Relief. \$5859 was raised in just a few minutes. Glory to God.

Beth Caldwell, Project Promoter, presented a video from the Darlene Carey Academy in the Philippines, in which they thanked the National WMA for their support. The video showed the on-going work that has been accomplished on the Academy, and also showed a large classroom, which is dedicated to the National WMA. An offering was received for the Darlene Carey Academy in the amount of \$1062, for a combined total of \$65,175 for the Academy. Charlotte Johnson presented the President's Award to Grandview Missionary Baptist Church as top contributor to the project. Mrs. Caldwell recognized the churches giving to the project with certificates. Thank you to everyone who gave to this worthy project.

Beth Caldwell introduced Bro. Jason Pruitt, director of Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment. Bro. Jason spoke of the current needs of the camp. The most pressing need is a new generator. He talked of the ministry the camp provides to youth, how they are totally immersed daily in a Godly atmosphere. Bro. Jason commented that over 30 young people were saved just last year. And of course,



▲ **2022-2023 National WMA Officers**

Godly seeds are planted and watered in our youth at the camp continually. Daniel Springs was selected as the project for the coming year with a goal set of \$66,000. Please send your donations to Treasurer Janet Widger, 5014 Hwy N, Salem, MO 65560.

Second Vice President Cindy Allen spoke of the theme, "Intentional". She introduced Barbie Reynolds who sang a beautiful special. Cindy then introduced Judy Biggers, keynote speaker. Judy read from Ephesians 5:15-16 and Nehemiah 1:1-11. She challenged us to be intentional as Nehemiah was intentional in his prayer, planning, purpose, priorities and praise. Jodi Rhea, Assistant Recording Secretary, gave the speaker the right hand of appreciation. Cindy Allen presented the theme for 2022-23 "Let Love Overflow" taken from 1 Thessalonians 3:12.

Cindy Allen installed the new slate of officers. Kelly Williams presented door prizes. Charlotte Johnson recognized ministers' wives, awarding each with a unique gift, with special music provided by Barbie Reynolds. Mrs. James Schenrock was the oldest minister's wife of 63 years, in attendance.

A delicious lunch was served to the ladies. Special guest Angelyn McMurray spoke during lunch about "We

Are Free," a special ministry that serves to rehabilitate women who have been subjected to human trafficking.

Following lunch, the ladies were treated to wonderful break-out sessions with "Intentional" as their theme: Faith Sharing by Kelly Johnson; Hospitality by Diana Morris; Discipleship by Mandi Townsend; Transformation by Judy Wallace.

The conference was well attended; approximately 175 people filled the church. There were 82 messengers present and many visitors, representing 77 churches across eight states.

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



Focus for BMAA 2022—Preach the Word cont.

being carried out devoid of local churches,” he said. “Every time we see these stories in the book of Acts who are they being written to?—local churches. The stories being told are members of local churches that are carrying out this Great Commission that God has given us.”

“What is the role of our association in the Great Commission? Our role is very simple—we come alongside local churches and we assist them in their missions endeavors. Our missionaries in the past, has historically understood this.”

He cites the book by beloved past pastor, BMA Seminary president and interstate missions director of the BMA, Dr. John W. Duggar. In his book, *The History of the BMA*, Dr. Duggar wrote, “One of the remarkable things about the BMA of America, from its inception was the prevailing harmony and good will among churches, ministers and laymen. They repeatedly said, ‘Missions is our mission.’”

“The reason the BMA exists is to help local churches take all the word to all the world,” said Poulin. “I think of the byproducts of our association—the fellowship among ourselves. I so enjoy coming to our national meeting to get to meet with friends I haven’t seen since the last national meeting, and to get to hear the reports, and that fellowship is sweet. I think about the fellowship in our brotherhood, the WMA and all of the other ministries we have in the BMA, but that fellowship is not why we exist. We have that fellowship so we can develop strong bonds to help sister churches in their missionary efforts.”

Poulin said included in the fellowship inside the BMA, is of us keeping ourselves pure doctrinally, via the schools and seminary, which exist to help our churches teach their pastors and members how to observe all things.

Poulin shared five truths concerning the mission of BMA churches as they take the gospel to the world:

The BMA does not have to be perfect to take all the word into all the world. He cites one of those imperfections as being different positions many of us have on certain interpretations of scripture, which are not specifically spelled out in the doctrinal statement.

The BMA is to take all the word to all the world, because the One Who has all the authority has told us to.

The BMA is to take all of gospel to all the world, and not just the message of salvation.

“Please don’t misunderstand me—the gospel message is the greatest message of all time. It is the message God uses to save us—but the One who has all authority has commanded us to do more than just preach the gospel—but to make disciples. [The Commission] does not say ‘make converts and leave them’ but to teach them all Christ has commanded us.”

The BMA is to take all the word to all the world, not just to those who look and act like us.

“The Great Commission tells us to go make disciples in all people groups.”

The BMA is not alone as we take all of the word to all of the world. “Behold I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Camp season will soon begin

By **JASON PREWITT**
Daniel Springs Camp Director

We are so excited about the summer camp schedule and all the great camps that are going to take place at Daniel Springs Camp in Gary.

Just a few highlights to take note of: Two camps have been added to the summer schedule—a student camp the first of June and a college age camp the end of July. You will also see that Pre-Teen Camp 1 and GMA National Camp have the

same dates. Yes, they are at the same time, but will be held on two different sides of the campus so that we can separate the two very distinct camps.

If you have any questions, please contact the office (903) 685-2433 or info@danielspringscamp.com. We are looking forward to hosting your group and see how God is going to change lives.

SUMMER
2022
update

Est. 1965
DANIEL SPRINGS

JUNE 6 - 9 STAND FIRM CAMP IN WEST TEXAS**

JUNE 12 - 15 STUDENT CAMP 1 (NEW THIS YEAR)

JUNE 15 - 18 GMA NATIONAL CAMP

JUNE 15 - 18 PRE-TEEN CAMP 1

JUNE 19 - 22 COMBO CAMP 1

JUNE 22 - 25 COMBO CAMP 2

JULY 6 - 9 PRE-TEEN CAMP 2

JULY 10 - 13 ARK-LA-TEX CAMP 1

JULY 13 - 16 ARK-LA-TEX CAMP 2

JULY 17 - 20 STUDENT CAMP 2

JULY 21 - 23 COLLEGE CAMP (NEW THIS YEAR)

Blessed Deceivers

By **JORDAN TEW**
Baptist Publishing House Executive Director

Is God faithful despite my sin? That’s a question we would all love to have answered, as none of us are sinless. The truth is that God is faithful to His people, even when they sin against Him. What a wonderful truth!

This summer’s quarter of the *Baptist Expositor* is titled, *Blessed Deceivers*, and will be an in-depth study of Genesis 24-36.

This unit is part three of four in our series on Genesis. It emphasizes a great deal of deception by Isaac, Jacob, Laban, Rachel, Simeon and Levi. Despite all their acts of deception; however, we particularly see Isaac and Jacob’s faith progressively increasing and God remaining faithful to His covenant promises.

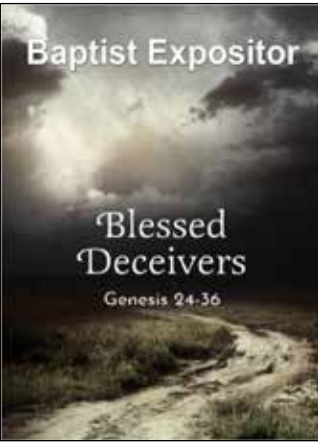
Through this study, you will see Isaac and Jacob’s

increasing faith and understand that God remains faithful to His covenant promises regardless of man’s deception and failures.

Dr. Philip Attebery, Bro. Ryan Burchett, Dr. David Hellwig and Bro. Jordan Tew wrote this study.

You may order it at baptistpublishinghouse.com and by calling 800-333-1442.

The summer quarter begins Sunday, June 5, 2022.



BMA Texas Missions cont.

**BICHITRANANDA SATPATHY—
INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST MISSION, FORT WORTH
BICHITRANANDA31@GMAIL.COM**

Psalm 67:1-2 is a psalm that calls us as believers in Christ to pray to God for His way and salvation to be known among all on earth. As a result, all people on earth may praise the Lord who deserves all glory and honor.



▲ Bichitrnananda Satpathy

Prayer Needs:

Pray for the salvation of the lost, boldness to share Christ and wisdom and patience to wait upon the Lord and His timing.

**ROBERT LEE—HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH IN
NORMANGEE REPLANT
BRO.ROBERT.F.LEE@GMAIL.COM**

God has been good to our church over the past month. I am excited to see the children's ministry continue to develop and am excited to see what opportunities we find to share the love of Christ during the upcoming summer months.



▲ Robert Lee

Prayer Needs:

Pray for God to send more laborers for us to reach our community.

Heith Mitchell is the director of BMA of Texas Missions. Contact him at P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, Texas 75168, 972-923-0757 or hmittell@bmatexas.org. For more information, visit www.bmatexasmissions.org.



EVENTS

PERSONNEL & positions

2022 SOAR STUDENT CONFERENCE

DATE: June 29-July 1, 2022
PLACE: Hilton Anatole Hotel, Dallas

2022 RE:CHARGE LEADERS OASIS

To be decided

2022 BMA OF TEXAS MEETING

DATE: Nov. 7-8, 2022
PLACE: First Baptist Church, Livingston

2022 NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

DATE: Nov. 15-17, 2022
PLACE: Chateau on the Lake, Branson, Missouri

JUST IN TIME FOR CAMP

SEASON: 32 passenger International StarCraft diesel, 16,144 miles, one owner, Reclining seats, overhead storage, auto transmission, like new. Call Phil at 903-641-7275, FBC, Keren, Texas.



AVAILABLE POSITIONS

YOUTH PASTOR—First, Carthage is seeking a full-time youth pastor who will provide leadership and oversee all aspects of the student ministry. Email resumes to James McRight at james@firstbaptistcarthage.com.

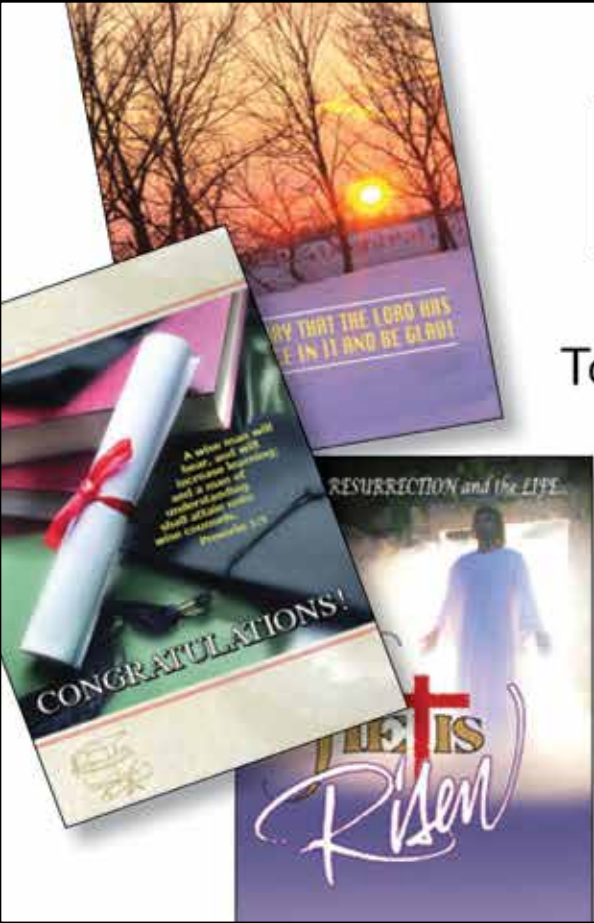
PASTOR OF YOUTH & MISSIONS—Keltys First, Lufkin is seeking a pastor of youth and missions. Salary range: No less than \$50,000, not to exceed \$60,000. Objective: Oversee the church's youth and outreach ministries. Send resume with references and a sample of your preaching to dave@keltys.org. For complete Job Description Details: Please go to: keltys.org/Youthpastor.

PASTOR—Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden is seeking pastor. Send resume to pr2bcsec@gmail.com or mail to Pilgrim Rest #2 Baptist Church, P.O. Box 99, Golden, Texas 75444. 6/22

YOUTH/STUDENT MINISTRY—Afton Grove, Jacksonville is seeking a biblically qualified candidate. This is a bivocational position. We are looking for a minister with a heart for God, a heart for students and who is ready to plunge into the work. The candidate will love the Lord and love and lead our students in a growing relationship with Jesus. Please send your resume to Eddie Richardson at fasteddie999elr@gmail.com.

PASTOR—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a pastor. Send resume to 148jimmysealy@gmail.com or to FMBC, Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346. TFN

**If you are aware of pastor and staff changes, please notify us by emailing editor@baptistprogress.org*



Every Sunday Bulletin Service

To order bulletins from *Baptist Progress*, contact us at 972-923-0756 or visit www.baptistprogress.org. You may also email editor@baptistprogress.org for more information.

Baptist Progress



Did you know that the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas has its very own loan association?

The Baptist Missionary Loan Association (BMLA) provides loans for new construction, remodel projects and property purchases.

To qualify for a loan, your church must be associated with the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas or the Baptist Missionary Association of America, as we provide loans all over the Lone Star State and throughout the United States.

Visit bmla.org and click "Apply Now" to download an application.

For more information, contact 972-923-0758 or email Director Jerry Fulton at jerry@bmatexas.org.

Are You Protected Against Potential Hackers?

Prepare for the possibility of a data security breach! Websites are sometimes targets for malicious programs, computer viruses, and hackers, especially if personal and financial information is collected from visitors. If your ministry operates a website and you collect information from visitors, find out how American Church Group of Texas can help protect you.

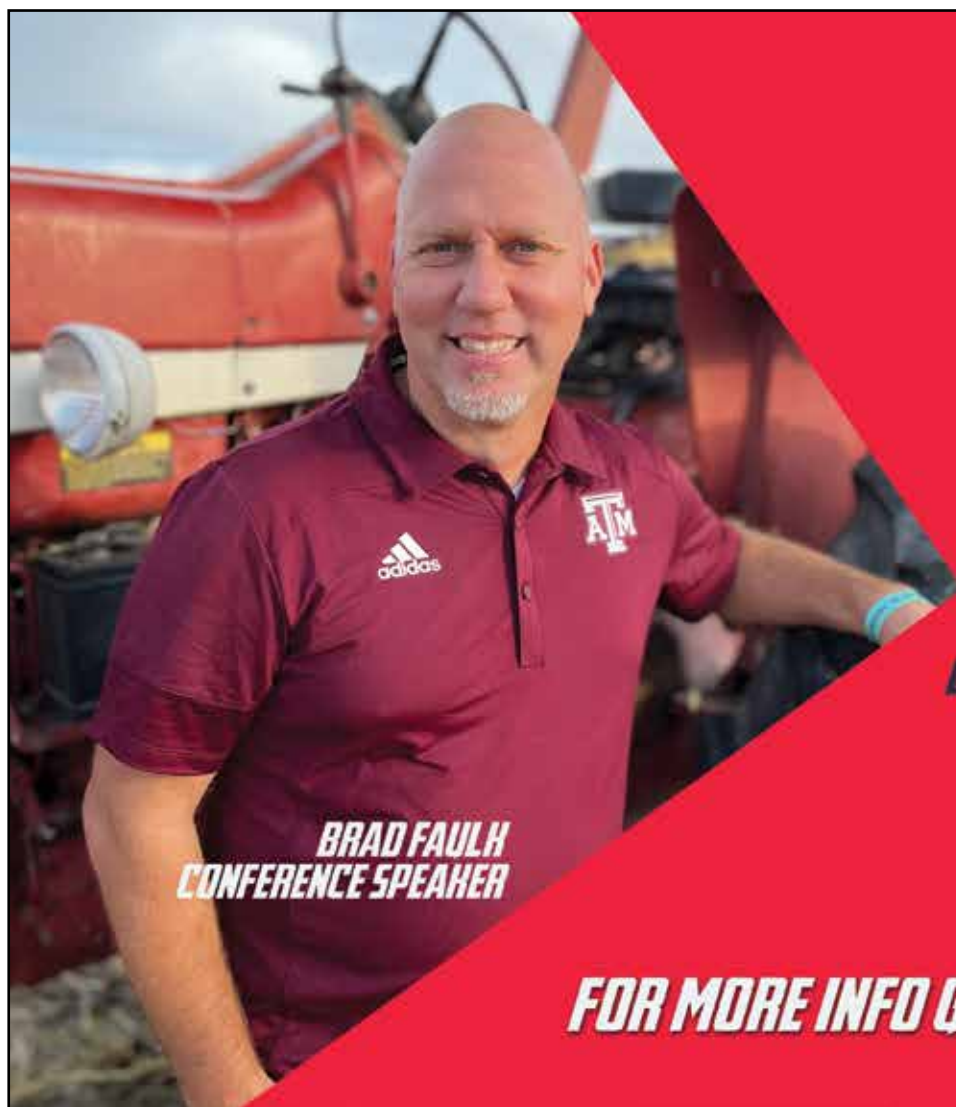
To learn more, speak with your local agent.

**Contact American Church Group of Texas today.
Call 844.400.2248 or visit AmericanChurchGroup-Texas.com.**

Proudly serving the BMA of Texas



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CONFERENCE SPEAKER**

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LOWERED PRICE THIS YEAR

**100.00 PER PERSON
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**125.00 PER PERSON
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