

Baptist Progress

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DiscipleGuide Names Jason Prewitt to Head Up Camp Ministries

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

Baptist Progress Correspondent

The trustees of the Daniel Springs Encampment, Gary, are thrilled to announce Jason Prewitt of Waxahachie, as the “Camp Director in Waiting.”

Prewitt, 39, a native of Midlothian, Texas, was born in Little Rock, Ark. to James and Sue Prewitt, and is the youngest of four siblings.

He tells of his conversion experience in Midlothian as a child.

“While attending First Baptist Church of Midlothian at the age of 9, I came to a place in my life where I knew I was a sinner and that without accepting the free gift of the saving grace of Jesus Christ, I would die and go to hell,” he said. “I accepted Christ as my Savior, but it became a life change when I was 18 and I committed to be a follower of Christ.”

The majority of Prewitt’s childhood was spent in Calvary Baptist Church, Midlothian, where he was called on to help with the youth ministry in interim periods when the church did not have a youth director. He recognizes this experience as being moved into a position to hear the voice of God calling him into some type of vocational ministry.

“It was a few years later, we were attending the Dawson McAllister Youth Conference in Fort Worth when I responded to the Lord calling me into ministry,” Prewitt said, noting that the calling allowed him opportunities to serve in music, children’s and student ministries.

In addition to his experience at his home church in Midlothian, Prewitt served as music-youth minister in First, Ferris and Rivercrest, Allen. In 2004, Farley Street, Waxahachie called him to serve as student pastor, a position he has held until the present—almost 11 years. He ministered to more than 60 youth at Farley Street, and this was during two different re-locations of the church.

His work in youth ministry connected him with the ministry of

Daniel Springs, and through those years, Prewitt took groups of youth to church camp, and headed up several volunteer groups to travel to Gary and help in repair work of some of the facilities.

“I have truly come to love the camp, not only because of what she’s meant to me but for the way the ministry of the camp has touched so many lives,” Prewitt said. “And the vision of past and current leadership of the camp has brought it to where it is today.”

Having acquired experience in construction, Prewitt comes to the camp uniquely qualified, having worked in maintenance at Lovejoy ISD, and in working with his Dad and brother, he picked up some experience in laying carpet, hardwood floors, and welding and is known around Farley Street as having the ability to “fix things.”

Jason and his wife, Jessica, have three sons; Jacob, 9; Jonas, 7, and Judson, 2. Jessica holds a bachelor’s degree in social work from Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, and has served in the Texas Baptist Home for Children for 10 years and as Foster Care Director since 2009. She has a heart for families, which drives her to help and lead others.

In his spare time, Jason loves to hunt, fish, to work around the house and keep up with the three boys.

Twenty acres of property was given by Dr. and Mrs. Z.L. Daniels of Gary in 1952. In 1958, the very first concrete-block cabin was built by Bro. Ottis Reddin. Since that time, other cabins were built by individuals and churches, and in 1963, under the leadership of Bro. Earl Moore of Carthage, some local encampments met at the new facility, and in the summer of 1965, the first National Encampment was held in early August.

Eugene Gauntt was named the first full-time camp director in late 1966, and served in the position until 1979. James Speer accepted the work in 1980, and served the national association in



the camp ministry for almost 35 years. Through the years, many upgrades have been made to the facilities including enclosing and air-conditioning the tabernacle and cafeteria as well as most cabins. Throughout Speer’s ministry, several lodge type buildings have been erected.

Speer will retire from the camp ministry effective Dec. 31, 2014 at which time Prewitt will assume the role of Camp Director. Speer plans to remain in the Carthage area where he and his wife Barbara are faithful members of First Baptist Church.

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Mission Life

Good Environmental Growth

By JERRY BURNAMAN

Pastors and church leaders talk a great deal about growth: personal growth and ministry growth. **Growth thrives in a favorable environment.**

The season of spring got its name from nature's sudden display of growth. The word "spring" literally means to leap, burst forth, or fly up. When conditions are right—warmer temperatures, longer days, and more sunlight—grasses and flowers seem to spring up from the ground overnight. However, in the wrong environment, where there's inadequate rainfall or freezing temperatures are unfavorable conditions for growth.

It is essential to be in the right environment to grow to our full potential. We grow the most when we surround ourselves with people and opportunities provide avenues for development.

What does good growth environment look like?

1. A place where others are ahead of us. Seek to spend time with people who are smarter, faster, and more successful than you are. If you're always at the head of the class, then you're probably in the wrong class.

2. A place where I'm continually challenged. A good growth environment puts pressure on us to improve. If our daily work is too easy or comfortable, then we shortchange ourselves and stunt our development. It's healthy to be in over your head from time to time because it forces you to swim and grow stronger as a result. Yet,

while being out of your comfort zone challenges you to swim, being out of your strength zone causes you to drown. Ideally, you want to be in a place that pushes you to sharpen your strengths, but not one that expects you to perform well in areas where you have no natural ability.

3. A place where my focus is totally forward. Some leaders attempt to preserve yesterday instead of changing tomorrow; their definition of progress is to walk backwards slowly. They impede the growth of their people. On the other hand, influential leaders inspire their people to grow and transform the future.

"Our goal is progress, not perfection

The past is past, forget it

The future is our hope, reach for it."

4. A place where the atmosphere is affirming. Encouragement is like oxygen to the soul, and everyone needs it. Search out environments where people cheer one another on to greatness.

5. A place where I wake up excited. Do you dread going to work or do you look forward to it? Gravitate toward environments that tap into your passion. When you find them, no one has to provide you with motivation because you're already inwardly energized to do your job.

6. A place where failure is not my enemy. It's difficult to develop in an environment where you are not

free to fail. The best growth atmospheres reward risk-taking and daring, and mistakes are accepted as a natural part of life. In them, failure is viewed as a stepping-stone to success instead of a source of shame.

7. A place where others are growing. Just as a group of long-distance runners tend to push one another to maintain a fast pace, a team of people who prioritize personal growth spur one another to keep getting better.

Is your current environment conducive to growth? If not, pastor and church leaders should get together and talk about why there is no environment for growth. Have a brainstorm session and develop ideas for individual growth and church growth. Present the ideas to your people, ask them to pray with you, and constantly remind the people that God does not expect us to stand still but to move forward. In time you will create an environment for growth.

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



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Texas Baptist Home for Children

Two different views



By **EDDIE MARSH**

Sunday morning three young men went forward during the invitation to make public professions of faith. Two of them live in one of our cottages. The other is son of our youth director whose wife works for Texas Baptist Home for Children. All three were influenced by someone who has connections to this ministry.

Any administrator of a residential child-care facility will tell you that there are many types of people who seek employment that allows them to work with families and children. Some people stay and obviously others do not. There are probably many reasons for this. A person graduates from college and is in need of employment. Therefore he or she will take any job available.

Working at the Baptist Home provides the opportunity to get some experience and allow them to go to a better paying job. These people normally do a good job while they are on staff but they feel no real loyalty to the agency. They will never end a year with unused sick days, vacation days, or comp-time.

Then there is another group of individuals. These are few and far between. They see the job from a totally different perspective. They view working at the Baptist Home as an opportunity to be used of God to change the life of a boy or girl. This is not just a job; it is a ministry, their ministry. The task of working with abused and neglected children is stressful. They gain their motivation from God who works through them to accomplish His work. Their goal is to make Him real in the lives of children and teens that have lost confidence in adults.

One such couple is Chris and Sandy St Clair. This couple began as relief parents, but when the time came for permanent house parents in the Palmer Cottage, they were approached about filling the position. After much prayer and consideration

they accepted the position.

Some of you have heard, through reports that were given at your church or association meeting, of the lady who is so effective in leading children to repentance through Jesus Christ.

The cottage attends Farley Street, Waxahachie. A common sight is to see Sandy walking down the aisle with one of her kids who needs counseling or who is putting their trust in the Lord. Many times the decision was made at home (the cottage) and they are simply making it public.

Yes, they see their position as a ministry. Two mothers, one biological, the other a foster mother, accompanies their boys to the front of the church to make the most important decision of their lives. We are all blessed that their ministry is through Texas Baptist Home for Children.

As you fill your Change for Children cans or give your financial gifts to the Home, rest assured that there will be more stories like this one. We love to share them.

Eddie Marsh is president of the Texas Baptist Home for Children in Waxahachie, Tex. Contact him at emarsh@tbhc.org or 972-937-1321. You may also visit the TBHC website, 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 capital letters are those honored or remembered from April 1, 2014 – April 30, 2014.

ENDOWMENTS

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

MYRA STOKES: Mr. Bill Stokes

HONORARIUMS

PASTOR DAVID & NELDA HASKINS: Mr. & Mrs. Roy Talbot

BILLIE MABRY-LONG: Patsy Webb

CHRISTINE MITHCEL: Harold & Kathi Huffman

TBH STAFF & CHILDREN: Earlene Crenshaw

MEMORIALS

RANDY BALLEW: Rosewood Baptist Church

WALTER BECKER: Dennis & Ilona Myrice

JESSE BELL: Annette's Fraternal Merchandise

LARRY BOBO: Gay Lazarine Thomas

ALLEN BRENT BRYAN: New Hope Baptist Church

JACK CAVENDER: Calvary Baptist Church

SHIRLEY COTTINGIN : Red Springs Missionary Baptist Church

CAROLYN DAVIS: Jimmy & Carla Shipp

ALYSSA DENNIS: Mrs. Dolores Taylor

CECIL DOWNEY: Carlie Downey

ROLAND ELMS: Jimmy & Carla Shipp, Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

HELEN FARISH: Earlene Crenshaw, Dorcas Berean Ruth Class from First Baptist Church, Blooming Grove

RALPH FUGUA: Calvary Baptist Church

MR. GARZA: Allen & Holly Cousins given by Effie York & Family

TED GIPSON: Tommy & Virginia Gipson, Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

MIKE KIRKPATRICK: Bethel Baptist Church

JACKIE KLUZE: Connie Duncan

JAMES MCDONALD: Calvary Baptist Church

DAKOTA MCELHANEY: Jerry & Linda Richardson

SCOTTY MCMINN: Jack & Faye Higgins

KATY MURIHEAD: Betty Stevens

VELMA MURPHREY: Glee Hutson, Mrs. Daisy Parker

BARBARA CURBOW PETERSON: Leon & Katy Engle

CATHERINE RIST: Temple Baptist Church

MILDRED ROSE: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson, Rosewood Baptist Church

VIVIAN THOMAS: Central Baptist Church

BRO. GILFORD VAUGHN: Mr. & Mrs. Andy McCuiston



www.bmatexas.org

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Thank you Dorothy "Nana" Rogers

Unless you are familiar with the ministry and employees of the Texas Baptist Home for Children (TBHC), you probably have never heard her name, but if you ever met her, you would never forget her. For two years, I was blessed to work at TBHC. During my time there, I met a special, happy, little lady named Dorothy Rogers. Most just called her "Nana." "Nana" was the mother of then TBHC president Alan Rogers. She was employed at the Home for 42 years. Her job was to drive the children who lived at TBHC to the store for clothes, as well as to the doctor and dentist. "Nana" called everyone "Darlin'." Her love for others was unconditional. Children who had never been blessed with a grandmother figure certainly found one in "Nana." Only Heaven knows how many lives she touched and pointed to Jesus. In recent weeks "Nana" became very ill. Just days ago, I visited with her in the hospital. She said, "Jerry, I've been real sick, but everything is going to get better." Well, "Nana" was right, because a few days after my final visit with her this side of Heaven, the Lord called her home to be with Him. Everything is better now than it has ever been for "Nana." In fact, all is well! Although "Nana" served her Lord in quiet anonymity here on earth, I am sure her name is famous in Heaven. Thank you "Nana" for being a blessing to the lives of the helpless, hopeless, hurting and rejected. Your passing has left a hole in the hearts of those of us who knew you. So, until we join you in our Father's House, goodnight. We'll meet you in the morning!

official publication of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas. Churches, Sunday school classes, auxiliaries and individuals are asked to give \$102 for 100 years of ministry to *Baptist Progress*. Help us keep publishing the good news of what the Lord is doing through the BMA of Texas! Send offerings to Baptist Progress, P.O. Box 2085, Waxahachie, Texas 75168. Mark your check "Anniversary Offering." We will publish a list of those who gave in a future issue of *Baptist Progress*.



▲ Jerry Fulton

Editor's schedule

Sunday, July 6 & Monday, July 7, 2014 @ TBA Revival @ Little Flock, Jewett
I will be preaching both nights.

Tuesday, July 22, 2014 @ 6 p.m.
Smith County District Brotherhood & WMA Meeting @ Omen, Arp
I will sing a few songs, speak about the ministries of the BMA of Texas and preach a brief message.

Saturday, Oct. 11, 2014 @ 1 p.m.
Harmony Baptist Association Annual Meeting @ First Missionary, Cleburne
I will sing and preach the annual message.
To invite the editor to sing, speak or preach at your church, email him at editor@baptistprogress.org.

High school graduates

If your church has members who will be graduating from high school this year, please email a list of their names to editor@baptistprogress.org by May 26 at 5 p.m. for publication in our June 4 issue. We only publish the names of high school graduates.

Anniversary offering for Baptist Progress

Later this year, *Baptist Progress* will celebrate 102 years as the



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EVENTS

MAY 15, 2014

BMMI Rally
@ Willow Oak, Gilmer

JUNE 1, 2014

90th Anniversary Celebration
@ First Missionary, Morton
Former pastor Bob Baldree, guest speaker
11 a.m.

JUNE 17-20, 2014

National GMA Retreat
@Daniel Springs Camp
Gary, Texas

JULY 22, 2014

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

AUGUST 14, 2014

Lifeword Media Ministries Rally
@ Woodland, Gilmer

APRIL 27, 2014

100 Year Anniversary
@ First, Maydelle
11 a.m.

OCTOBER 13-14, 2014

Annual Liberty Baptist Association
@ Little Mound, Big Sandy

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2014

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

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

House Parents— Texas Baptist Home for Children is looking for a married Christian couple who are interested in making a difference in the lives of foster children. Our relief house parents provide loving care for boys and girls ages 8-18. Relief house parents work with the primary house parents to supervise each child's personal care, positive emotional development, general health and safety, educational progress and work with other members of the child care team. This position requires a high school diploma or equivalency. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age. Full benefits and housing are provided. Please apply if you have a willing, ministry outlook. We are a Christian ministry and not simply a child care agency. Please send resume or questions to k Saunders@tbhc.org.

Youth—Calvary, Jacksonville is seeking a bivocational youth pastor. Contact Michael Mathis at mathi1314@gmail.com or call 903-625-0776.

Pastor—First, Beckville is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to Mike Johnson, P.O. Box 329, Beckville, Texas 75631 or pycno1@windstream.net, or call 903-265-2338.

Pastor—Grace Missionary, Tacoma, Wash. is seeking a pastor. Contact Deacon Terry Holcombe at 253-973-7526 for information or send resume to Grace MBC, 7615 A Street, Tacoma, WA 98408.

Interim Pastor—Interim Pastor needed: Centerville, Texas (Centerview Community) at 8097 FM 811. Contact Bro. AC Hoyt at 903-536-2616 for information.

Youth—Farley Street, Waxahachie is receiving resumes for the position of full-time student ministry pastor. Send resume to resume@farleystreet.com.

Youth—Calvary, Jacksonville is seeking a bivocational youth pastor. Contact Pastor Michael Mathis at mathi1314@gmail.com or 903-625-0776.

Music—Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden is seeking a bivocational music minister. Send resume to Attn: Pastor Craig Kearby, P.O. Box 99, Golden, Texas 75444 or pilgrimresttwo@gmail.com or call 903-768-2653.

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 fbnewcaney@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.

PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

Jared Turner is the new youth pastor at Soda, Livingston.

CHURCHES IN REVIEW

MAY 4, 2014

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	85	114	1 By Letter
Bethel, Groesbeck	28	38	
Cedar Creek, Teague	13	23	
Elwood, Wills Point	16	43	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	403	461	
First, Blooming Grove	211		
First, New Summerfield	37	43	
First, Palmer	36	56	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	16	43	
Harvest, Lufkin	20	25	
Jackson, Joaquin	73	124	
Little Flock, Lufkin		22	
Little Mound, Big Sandy		65	1 By Letter
Long Creek, Sunnyvale	70	81	
New Harmony, Tyler	253	290	
New Haven, Dallas	30	67	1 By Statement
New Hope, Mineola	70	127	
Pine Brook, Tyler	28	74	1 By Baptism
Rosewood, Gilmer	109	173	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	65	82	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	14	25	
Temple, Mexia	30	49	
Tundra, Canton	83	115	

MAY 11, 2014

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	77	141	
Bethel, Groesbeck	36	46	
Cedar Creek, Teague	14	30	
Elwood, Wills Point	12	41	
First, Blooming Grove	200		3 By Letter
First, New Summerfield	33	57	
First, Palmer	44	66	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	26	60	
Harvest, Lufkin	20	25	
Jackson, Joaquin	57	98	
Little Flock, Lufkin		18	
Long Creek, Sunnyvale	65	83	
New Harmony, Tyler	293	398	2 By Statement
New Haven, Dallas	28	73	1 By Statement
New Hope, Mineola	66	135	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	46	50	1 By Letter
Pine Brook, Tyler	45	89	
Rosewood, Gilmer	112	166	
Temple, Mexia	37	69	
Tundra, Canton	103	140	
Woodland, Splendora	40	95	1 By Baptism

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

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Unified Spirit, optimism characterizes 65th Annual BMA Association

By PAUL GAUNTT

Baptist Progress Correspondent

The term “new winds blowing” was heard throughout the 65th Annual BMA Associational Meeting held from Monday-Wednesday, April 28-30, in the Statehouse Convention Center in downtown Little Rock, Ark.

President Ed Stephenson sounded the gavel, at 7 p.m., Monday, April 28 signaling the presentation of encouraging reports, addition of new church planters and other personnel, vision casting and spirit-filled preaching of the Word.

Another buzz word, “synergy,” was often used as a reference to suggest that more can be accomplished together than apart, and the national departmental leaders are working feverishly to ensure that happens.

The Coordinating Council of the BMA of America, recommended that the Lifeword Foundation name be changed to the BMAA Foundation with Lifeword Foundation board approving the change. According to the recommendations booklet, the Foundation exists to endow participating departments and agencies of the BMA of America with supplemental funding by investing gifts to the Foundation and distributing earnings annually. It is a repository for the endowment of funds invested to produce ongoing support for those ministries.

Charles Attebery of Conway, was approved as interim executive director of the Foundation, serving on a part-time basis.

Lifeword Media Ministries announced that their operations will concentrate on three major thrusts: (1) To maintain and strengthen broadcast operations around the world and continue strategic expansion of gospel programming into new languages and additional programs. (2) To continue to take an active role alongside BMA Missions in initiating new indigenous leadership development strategies worldwide both in church plants and media development; and (3) to help indigenous BMA churches discover and utilize media tools within their reach in order to share the gospel in their own culture.

“We have had a moratorium on expanding into new languages for the past few years in order to stabilize and strengthen the work,” said Rick Russell of Lifeword. “But now we plan to resume expanding into some new languages.”

Lifeword recommended that the 35th annual Walk for the World be held Oct. 15, 2014. Steve Crawley was re-elected as executive director of Lifeword.

DiscipleGuide Church Resources, under the leadership of Scott Attebery, announced

that two long-term “men of distinction” who have served within the framework of DCR, would be retiring: Charles Reddin, who served as editor of publications for the past 42 years, is retiring; and James Speer is retiring after serving as director of Daniel Springs Encampment, Gary, for the past 34 years. DCR announced that Jason Prewitt, of Waxahachie, has been tapped to succeed Speer at the camp. Prewitt has served for 10 years as student pastor of Farley Street, Waxahachie, and is scheduled to begin his duties with the camp later in the summer after wrapping up some scheduled mission trips already planned at his church.

Attebery announced that a re-publishing of the late Dr. E. Harold Henderson’s works on “What We Believe,” would be made available to the churches educational ministries.

In continued efforts to synergistically integrate the national work, DCR announced the relocation of the Publications Department from Texarkana to Conway.

A motion was made and seconded in the Tuesday afternoon session, to give a four month severance package to the personnel of the Texarkana office who remained through April to tie up loose ends. The motion carried.

Attebery urged the association to continue ordering materials from DiscipleGuide.

“Who knows? This may be the turning point that allows us to provide new resources that we’ve dreamed of, but we need (the association’s) support to do so.”

Department of Missions recommended missionaries/church planters as follows: Jamshed Hadyat, as North American church planter in the Chicagoland area at a stipend of \$2000 per month; Trevor Dodson, associate missionary to work with Ali Chambers in Memphis, Tenn. at a stipend of \$2000 per month; B.J. Sanders as an international missionary to Papau, New Guinea; Anders Lee as North American church planter to DeSoto County, Miss.; A change of roles for Buddy Johnson, to become training coordinator for International Missions, and that he move to a regularly



▲ Charley Holmes

funded missionary salary and be allowed to use 40 percent of finances he raises for trips he takes; That Michel Porer be allowed to make more frequent trips to Haiti to help with new church plants and do more fundraising for Haiti; Recommend the election of Justin Burdick as Associate North American Church Planter to work with Anders Lee in Southaven, Miss. at a stipend of \$1000 per month; That the Missions Office become part of an LLC (Limited Liability Corporation) for shared ownership of the Conway campus and for classifying shared employees; Recommend a change of fields for international missionary Fil Kakilala from Hawaii to the Philippines; Recommend a change of status for Prashant Prakash from National missionary to American missionary status; Recommend a status change for Sarah Hebert Hamilton from Philippines to Missionary Care; Recommend that the salary of Ashraf Sara be the same instead of reducing his salary after three years, but this salary would be examined annually;

Recommend the pilot church planting program in Colorado; Recommend a change in the BMAA Principles of Cooperation (Coordinating Council, 2005) Article VII, D, to say “Department of Missions; Annually, this association shall elect an Executive Director of the Association or Missionary Committee, who will work together in the promotion of missions and in the distribution according to the will of the churches, of all funds submitted to them;” Recommend all directors’ housing allowances be set at \$24,000 for 2014. Dr. John David Smith was reelected as Executive Director of Missions.

BMA Theological Seminary trustees recommended that May 18, 2014 be set as Graduation Sunday with (a) special prayer for graduates; and (b) for churches to receive a special scholarship offering to support the training of future BMA pastors and missionaries on that Sunday.

The Seminary’s annual friend’s dinner was held Tuesday evening in the Marriott Hotel, and honored Dr. Joel Slayton with the 11th Gerald Kellar Achievement Award. Slayton is chairman of the Bible Department

for Central Baptist College, Conway, and has served the college in various capacities for the past 37 years.

Dr. Scott Attebery will deliver the commencement address at the BMA Seminary at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 17, in the W.J. Dorman Chapel at the Seminary.

Ministers Resource Services led by Bro. Ron Chesser, executive director, is the BMA retirement program for all pastors, missionaries and church staff of the BMA. Chesser announced that BMA retirement has averaged 8.03 percent interest for the past 11 years. The department recommended that each church enroll her pastor into the program and to include the department in their regular budgets. Chesser called for a moment of silent prayer for the families of 22 members of the Ministers Benevolent Society and Auxiliary who passed away during 2013.

Final report from the enrollment committee was 254 churches represented by messenger, 517 messengers, 128 visitors, and offering \$5175.00.



▲ Steve Crawley



▲ Scott Attebery



▲ Central Baptist College Choir sang Wednesday evening



▲ Dr. Charley Holmes (right) presents the Gerald D. Kellar Award to Dr. Joel Slayton, chairman of the Bible Department at Central Baptist College, during the annual BMA Seminary Friends Dinner

Missions director says discipleship trumps decisions everyday

By PAUL GAUNTT
Baptist Progress Correspondent

In his Tuesday morning address during the BMAA held in Little Rock last week, Dr. John David Smith, executive director of missions, urged the association to think “multiplication” rather than “additions.” He assured the body that this would be the philosophy of the missions program. He used, as a backdrop of his message, Colossians 4, citing the components involved in a multiplication movement. He explained the movement in three perspectives—the **view from 30,000 feet**, noting that Jesus poured His life into 12 disciples, who eventually multiplied themselves. Paul had at least 120 disciples, during his 20-year ministry, who, in turn, multiplied themselves.

Next, Smith mentioned “**the view across the street**,” in which he said a portion of multiplication also involves smaller scale personal discipleship, such as Paul’s ministry to run-away slave Onesimus, whom Paul won to Christ in prison.

“Tradition tells us that Onesimus eventually became a leader in the church, and possibly became the pastor of Ephesus,” Smith said.

Paul also trained men like Tychicus, Aristarchus and Epaphras, which highlights the importance of one-on-one discipleship as opposed to reaching the masses.

“The Bible never tells us to count decisions, but to make disciples,” Smith said, emphasizing the fact God’s Kingdom is multiplying in virtually every nation in the world with the exception of the United States, and he cited some possible factors.

“Could it be that because we’re so concerned

with our own comfort and safety, that this could be why we multiply less than other nations around the world?” he asked.

“If we’ve outsourced our mission work to Conway, Laurel or Waxahachie, we’re not being pragmatic.”

Smith’s third point in his address was “**the view in the mirror**” suggesting that tradition and heritage do not necessarily spell success in multiplication.

“Godly origins do not guarantee continued Godly purposes and keep us connected to the mission of God,” he said. “Cultural expressions of our faith should never be elevated to the level of our theology. We sometimes let that stuff take the place of our relationship with God.”

Smith declared that multiplication trumps additions every day.

He also said the mission of God is not relegated to a church’s “vanity list,” citing church plants, furnishings, and programs.

“Wouldn’t it be amazing if we met back here in 10 years, and the vast majority of our churches were less than 10 years old?” Smith asked.



▲ John David Smith



BMA Seminary’s Fifty-Seventh Commencement

By DR. PHILIP ATTEBERY
BMA Theological Seminary Dean

The Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary will hold its 2014 commencement exercises in the seminary’s Dorman Memorial Chapel, at 2 p.m., on Saturday, May 17, 2014. BMA Seminary is located at 1530 East Pine Street in Jacksonville. The event is open to the public.

This year’s graduating class will be the seminary’s fifty-seventh. Graduates will receive Associate, Bachelor and Master’s degrees during the ceremony.

Dr. Scott Attebery, executive director of DiscipleGuide Church Resources, will deliver the commencement address. Attebery, originally from Jacksonville, earned a Bachelor of Science in Bible from Central Baptist College of Conway, Ark.; a Master of Divinity from the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary; and a Doctor of Ministry from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary of Roxbury, Massachusetts. He completed a doctoral project entitled, *Disciples for life: Maximizing explicit discipleship training to create life-long learners of Christ*.

After serving in campus ministry at the University of Central Arkansas and coordinating student conferences for the Baptist Missionary Association’s Department of Church Ministries from 2000-2005, Scott pastored Wyatt Baptist Church in El Dorado Ark. After seven years of pastoring, Scott was selected as the executive director of DiscipleGuide Church Resources, a department of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Scott’s most important ministry is to his son, Bryce.

BMA Seminary provides accredited theological education to qualified individuals by seeking to equip them for Christian service and leadership roles. The seminary supports the educational needs of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and other groups who share a like commitment to the authority of Scripture.

Former BMA of America Missions Director Dies

Craig Branham, 85 of Springdale, passed away April 2. He was a retired Baptist minister and 32nd degree Mason. He started to work at eight years old, selling “soda water” and candy bars in his father’s tomato shed in Troup. He graduated from Troup High School in Troup; Jacksonville College in Jacksonville; Wesleyan College in Fort Worth; and attended Baylor University in Waco.

He moved to Arkansas in 1956, and later lived in Campinas, Brazil. Bro. Branham was 17 when he surrendered to the ministry and was ordained Feb. 8, 1948 by Bell Baptist Church in Troup. He pastored churches in Arkansas, Missouri and Texas.

His Arkansas pastorates included Bethlehem at Greenbrier, Grace at Russellville and Calvary at Heber Springs. He served in many positions in the BMA, including assistant director of Missions for 13 years, director of Missions for 13 years and director of BMA Pastor’s Retirement Fund for over four years.

Survivors include his wife of over 65 years Grace Branham; a daughter, Elaine Councille; a son, Clint Branham; a sister, Faye Nell Hunter; 11 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Funeral services were held May 2 at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Greenbrier with Marvin Loyd, Richard Walters and James Schoenrock officiating. Interment was at Bethlehem Cemetery, under the direction of Bishop-Crites Funeral Home of Greenbrier.



▲ Craig Branham



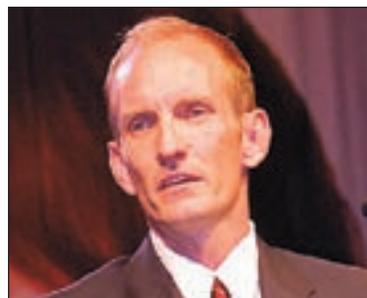
▲ 2014-2015 BMAA officers



▲ Jamie Jorge gave a violin concert Wednesday afternoon.



▲ Outgoing president, Bro. Ed. Stephenson (right) passed the gavel to the new president, Bro. Jason Aultman.



▲ Eric Johnson, missionary to Mexico, delivered the annual message Wednesday night, from Ephesians 3, on The Power of God



Family Matters

Parents response to graduates

By DR. TRAVIS PLUMLEE

If you have someone in your family graduating this year, use it as an opportunity to give God glory. Paul writes in I Corinthians 10:31, “*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*” Never miss an occasion to give God glory. Every holiday. Every family event. Every day look for a way to share the gospel, or kindness, or the love of Jesus, or serve others. Graduation is one of those occasions that I think we sometimes fail to see it as an opportunity to give God glory.

Have a talk. Pray and ask God to give you the chance to have some one-on-one time with the graduate where you can be by yourself with them. It needs to be uninterrupted time for you to share your wisdom with this young person. You may think there will be no time, or they will not listen to me. However, this is why we should seek Jesus first and ask God in prayer. God can soften a heart to listen where they were resistive in the past.

Don’t pick graduation day as the day you want to take them for a three hour car ride and bore them to death with tales of what you did in the glory days. They will not have their mind on what you say on the actual graduation day. Wait for the Lord to lead you to another time.

The purpose of this talk is not to tell them your life story about when you were young. Your purpose is to talk to them about life. What is important in life? What have you found helpful to get through tough times. What are the things that they should strive for as they strike out on this new life after graduation?

Is honesty, integrity, hard-work etc... something they should set their aim for? What things will be more important to them than getting an education or a well paying job? They need to hear this. But for God’s sake, be sure you talk about Jesus and God as the key. Tell them that prayer and the Bible helps you get through tough times. Always bring God into the discussion about sharing your life’s philosophy.

Write a letter. You may not have the opportunity to speak with your young loved one at graduation. Aunts, uncles and grandparents may not even be able to go to the graduation. This is where writing a letter will do the same thing as the talk. It may even be better. Sometimes, young people can gain more by reading something visual than hearing words that they will miss in half of the conversation.

For some parents and relatives, writing something out is a more accepting way of doing this sort of thing. It is particularly helpful if there have been some issues or strains on the relationship. After you send your letter, be sure you follow up with a text or phone call and ask them what they thought about it. That will prompt them to read it if they haven’t. Don’t bother them about it. One reminder is enough.



In this letter, do the same things. Share with them what you consider important for their future. Be sure and put in some scripture. It is always nice to share a verse that has guided you through life. You can even share some quotes that your grandparents or parents told you when you were younger.

Encourage them. Whether you talk to them or write a letter; you should have as your heart’s motive to encourage this young loved one. You should not go with the intent of just preaching what you think is wrong with the young people today. Don’t get on your soap box about what is wrong with America and how it used to not be that way. This is a sure fire recipe for them to tune you out. This needs to be a very poignant time of reflection and encouragement.

Encourage them to live for the Lord. Encourage them by the good qualities and characteristics you see in them. Sometimes, God uses other people to show us our gifts and talents. Don’t be afraid to share with them all the ways you see God using them in a special way.

Tell them to never give up. Tell them to fight the good fight. Tell them that there will be times when things don’t go right, or tribulations and troubles occur. But you have always found it helpful when you prayed. Say things along this line. Don’t tell them what they must do.

Don’t say, “You know what you ought to do...” Re-phrase the comment like this: “In my life I have always found it helpful when I You are not telling them what they must

do. You are simply sharing what you do.

Pray. Every holiday, family get-together and major event should be used as an occasion to pray. Before a gathering in the graduates’ home, you could pray. You could gather people around you on the morning of the graduation and pray in a circle for the future life of the graduate. When you have a talk with the graduate, end it with prayer. Kids may not ever remember who gave them what for graduation. But they will never forget a parent or grandparent who prayed with them. Even if they choose to rebel against God and their family, they will never get it out of their head that you prayed for them. God sears those images into people’s minds.

As Christians, let us love this person as only we can; which is to bring Christ into every thing that happens. Any accomplishment is from God’s grace. Don’t leave Jesus out of your graduation celebration. He is the reason even for this season!

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.





Just for Pastors

Six reasons pastors should not quit their jobs on Monday

By DR. THOM S. RAINER

I've heard it countless times from pastors: "I quit my job almost every Monday." Of course, it's typically a tongue-in-cheek statement regarding the letdown many pastors feel after Sunday. But most pastors say these words with a little bit of truth. They really do feel the struggles and challenges of being pastor more on Monday than most other days.

The title of this article could be "Six Reasons Pastors Want to Quit Their Jobs on Monday," but I've chosen to take a different approach. I will give the six most common reasons I've heard for quitting, but then I'll offer rejoinders that offer encouragement on why they should not quit.

1. **"I am emotionally spent after preaching on Sunday."** I understand fully. But don't make hasty decisions or judgments after such an emotionally draining experience. Most people will never know what goes into sermon preparation and what it takes out of the pastor. Hang in there. God will restore your strength.
2. **"I have to prepare another sermon for next Sunday."** When you are a pastor who preaches one or more sermons each week, you rarely get a rest from the energy expended from the previous week. That's the downside. But the upside is that God called you to preach. You actually have the incredible opportunity to

communicate God's Word to His people. See the bigger picture and the greater opportunity.

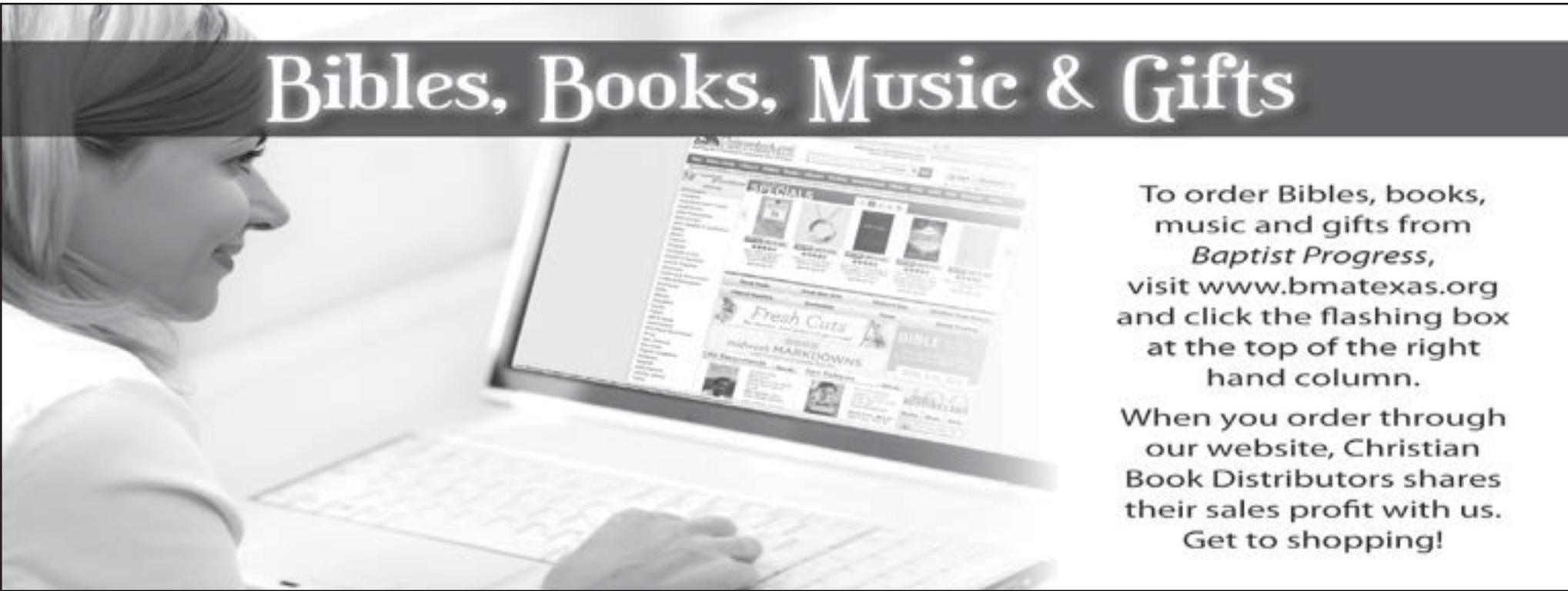
3. **"So many critics nitpicked at me on Sunday."** Yes, that's too common. You have more of the members gathered at one time on Sunday, so it's more likely you'll get criticized by one or more of them. Just remember, God called you to serve a church of sinners. And remember you are a sinner too. Ask God to show you His love for these critics. It might give you a new perspective.
4. **"All of the faces I see on Sunday remind me of the huge responsibility I have."** It can indeed be overwhelming. You are called to shepherd so many persons with so many needs. I would advise you to quit except for one major factor. You are called to serve these people in God's power, not your own. Give the burdens to Him.
5. **"We had a bad day Sunday."** How was your day bad? Low numbers? Did you feel like your sermon did not connect? Did some people say something that made you feel that way? Take a deep breath and see God's perspective. You may be surprised to see how He was working on this so-called bad day. You may look back on this bad day as one of the best days of your ministry. Trust Him for that promise.
6. **"I am worn out."** You are more likely to feel that way on

Monday than any other day. Pause for a moment. Ask God to refresh you. He will. That's not my promise; it is His. "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

There can be days, especially Mondays, when you might feel like quitting. No one can understand the demands on a pastor unless they have experienced it. But you were called by Him. You are sustained by Him. You have His promises.

Don't quit. The best days of your ministry might be just ahead. It would be a shame if you missed them.

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



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Auxiliaries

Reading can take you on the trip of a lifetime

By **CHAROLLETTE JOHNSON**
National WMA 3rd Vice President

My responsibility as third vice president is to promote literature and daily reading of your Bible. While spending 25 years in public school systems as a reading specialist, I realized that if a child could read then he or she could accomplish anything in life.

In the past years the use of the television and the internet has increased. This situation has caused many people to change their likes and the way that they enjoy their free time. Because of television and the internet, many people spend less time reading. As people read, they can improve their knowledge and expand their experiences.

As Christians we should always make time to read the most important book, the Bible. We have some good Christian books available from Christian authors from our local BMA work. Most of you may not understand what our missionaries experience on the mission field, but we have available, *People Are People*, by Jackie Blackerby Ricks, which shares a missionary's daily life.

The book is a biography of BMAA medical missionaries, Dr. John and Shirley Ladd who have served on mission fields in Nicaragua and Mexico since 1965. As you read this book, you will realize that you don't have to be a preacher to be a missionary.

Examples of things that the missionary family experience are given throughout the book, and special recipes from Shirley's kitchen are also included. You may purchase this book from Mrs. Ricks at 612 Farm-to-Market 49, Mineola, Texas, 75773. Her email address is jdricks@att.net. The price for the book is \$10 including tax. Shipping will be \$5. I recommend that you read this book because it will help you understand how you can share in the ministry of missionaries as they serve on mission fields for the BMAA.

DISTRICT NEWS

Cherokee District WMA met April 8 at Enterprise, Jacksonville. The host church served a wonderful meal of several kinds of salads and delicious desserts by Mt. Selman, Bullard. After the regular opening, Carleen Thompson gave a history story about the Cherokee District WMA. Jackie Ricks was present to introduce her missions study book, *People Are People*. Johnnie Ross spoke of "Transforming Your Mind" using 2 Corinthians 5:17. Each church is to make 5 dozen cookies for the students at Jacksonville College. Special music was presented by Enterprise. First, Jacksonville received the attendance banner. The next meeting will be July 8, 2014 at First, Jacksonville.

Mt. Olive District WMA met April 22, 2014 with Antioch, Carthage. President Nelda Salas, called the meeting to order. A delicious meal of different salads and desserts and fellowship was enjoyed by all. After the regular opening exercises, Hannah Whatley and Sharon Cole presented



a song, "Jesus Loves You, Yes, Yes He Does." Second Vice President Shawn Norris presented the program titled, "Women Seasoning Women" from Titus 2:3-5. The next meeting will be with Glenfawn,, Cushing July 22, 2014.

WHERE DOES OUR MONEY GO?

It has been proven the ladies of our BMA of Texas churches are the most generous and caring people when it comes to raising money for our WMA General Fund, projects and youth auxiliaries. Offerings are divided among these three areas. God has blessed many people through the WMA, including our missionaries, different BMA departments and our Sunbeams and GMA.

The WMA is the mother auxiliary to the Sunbeams and GMA and we need to take care of them as we do our own. The Project Fund begins each year in November after the BMA of Texas Annual Meeting. Each year a new project is chosen from nominations sent by local auxiliaries. These nominations must be a part of our BMAA work and sent to the project selection committee by a specifically announced deadline before the state meeting. They research and evaluate the projects submitted and present them to the state auxiliary for consideration and are voted on by the body present. All offerings for the project are sent to the State WMA corresponding secretary who divides them according as they are designated. Offerings must be designated, "Project Fund" on the check and/or financial report form. When there are no

clear instructions with money received, it is applied to the General Fund.

The General Fund receives a small portion of the project money and is very important in running the business of the State WMA. Out of it comes the salary for the corresponding secretary and the editor. It also pays for the printing of this auxiliary page in *The Baptist Progress*, which is \$150 per month. This fund pays for special speaker's expenses for the Ladies' Retreat and the State Meeting. It pays expenses of postage, travel, phone calls, teaching aids and mileage for officers who need to be reimbursed.

The Youth Auxiliary Fund also receives a small portion of the project money and is also important. This fund pays for the expenses of the Sunbeam Promoter and GMA Promoter in planning and preparing for their respective Houseparty (State Meeting). 2 Corinthians 9:7 says: "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." God expects us to be generous with our giving. We must demonstrate an attitude of love and generosity in our giving to the Lord's work and set an example for our children to follow. Thanks to all who have given their time, talents and finances and especially your prayers and willingness to serve the Lord in your local, district and state WMA. When we give cheerfully, our stewardship will be a reflection of our love for Christ, because of all he has done for us.

Sunday School Lessons

Final Word

By GARY HOUSE

DATE: May 25, 2014

TEXT: Ecclesiastes 12: 9-14

LESSON IN BRIEF: Life is nothing (vanity) without God. Life has ultimate meaning when we live by God's admonition: "Fear God and keep His commandments," recognizing He is the ultimate Judge of our faithfulness and fruitfulness.

In his quest to find out how to live a meaningful life, the writer of Ecclesiastes urges his readers to demonstrate their fear of God by keeping his commandments. The Preacher (Solomon) opened the book of Ecclesiastes with a statement of his theme (1:2). His theme is simple: "...all is vanity." The Hebrew word for vanity means "vapor" or "breath." It refers to that which is meaningless, futile and passing. The Preacher explored several areas of life to demonstrate that all is vanity (1:12-6:12). Then, to help us know how to live for God in this world, the Preacher showed the difference between wisdom and folly (7:1-11:10). He ended, appropriately enough, by talking about death and dying (12:1-7).

Solomon comes to the same conclusion: Everything in life is meaningless apart from God. But he offers a solution, saying that we can live a meaningful life only when we live it in a right relationship to God. Then everything is meaningful.

In the final section in Ecclesiastes (12:9-14) Solomon states emphatically how we are to live our lives. He urges his readers to demonstrate their fear of God by keeping his commandments. He emphatically declares: "This is the whole duty of man." In other words, this is man's reason for existence—

man's purpose.

The chief end of man is to glorify God. Interestingly, in the original Hebrew text the word "duty" is not there. So, the passage literally reads that fearing God and keeping his commandments "is the whole of man." In other words, it is not just our duty to obey; it is our essence to fear God and keep his commandments. God created us to stand in awe of him and to keep his commandments. That is God's design for us.

FEAR GOD. This word is mistakenly understood to be a dread or terror (of someone or something). To fear God means to revere God; to hold Him in awe. "This is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge" (Proverbs 1 7, 9-10). God longs for you and me to humble our hearts and prostrate our souls before Him.

God is the almighty Creator. We are mere creatures. God is eternal. We are here today and gone tomorrow. God is holy. We are sinners. It is only fitting that we should stand in reverential awe of the eternal, almighty Creator God. "To fear God is to take God seriously, to acknowledge him in our lives as the highest good, to revere him, to honor and worship him, to center our lives on him. As Paul said to the philosophers in Athens, "In him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

A proper fear of God ought to lead to a course correction. This passage and the entire book of Ecclesiastes teaches that the fear of God leads to life. A biblical fear of God will lead to life in this world and the world to come. If you think you have been enjoying life, but haven't been fearing God, think again. The fear of God leads to life.

But how do we keep this command to fear God? We fear God by putting into practice the next command: "Keep his commandments." We demonstrate our commitment to God by keeping his commandments. If we really take God seriously, if we really acknowledge Him in our lives as the highest good, if we really revere Him, if we really honor Him, if we really worship Him, if we really center our lives on Him, we will keep His commandments. God designed man to obey His words.

Solomon wants us to know how to live a meaningful life. Only words of truth can point us to the One who is Truth, and who gives us not only eternal life but also an abundant life now (cf. John 10:10).

The first truth from Solomon is that the words of the wise are like goads. A goad was an ancient cattle prod. It was a long stick that had a sharp point. It was used to prod cattle to walk where they were supposed to walk.

Further, the Preacher tells us that like nails, firmly fixed are the collected sayings. The nails that the Preacher has in mind here are tent pegs. Tent pegs are hammered into the ground to keep the tent stable, to keep it from blowing away in a storm. So, the collected sayings, if followed, will give stability and security to a person's life. Why should we take God's Word seriously? Because God's Word is powerful and can make an eternal difference in the lives of people.

So why are we called to fear God and obey His commands?

THE JUDGMENT THAT AWAITS US (verse 14) "For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil." Nothing will be

excluded from God's judgment. Every deed, including every secret thing, whether good or evil, will be brought to God for judgment. Everyone is answerable to God for everything, whether obvious or concealed, good or evil. **One day God will reveal all your secrets. How does that make you feel?** What really counts is God's evaluation of our lives.

Of course, if you are trusting in Jesus Christ for salvation, then Jesus has already paid the penalty for every sinful deed of yours. But, if you are not trusting in Jesus Christ for salvation, then you face the Judgment. God's judgment is no longer a threat to Christians. So we do not seek to keep God's commandments because we dread the coming judgment. Rather, we fear God and keep his commandments because we are grateful for his grace that saves us from that judgment.

The Preacher with his own experiences, and his God-given wisdom has demonstrated that, yes, life from an earthly perspective alone is truly vanity! But he has also taught us that by fearing God and keeping His commandments, one can endure the vanities and perplexities of life, while enjoying the good things in life. Look at life, not as a search for happiness, but as a responsibility to glorify God in all things.

Editor's Note: The lesson for Sunday, June 1, was not available at the time of publication.

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

BAPTIST PROGRESS ANNIVERSARY OFFERING \$102 for 102 Years of Ministry

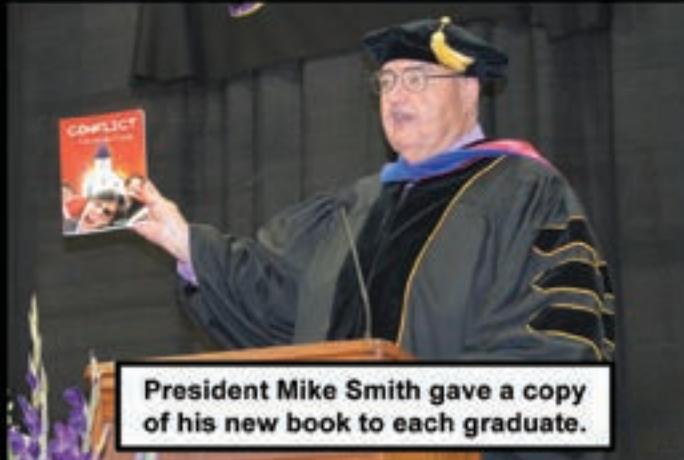
Each BMA of Texas church, as well as any Sunday school class, auxiliary or individual who feels so led, is asked to mail *Baptist Progress* an offering of \$102 for 102 years of ministry. Send offerings to *Baptist Progress*, P.O. Box 2085, Waxahachie, Texas 75168.



JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE GRADUATION 2014



Commencement speaker Richard Smith challenged graduates to be courageous and live for Jesus.



President Mike Smith gave a copy of his new book to each graduate.



Jacksonville College's first honors graduate, Maria Coronel, was awarded the Honors Program medal.



Faculty and staff excited about graduation



Ready to graduate



Miller sisters: two JC alumni and one 2014 graduate



2014 honor graduates



Rehearsal



Happy graduates