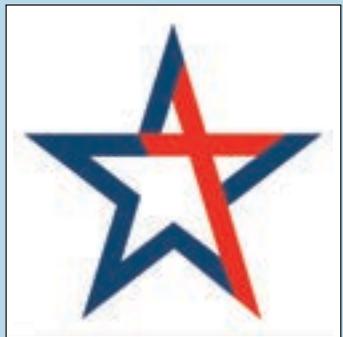


# Baptist Progress

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INSIDE



PAGE 2  
BMA TEXAS MISSIONS



PAGE 6  
JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE



PAGE 16  
UNITED THANKSGIVING  
OFFERING

## 119<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the BMA of Texas held in Lufkin



▲ BMA Texas Missions Commissioning Service

By **JERRY FULTON**  
*Editor of Baptist Progress*

The Baptist Missionary Association of Texas met for its 119<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at Keltys First, Lufkin on Nov. 4-5, 2019. There were 187 messengers and 41 guests present. Twenty-eight churches were represented by letter only. Ninety-seven churches were represented by messenger. The offering received totaled \$8,630.

Bro. Robert Easterling, president of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas, welcomed messengers and visitors and introduced the theme of the meeting, *God is Faithful*. Following the introduction of the theme, he preached from Psalm 119:90 about God's faithfulness.

A testimony was shared by Bro. Rachid, a Moroccan Christian convert from Islam whose father was an Imam. He was the host of a weekly live call-in show on Al Hayat Television where he compared Islam to Christianity. His topic was *Understanding and Engaging Your Middle Eastern Neighbors*. Brother Rachid also delivered a sermon during the Monday



▲ Dr. Blanton & Jaime Feaster

evening general session in which he compared the god of Islam to the one true God. Prior to his sermon, those in attendance enjoyed singing by Dr. Blanton and Jaime Feaster. Dr. Feaster serves as vice president of executive affairs at Jacksonville College.

A number of breakout sessions took place on Monday afternoon covering topics including BMA Disaster Relief, Spanish language ministry, Texas

Baptist Home's five-year plan and a breakout session led by Bro. Rachid.

The Women's Missionary Auxiliary met for their annual meeting on Tuesday morning as did the annual Leadership Conference, sponsored by BMA Texas Missions. The speaker for the Leadership Conference was Dr. Dave DeVries. DeVries is a coach, trainer and strategist and founder of Missional Challenge. He spoke on the topics of multiplying disciples and multiplying leaders.

Departmental reports were heard Tuesday afternoon beginning with the Texas Baptist Home for Children (TBHC). During the report,



▲ Bro. Rachid

119<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING continued on p.4



[WWW.BMATEXAS.ORG](http://WWW.BMATEXAS.ORG)



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## A word from your missions office

By **HEITH MITCHELL**

We really had an enjoyable and uplifting time in Lufkin at the BMA of Texas State Meeting. The Word was preached repeatedly and we were encouraged and inspired. Testimonies were shared that reminded us that God is faithful in 2019 in the BMA. The music was so uplifting. The Keltys First Family welcomed us warmly and took care of us both days. I love that we are hosted by church families. It changes our meetings for the better. Thank you Keltys, officers, departments, BMA Texas Mission staff, speakers, musicians and breakout teachers for a good annual BMAT Meeting.

I hope you were able to get to know your missionaries at the meeting. Twenty-six of your 29 planters were there. We had great fellowship and enjoyed. As always the commissioning service was a time that meant so much to each missionary, especially the seven new works that were introduced at the service.

BMAT family, we love you. It is a joy to serve you and serve beside you. If we can assist you we want to. We have trainings you can come to or we can bring your way. We can partner with you or share with you. Let's partner for the Kingdom and pursue:

**PROJECT 2029**  
**100 New Churches/10 years**

- That we see an aggressive multiplication movement of churches who make disciples, equip and release leaders and start churches for the glory of God and the advancement of his Kingdom mission
- That each new mission begins with a plan to begin three new churches in their first 10 years
- That pastors and churches of the association be encouraged and equipped to start new churches
- That we connect, evaluate, identify and train new prospective church planters

I would love to come and share Texas Missions with your church or association. I have open dates and look forward to hearing from you.

### A WORD FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES

**MATTHEW PRATHER—**  
**THE BRIDGE MISSION, MIDLOTHIAN/WAXAHACHIE**  
**MATTHEW@DISCOVERTHEBRIDGE.COM**  
**DUAL SUPPORT BMAA/BMAT**

The month of October was a good and jam-packed month. For the month of October and November we are really focusing on serving our community in several different ways. In Waxahachie there is a big festival downtown in October of each year that draws a huge crowd. We opened up a parking lot for free parking and passed out water. We met a lot of people and had a lot of good conversation. Also, we had what we call Blocktober on Halloween. Our different small groups set up in their neighborhood with a bounce house and candy. It provides a great opportunity to engage our neighbors and have meaningful conversation. We ask that you would continue to pray for these conversations as we continue to serve and reach Ellis County. Thank you so much for your continued prayers



▲ **Matthew Prather**

and support.

Prayer Needs:

Pray that we continue to see people come to the Lord. Pray for us as we minister to the hurting in our community.

**WESLEY BURKE—**  
**REDEMPTION BAPTIST MISSION, NACOGDOCHES**  
**WESLEYDAVIDBURKE@GMAIL.COM**

Preach the gospel and make disciples. This is all of our tasks, but how can we see these fulfilled without prayer. To that end, brothers and sisters, I ask that you would pray specifically for Redemption Baptist Church to see people converted that we are now actively sharing the gospel with. We want full baptismal waters in February when we, Lord willing, become a church.



▲ **Wesley Burke**

**ISAIAS ROJAS OSECHAS—**  
**CHURCH PLANT IN SPRING**  
**ISAIAS.ROJA5299@GMAIL.COM**

Thank you, thank you very much, firstly because the Lord has been faithful; and to all the friends and Churches who, pray and support us and are very attentive to us, brothers and sisters and the managers of the BMA and servants and servants planters of the sister missions and churches. We've already been one year old, and God is merciful.



▲ **Isaias Rojas Osechas**

**JAIME GARCIA—**  
**IGLESIA BAUTISTA NUEVA VIDA MISSION, GILMER/MESQUITE**  
**JAIME.GARCIA2911@GMAIL.COM**

“Gratitude” The Apostle Paul was a very grateful man of God and he expresses his gratitude and joy for the favor of the brothers of the church of Philippians, and in chapter 4:17 lets them know that it is not that he seeks gifts, or to be burdensome, but that fruit abounded at his own. Paul refers to that help as an offering that is for God, as a fragrant smell, referring to the rites that were done at the altar to offer God the offering. In this likeness, he compares the offering of the brothers of Philippians, as a sacrifice he accepted, which pleases God. And they return their favor with a promise of reward from God, telling them that by their care God will equally supplement all that is lacking according to their riches in glory. Brethren, thank you for sharing for my needs, Thank you for taking care of me, thank you because together we participate in the preaching of the Gospel of God. Blessed be the name of Jesus!



▲ **Jaime Garcia**

**BMA TEXAS MISSIONS** continued on p. 7

# MONEY WISE

BAPTIST MISSIONARY  
**BMLA**  
LOAN ASSOCIATION

By **JERRY BURNAMAN**

Someone said that Thanksgiving is the forgotten holiday; we jump from October right into Christmas. Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays because it reminds us to pause and give thanks to God for His unlimited blessings.

During my college days, studying literature, I struggled with Shakespeare. It wasn't that I didn't understand him—most of the time—it's that I thought he was some ancient recluse irrelevant to the issues of modern life. However, through the years I've come to appreciate his ability to challenge us with words of wisdom. Here is a sample:

"I hate ingratitude more in man  
Than lying, vainness, babbling, drunkenness,  
Or any taint of vice whose strong corruption  
Inhabits our frail blood."  
—Shakespeare

The Bible teaches believers that we should be "giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20).

Here are some reasons I try to give thanks continually. I'm thankful for my salvation that occurred almost 60 years ago.

I'm thankful the Lord called me to the ministry. It's been a challenging adventure—so is life—but He has been faithful every step of the way.

I'm thankful for my wife Nancy, our children Stephen and Terri, our grandchildren and great grandchildren. My family

has supported the ministry faithfully, and they serve the Lord in their church. My family is a joy and I look forward to the holidays for us to gather and visit for a few days.

I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve the BMA of Texas as Manager of the BMA of Texas Loan Association. I'm thankful for my secretaries Cassie Fulton and Whitley Shaw. I'm thankful for our trustees giving their time and wisdom to make wise decisions in the process of assisting growing churches with their financial needs.

I'm thankful for the 253 investors—individuals, churches and auxiliaries—that make it possible for the BMLA of Texas to exist and operate. Thank you for your investment of about \$14.5 million. We've been in business assisting churches with their financial needs since 1952 and never had a default.

These are some things I'm thankful for. I'm sure you have similar thoughts. Therefore, especially during the Thanksgiving holidays we will all pause to give God thanks for His unlimited blessings. Then, let's give God thanks every day.

*Jerry Burnaman is the manager of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association. Contact him at 972-923-0758 or [jerryburnaman@yahoo.com](mailto:jerryburnaman@yahoo.com).*



## Prayer is Always in Order—Even on the Soccer Field!

With eyes closed and hands clasped, four year old Noah Patterson dropped to one knee and began to pray. It's not unusual to see a child praying beside his bed at night but Noah and the other little leaguers were in uniform, fully engaged in the middle of a soccer game. Someone standing close by said that when Noah finished praying, he stood and shouted a strong "AMEN!" Later when Noah's Grana asked why he was praying in the middle of the game his answer was simple. He just needed to pray that they would all have a good game.



Noah is a member of our extended family and I shared part of his story in the July 2018 Heart Connection. Before he was born, family, churches and friends covered this little boy with constant prayer, begging God to intervene. When he was 13 days old he had open heart surgery and even though the prognosis was not good, today his heart is strong and healthy.

It's no wonder Noah was comfortable praying on the soccer field. That's what he does at home with Mom and Dad every day; at Grana and Poppa's house, in Sunday school, at preschool and even at Upward Soccer. Prayer has become a way of life for Noah, a connection with Jesus this little 4 year old has learned to depend upon.

Thinking about this committed little prayer warrior reminds me of Hannah's story

(I Samuel, chapter 1). Broken hearted because she was barren, Hannah repeatedly begged God for a child but no answer came. To make matters worse, her husband, Elkanah, had another wife who had borne him two sons and she was constantly poking fun and hurling hurtful words in Hannah's direction. According to this account, I'm pretty sure Hannah had just about reached her limit! She cried. She couldn't eat, and to make matters worse, her husband didn't have a clue. This takes us right to the heart of the problem. No one understood and no one could help. Even Eli the High Priest got it wrong. He could see that Hannah's lips were moving but she made no sound, so he accused her of being drunk, suggesting she should put away her wine. Hannah was desperate. It didn't matter that people were watching and judging her unfairly. She was deeply distressed and weeping bitterly as she begged God for a son, promising to give the boy back to serve God all the days of his life. This time Hannah's prayer was answered! Read to the end of the chapter and you'll see that she also made good on her promise.

Hannah's story and this picture of little Noah remind me that prayer is always in order. No matter where I am. No matter who might see. Or hear. Or judge. May this Thanksgiving holiday be a special time of praise and prayer for you and your family!

(Psalm 100)

*Pat Quesenbury has been active in ladies' ministry for years. She is a pastor's wife, mother and active member of the Women's Missionary Auxiliary. Contact her at [pquesenbury@gmail.com](mailto:pquesenbury@gmail.com).*



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# 119<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the BMA of Texas held in Lufkin cont.



▲ 2019-2020 BMA of Texas Officers (from left to right) Wayne McKay and Eddie Ballard, recording clerks; Dr. Mark Livingston, second Vice President; Ryan Burchett, first Vice President; Leon Ross, President



▲ Jacksonville College Choir

TBHC President Jason Curry spoke about the Home's five-year plan which includes exploring campus improvement, exploring new client services, developing a capital campaign plan and organizational growth. TBHC plans to open an office in the Denton County/Collin County Area and eventually serve over 2,000 children. Curry also reported that 14 children in the care of TBHC received Christ as their personal Savior this past year.

A constitutional amendment was approved that will allow TBHC's board of trustees to have the responsibility of electing the officers of the Home in order to meet accreditation requirements.

President Dr. Mike Smith reported on behalf of Jacksonville College. Smith said that enrollment for the fall semester is over 500. He also noted that Jacksonville College is a mission field as many who attend the college have no church background. This past year, 80 students made salvation decisions. Smith encouraged churches and individuals to consider an end of year gift to Jacksonville College. Total gifts received up to \$150,000 will be matched by the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

This editor reported that *Baptist Progress* had a good associational year. Encouragement was given concerning churches joining the *Baptist Progress* Church Plan whereby churches pay for the subscriptions of each member household at a discounted rate. Currently, only 162 churches of the nearly 400 churches in the BMA of Texas are on the Church Plan. We would like to see more churches join. It was emphasized that *Baptist Progress* is a ministry that promotes interest in evangelism, benevolence and Christian education among the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas. A request was made that churches consider adding *Baptist Progress* to their monthly budgets as subscription income is not sufficient to meet the annual budget.

BMA Texas Missions Director Heith Mitchell reported that there are now 29 church mission projects across the state. He issued a challenge that the BMA of Texas add 100 new churches within the next 10 years. Goals for BMA Texas Missions include seeing an aggressive multiplication movement of churches who make disciples, equip and release leaders and start churches for the glory

of God and the advancement of his Kingdom mission, that each new mission begins with a plan to begin three new churches in their first 10 years, that pastors and churches of the association be encouraged and equipped to start new churches and that new prospective church planters be identified and evaluated.

Jerry Burnaman, manager of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association (BMLA), shared how churches and individuals could invest in BMLA. There are three ways to help including, a contribution from an individual or church, an interest free loan, or investing in share accounts or investment certificates. Burnaman said that at the end of August, the BMLA has 253 investors, and total assets stand at \$14.5 million. BMLA now provides loans for 21 projects, and has sufficient money available to help other growing churches.

Elected to serve on the BMA of Texas administrative committee with term ending in 2023 were Timothy Fish, a member of South Park, Fort Worth; Elton Moore a member of Calvary, Fairfield; and Tim Nall, pastor of Mt. Pisgah, Mineola.

Elected to serve on the BMA of Texas nominating committee with term ending in 2022 were Gary Southard, pastor of The Church at Valley Ranch, Porter, and Riley Pate, associate pastor of Stone Ridge, Kilgore. Dr. Edwin Crank, who is on staff at Cornerstone, Jacksonville, was elected to serve out an unexpired term on the nominating committee with term ending in 2021.

WMA President Johnnie Ross reported that the auxiliary surpassed their goal in raising money for their project for the year—renovations of the swimming pool at Texas Baptist Home for Children. They chose the Martha Johnson School in Mexico as their project for the new associational year and chose as their annual theme, *Sweet Hour of Prayer*.

Mike Green reported on behalf of Master's Builders. Master's Builders worked on seven projects this past year, have been raising roofs for Christ for 28 years and have 26 active members. Green encouraged others to join Master's Builders as they conduct building projects for BMA churches and other causes.

Leon Ross was elected as president of the BMA of

Texas for the 2019-2020 associational year. Ross serves as pastor of Latch, Gilmer. Ryan Burchett, pastor of Northside, Garland, was elected as first vice president. Dr. Mark Livingston, pastor of Keltys First, Lufkin, was elected as second vice president. Wayne McKay and Eddie Ballard were reelected as recording clerks.

Elected to preach the annual message next year was Charles Johnson, pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer. Eddie Ballard, pastor of First, Bardwell, was elected as alternate speaker.

Tuesday afternoon, more breakout sessions were offered covering topics such as Activate, BMA 101 (an orientation for new BMA pastors), a worship team swap meet and a youth team swap meet.

Tuesday night of the meeting, the Jacksonville College Choir sang some very uplifting songs of worship followed by the annual message delivered by Larry Barker, pastor of Cornerstone, Jacksonville. Barker preached an encouraging message to pastors from 2 Corinthians 6:8-10.

A commissioning service was presented by BMA of Texas Missions at the close of the meeting. Several new state missionaries were introduced and given an opportunity to speak. As mentioned above, there are now 29 BMA of Texas mission projects.

Elected to serve as new state missionaries this year were Chris Mindi, Leander (Resident Intern); Mike Watt, Tahoka (Lead Missionary); Trevor Cowen, Tahoka (Associate Missionary); Wesley Burke, Nacogdoches (Lead Missionary); Jesse Hales, Round Rock (Resident Intern); Gamalier Luna, El Paso (Lead Missionary) and Cesar Cantu, Lake Jackson (Resident Intern). Also elected was Chris Driver as Texas Missionary Care Coordinator.

The 120<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the BMA of Texas will be held at Farley Street, Waxahachie, Nov. 16-17, 2020.

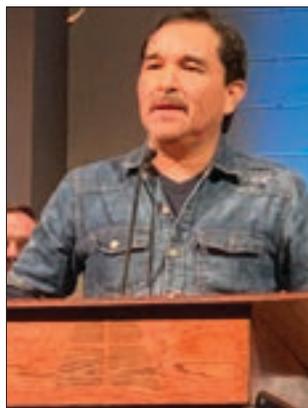


▲ Larry Barker

# Meet Your New State Missionaries



▲ Trevor Cowan - Tahoka (Associate Missionary) and Mike Watt - Tahoka (Lead Missionary)



▲ Gamalier Luna - El Paso (Lead Missionary)



▲ Wesley Burke - Nacogdoches (Lead Missionary)



▲ Jesse Hales - Round Rock (Resident Intern)



▲ Cesar Cantu - Lake Jackson (Resident Intern)



▲ Chris Mindi - Leander (Resident Intern)

## BMA Texas Missions cont.

### JAIME HENRIQUEZ— FUENTE DE VIDA ETERNA MISSION, HOUSTON

“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.”



▲ Jaime Henriquez

### NEPTALY MOLINA— IGLESIA BAPTISTA MISSION, NACOGDOCHES NRMOLINA23@GMAIL.COM

I am happy because I am sharing the initial discipleship with Gloria and her family and Milaidy and his family.



▲ Neptaly Molina

### CLIFF ROBERTSON— CARPENTER'S HOUSE MISSION—LAKE JACKSON/CLUTE DRCLIFFROBERTSONJR@GMAIL.COM

God is good and he is moving, opening doors that no one can close. A church that was closing decided to consolidate with us. It wasn't



▲ Cliff Robertson

many people but it was such an honor that the pastor wanted to bring his people to a place that he trusted.

### CRISTIAN MARTINEZ— GRACE HARVEST BAPTIST MISSION, LUBBOCK CRISTIAN.LMBC@GMAIL.COM

During the month of October we had more consistency in our group's attendance and people participating in times where we model evangelism for them in the community.

In November we are teaching our group the importance of church membership. Please pray that our group will commit to proclaiming and displaying the gospel together as we seek not what we can get individually but seeking to build one another and participate on God's mission together for the glory of God.

We thank God for your faithful support in God's work in Lubbock.

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

Ephesians 3:20 reminds us that we serve a God who is

able to do exceedingly abundantly MORE than we could ask or think. I have come to believe that a big part of the reason most of the churches in the small towns of west Texas lie in ruins it because they lost sight of that truth and stopped believing our great God for MORE! But that's not us! We are so excited about what God has done here, but we are believing Him for MORE! We are believing Him for MORE souls to be saved, MORE lives to be changed, and MORE towns to be reached! God continues to grow our planters and stretch their faith. But please join us in praying for MORE!



▲ Chris Driver



▲ Cristian Martinez

Heith Mitchell is the director of BMA of Texas Missions. Contact him at P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, TX 75168, 972-923-0757 or [hmitchell@bmatexas.org](mailto:hmitchell@bmatexas.org). For more information, visit [www.bmatexasmissions.org](http://www.bmatexasmissions.org).



**COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS.**  
**NAME THEM ONE BY ONE.**  
**COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS.**  
**SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE!**

1,397 UNDUPLICATED STUDENTS FOR 2018-2019  
 500+ ENROLLMENT FOR FALL 2019

5 DONORS WHO GAVE OVER \$50,000  
 NEW FLOORING IN THE MEADOWS  
 BUILDING AND LIBRARY

\$150,000 MATCHING GRANT FROM THE SBTC

26 COMMUNITY LEADERS PAID \$250 TO EAT FISH  
 \$8,000+ RAISED

82 SALVATION DECISIONS

9 SACSCOC TEAM MEMBERS  
 WHO FOUND JC COMPLIANT  
 IN ALL BUT 3 AREAS

WE WILL BE COMPLIANT IN  
 ALL AREAS BY MARCH 2020

FINAL REAFFIRMATION  
 REVIEW IN JUNE 2020

15 TRUSTEES WHO SERVE THE COLLEGE  
 85 EMPLOYEES WHO SACRIFICE AND SERVE JC  
 401 BMAT CHURCHES AND 26 ASSOCIATIONS  
 MANY ALUMNI, VOLUNTEERS, AND SUPPORTERS

JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE GIVES "THANKS TO THE LORD  
 FOR HE IS GOOD, HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER"  
 (1 CHRONICLES 16:34).

**JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE WISHES YOU A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

Dear Friend of Jacksonville College,

God is faithful and continues to bless Jacksonville College. Our enrollment is over 500 for the fall. Over eighty students have professed Christ as Savior. On three separate occasions, groups of JC students have traveled to the Gulf Coast to aid in disaster relief. In addition, our accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), has completed their on-site visit and determined that we are compliant in almost every area. However, in order to achieve compliance in one area by the end of 2019, we need your help.

Jacksonville College ended 2018 in the black with a balanced budget, and we must do the same for 2019. The need for costly repairs has contributed to our financial problems. We have had roof and plumbing issues, and our library developed mold due to air conditioning problems and a leaking roof. We have made repairs in the past, but now the only solution is to replace the roof and the air conditioning system.

It is imperative that we finish the year strong. The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC) has issued a matching grant of up to \$150,000. We must raise \$150,000 by the end of 2019, and we ask that you make an extra end-of-the-year gift to help us meet our goal. With the matching gift from the SBTC, your gift will be doubled. Time is short and the need is urgent. We need to take full advantage of this grant.

Please pray about the amount you can give, and send your gift marked "End of Year" to Jacksonville College, 105 B.J. Albritton Drive, Jacksonville, Texas 75766.

Online giving is available at  
[www.jacksonville-college.edu/donate-support-invest](http://www.jacksonville-college.edu/donate-support-invest)

To God be the glory!

Mike Smith



**JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE**

**END OF YEAR  
 GIVING  
 2019**



Churches and friends, please consider an end-of-the-year gift to assure we finish strong for our reaffirmation of accreditation.

**GOALS:**

- 100 CHURCHES GIVE \$200 = \$20,000
- 100 CHURCHES GIVE \$100 = \$10,000
- 100 INDIVIDUALS GIVE \$100 = \$10,000
- 100 INDIVIDUALS GIVE \$50 = \$5,000

**MATCHING GRANT:**  
 Total gifts received up  
 to \$150,000 will be  
 matched by the  
 Southern Baptists of  
 Texas Convention

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# INSIGHTS *for* PASTORS

## Mission-minded

By **DR. ALLEN TILLEY**

Every pastor knows his church must make missions a priority (Matthew 28:18-20). Missions is one of the foundational principles for being part of an association. But how can we lead our churches into becoming personally involved in mission work? While no one right answer exists, here are seven suggestions for helping your people be more mission-minded.

**Stress missions.** Infecting the church with the missions' bug starts with the pastor. Your people will not catch what you do not possess. By preaching, teaching, and emphasizing missions, your church will develop a passion for mission work. Before you start, spend a season of prayer, asking God to make your church a great mission church.

**Form a mission team.** Find those in your church who already have a mission fever. Then charge them with raising the church's awareness. Let them also plan and carry out their ideas for involving the church in missions. As the pastor, your job will be to support the mission team and to promote their ideas. Utilizing a team will not only involve people, but they will generate more ideas than you could alone.

**Start in your community.** Too often when we think of missions, we think of other parts of the world, but one

of the most overlooked mission fields is right in our own backyard. Most people are afraid of knocking on doors. To alleviate those fears, we've practiced random acts of kindness like passing out free water bottles on a hot day in front of Wal-Mart (be sure to ask for permission first). Each water bottle had the church's name and address on it. Then we washed windshields, leaving a note that our church did it. We annually pass out free popcorn during our community's Christmas parade.

**Take short-term mission trips.** Twice a year, we lead a small group on two foreign mission trips, working with BMMI (Baptist Medical Missions International) and working with missionaries directly on building projects. Those who've gone on these trips tell us they are life-changing. When these groups return, they report to the entire church, infecting everyone else.

**Establish a fund.** At our church, we have the GIMP (Go In My Place) fund. Because not everyone can afford to take a mission trip, the church has set up a fund that pays half the cost. GIMP is funded solely by individuals that give above their tithes. This way, even those who can't go on a mission trip can have a part in missions.

**Have a mission fair.** Every year our mission team plans a mission fair in the place of our regular morning service.

They decorate the auditorium, invite missionaries to speak, show videos from past mission trips, and provide lunch with foods from around the world. Over the years, this has become one of our most anticipated services.

**Develop a relationship with missionaries.** By getting to know a missionary, his family, and field personally, your people will fall in love with missions. They will offer their prayers, support, and make calls, and write letters as they stay up to date with what's going on with "their" missionary.

Because every church is unique, find your mission voice, come up with your ideas, and develop your own mission activities. Having a heart for missions builds enthusiasm and gives hope for the future.

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*Dr. Allen Tilley is pastor of First Baptist Church of Carthage, Texas. He has over 30 years of pastoral experience, and God has continually blessed his ministry with dynamic spiritual and numerical growth. Contact him at [allen@firstbaptistcarthage.com](mailto:allen@firstbaptistcarthage.com).*

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## Grimsley charitable gift annuity announced

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

*BMA of America*

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Grimsley of Springdale, Arkansas, recently secured a two life \$1 million charitable gift annuity through the BMA Foundation to benefit Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas, and BMA Seminary in Jacksonville. The Grimsleys are long-time BMA church members and have been generous donors to other BMA entities through the years. He has served as deacon at Spring Creek, Springdale, Arkansas for approximately 50 years and also served as church clerk, song leader and adult Sunday school teacher for many years. Mrs. Grimsley is currently serving as organist, assistant pianist and church clerk.

They funded their annuity with highly appreciated stock

which allowed them to avoid capital gains tax on part of their gift, receive a significant income tax deduction the year of the gift and part of their income from the annuity will be free from federal income taxation.

Charitable gift annuities provide a set amount of income to the donor and/or another specified person for the remainder of their lives and after the Lord has called them home, the amount remaining from their gift plus earnings goes to the beneficiaries specified in the annuity contract.

Bro. Charles Attebery, BMA Foundation Executive Director said, "In giving permission to announce this gift, the Grimsleys made it clear they were not seeking recognition for

themselves but wanted to encourage others to consider taking advantage of what a charitable gift annuity can do for them and at the same time help BMA ministries."

Charitable gift annuities offer very favorable rates which are based on the donor's age at the time of their gift. For example, a single life annuity is currently paying 5.10 percent for a 65 year old, 6.20 percent for a 75 year old and 9.50 percent for a 95 year old.

For more information about charitable gift annuities available through the BMA Foundation, please contact Executive Director Charles Attebery by email, [charles@bmaamerica.org](mailto:charles@bmaamerica.org) or by telephone 501-472-2183.



Baptist Missionary Association of Texas

# BMA OF TEXAS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

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Dr. Charley Holmes  
Executive Director



Baptist Publishing House

## What People Are Saying About Baptist Expositor!

### Open letter to the churches of the BMAA

For the first time in 10 years, there has been an increase in the number of churches who are ordering BMA Bible Study materials! This fall, 80 new churches ordered the Baptist Expositor curriculum! We have also reached a place where we can say that finances are stable! We praise the Lord for this growth!

If you or your church did not order curriculum from Baptist Publishing House this fall, won't you think about starting right now? It's time to begin ordering for the study of Luke for Winter 2019-20.

This curriculum is not just for the Sunday School hour! It can also be utilized in other formats, such as small groups, family worship, personal devotionals and shut-in ministry!

- "Definitely a fan...the content quality stands on its own. I'm excited to see what the curriculum brings out in regards to raising up students of the Word instead of students of curricula."
- "It makes it easier for me as a teacher to prepare and to do the lessons. And I've heard nothing but really good things from my class."
- "I appreciate the different levels which are built into it. It works well for our teachers."
- "I like the layout of the teacher's book. The content is superb. The options are helpful. I love it!"
- "I wanted to express my delight in the new curriculum. I teach a women's Sunday School class...I am so thankful for the Baptist Expositor. My desire as a leader is to see women realize they can know and understand the Word of God and apply it to their lives...Thank you for this wonderful study tool!"
- "I think both our women's and men's classes are enjoying it. I've started with the men, teaching them, and they say they really enjoy the depth of it. I also like that it has challenged my women's teacher. She's already become a better Bible student because of it."

Please join us for an introduction to

# The Multiplication Workshop

*The Multiplication Workshop is focused on equipping you to train every believer to become a disciple maker with the understanding that you build and grow churches by making disciples.*

When: February 18, 2020 -- Tuesday 9am-4pm (lunch provided)  
Where: Missions Office (632 Farley Street, Waxahachie, Texas)



Please join us for

# Churches Planting Churches

*Churches Planting Churches is a dynamic training designed to inspire you and to give you the tools necessary to engage a church planting project, as well as help you know what it takes to see churches planting churches in your country, region and city.*

When: December 4-6, 2019 – Wednesday/Thursday 8:30am-5pm, Friday 8:30am-12pm  
Where: Missions Office (632 Farley Street, Waxahachie, Texas)





# TEXAS BAPTIST HOME FOR CHILDREN

## Think about Thanksgiving

By **JASON CURRY**

We are at that time again. Thanksgiving meal, gathering with family and maybe cooler weather in Texas (maybe). The most common thing to do is to encourage us to be thankful this time of year... we all know that. But why do we continually say it as we get into this time of year?

I think it has to do with, perhaps, we aren't as thankful year-round as we should be. Family time seems to be a little scarcer, celebrating life, friendships and blessings from God just doesn't seem to be part of our daily lives. So this time of year we seem to "compensate". We want to make up for the rest of the year that we did not demonstrate a thankful heart.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Not a very seasonal verse right? It is saying we should be thankful all the time, for every circumstance, each life event, and every boring moment.

So with all that said what is it that you are thankful for? If you're like me, the answer is centered in relationships: relationships with God, family, friends and serving TBHC kids. We are preparing for the end of the year and with that comes

more kids into our care. That's right, placement of children does not decrease, it increases during the next two months.

Because a hopeless world struggles to find gratitude in their circumstances that seem too hard to handle without a loving God. We would have no hope without Christ and that is what gives our hearts the ability to be thankful. Our kids that are and will be in our care are going to be hearing the Gospel, some for the very first time. Pray that our kids' pain can turn to praise because of God's presence and love so that someday each one can say "Thanks".

Thank you for your continued support of TBHC and thanks for helping bring kids home.

*Jason Curry is the president of the Texas Baptist Home for Children. Contact him 629 Farley St, Waxahachie, TX 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 for Children, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from October 1-31, 2019.

### ENDOWMENTS

**MYRA STOKES:** Bill Stokes  
**E ANN PACE:** Karl & Martha Pace

### HONORARIUMS

**ALEX & ANDI:** Danny & Diane Yount  
**CHARLES & CHARLOTTE JOHNSON:** Larry & Rolanda Barton  
**DANIEL LOUDERMAN:** Berenda Mewborn  
**KATHY MITCHELL:** Carol Stillwagoner  
**LEA & SCOTT REYNOLDS:** Berenda Mewborn

### MEMORIALS

**BILL BEDDINGFIELD:** Nancy Beddingfield  
**IRENE BEENE:** Nancy Beddingfield  
**BRO. & MRS. CAROL BROOKS:** Mr. & Mrs. Euel Faulkner  
**JACKIE ELLIS:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson  
**LOIS V & HESTER M GIBSON:** Janice Dore  
**JASON GILMORE:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson  
**SAMUEL HUDSON:** J.L. & Reba Smith  
**HALEY JOHNSON:** Donna Johnson  
**RAYMOND JOHNSON:** Temple Baptist Church, Mexia  
**SHIRLEY LANDIS:** Temple Baptist Church  
**KEVIN LEWIS:** Sandra Lewis  
**CODY MAUK:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson  
**JIM MIXON:** Johnny & Phyllis Howell  
**MARK MORROW:** Bro. Fred & Carolyn Morrow  
**TERRY PARTIN:** Welch V Watt III  
**MATT PYRON:** Judy Goebel  
**MARTHA RHYNE:** Johnny & Phyllis Howell  
**VIRGINIA SANDERS:** William & Dorothy McAdams  
**CLARENCE SEARCEY:** Travis & Brenda Floyd  
**TOM SELTZER, JR.:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson  
**LESLIE & OMEGA WOOD:** Lynn Wood  
**DOROTHY ZEVELY:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Rosewood Baptist Church  
**BUCK MOORHEAD:** Marsha & Mark Powell

Memorials-honorariums

## Auxiliaries: Sweet Hour of Prayer cont.

**Liberty WMA** met on Oct. 12, 2019 at Latch Baptist Church, Gilmer. The meeting was called to order by President Betty Stokes who quoted a church sign reading, "God loves you whether you like it or not" and followed with the opening prayer. Jane Jones, Latch WMA President, welcomed those in attendance. President Betty Stokes led the WMA motto.

Elizabeth Midkiff offered the prayer for the Project Offering and it was later reported that we had topped our goal for the year of \$3,000 by \$251.39. Thank you ladies, you've done it again!

During the Business portion of the meeting, Ms. Shirley Hoffpauir, Sunbeam Promoter, gave us a "pop quiz" by asking, "What do each of the following have in common? A seed, a worm, a tadpole, an egg and Rene Zellweger?" As a hint, she gave the example of Saul of Tarsus and the answer. "They are all transformed." The next Sunbeam meeting will be at Rosewood on Nov. 9.

Just as a reminder, Glenda Chamberlain brought out her goodie bag to demonstrate one way to honor our pastors during Pastor Appreciation. It was a collection of various types of candy bars or boxed candy pieces—each representing some situation a pastor might face. It drew quite a few chuckles, but, no, Chuckles candy wasn't one of the offerings.

It was agreed upon that our collection of historical scrap

books would find a new home in a file cabinet at Friendship, Pittsburg, following our next meeting and that they would be displayed at that meeting for viewing.

This year the new District Project selected is Tommy and Sara Rose' purchase of land for the mission "El Arco in Santiago de Queretaro" and the goal was set at \$2,500.

Music for the day was led Johnnie Ross, accompanied on the piano by her sister Rosa Carol Denson. Special music was also offered by the duo, "So Send I You." It was beautifully done, thanks to both of you.

Bettye Wilson introduced the guest speaker of the day, Belinda Caudle. Her message included a packet on "Catch the Vision" and her theme was "Reaching Out in Missions". What does it mean? "Missions are discipleship". We are to be missionaries in our own "Jerusalem". She advised that those who can and do, fine; but others perhaps can contribute through missions. Maeva Thompson offered the right hand of appreciation, prayer was offered by Bro. David Kizer.

Attendance was woefully down this meeting. Hope to see you Jan. 11, 2020 at Antioch.

Following the closing prayer and food blessing by Bro. Jack Hoffpauir, President Betty Stokes adjourned the meeting.

Many thanks to the ladies of Latch for a delicious bar-b-que luncheon, with all the trimmings, and for their generous hospitality.



▲ At the October meeting of Mt. Olive District WMA, president Cindy Allen presented Sharon Cole with a beautiful etched glass platter in appreciation for her 18 years of service as editor of the WMA page in *Baptist Progress*. Sharon served in this position before technology made the job a little easier and in the days when the *Progress* was printed weekly. We appreciate all her efforts and thank her for this service to our WMA.

*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.*



# Liberty Association meets for 140th annual meeting

By **CHARLES JOHNSON**

*Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer*

The 140<sup>th</sup> annual session of Liberty Baptist Missionary Association was held Sunday afternoon and evening, Oct. 13, at Little Mound, Big Sandy. Liberty Association was first organized at Liberty Baptist Church near Hawkins in 1880. The annual association is a time of enjoying fellowship with fellow believers and churches to reflect on the past year's accomplishments and to cast a vision for increasing existing and starting new ministries for the future.

The annual sermon was brought by Bro. Leon Ross, pastor of Latch Baptist Church. He preached from Hebrews 10:19-25 concerning "What It Means to be part of a Church and Local Association." Bro. Billy Byrd, pastor of Oak Hill Baptist Church preached in the evening session from 2 Timothy 1:6-9 and encouraged the audience to be faithful to proclaim the complete Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Associational officers elected for the coming year include: Michael Pool, moderator; vice-moderator, Billy Byrd; Leon Ross, treasurer; Wayne McKay, assistant treasurer; Charlotte Johnson, clerk; and Jeanette McKay, assistant clerk.

Several associational department leaders and representatives were present to report on their work and progress in the past year. These included the following: Dr. Ricky Williams, BMAT-Seminary; Belinda Caudle, *Editorial Bautista* (Spanish Publications); Jerry Fulton, *Baptist Progress*; Michael Pool, Texas State Missions; Ron Coe, Texas Baptist Home for Children; Dr. Mike Smith, Jacksonville College; and Jason Prewitt, Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment.

Special rallies were planned for the association for the coming year including: rally for International Missions on Dec. 12 at Fellowship-Pittsburg; Jacksonville College rally on Jan. 23 at Glade Creek-Gilmer; Texas Baptist Home rally on March 12 at Latch-Gilmer; Baptist Medical Missions International rally on May 14 at Little Mound-Big Sandy; and LifeWord Media Ministries rally on Aug. 13 at Macedonia-Pittsburg.

2019-20 local mission projects include monthly support for the following ministries: Tracy Miller, BMAA missionary/church planter in Cummings, Georgia; BMA of Texas State Missions; *Editorial Bautista*; Baptist Medical Missions International; and Jacksonville College. The association messengers also approved giving monthly supplemental support to seven widows of former BMA pastors.

The Little Mound congregation and Pastor Michael Phillips were gracious hosts for the associational meeting. A delicious evening meal was served to the messengers and guests in the fellowship hall between sessions.

The 141<sup>st</sup> annual meeting will be on October 11, 2020, at Oak Hill Baptist Church near Bettie. Bro. John Gradberg, pastor of Stone Ridge Baptist Church in Kilgore was selected to bring the annual sermon in 2020.

# Johnsons moving to Ecuador

By **BUDDY JOHNSON**

Several years ago, I had the opportunity to accompany Trevor Morris and his wife to Ecuador as they surveyed the country in search of the area they were to plant a new BMA church. We traveled through several cities, towns, and villages until we came to the place where he would settle and plant the first BMA church in Ecuador.

During the time he was there, I visited him several times and was thrilled as God blessed Trevor's work. After just over two years, in Cuenca, Ecuador, he returned to the States and later perished in an airplane crash. Chris Huson, David Dickson, John Michael Poulin, Eric Johnson, and I have continued to work with Marco Tamay who is the leader of the mission in Cuenca. The investment the BMA of America has made in this part of the world has been blessed but is struggling in many ways.

During the past couple of years, it has become evident to us that the labor of love begun by Trevor, needs help if it is to survive and reproduce. Taffy and I feel that the Lord can use us to help

lead the church toward maturity. We plan to move to Cuenca in the summer of 2020 and work with the people in the church there. We will work in evangelism, discipleship and church planting with the young pastor. We plan to dedicate at least a year of our lives to the work God has begun and pour as much of ourselves into the people there as possible.

Taffy is leaving her teaching position and trusting the Lord to supply our needs while we are in Cuenca. We need your help! We need your prayers for wisdom, provision, protection and for the people we will learn to love and tell about Jesus.

We would love for your church to partner with us in this endeavor. I would love to visit your church and help you become acquainted with what God has placed in our hearts for the people of Ecuador.

Buddy Johnson

abudjohn@att.net, 903-278-7147

# Master's Builders complete work at First, Crandall

By **ROSE BITTNER**

*Master's Builders Reporter*

The Master's Builders arrived at First Baptist Church, Crandall, to begin interior work on their new 75 X 40 ft., 3000 sq. ft. Education and Learning Center. Working on the inside of a metal building, the Builders framed up and sheet rocked the walls of a new youth area, nursery and toddler rooms, two adult classrooms and a reception area with a coffee bar, seating area, and two restrooms. Some of the Builders had a new challenge and learning experience in that the studs used to build all of the walls were metal! It was great to work with a new framing material and the men (and women) enjoyed the task.

There were seven RVs in the parking lot during the two weeks we worked at Crandall. The crew was much smaller than we usually have for this size job, but during the course of the build we had additional help from Builders who could only come for a few days here and there. We were thankful and pleased at what the group was able to accomplish! We were also grateful for each of the Builders who were able to come and work as they could! We had a treat with long time Builder Ruby Taylor being able to come and help for the first week.

There were several men from FBC Crandall who worked with our men and also did different jobs to help in the completion of the building. Brother Gordon Black from the church was the onsite Project Coordinator and an invaluable member of the team! He was there each day to make sure all of the materials were in place and the inspectors were on hand when they were needed. He also helped in the build when not "coordinating." What a fun group we had! Pastor, Michael Waits, Sr., provided spiritual encouragement and great preaching in between working his full time job as a Nursing Supervisor. Sons, Marcos and Joshua Waits, were on hand each day to help also. We enjoyed the time with them and the other men of the church who were able to lend a hand to help when they could.

A great big "THANK YOU" to the ladies of FBC Crandall who fed us all so well while we worked! Lunch was provided each day and the meals and fellowship were so very special. Meal coordination was done by Brother Mike's wife, Teresa Waits, and lots of the ladies of the church helped prepare meals and serve.

Too many names to mention each one, but you know who you are! We also had a treat during our time together as Brother Randy Decker from Jacksonville College brought over the Jacksonville College Choir to sing for us. The students prayed with, and for, us as we enjoyed Friday "Pie Day" with them! What a blessing we received! They are an awesome group of young men and women who love the Lord! You can see a clip of them singing on our Facebook page.

There are several of our Master's Builders family members who are not doing well at this time. Many have serious health problems, some have lost their spouses, and others have problems that are not allowing them to get to come to the jobs. We ask for your prayers in this and that the Lord would send more workers; NO training needed! You must have a love for the Lord and a desire for the increase in His Kingdom. The Master's Builders experienced a big loss to our group during this job with the passing of Jesse William "JW" Payne, (87). JW and Della have been serving with the Master's Builders since 1994 and were married 67 years. They had plans to join us on this job for a few days when he became ill and could not travel. He will be missed by many...

The Master's Builders will be on winter break until March of 2020. Pray for us during this time of respite and please pray for the work of the Master's Builders ministry in 2020 already on the books.

If you have any questions about The Master's Builders ministry or if your church has building needs, contact: Office / Field Coordinator, Eddie Sikes at 903-725-6549 or his cell 479-462-1675. "Like" us on Facebook and follow us in prayer... The Master's Builders.



# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

## Announcing the forerunner's birth

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: December 1, 2019

TEXT: Luke 1:1-25

**Luke writes the account.** (Verse 1-4)—Dr. Luke, Paul's personal physician, not only wrote the details of the subject matter we are dealing with this week—the announcement of John the Baptist—but he wrote an exhaustive account, tracking the ministry of the New Testament church in Jerusalem. In Luke 1, he was addressing these words to Theophilus, (friend of God). Some say he was a Roman official, while others suggest he might have been a Jew from Alexandria. It is also suggested that the word was an honorary title given to a great educator.

**God chooses the unlikely.** (Verse 5-8)—Zachariah, (*Jehovah has remembered*) who was a priest in “the division of Abijah” (one of the 24 divisions of the priesthood divided by David—1 Chronicles 24:10)

and Elizabeth, (*God is my oath*) were chosen of God to be the parents of John the Baptist. Their experience is reminiscent of Abraham and Sarah, who gave birth to Isaac, in their old age. Zachariah and Elizabeth were deemed too old by human standards to bear children. This is but another way for God to demonstrate His miracle working ability, and to quell any doubts as to the Sovereignty of God.

**God chooses the faithful.** (Verse 6-10)—Both Zachariah and Elizabeth walked in righteousness, keeping the commandments and ordinances of the Lord. It is during times that God's servants are the busiest when He appears to them or calls them. The lot fell to Zachariah which landed him the task of burning the incense when he went into the temple as the multitude was in prayer.

(Verse 11)—Something miraculous happened—the angel of the Lord appeared beside the altar, and after calming his fears, the angel noted that they would have a son, John.

**God's promise is sealed, even in the unbelief of His servant.** (Verse 18)—But even after this great promise of giving birth to one who would be the forerunner of the Savior, Zachariah expressed unbelief. Whenever God promises something overwhelming and magnanimous, often doubt follows. “. . . I am an old man and my wife well stricken in years.”

(Verse 20)—The angel (Gabriel) announced that Zachariah would be stricken mute as a result of his unbelief.

(Verse 21)—The people perceived correctly that Zachariah had received a vision from the Lord concerning his and Elizabeth's son, who would be the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, “Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill be brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places made smooth. Isaiah 40; Luke 3:1-5.

## Announcing the Savior's birth

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: December 8, 2019

TEXT: Luke 1:26-38

**The angel appears to Mary (verse 26).** Six months after the angel, Gabriel, finished his announcement to Zachariah and Elizabeth, he had another visit to make—to a virgin girl named Mary, who was betrothed to a man named Joseph who was a descendant of David. According to Jewish custom, a man and a woman were engaged for a year. During that time, the bridegroom would be preparing a place for her in his father's house. Then, one glorious night, at the end of that engagement, the bridegroom would appear at her house and give a shout. She would go away with him

to his father's house, and there the wedding feast would take place.

**The favor of God falls on Mary (verse 30).** Surely there would have been hundreds of young Jewish girls who would be suitable to bear the Son of God. But God, in His sovereign, infinite, and matchless grace, bestowed His favor on Mary.

**The blessed doctrine of the virgin birth (verses 31-35).** These verses, among others, verifies and declares that Christ, the Son of God was conceived in the womb of Mary, by the Holy Spirit. No seed of any man on earth would have sufficed in bringing forth the Perfect Sacrifice for the remission of sin. The virgin birth was the path through which God the Father would incarnate Himself into Man.

**All in the family (verse 36).** Elizabeth, who was a “daughter of Aaron” (Tribe of Levi) (Luke 1:5) and descended through Moses' brother. Mary descended from Judah through David (2 Samuel 7:16, Tribe of Judah). God the Father had this all planned out from before the foundation of the world. He makes no mistakes (verse 37)

**The unwavering faith of God's servant “. . . be it unto me according to thy word” (verse 38).** Even though she felt a twinge of fear (verse 30) and apprehension (verse 34) she knew in her heart she had been selected to be a part of the greatest event ever in world history—to bear the Son of God.

## The birth of Jesus

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: December 15, 2019

TEXT: Luke 2:1-20

**God's providence (verses 1-3).** The king always declares himself sovereign over a kingdom, but Caesar Augustus, who was demonstrating his power over the Roman Empire, in reality, was nothing but an instrument in the hands of the true, supreme, sovereign God, Who had an infinitely larger, more far reaching, divine Kingdom. “The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will” (Proverbs 21:1).

**God's power illustrated (verses 4-7).** Little did the Caesar Augustus realize that he was the instrument to fulfill prophecy. Micah 5:2, “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little

among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting. This is Jesus Christ—the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. The plan was established in the infinite mind of God in eternities past. Prophecy also established the lineage—the bloodline through which the Savior of the world would come.

**The world's rejection of Christ illustrated (verse 7).** Jesus began His physical life in rejection—even as a babe lying in the manger. The “no room in the inn” was an early indicator as to how the world (especially the Jews) would receive Him.

**The unlikely first recipients of the glorious news (verse 8).** It was not announced to governmental magistrates—it was announced to humble, common men on the Judean hillsides,

tending their flocks.

God has always spoken to the humble—the insignificant by the world's standards.

**The glory surrounding the presentation of the Savior to the world (verses 9-12).** It was a frightful experience for the shepherds. God's glory is unfathomable. Humankind is not able to receive the full force of the glory of God. God told Moses in Exodus 33:20, “. . . you cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live.” The glory of God was absolutely appropriate in introducing the Lord Jesus to a lost world.

**The incident brought praise and adoration (verse 13-20).** The shepherds were drawn to Him (verse 15). They spread the word of His coming (verse 17). Their hearts were filled with rejoicing (verse 20).

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

## Rejoicing in the gift of Jesus

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: December 22, 2019

TEXT: Luke 2:21-38

### The dedication of Jesus (verses 21-24).

1. Mary and Joseph were faithful to keep the Jewish rituals and the law.

a. The circumcision of Jesus: when He was 8 days old, signifying the Abrahamic covenant. Also, this was the day in which Jesus was named.

b. The Purification of Mary (Leviticus 12:1-4). The presentation of the burnt offering (Leviticus 12:6-8); and the presentation of

Jesus in the Temple, and the presentation of the burnt offering

c. The presentation of Jesus in the Temple.

### The prophecy of Simeon.

a. Simeon was a righteous man. The Holy Spirit was upon him, and led him to the temple at the exact time Jesus was to be there.

b. Simeon was promised that he would live to see the Messiah. Now that he had seen him, and was able to hold Him in his arms, he was ready to die. He was privileged to see, first hand, the salvation of the Lord.

c. Simeon pronounced a blessing on Mary and Joseph, and foretold the effects Jesus would have on the world (verse 34). Many would fall (those who would reject him as the Messiah) and many would rise (humble themselves and repent of sin and receive Christ).

### The prophecy of Anna.

Anna, daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, was a faithful worshipper in the temple, and a widow, was likewise on hand when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple. She gave thanks for Him.

## Jesus' power over death

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: December 29, 2019

TEXT: Luke 7:11-17

Nain was a small village about 25 miles southwest of Capernaum. By this time, a large crowd had gathered around Jesus, and was walking with Him. The party saw a funeral procession as they approached the village. A widow was about to bury her only son. But she would have the encounter of a lifetime as she met the Savior. In this lesson, we observe three things.

**Jesus' compassion for the widow.** Compassion is one of great virtues of Christ. Being God incarnate, we come to understand the heart of God, and learn of our wonderful Heavenly Father's tender compassion. He takes thought for the tiniest sparrow that falls from the sky. We see his loving compassion in the father of the prodigal son, as he ran to him and embraced him with joy because the son had returned home. Jesus' heart went out to this

grieving widow.

**Jesus' power over death.** Jesus, in response to Martha's comment about her brother Lazarus, who had been dead for four days, said, "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25-26).

**Jesus and God are one.** It seems in verse 16 that the people, although glorifying God because the man was raised from the dead, they only regarded Jesus as a great prophet "risen up among us." Possibly they did not recognize Christ as the Messiah. One of the great tenants of the Christian faith is the truth that God came to earth in the form of man, to be the sacrifice for sin. It is essential that for one to come to Christ, they must believe that he is God come in the flesh. 1 John 4:3, "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh

is not of God. . ." Jesus Christ is God tabernacled among us on earth. Isaiah prophesied hundreds of years before Christ came to earth, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Immanuel literally means, "God tabernacled among us" or "God pitched His tent among us."

*Paul Gauntt is the pastor of First, Palmer. He served for a number of years as the BMA of Texas Department of Church Ministries director. He has served several churches as pastor, and is a correspondent and featured article writer for Baptist Progress Contact him at pap.gauntt@gmail.com.*



## OBITUARY

J.D. HUDSON

Bro. J.D.Hudson was born on Sept. 22, 1918 in Runnels County, Texas and was blessed with 101 years of life. He left this earthly home on Oct. 29, 2019 to be with his Lord and Savior. He was raised by his parents John Franklin and Sarah Elizabeth Hudson in Lamesa. He joined the army during WWII and made the ranks of a Staff Sergeant. He married the love of his life, Charlie Faye Bowles in 1939 and the couple had three beautiful children together. He graduated from Jacksonville College in 1954. He pastored Baptist churches for 38 years in Texas but preached until he was in his 90's. In Bro. Hudson's



spare time, he enjoyed; gardening, reading and studying the Bible, catching up on the news in the Dallas Morning News, staying up on politics, and watching the Houston Astro's. He enjoyed time with his family most of all and they will always remember him as a devoted husband, loving daddy, a wonderful Big Gran, and a faithful servant of the God. He is preceded in death by his parents, adoring wife, Faye; son, Jimmy; two sisters and three brothers; and son-in-law, Phil Simons. He is remembered by; two daughters, Gloria and husband Ron Chesser, and Ann Simons; two grandchildren, Stephanie Coleman, Ronda and Husband Greg Porter; four great-grandchildren, Heather Coleman, Jared Porter, Kristin Loughmiller, and Elizabeth Buford; seven great-great grandchildren, David, Jonathan, Hudson, Ford, Emma, Jovi, and on her way, Roewan.

**BMA FOUNDATION**

Contact BMA Foundation Executive Director Charles Attebery for more information.  
charles@bmaamerica.org or cell 501-472-2163

*A Gift That Keeps Giving*

Gifts to the BMA Foundation are never spent. They are invested and the earnings benefit BMA departments annually until the Lord returns.

Some Ways to Give

Cash  
Stocks and bonds  
Life insurance policies  
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# EVENTS

## BMA OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING

**DATE:** April 27-29, 2020

**PLACE:** Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas

## BMA OF TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING

**DATE:** November 16-17, 2020

**PLACE:** Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas

# pastor & staff changes

**JACK MCNEELEY** is the new pastor of First Missionary, Cleburne.

**JERAMY PIERCE** is the new pastor of Cross Roads, Winnsboro.

# Upcoming Events

## WINTER 2019-2020 (SHORT TERM)

December 11-January 3  
Early registration ongoing  
December 9: Placement testing  
December 9-10: Regular registration

## SPRING 2020

Classes meet January 13-May 6  
November 18-December 6: Early registration  
December 2: New Student Early Registration  
January 9-10: Placement testing and regular registration

## FALL CONCERT

November 19 at 7:00 p.m. in Buckner Chapel

## THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS

November 25-29 (Offices closed)

## HOMECOMING 2020

February 7-8



# PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

## AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**PASTOR**—Central Baptist Church, Lancaster, TX is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. If interested, please email resume and contact info to [mloafman@cisd.org](mailto:mloafman@cisd.org). <sup>TFN</sup>

**PASTOR**—Westside, Nacogdoches is seeking a pastor. Send resume to [dgmounger@att.net](mailto:dgmounger@att.net). <sup>1/20</sup>

**PASTOR**—First, Jacksonville is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 210 Philip Street, Jacksonville, Texas 75766 or email to [reception@firstjax.org](mailto:reception@firstjax.org). <sup>TFN</sup>

**PASTOR**—Opelika Missionary, Brownsboro is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Kenneth Miller, 11431 CR 3520, Brownsboro, Texas 75756 or call him at 903-469-3692.

**PASTOR**—Central, Mineola is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 602 N. Line, Mineola, Texas 75773 or email to [cckburke43@gmail.com](mailto:cckburke43@gmail.com). <sup>TFN</sup>

**PASTOR**—Beacon Hill, Waco is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to [jmpossey73@gmail.com](mailto:jmpossey73@gmail.com) or mail to P.O. Box 9080, Waco, Texas 76714-9080. <sup>3/20</sup>

**PASTOR**—Elwood, Wills Point is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Send resume to P.O. Box 536 Wills Point, Texas 75169 or email to [dlyl1976@yahoo.com](mailto:dlyl1976@yahoo.com), or call J.W. Parker at 903-873-5483. <sup>TFN</sup>

**PASTOR**—Hill Creek, Whitehouse is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Chairman of Pastor Search Committee, 17636 Summer Place, Whitehouse, Texas 75791. <sup>TFN</sup>

**YOUTH MINISTER**—Mt. Olive, Scurry is seeking a full-time (20-40 hours per week) youth minister. Email [pastorgarris@hotmail.com](mailto:pastorgarris@hotmail.com) or call Mt. Olive Baptist Church at 972-452-8585. <sup>TFN</sup>

## Bibles, Books, Music & Gifts

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

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

# CHURCHES in REVIEW

## October 20, 2019

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	35	69	1 by baptism
Glade Creek, Gilmer	15	23	
Jackson, Joaquin	70	82	
New Harmony, Tyler	301	335	
New Hope, Mineola	85	170	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		49	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	36	53	
Rosewood, Gilmer	116	198	1 by baptism
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	39	50	1 by letter
Sand Prairie, Normangee		50	
Security Calvary, Cleveland		75	
Simmons Hill, Diana	30	35	3 by baptism

## October 27, 2019

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	60	79	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	24	33	
Jackson, Joaquin	69	133	
New Harmony, Tyler	279	337	
New Hope, Mineola	93	164	3 by baptism, 2 by letter, 4 by statement
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	36	60	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	34	56	
Sand Prairie, Normangee		46	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	20	37	
Simmons Hill, Diana	28	32	1 profession of faith
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	16	19	

## November 3, 2019

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	55	65	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	18	29	
New Harmony, Tyler	252	284	
New Hope, Mineola	84	138	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		43	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	48	69	
Rosewood, Gilmer	116	207	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	37	54	
Sand Prairie, Normangee		60	2 by baptism
Security Calvary, Cleveland	22	37	
Simmons Hill, Diana	36	46	

## November 10, 2019

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	44	69	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	18	40	
Jackson, Joaquin	77	131	
New Harmony, Tyler	282	331	
New Hope, Mineola	89	178	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	46	79	
Rosewood, Gilmer	143	247	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	40	57	
Sand Prairie, Normangee		42	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	26	32	
Simmons Hill, Diana	26	42	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	17	22	



2019

*United  
Thanksgiving  
Offering*

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019**

**OVERALL GOAL: \$125,000**

**GOAL PER CHURCH: \$1,500**

The offering benefits Baptist Missionary Loan Association, Baptist Progress, Jacksonville College, State Missions and Texas Baptist Home for Children.

Mail offerings to BMA of Texas, P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, Texas 75168