

# Baptist Progress

Baptist Progress, P.O. Box 2085, Waco, Texas 76788  
Postmaster: send change of address to:  
500125

THE INFORMING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRY OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS | NOVEMBER 2022 | VOL. 109 | NO. 11

## INSIDE



### PAGE 4

MOTION PRESENTED CONCERNING  
JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE



### PAGE 7

mission:world News



### PAGE 11

TEXAS WMA  
ENDS 2022 STRONG



▲ Missionary Commissioning Service

## BMA of Texas meets for the first time in Livingston

By **JERRY FULTON**

*Baptist Progress Director/Editor*

A total of 317 people, up from 259 last year, attended the 122<sup>nd</sup> Annual Session of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas (BMA of Texas) in Livingston Nov. 7-8, 2022. The meeting was held at First Baptist Church in that city. Churches represented by messenger totaled 105 and churches represented by letter totaled 80, a significant increase over last year's representation.

### WELCOME TO NEW CHURCHES



▲ Messengers from new churches being welcomed at 2022 BMA of Texas

The BMA of Texas welcomed seven new churches this year. Those who petitioned and whose messengers were seated included: Living Word Arabic Church, Garland; Iglesia Bautista Getsemani, Conroe; Bautista Gracia Soberana, Kyle; First Baptist Church, Gresham; The Bridge Church, Seagoville; Mensajeros De La Verdad, Bardwell and Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel, Garland.

The day began with BMA of Texas President Ryan Burchett calling the meeting to order and recognizing Orval Barger, now 91, who served for several years as



▲ Orval Barger

pastor of First, Livingston and has been a well-respected elder statesman within the BMA of Texas to lead in prayer. The prayer was followed by a moving video featuring the new interim president of Jacksonville College, Dr. John Mann, interviewing students of the college whose lives have been changed for eternity after enrolling at the institution. A ministerial student also shared his testimony of how the training he has received at the college has helped to prepare him for vocational ministry. Following the video, Collin Bell, assistant coach for men's basketball at Jacksonville College, sang a beautiful solo.



▲ Dr. John Mann

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President Burchett introduced the theme of the meeting and preached a message titled the same, *Thy Kingdom Come*, from Psalm, chapters 2 and 20. In his sermon, Burchett emphasized that our hope should be in the King, Jesus Christ, not a politician. He also noted his belief that America is under the judgment of God and the need of God's people to return to him. The message is available for viewing on the *Baptist Progress* Facebook page.



▲ Ryan Burchett

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Numerous breakout sessions covering the gamut from BMA of Texas orientation to current legal trends churches are facing to engaging your community, pastoral self-care and more were offered. A special breakout session for ladies was also offered at the 2022 meeting.

BMA TEXAS MEETING continued on p. 11





WWW.BMATEXAS.ORG

#### BAPTIST PROGRESS

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

#### BAPTIST MISSIONARY LOAN ASSOCIATION

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

#### BMA OF TEXAS MISSIONS

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

#### JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

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

#### TEXAS BAPTIST HOME

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

*Baptist Progress*

USPS: 043120 • ISSN: 005-5751

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

#### Jerry Fulton, Director/Editor

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

www.baptistprogress.org

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

#### SUBSCRIPTION RATE:

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

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

# MAKING PROGRESS

## Thinking ahead

By JERRY FULTON

### BMA OF TEXAS MEETING

The 2022 BMA of Texas Meeting at First, Livingston was enjoyable and encouraging. Fellowship with old and new friends, the concert by *The Erwins* and the Leadership Conference with guest speaker David Crain made it enjoyable. The messages preached by BMA President Ryan Burchett, BMA of Texas Pastor Connections Coordinator Todd West and Pastor James Schoenrock made it encouraging. Good feedback was received concerning the multiple breakout sessions.

Each year, it is the goal of BMA of Texas leaders to make the next year's meeting better than the last. Certainly, your suggestions are welcome. If you have ideas of how to make the 2023 BMA of Texas Meeting even more enjoyable and encouraging, please email your ideas to editor@baptistprogress.org and your suggestions will be passed along to the BMA of Texas officers as well as the BMA of Texas Coordinating Committee.

### MINISTRY CONNECTION WORKSHOPS

Plans are in the works for Ministry Connection Workshops in 2023. While dates are being determined, topics that will be covered in the workshops include discipleship, preaching and

interim pastor training. In the coming weeks, check baptistprogress.org under the "Resources" tab for updates and details.

### CHURCH RELATIONS

To better communicate with the churches of the BMA of Texas, I am committed to visiting with pastors and local associations in 2023. If your local association has pastor breakfasts, lunches or other meetings, please let me know, and I'll be happy to come share and answer any questions about what the Lord is doing through the BMA of Texas. Although I serve as pastor of First, Rice, I am available to preach and represent *Baptist Progress*, Baptist Missionary Loan Association or the BMA of Texas on Sundays and Wednesdays. To invite me to attend your pastor meetings, speak at your church or meet with you one-on-one, contact me at editor@baptistprogress.org or at 972-923-0756.



▲ Jerry Fulton



CENTRAL  
BAPTIST COLLEGE

## POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Vice President for Advancement

Central Baptist College, Conway, Arkansas

Reports to: The President

**Mission Statement:** Central Baptist College is committed to transforming lives through education that integrates Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment.

**Candidate must support the Christian identity of the College and demonstrate mature faith, Christian lifestyle, and a strong belief in Baptist Doctrine.**

**Salary:** Competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

**Application review will begin immediately and continue until position is filled**

To be considered for the position of Vice President for Advancement, interested candidates must complete an Application for Employment at <http://cbc.edu/jobs> and send a cover letter, resume (including references), and statement of faith as PDF attachments addressed to Terry Kimbrow, President, at [tkimbrow@cbc.edu](mailto:tkimbrow@cbc.edu). Electronic submissions only. Background check required.

#### Responsibilities:

The Vice President for Advancement is charged with supporting the mission of Central Baptist College and elevating the institution's profile through:

- Serving as the institution's chief fundraising officer
- Developing effective donor, community, and alumni relations
- Championing Central Baptist College through ongoing engagement with alumni, donors, and community leaders to continuously maximize the potential for revenue
- Provide leadership to the Offices of Development, Public Relations, Church Relations, and Alumni Services, working with them to design, implement, and direct an integrated and comprehensive development program, with special emphasis on identifying, cultivating, soliciting, engaging, and stewarding support to provide long-term financial sustainability for the College
- A voting member of the President's Executive Leadership Team

#### Qualifications:

- Minimum bachelor's degree; master's degree preferred
- Minimum of 7 years of supervision/team leadership
- Demonstrated leadership abilities and strategic thinking
- Ability to manage donor relations with a high degree of professionalism, integrity, and confidentiality
- Exceptional oral and written communication skills
- Ability to manage multiple projects/deadlines and possess a service-oriented, team player attitude
- Fundraising experience preferred
- Travel required, including weekends and evenings



## A word from your Missions Office

By **HEITH MITCHELL**

I always enjoy our BMA of Texas Meeting, even the business and reports. I know, I am weird! It was good to be with the representatives of the churches of the BMA of Texas again last week. It was great to see so many southeast Texas churches there that we do not normally see. BMA of Texas is alive, good and growing. This meeting saw an increase of churches, people, and missions involved. We were blessed with new churches joining us from missions and from churches wanting to be a part of the BMA.

First, Livingston hosted us for the first time and did an amazing job. They were so hospitable. Their staff and volunteers made us feel at home and served the whole time. Their music and facilities were great. Breakfast and lunch were delicious. Their staff added so much to our breakouts. Thank you, First Baptist Church Family, for a good meeting. It is wonderful to gather and be hosted by BMA churches.

The state meeting finishes up the season of local association gatherings. It is a joy to be close to and among our churches. It is exciting to hear what you were up to. I was at some exciting local meetings this year.

It is good to be part of this BMA of Texas Family. I like us. I am thankful to serve the Lord beside each of you.

## A word from your missionaries

**JEREMIAH AKINTUNDE—  
PLANTING IN DUNCANVILLE  
AKINTOYEAKINTUNDE2@GMAIL.COM**

The church is God's mission, and He is the only One who can do what no man can do. As we depend and rely on His leadership and power, He will surprise our imaginations and glorify His name in our lives daily. All we need is to trust and obey Him as we fellow.

**Prayer Needs:**

Continue to pray for my family's visa approval as they go for the interview.

**ISAIAS MARTINEZ—  
CONROE MISSION  
ISAIASMJ1966@GMAIL.COM**

These months have been the consolidation of a program focused on creating habits and customs focused on changing towards a Multiplier Missionary Church.

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray for the City of Conroe, Texas.

**CESAR LEAL—  
NEW MISSION IN SAN ANTONIO  
CESARLEAL2002@YAHOO.COM**

We continue to make progress in bringing God's Word to Hispanic families in southwest Texas. We also continue to attend to many migrants who arrive in this state through the border with Mexico. We provide spiritual and material help. God is doing great things in our midst and we have seen His support providing everything we need. We praise His Name which is above all a names by showing us His love and goodness!!

**Prayer Needs:**

Please pray for a permanent place for our church. In our current

location, we are limited for time and prevented from fellowshiping. Parking is also limited.

**HAITAO HE—  
CORPUS CHRISTI MISSION  
HAITAO.HE@BMATS.EDU**

Harmony in the family is so important for believers to be productive and active in ministry. We are trying hard to be better counselors for our members and hope to see them have harmony in their homes and be active in ministry opportunities.

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray that Christian wives can be strengthened by biblical teaching to be good witnesses to their non-Christian husbands.

**RONNIE MILLS—  
KINGDOM CHAPEL IN FT. WORTH  
RONNIE@KCHAPEL.ORG**

"But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint" Isaiah 40:31.

I'm reminded of our Father's steadfast love for us in that He is our strength. Remember that what He has called you to, it is not yours to quit. Keep trusting in Him and leaning upon His strength. Remember our brother Paul's words to the Colossians; it is The Lord's strength that he toils with all day on behalf of the churches and mission in the work of the gospel of God's Son. Let us not forget that apart from Christ we can do no good.

**Prayer Needs:**

Please continue to pray for your brothers and sisters here in Saginaw at Kingdom Chapel. We ask that you remember us, and hold us dear to your hearts in your prayers. If you desire to partner with us in any way, reach out to [ronnie@kchapel.org](mailto:ronnie@kchapel.org)

**JAIME HENRIQUEZ—  
FUENE DE VIDA ETERNA IN HOUSTON  
DAIRYJENY@YAHOO.COM**

We thank each of the churches of the Texas BMA family for their prayers, help and support for our mission. I am pleased to announce that this October we saw two people come to Jesus and we had several new visitors at our Sunday service and in cell groups. The mission of being strong lives is being changed and the brethren are being edified.

**Prayer Needs:**

May God open doors for us to be able to present the gospel to the lost that souls may arrive at salvation in Christ Jesus.

**FIDEL TORRES—  
PLANTING IN DENTON  
FIDTOL@MSN.COM**

We are very grateful to God for having had the visit of our Brother Elvis Garcia. We were able to spend a very good time in which we were edified by God through our brother. His visit encouraged us a lot.

**Prayer Needs:**

May we make many more contacts and may God send us men and women of peace. May God give us much grace for the people

He puts in our path. May God allow us to be focused on His work. May God provide us with good health to be a blessing in this place.

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

It is necessary for us to walk a difficult journey in order to appreciate who God is and what His plans are. Obedience is hard but crucial for growth and sanctification. It is not something that God forces us to do but truly requires of us so we can know Him better. I have learned that He has created us to thrive and we can never do that if we are constantly looking to be safe and live in survival mode.

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray that we take our new friendships with those we meet through events to a deeper level. We want to be able to invest in new people both believers and unbelievers. Pray for opportunities to reach people during Christmas since most of them are open to a conversation.

**BICHITRANANDA SATPATHY—  
INDIAN PLANT IN FT. WORTH  
BICHITRANANDA31@GMAIL.COM**

**Prayer Needs:**

I appreciate churches' relentless prayers and financial support. As a result of your prayers, people are responding to the gospel and inviting Jesus into their hearts. Dear churches, please pray for our spiritual growth and the spiritual growth of the people we serve. Also, continue to pray for God's wisdom and direction in our ministry in Fort Worth.

**RUDY VILLAREAL—  
HOMETOWN CHURCH IN SAN ANTONIO  
RVILLAREAL1@GMAIL.COM**

Things are moving forward and we had many opportunities to arise. We are starting a Bible study at a senior center where some men are eager to hear the Word of God. We are also going to study, Justification by Faith as some Catholics that we have attending our Bible study are burdened by the false teaching of purgatory. Pray that through this study of God's Word that their hearts will be changed. Also, we are connected with about 50 people, some closer in relationship than others. Pray that we can start growing these relationships and that they partner with us to plant a Church.

**Prayer Needs:**

Pray that God continues to open doors to share the gospel with others.

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

Our church has had a good month despite some challenges. At the end of this month, we participated in Normangee's city-wide Trick-or-Treating event. We were able to give hundreds of hot dogs and countless pieces of candy to families in our community. One of our members told me about a kid who commented that he did not

**BMA TEXAS MISSION** continued on p. 4



BMA Texas Missions cont.

Motion presented concerning Jacksonville College

know the church was here until that night. It is always great to have opportunities to let the community know we are here and that we care about them.

**Prayer Needs:**  
Pray for continued opportunities to show Christ's love to our community in Normangee.

**TIMOTHY ALBA—  
THE BRIDGE IN SEAGOVILLE  
TIMALBA1986@GMAIL.COM**

Ministry can be discouraging at times but we must remember that the enemy will constantly put challenges in our way. We must constantly put on the armor of God every morning to overcome these challenges. It is our job as shepherds to encourage our flock even when circumstances arise. I pray that each of you stay encouraged and know that wherever God has you, He has you there for a reason. This is our chance to grow as individuals and in our ministries. Stay strong and vigilant, for the enemy comes to kill, steal and destroy. Remember that God has already won the war, we just need to trust Him. Ephesians 6.

**Prayer Needs:**  
Pray that God continues to give us wisdom. God bless.

**JOSE TORRES—  
TYLER HISPANIC MISSION  
EMAILJOSETORRES@GMAIL.COM**

Thank you for your faithfulness to God's work! And thank you for continuing to support our ministry in Tyler. Not only your offerings, which are of enormous help, but your prayers and constant interest in helping us. Our leaders Heith Mitchell, Elvis Garcia and Todd West are a great blessing!

**CHRIS DRIVER—  
OASIS MISSIONS LEVELLAND  
CJDRIVER316@GMAIL.COM**

As I sit here in the middle of a building still under (re) construction, I am so thankful for the manifold wisdom, faithful provision and perfect timing of God. We have made great progress this month toward finishing the building (due in no small part to your generosity), but we are not going to make our Nov. 6 launch date. I admit, I am disappointed and I feel a little like a failure, but I now see the progress we've made on the building is minuscule compared to the progress we've made as a church body! This month has been monumental for our core group! We have grown so much in our walks with the Lord! And as I sit here, I realize if I would have had my way in my timing, we would've missed it. But I'm so thankful God can't be swayed by my impatience...no matter how much I beg. God is always in the details. Thank you for walking this journey with us and thank you for being so faithful and generous to this project. It is such an honor to be one of your missionaries!

**Prayer Needs:**  
Continued growth for our group; Fruit from relationship efforts; Remodel to be complete; New and fruitful connections with SPC and community; Gospel sharing opportunities.

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



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

During the miscellaneous business portion of the 2022 BMA of Texas Meeting held in Livingston Nov. 7-8, Dr. David Erickson, a professor at BMA Theological Seminary and a messenger for Cornerstone, Jacksonville, presented a lengthy motion as follows:

“We, the churches of the BMA of Texas, seeing the need for greater unity and transparency in the ongoing work of Jacksonville College, request that the Trustee Board take the following actions:

Prepare and present to the association every year a budget and financial statement with sufficient detail that the churches may understand the ongoing financial health of the college through adequate revenue, wise expenditures, and a respectable salary for the president.

Bring a motion to the annual association meeting every year that allows the churches to affirm their ongoing support of the president of Jacksonville College or register their dissent from his leadership.

Search diligently for the next president of Jacksonville College among those who have sufficient experience both in educational work and among our Baptist churches so that he can lead Jacksonville College to a better and brighter future by uniting the churches, alumni, donors, ministry partners, faculty, staff, and students in this important ministry.

Work together with the BMA of Texas Coordinating Committee in their advisory capacity to bring a report to the next association meeting about how the churches of the BMA of Texas may properly exercise their influence and authority over the college in light of accreditation requirements which insist colleges must not have undue influence or control by parties outside the board of trustees while also explicitly permitting that religious denominations may both have influence and even exercise some authority or control over the board of institutions such as Jacksonville College (see SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation and Resource Manual for the Principles of Accreditation 4.1.d, 4.2.f, and 4.3).”

Since according to the BMA of Texas Constitution, “The boards of trustees shall represent the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas in directing the work of each department of the Association,” we anticipate these requests will be fulfilled diligently and conscientiously by the trustees.

As the motion was being discussed, Erickson stated that exactly 130 years ago there was a loss of trust among Texas Baptists. Financial records about missions work were being hidden. The salary of the leader of the missions work was also being questioned. Yet when people asked, they received no answers to their questions.

He continued, “In the absence of information, rumors and accusations flowed freely. Meetings grew contentious and then downright nasty. People were expelled from meetings. Lawsuits were filed. There was even a gunfight on a train to Texarkana! At the end of it all, the churches fed up with the lack of transparency and accountability left to form the Baptist Missionary Association and created Jacksonville College.”

The professor explained that the new association was based on the idea that the only thing Jesus left on earth when He ascended into Heaven was a church. He contended, “Therefore every other human religious institution formed for the benefit of Christ’s Kingdom should be under the auspices and authority of local, New Testament, Baptist churches.”

Erickson said, “This idea created in our association a culture of humility, transparency, and accountability.” He noted that none who serve associational agencies have authority in themselves but are all accountable to the churches and therefore must be transparent with the churches.

He pointed out that those who serve the BMA of Texas as trustees are entrusted with responsibility. Continuing, he said, “At the very center of this arrangement is one simple thing—trust. There must be trust between the churches and the trustees and between the trustees and the organization they oversee. Without this trust, our association and our agencies suffer.”

Erickson stated that sometimes trustees have to make hard decisions as well as decisions that cannot be explained publicly without harming the institution or exposing it to legal liability. He explained that the need for occasional silence compels trustee boards to do everything else with as much transparency as possible because transparency creates trust.

He said, “I offer this motion because there has been a significant erosion of trust in the last few years concerning Jacksonville College. Trust has been lost at many levels, in many ways and for many reasons. Yet it has reached a point where it is threatening alumni relations, donor support and church fundraising.”

Pointing to his belief that Jacksonville College is a good school and doing a good work in God’s kingdom, Erickson continued, “We cannot let that good work be threatened or diminished through distrust.”

He stated, “Some of the finest people I know work at Jacksonville College. I don’t want the hard work they’re putting into that ministry undermined through suspicion. I personally know most of the trustees and every one of them is a person of character, integrity and faithfulness. I want us to intuitively trust that their decisions, whether we always agree with them or not, were made in the best interests of the churches and the college.”

Erickson said that he loves Jacksonville College and wants it to thrive. He shared that in a decade from now, when his oldest child heads off to college, he wants him to be able to go to a Jacksonville College that is doing better than any of us have ever seen. “But,” he continued, “for us to see Jacksonville College thriving, we will have to start rebuilding trust.”

He went on to explain that his motion was really him asking for Jacksonville College trustees to begin rebuilding trust.

Following Erickson’s comments, Randy Decker, president of the Jacksonville College Alumni Association, thanked Erickson for his comments and echoed much of what Erickson had said. Wes Pratt, a trustee of the Jacksonville College then went to the microphone to express that clarification needed to be made concerning how the college is governed and promised that there would be clearer understanding and communication going forward.

The motion was passed overwhelmingly.



▲ Dr. David Erickson



# Thanksgiving

By JASON CURRY

Living a life of gratitude seems to be common and a part of our Christian culture, but is easily forgotten in practice. We each have joys in life that are unspoken. What is joy in life? When I consider the happy moments in life, I can easily see the joys in them. But it is when we are experiencing the harder things that we should be seeing the joys as well. Whatever tragedy or heartbreak you face consider what joy is in that situation.

Many years ago, I asked my ministry leaders to start phrasing every prayer request in the form of a praise statement. They started quietly then it grew into each leader sharing the struggle voiced as a praise. “A son had a car accident; they praised God he only had minor injuries instead of more seriously hurt.” “A man was diagnosed with cancer; they praised God for a chance to meet new people to share God’s love to.” I’ll give you another, “A brother and sister who were abused are now living with foster families that are providing safety and introducing Jesus to them.”

Without this tragedy, the children and the birth parent(s) would have never heard about Jesus. That is the challenge, to see the praise in the pain, to sing hallelujah when facing hardship. Demonstrate gratitude when you feel chagrin.

The Bible says in 1 Samuel 12:24 (NKJV), “Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.”

I have been reading my children *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* from the *Chronicles of Narnia* series for

the past few months and a quote from the book sparked a memory about that verse. “‘Safe?’...’Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the King, I tell you.’” God is not safe, He is great and mighty, and is so very good. You and I must “consider what great things He has done” in our lives and take time to say thank you.

Pray for our kids in care as they are about to spend holidays separated from biological moms and dads as this brings new pain. But also thank God that they are hearing the gospel, some for the first time. As we prepare to open our new office in east Texas, we will need foster moms and dads to help. Start praying that people will prepare their hearts to open their homes in a way they never have before to strangers that desperately need a temporary home, maybe permanently. A home that will glorify God by caring for children.

I’m just sayin’

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



## An expression of everlasting love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend, or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home for Children, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from Oct. 1-31, 2022.

### ENDOWMENTS

E ANN PACE: Karl & Martha Pace

### HONORARIUMS

CHARLES & CHARLOTTE JOHNSON: Larry & Roland Barton

CLARK KEIFER: Leon & Johnny Ross

FRED & CAROLYN MORROW: Forest Hill Baptist Church, Quitman

HANNAH LOW: Leon & Johnny Ross

HARPER RAE KEIFER: Leon & Johnny Ross

LOU HUNT: Leon & Johnny Ross

MR. & MRS. JAMES JONES: Leon & Johnny Ross

MR. & MRS. JT JONES: Leon & Johnny Ross

MR. & MRS. KEITH FAULKNER: Leon & Johnny Ross

MR. & MRS. KEVIN PHILLEY: Leon & Johnny Ross

MR. & MRS. WALTER MCCOWN: Leon & Johnny Ross

MR. & MRS. ALAN LENNOX: Leon & Johnny Ross

MR. & MRS. JOSH ROSS: Leon & Johnny Ross

ROSA DENSON: Leon & Johnny Ross

SILAS ROSS: Leon & Johnny Ross

### MEMORIALS

AGNES ALEXANDER: Arnold Alexander

ANN PUGH: Leon & Johnny Ross

BILL TRAYWICK: Simmins Hill Baptist Church, Diana

BOBBY RUTHERFORD: Carolyn Fisher

BUDDY & LULU HAZELL: Cheryl Briscoe

CHARLES MITCHELL: Gay Mitchell

CHARLIE ALLEN: Temple Baptist Church, Mexia

DAWN KEARBY MASON: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

DOROTHY SEXTON: Thomas Jeter

EDDIE BYRD: Darinda Medcalf

FRED SCOTT: Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Mineola

GLEN CAMPBELL: Jed & Glenice Whitaker

HARRY DARBY: Jimmy & Carla Shipp

JAMES HILTON: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

JANET RACE: Carolyn Fisher

JAY SHARP: Judy Goebel

JO JAMES FLOYD: Buford & Sarah Delk

JOHN BULLARD: Mr. & Mrs. Donald Traywick

JOHN WALCOTT: Gay Mitchell

KAREN POOLE: Emma Burleson

KAY WALCOTT: Gay Mitchell

LARRY & ROSELEN BOBO: James Bobo

LOVITA OUIMET: James Ouimet

MELVIN LOYD: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

NANNIE FAE ARMSTRONG: Emma Burleson

OZELL RAWLINSON: Jeanette Morris

RACHEL MILES: Leon & Johnny Ross; Roy & Billie Merrill; Maureen Faulkner; Latch Missionary Baptist Church; Timothy & Rhonda Thompson; Karin Harrell; Susan Pressley

RALPH “BUDDY” COOPER, III: Charles & Charlotte Johnson

RIP HILL: Jed & Glenice Whitaker

ROLAND DUCKWORTH: Emma Burleson

THOMAS C JAY: Deborah Jay

W.V. RAY: Brenda Ray

WELDON SENN: Georgia Senn



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

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

In addition to receiving each issue by email, you will get our e-News Update between issues. News alerts are also emailed periodically. The cost of an email subscription is \$21 (\$6 less per year than mail subscriptions).

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

**WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?**

**Make the switch, email us today at [editor@baptistprogress.org](mailto:editor@baptistprogress.org)!**

memorials-honorariums





# JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

## Evangelizing through Educating: The Unkillable Truth

By JOHN B. MANN, PhD

One of the reasons that I love being involved in Christian education is because it assumes that there is truth—but not just truth—but truth that is worth fighting for. The great Anabaptist, Balthasar Hubmaier, would sign his various writings, “Truth is unkillable.” I like that. It shows us that when we teach math, history, science, or Scripture, truth always leads us back Jesus Christ. In a day when many colleges are sacrificing truth on the altar of political correctness, Jacksonville College stands firm on the truth of Jesus Christ and educates students from that perspective.

The mission of Jacksonville College is, “We provide Christ-centered teaching and training that prepares students to live meaningful lives that transform the world.”

Two of the most difficult paths to navigate in twenty-first century America is education and ministry. When you bring the two together into a Christian college, you have a God-sized challenge. The task of Christian education is complicated. We must navigate some growing, troubled waters. We have accreditation issues that we must consider. We have financial auditors that we must please. We have the various laws and legal issues that colleges must take into account as they make decisions.

It is hard to be a Christian college in twenty-first century America. However, Christian education is worth it when you see the hearts and the minds of the students being changed.

It is a God-sized challenge, but we have a God who has never been defeated.

Jacksonville College has her share of challenges. We have buildings that need to be revitalized. We have educational programs that need to be explored. We have students that we need to recruit. But we have a God who is up to the task.

While I serve as interim president, I would like to share with you three areas where I am going to focus.

**First, I am going to focus on renewing.** Jacksonville College has many stakeholders. We have people who have given generously. We have a community that supports our presence. We have constituents who pray for and support our efforts to teach, train, and transform.

Every one of those relationships is important. Indeed, one of the foundational tenets of Christianity is the development of relationships. That is why God created the family in Genesis. That is why God established churches. Relationships matter. And that is why the deepest pain felt by humanity is a broken-heart; to love others is to risk pain.

The apostle Paul and Barnabas brought a young man by the name of John Mark with them on their first missionary journey. Mark broke their confidence to such a degree that Paul refused to work with Mark on the next opportunity. The division became so severe that Paul and Barnabas parted ways for a time.

However, in 2 Timothy 4:11-13—mere days before Paul was put to death—he tells Timothy to bring a coat, bring his books, and bring his Bible. Immediately before those items, he tells Timothy to bring John Mark. Their relationship had been renewed.

One critical way to maintain and to renew relationships is to communicate. Many have asked me about communication. I am committing to you that I will focus on communicating the message of Jacksonville College to anyone who will listen.

Proverbs 25:11 says, “A word spoken at the right time is like golden apples in silver settings.”

**In addition to renewing relationships, I will focus on reviving.** There is no greater place to work than in a place where the people are walking with Jesus Christ and are finding joy in doing their job. They are excited about what God is doing and they want to be a part of it.

Jacksonville College is filled with staff members who love the Lord and want to serve Him. One of the greatest ways that we can foster a joyful environment on the campus is through encouraging our staff to maintain a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ.

In order to do that, we are praying together. We are encouraging one another. We are weeping with those who weep and rejoicing with those who rejoice. We not only want to see our staff walking with Christ, but we want to see the students walking with Christ.

This past semester we started a Meaningful Life Course. This is a pass/fail course that every student is required to take before graduation. They come to chapel one week where they hear the message of salvation. The next week they are divided into small groups where some of our staff lead them through conversations about what the message means.

When you consider that 30 percent of our on-campus student body is international students, you can see the mission opportunity. We have students from England, Brazil, Zimbabwe, Zambia and a host of other nations around the world. We are making it our goal to introduce them to Jesus Christ, and then send them back home with

a Bible in their hand and the Spirit in their heart. We are doing evangelism through education.

**Finally, we will focus on recruiting.** We want to recruit more students into more areas of study. These past few months we have sent recruiters into high schools across east Texas. We are going to recruit from high schools, private schools, and homeschools.

We not only need to recruit students; we need to recruit donors. Bring together education and the Christian ministry and you have a God-sized task in front of you.

Education is getting more expensive. Christian giving is decreasing. We need people to come alongside of us and support us. During the interim, I want to renew, revive, and recruit.

At the end of the day, I see my task as the interim president of Jacksonville College to help us to cling to our heritage while we reach for our future. You are our heritage. Without you there is no Jacksonville College.

If you think about it, to be a Christian is to look backwards and forwards at the same time. We look backward at the Cross of Jesus Christ, and we look toward eternity with Jesus.

We look backward at the Jesus of Nazareth who rode on a donkey. We look forward to the Christ who will ride on a stallion.

We look backward at the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We look forward when we shall be raised in His likeness and see Him as He is.

The Christian faith is constantly looking backward and forward at the same time. I am asking you to help me do that at Jacksonville College. Let’s cling to our heritage while we reach for our future.

If you will do that with me, I am convinced that Jacksonville College will be used greatly by God to do evangelism through education. After all, the Truth is unkillable.

---

*Dr. John Mann is the interim president of Jacksonville College. Contact him at 105 B. J. Albritton Drive, Jacksonville, Texas 75766, 903-586-2518 or [president@jacksonville-college.edu](mailto:president@jacksonville-college.edu). For more information, visit [www.jacksonvillecollege.edu](http://www.jacksonvillecollege.edu).*

---



## INDIGENOUS MISSIONS

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

**T**he fourth value of BMA Global Missions is that we practice indigenous missions principles. The word indigenous simply means that something belongs locally. The ministries that we initiate around the world must be sustainable and reproducible in each of those local contexts. Those ministries will not last, and certainly will not multiply, if they are dependent on outsiders to provide vision, finances, and leadership.

In missionary ministry, a certain tension has always existed in the instruction and application of biblical truth in local cultural contexts. This process is referred to as indigenization: the attempt to make the gospel belong in a local setting and not be viewed as a foreign idea or expression. Unfortunately, in many places of the world where Western missionaries have pioneered gospel ministry, that ministry has been presented with a significant Western cultural baggage.

Jesus, the Son of God in the flesh, practiced indigenous missions principles during his own personal ministry. He did not walk into a historical/cultural vacuum; he walked into a very specific history and culture in Israel. In his efforts to convey his message and develop reproducing leaders, he worked in and with the cultural norms. He did not view all culture as antagonistic to his mission.

Jesus used four common metaphors to communicate and illustrate his message: farming, vines, sheep, and fishing. These, of course, are obviously taken directly from daily life in Israel. Jesus also utilized the synagogue system as long as they would allow him, and he employed the rabbinical structure of instruction where a rabbi would have a select group of students/followers. Jesus spoke in parables, which was a common teaching method of the local culture. There were many things that Jesus did not accept or utilize from the culture, especially the religious system of his day.

Indigenous missions principles are quite evident in the New Testament. Historically, men like Henry Venn and Roland Allen, who both lived and served as missionaries in the early twentieth century, articulated indigenous principles, and they continue to be a very good resource in the on-going discussion.

For many years, a guiding concept in the indigenization conversation has been the “Three-self” model for churches. In this idea, the goal is for a church that is self-governing, self-sustaining, and self-propagating. This simply means that the church makes its own decisions, pays its own way, and is able to multiply . . . all without outside interference or help. This model has been scrutinized for various reasons. One criticism is that it overly emphasizes the “self” part and creates isolation. Another criticism offered that it was incomplete and two more “selves” were added: self-expressing and self-theologizing. These simply mean that the local church looks like a church in that culture in architecture, worship style, communication style, leadership selection, etc. Self-theologizing does not mean it can create for itself some special system of theology, it means that they must build and apply biblical theology in local themes that we simply do not have very often in the West such as polygamy, animism etc.

BMA Global Missions attempts to carry out healthy indigenous principles. Noted missionary Hudson Taylor once said that “missionaries are the scaffolding, not the edifice.” Like Christ, our missionary methods must include local forms that will allow us to develop local leaders in local systems that will carry on after the scaffolding has been removed.



Two primary ways that BMA Global Missions attempts to accomplish this goal include our church planting grant program through ChangeMaker missionaries and our practice of the “principle of the thirds.” Both of these efforts have as their stated goal to partner without creating dependence. Prayerfully, this also does not take us to the extremes where we have no ongoing relationship and do not cultivate the “self” part in isolation but in association.

The grant program through ChangeMaker missionaries is carried out in the lives of non-American church planters who receive a church planting grant for a limited number of years. In essence the partnership is with both the project and the person, but it is not open-ended. It is intended to help the church plant go to the five-self stage and repeat the process as the church becomes part of our worldwide family.

The principle of the thirds is intended to support those churches in their advancement by not giving them gifts where they are not vetted in the process. If they want to make a major purchase or build a building etc., they are expected to fund the first third of the total cost, then we will try to help them with a third, and the last third can be an interest free loan from our international loan fund. In the end, we partner and facilitate; we do not enable and create dependence. Also, the local congregation will have paid two-thirds of the total cost when the project is complete.

Much like our own children, we look forward to the day when they are independent from us as parents in finances, decision making, and other areas of life. That does not end our relationship, it merely changes the dynamics. Overall, we as parents rejoice in seeing our children flourish on their own. BMA Global Missions is thankful that we have many family members in our association around the world that function on their own and yet they are a vital part of the ongoing ministry.

If the edifice is going to shine and the children are going to live in a healthy manner on their own . . . the scaffolding and the unhealthy systems of enablement and dependency must come down.



## OPEN HEARTS AND GOSPEL RESPONSES

BY: Jeremiah S  
BMA Missions  
bmamissions.org

*Editor's Note: For the past decade, Jeremiah has been serving in the district of Ahmednagar, located in the southern state of Maharashtra, which has a population of 4.5 million people, most of whom are Hindu. Ninety-four percent of the world's Hindus live in India, but there are substantial populations of Christians, Sikhs, and Buddhists. India's massive population includes not only the vast majority of the world's Hindus, but also the second-largest group of Muslims within a single country behind Indonesia. While there are legal protections for religious groups and minorities, Indians still experience "high" levels of government restrictions on religion.*

Our work is growing, and most of our churches are also growing after the lockdown period. God is tremendously blessing our efforts in one mission area in the district of Ahmednagar where we have baptized more than thirty people in the last six months. I am working with a young church planter named Bro. Jayesh in three church plants in this district, and Bro. Jayesh and his wife were some of the first people that I baptized eight years ago.

God is opening people's hearts, and the people are responding to the gospel. I want to tell you about two stories, each story about new believers and how they came to know Christ:

First, a lady named Savita visited our prayer meeting at one of the church plants with one of our members three months ago. She had a very rough life and found herself deep in sin after suffering abuse and experiencing drug addiction. Savita lived with multiple partners in the last six years but never married any of them. That day when she visited our prayer meeting, God opened her heart and she was filled with guilt. She cried in front of the whole group and accepted that she was a sinner, repented of her sins, and accepted Christ. She was baptized just three weeks ago. We are gracious to God for opening people's hearts to receive his word, changing their lives forever.

The second story is about a man named Shiva. His wife came to our church regularly, but Shiva never came; he was a very staunch Hindu and an alcoholic. A few months ago, their daughter had pneumonia, so we went to their home to pray for her, and by God's grace he was home at the time. He did not speak a word and almost seemed angry as we prayed for the little girl. After praying, we spoke to him and told him about Jesus, but he just sat there, listening to what we had to say, never speaking a word. A couple of weeks later he visited our Thursday prayer meeting and listened to the message being preached from the third chapter of John, the story of

Nicodemus. The Holy Spirit opened his heart, he was filled with guilt, and that day he accepted Jesus and insisted on getting baptized immediately.

God is great and faithful. He is bringing a revival in this church plant. We praise and thank God for what he is doing in Ahmednagar.







## ENABLING BELIEVERS TO REACH THEIR OWN PEOPLE

BY: Jeremy Hambrice  
BMA Missions  
bmamissions.org

Seven years ago we began to build our jungle houses in the mountains among the Wantakia people of Papua New Guinea (PNG). Before we ever learned their language, created an alphabet for it, or translated any scripture in it, we asked God to show us men and women who were faithful, available, and teachable (F.A.T.). We knew that many years down the road we would be doing ministry with them and eventually handing God's Word over to them so they could continue teaching it long after we were gone.

As we started learning the Wantakia language, we began to see men and women display those F.A.T. qualities, and as we spent time with them, we could see God revealing both men and women who were faithful, available, and teachable! Pasei was not one of those people.

When we first moved out to the village of Pinji to live with the Wantakia, Pasei was not there. We had no idea that all three of us missionary families had built our houses on his property. His older brother had given the okay, but when Pasei heard the news, his first thought was that he had struck it rich, and he would come and demand from us missionaries that we build him a tin roof house too.

When Pasei first arrived, he didn't make any demands, but we could sense that he was a very arrogant person, always telling people his way was right and theirs was wrong. Pasei had been married to his wife Wumlin for about five years at this point. They were childless, and he would beat her and tell her how easily replaceable she was. They tried eating magic fertility leaves from the bush doctor, but that didn't help her conceive. Pasei was convinced Wumlin's brothers used sorcery to make her barren.

After three years we finally learned Pasei's language, created an alphabet for it, began to translate the scriptures into it, and developed a literacy program so people could read it. How surprised we were when Pasei, the man who knew everything, came to us with his three dollar school fee and faithfully attended our literacy program for three months. On the heels of that first literacy class, we taught the people of Pinji village God's Word for the first time.

We prepared around seventy Bible lessons that would take the Wantakia from the beginning of God's Word all the way to the end with the hope that many would repent before God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. It took us a little over two months to teach the entire story of God, and Pasei and

Wumlin faithfully came every day. As they sat on a log under our teaching tarp, hearing God's Word in their own language, looking at pictures of the stories and watching many of these scenes acted out by us missionaries, Pasei and Wumlin heard for the first time how they were sinners who had come from Adam and were born in Satan's clan.

They heard their only hope was the promised Savior Jesus who came and did all the work necessary for them to leave Satan's clan and live in God's. After hearing that message very clearly, they both, along with many other Wantakia people of Pinji village, believed in Jesus and went from "darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God" (Acts 26).

When that happened we began to see such a transformation in the lives of Pasei and Wumlin. Pasei changed from being the most arrogant man in the village to the humblest! He went to apologize to Wumlin and her family for how he had acted and told them that he now believes that God is the author of life and could give them a child if he desires. After praying for over a year, God provided a child!

Not long after Pasei believed, we began to train Wantakia literacy teachers to take our place. That is the way of indigenous missions—"we do things with people and not for people, enabling them to reach their own people." Because Pasei, through the power of the Spirit, was beginning to show some of those F.A.T. qualities, we began to train him to become a teacher as well. In the meantime, we kept teaching the new believers through the book of Acts. They all heard that one of the church's main responsibilities is to share the gospel, and they wanted to do just that.

As a result, there was great interest in hearing the entire story of God just like we had taught it the first time. This time, though, we missionaries didn't want to teach it by ourselves. We wanted to involve the new believers, teach with them, and enable them to reach their own people. To do that, we began to train Pasei and others to be Bible teachers. This time they stood up with us and faithfully proclaimed the good news. The result was that we saw many more believe in Christ and join the church! Because we have done this with them and they are being equipped to reach their own people, the church desires to take the gospel to Wumlin's home village of Asi.





# COMPLETING THE TASK

BY: Holly Meriweather

Lifeword  
lifeword.org

**L**ifeword exists to help make disciples through the creative proclamation, production and promotion of biblically sound media that communicates in the heart language of every tongue, tribe and nation.

Lifeword fully understands that the Great Commission of making disciples of all nations was given to the local church, the only authorized body to fulfill this great task. These are her marching orders as given by Jesus, so Lifeword, rather than doing the work for the local church or doing things for the local indigenous peoples, has come alongside with media tools, training, and various forms of support.

The men and women who create gospel media content for lifeword.org serve their own communities, their own cultures, and their own languages and dialects. There are currently more than 160 community radio stations and seven online radio stations run by local churches in their communities and for their communities.

The evangelistic gospel presentations they create are broadcast in 140 languages and led by local indigenous believers in our churches. Hundreds of these programs are 100% produced by churches for ministry to their own communities. Meant to be extensions of church outreach, these videos are produced for the various cultural niches in their own context.

In each of the four regions, Lifeword global partners work to create these relevant videos. In Africa, the BMA Ghana, BMA Liberia, and BMA Nigeria associations are reaching their own communities using tools Lifeword has provided. Nigerian Joseph Eniowo's use of smartphones distributed in three mission points to help evangelize children and families then begin discipleship.

In the Americas (Central and South), the Gaitans (Nicaragua) produce marriage and family videos in a culture where infidelity and

bigamy are acceptable lifestyles. Valmori Zelaya ministers in an area of El Salvador that is hungry for the gospel, so he produces 60-90 second evangelistic videos and is seeing positive results. Peruvian Paul Tinoco installs powerful transmitters as close as he can to people groups in Peru's remote jungles when he hears of those without access to evangelical radio stations.

In Asia, Filipino Pastor Pete Etabag is helping BMA churches there to reach communities from the cities to the jungles. Most of his trainees only have cell phones, so he teaches them how to produce gospel content with them. In Lebanon, Joe Costa records programming for several niche cultures in Arabic including Muslims, women, Armenian diaspora, and agnostics.

In the European region, Lifeword has come alongside Brother Bogdan Bilav with media tools that share the gospel. Using gypsy-language Bible recordings and translations of the four Gospels, he targets this marginalized people group. Also, Ukrainian Pastor Pasha Onatsko continues ministering to refugees and produces videos explaining why the war with Russia is happening instead of what is happening. His content is for people who need hope and an understanding that God is in control.

Lifeword Director of Operations Luis Ortega says, "It is an honor for Lifeword to be invited by the local church to help fulfill the great task given to her by her leader, Jesus. Making disciples of Jesus in the heart language of

every tongue, tribe and nation requires believers in each of those areas to do their part, and who better than local indigenous believers who are passionate about the task and familiar with their own context, traditions, beliefs, and needs, serving their own immediate neighbors."





# BMA of Texas meets for the first time in Livingston cont.



▲ The Erwins

## CONCERT AND FEATURED SPEAKER

Monday evening, *Baptist Progress* presented a concert by the award-winning Southern Gospel group, The Erwins. Todd West, BMA of Texas pastor connections coordinator, preached Philippians 3:12-14, challenging his listeners to put past successes and failures behind them and move toward the place God would have them to be with the ultimate goal being to know Christ. West said, that when one knows Christ intimately, he will become like Him. His sermon can also be viewed on the *Baptist Progress* Facebook page.



▲ Todd West

## LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Events on Tuesday morning of the meeting included the annual state WMA meeting and the BMA Texas Missions Leadership Conference. Attending the annual WMA meeting were 73 ladies. The auxiliary's project for the past year was to support a ministry in South Asia. A total of over \$13,000 was raised. The WMA chose as their 2022-2023 mission project to supply Bibles and study materials for BMA of Texas church planters.

The Leadership Conference featured David Crain, a high-energy Christian musician and speaker who is no stranger to the BMA of Texas, having spoken or performed at numerous BMA conferences. He inspired and challenged those in attendance concerning worship.

## COORDINATING COMMITTEE/2023 MEETING PLACE AND TIME

Recommendations presented by the Coordinating Committee that were approved included the election of Jack Cook, a member of South Park, Fort Worth, and Brian Upchurch, pastor of Shady Grove, Purdon, to the BMA of Texas Nominating Committee. Also, messengers approved that the 123<sup>rd</sup> Annual Session of the BMA of Texas be held at Crossroads Church in Rowlett Nov. 6-7, 2023.

Elected to serve on the Coordinating Committee were Paul Gothard, pastor of The Way at Southline, Cleveland; Rick

Salazar, a member of the same church, Cleveland; and Kristi Key, a member of Old Bethel, Canton.

## TBHC

Jason Curry, president of TBHC reported that the ministry he directs cared for 183 children, took part in 27 adoptions and witnessed 10 professions of faith during the past year. Curry also reminded messengers of the ministry's mission—"To Glorify God by Caring for Children." He spoke of the continued effort of TBHC in their new office in the Permian Basin and shared that the ministry is working toward the possibility of opening an office in east Texas. He requested additional financial resources as the opening of an east Texas office would require adding to the budget of TBHC. Until such time as that might happen, the ministry will be engaging in that area. Finally, Curry spoke of TBHC's acquisition of Compassionate Hope, a ministry to orphans and children in need in some eastern European nations, as reported in the last two issues of *Baptist Progress*.

## BAPTIST MISSIONARY LOAN ASSOCIATION

This editor, who also serves as director of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association (BMLA), reported that five loans were provided to churches the past year with 10 more the previous year. The challenge was given for individuals and churches to invest in the BMLA through investment certificates, similar to certificates of deposit in order that more loans may be provided to growing churches.

## BAPTIST PROGRESS

This editor shared that *Baptist Progress*, the informing and equipping ministry of the BMA of Texas, provided numerous Ministry Connection Workshops in 2022 and that plans are in the works for more in 2023. Messengers were also reminded that *Baptist Progress* provides interim pastor training, interim pastor placement, an every Sunday bulletin service, website creation and maintenance as well as recommends insurance through the ministry's agreement with American Church Group Texas, a subsidiary of Brotherhood Mutual.

## JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

Charles Johnson, a trustee of Jacksonville College, introduced newly elected interim president Dr. John Mann. Johnson compared Mann to Esther in the Bible, stating his belief that God has raised up Mann for such a time as this following the recent resignation of Dr. Joe Lightner as president.

Lightner resigned effective Oct. 28, 2022. A press release from Jacksonville College, stated that Lightner said the Lord had released him to lead a non-profit that he started several years ago while also supporting other ministries. The press release also noted that during Lightner's tenure much needed building renovations had taken place, enrollment had increased and finances had improved.

Following Lightner's resignation, the trustees unanimously voted to extend an invitation to Dr. John Mann to serve as interim president during the presidential vacancy and is moving forward with plans to fill the position of president in the coming months. Mann has served the college over the last year as executive vice president.

The interim president told the messengers gathered in Livingston that during his tenure, he would focus on three areas: 1) renewing relationships, 2) reviving faculty and students and 3) recruiting new students.

Mann said, "I am committing to you today that I will communicate the ministry of Jacksonville College to anyone who will listen. The interim president's report may be found on page 6 of this issue.

During miscellaneous business, a lengthy motion was presented by Dr. David Erickson, a professor at BMA Theological Seminary. The motion and comments that followed may be found on page 4 of this issue.

## BMA TEXAS MISSIONS

The report for BMA Texas Missions included a video that shared how hundreds of souls have been saved because the gospel has been preached by church planters and their congregations in over 30 state missions across Texas. As a result of the faithfulness of BMA of Texas churches, five new state missionaries were approved including the following: Jeremiah Akintunde, Duncanville; Abner Nunez, assistant to Cesar Leal, San Antonio; Peter Oyeniran, Mission Bend; Luis H. Perez, Katy and Fidel Torres, Denton. A joint project with BMA of America Missions involving Omar Pina in the DFW Metroplex was also approved.

## ANNUAL MESSAGE

The annual message was delivered by James Schoenrock, pastor of Sheppard Drive, Euless. He spoke on the subject, "The Anchor Holds," from Joshua 14, concerning the life of Caleb. Schoenrock, a former executive director of BMA of America Missions, will soon turn 85, and continues to faithfully serve the Lord. His message may also be found on the *Baptist Progress* Facebook page.



▲ James Schoenrock

Elected to bring the annual message at the 2023 BMA of Texas Meeting was Robbie Caldwell, who retired a few years ago as pastor of New Harmony, Tyler. Elected as alternate speaker was Wes Pratt, pastor of Northside, Conroe.

## 2022-2023 OFFICERS

All current officers including Ryan Burchett, president; Michael Pool, first vice president; Eric Johnson, second vice president; Eddie Ballard and Wayne McKay, recording clerks, were re-elected to serve for the 2022-2023 associational year.

# No rules, no punishment leads to anarchy



By JOHN M. ADAMS, D.MIN.

Proverbs 29:2 says, "...when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn."

It seems today that the wicked are ruling. So many true Christian believers are disillusioned. So many watch as the streets are filled with violence and corruption. Anarchy is defined as "a state of disorder due to the absence or non-recognition of authority." Synonymous words are revolution, disorder, chaos, mayhem and mobocracy. There seems to be a lack of punishment and a lack of obedience to the laws of the land.

Punishment for wrongdoing is operative in this world although man has not faced his responsibility in performing it. Paul the Apostle has summed up the principle in the words of Galatians 6:7: "For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." This axiom of truth is far-reaching, invading all of creation.

## THE BASIS FOR PUNISHMENT

Historically the basis for punishment in our society has been man's belief in God—the God Who is Sovereign over the universe, the God Who has revealed Himself as moral, having a standard of right and wrong with punishment for the wrongdoer. This punishment is not based particularly on its being a deterrent to wrongdoing, but rather as the wage for wrongdoing. Romans 6:23 bears witness in these words, "For the wages of sin is death."

Today the philosophy of unbelief with its rejection of the living and moral God and the exaltation of man to a supremacy that is subject to no higher power than himself is demanding a hearing in our land. Such a belief is not new, having always been present; but out intellectual climate and our growing freedom of expression have provided man with liberty to accept or reject the declarations of Scripture.

Our concept of right and wrong and the punishment of wrongdoers will be determined on the basis of our belief or unbelief in the living God. Humanism does not believe in God.

Believing that God is and He alone is the Director of this universe, we must submit to His dictates; and in the realm of punishment we must obey His commands. God rules according to His standard of right and wrong. This includes punishment for wrongdoers!

## MANIFESTATIONS OF PUNISHMENT

### *It is Observed in Creation*

Punishment is seen in the operation of natural law. Violation of these laws have their results. To jump off a cliff, expecting a reversal of the law of gravity, in no way stays off a broken body. Punishment is also manifest when one tampers with the animal kingdom. To antagonize the "king of the jungle" would be to receive a recompense of reward.

### *It is Observed in the Societies of the World*

As societies develop, they include regulations and punishments. Even those which fall under the caption of being freedom fighters, a term which implies deep concern for the common man, have punishment—severe punishment—for all who do not conform to the rules. It is difficult to conceive of a society continuing which does not incorporate into its life a system of punishment for offenders.

It is interesting to note that before the Pilgrims landed on the shores of the new world, they covenanted to be ruled by a document which would control each member of the company.

### *It is observed in the Scriptures*

Believing that God has spoken and that the Bible is that

message, we shouldn't be surprised to find many passages dealing with the subject of punishment.

## PUNISHMENT INFLICTED DIRECTLY BY GOD.

Consider the following as examples: Cain (Gen. 4:11-16). When God made His pronouncement, Cain responded, "My punishment is greater than I can bare."

The Flood (Fen. 6:1-8:22). Rejection of God's warning resulted in the removal of that society. When the door of the ark was shut, there was no change in the announced punishment.

Sarai (Gen. 12:17). In protecting His "chosen", God inflicted punishment on Pharaoh's house although his offense was in ignorance!

Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). As a definite and shocking example of God's righteous indignation toward lying – and that to God – these two met immediate physical death.

## PUNISHMENT ADMINISTERED BY MAN.

(Genesis 9:1-7) Disrespect and destruction of human life were the first offenses to be placed under man's jurisdiction. Capital punishment was to be the consequence of murder. This principle continues throughout Scripture, being affirmed in the New Testament by Christ and the Apostle Paul (Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-14)

Exodus-Deuteronomy. "If we knew, we would do," sums up Israel's appeal to Moses (Deut. 5:27). This prompted God to give the Law, coupled with specific punishments for those who failed to comply. A careful analysis of Scripture will reveal the severity of punishment accompanying the Law.

### *Responsibility in Punishment*

Man's responsibility in punishment is divided between the family, the church and the state. When each is diligent in the task, the entire society functions with a measure of peace and prosperity.

### *The Family*

Being ordained of God, the family stands as a very important part of God's plan for mankind. Although some sociologists don't accept the family as an absolute, God does. He calls for a man to leave his parents, cleave to his wife and, living together, rear their children according to God's rules (Gen:24; Matt. 19:6)

### *Children Need to Be Trained*

No child comes into this world programmed to do that which is right (Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:23). Right actions are the result of right training, beginning the first day and including God's plan of salvation. Life must be directed if it is to develop the kind of character acceptable to God and one that will function in society. In order to accomplish this task there must be a penalty for disobedience (Prov. 22:15; Eph. 6:1-4).

### *Children Need to Understand Punishment*

Abraham must have been an example of this kind of parent (Gen. 18:19). Having made clear to the child the difference between right and wrong, the rewards and penalties must also be clearly presented (Prov. 22:6).

### *Parents Must Carry Through in Punishment.*

Consider Prov. 13:24 and 23:13,14. When rules are established and broken, it is the parents' responsibility to administer the punishment. If children don't learn this lesson at home, will they learn it in society? If we neglect our responsibility as parents, can we rightfully criticize state officials who have become soft in administering punishment?

### *The Church*

It is an established principle in Scripture that all who are born-again believers are to be identified with a local church. In this communion there are certain rules laid down by God, including the discipline of the offenders.

The Guiding Principle (Matt. 18:15-17; I Tim. 3:1-16). A church congregation is responsible to maintain a good testimony in the community. This is possible only when each individual member keeps the rules. If sin is allowed to reign and situations are overlooked which scream for correction, the church is failing in its responsibility.

### *The State*

The state with its rule is ordained of God. It has been authorized to administer punishment on wrongdoers to protect society (Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-14). This is a basic principle in the structure of our government.

According to Scripture, governmental officers are just as responsible to God as are gospel ministers. They are commissioned by God to "carry the sword." They are guardians of human life and are to use all means available to maintain decency and order including capital punishment of those committing deliberately planned murder.

## GROWING SOFTNESS IN PUNISHMENT

Today's softness in punishment reigns from the home to the church to the state. It appears that all too frequently the offender received greater protection than does the offended! The older generation, observing the moral breakdown, blames the younger generation; and the younger generation, beholding the hypocrisy of the day, blames the older generation. Yet all the while there is a philosophy which is sapping the very heart of our great nation.

## WHY SUCH SOFTNESS AGAINST CRIME

God and His Word are excluded. Once God's Word controlled the decisions of our government and our courts. Punishment was meted out as the just penalty for crimes committed.

Walter Lippmann saw this change coming in his day. In his book, The Preface to Morals (1929), he showed that a switch from the living and true God to the created god of the liberal mind would change the moral standards and stamina of America. His conclusion is apparent today!

To teach that man is the product of evolution without responsibility to the supreme God and that there is no destiny beyond the few days of this life which is destined to annihilation, is to foster an attitude of "eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die."

Once again to the Scriptures we find that when "the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice, but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn" (Prov. 29:2). The designation "wicked" in this text is used in the Old Testament of those who walk apart from God's Word and His authority! Without question the answer to our plight in regard to honest punishment for crimes committed will be realized only through a spiritual revival which enthrones God and His moral standard of right and wrong!

Dr. John M. Adams is the executive director of BMAA Moral Action. Contact him at Moral Action -BMA of America, P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, Mississippi 38855 or visit [www.mabma.net](http://www.mabma.net) for more information.





# BMA of america



## Hello, my people

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

*BMA Ministry Center*

Since January of 2014 I have had the honor of serving you in every ministry of the BMA, and what an honor it has been! Recently, I have been asked to serve in another area: BMA Life. Focused on our people and churches, this website and Facebook page is being repurposed just for you.

The vision for this initiative is to celebrate our people and churches, encourage each other, and unify our fairly small but mighty association that does big things for the Lord. There are many inspiring stories out there, and I know that because you have shared them with me!

With so many people to profile, events to support, ministries to highlight, and histories to record, I need your help to find and write those stories or allow me to do so. Some of them have already been published on BMA Life, so check those out on Facebook, and join the conversation.

I look forward to hearing from you so we can share blessings (and even challenges) that glorify God and point people to the cross. Contact me at [bmalife@bmaamerica.org](mailto:bmalife@bmaamerica.org) and let me know your thoughts and ideas.

# BMA LIFE

## Former Daniel Springs Camp director called home

Memorial services for James Speer, 78, of Carthage, were held at First, Carthage Nov. 9, 2022. He was born April 1, 1944, in Ada, Oklahoma and passed from this life Nov. 3, 2022 at his home in Carthage. Speer was one of nine children born to the marriage of William Robert and Hazel Florence Hunter Speer. He was raised in Oklahoma and graduated high school in Potosi, Missouri in 1962. He received his Associate of Arts from Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas. Speer married his love, Barbara Kay Miller, March 27, 1965. Together, they celebrated 57 years of marriage.



▲ James Speer

Before serving as the executive director of Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment in Gary for 36 years, Speer held ministerial positions in youth, music and the pastorate in many churches in Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee and Texas. He was a devoted member of First, Carthage, where he sang in the Churchman Quartet, served in the AWANA Program for over 30 years and taught the Adult 3 Sunday School class for 40 years.

Memorials may be made Daniels Springs Encampment or the GIMP fund at First Baptist Church of Carthage.

## Winter quarter now available

By **JORDAN TEW**

*Baptist Publishing House Executive Director*

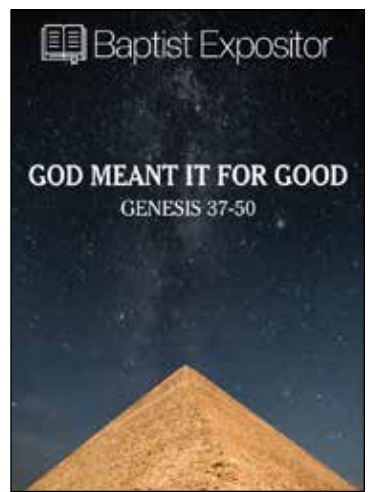
The winter Sunday school quarterly is now available! This series of lessons will conclude a four-book study of Genesis. This book is highlighted by the paraphrase of Joseph's words to his brothers, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good" (Genesis 50:20). Through this study, learners will see how God can cause good for His people when others intend to do them harm.

Our writers for this quarter are Dr. Philip Attebery, dean of BMA Seminary; Bro. Ryan Burchett, pastor of Walnut Street, Winnsboro and chaplain in the Texas National Guard and Jordan M. Tew, executive director of Baptist Publishing House.

The winter Sunday school quarter begins Sunday, December 4th.

The Baptist Expositor quotes the KJV, is designed for use by all ages 7th grade through senior adult, and is written by BMA writers for BMA churches.

You can learn more and place orders at [baptistpublishinghouse.com](http://baptistpublishinghouse.com) or by calling 800-333-1442.



## Sending "Everlasting Smiles" to Ukrainian children

By **MARGARET ANDERSON**

*BMA Global Ministry Center*

It's that time of year again! These days are always very exciting around the Global Ministry Center because it feels like Christmas! Since July we have been working with and hosting churches to take part in preparing Everlasting Smiles Christmas Shoeboxes to be distributed to Ukrainian refugees in Eastern Europe, and just last week, the first container of gifts was packed and sent on its way! Missionaries Larry and Tammy Wood will receive the container in Poland and coordinate distribution of the shoeboxes.

With your help, we reached our goal of 10,000 shoeboxes, but we still have space available on the second container. If you would like to help us fill the container, we are collecting items that have been requested by Ukrainian refugees—scarves, hats, gloves, socks, slippers, bags, blankets, warm clothes, and stuffed animals. We have an Amazon wish list which allows you to place an order

and have items sent straight to the Missions office: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2FDSD0PR29H7R?ref\\_=wl\\_fv\\_le](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2FDSD0PR29H7R?ref_=wl_fv_le).

We are also accepting donations online or through mail. Visit [bmamissions.org](http://bmamissions.org), select "give," then "designate my offering" and choose "Christmas Shoeboxes," or make checks payable to Everlasting Smiles, 611 Locust Ave., Conway, AR 72034. We are accepting items until Friday, November 4, which is when we hope to load the second container.

The children and families who will receive these shoeboxes and gifts have experienced unfathomable loss, and their worlds have been turned upside down since February. Our prayer is that these small gifts make a big impact, and that not only will these families receive material gifts, but more importantly, the best gift of all—a relationship with Jesus Christ.



▲ Walter and Betty Malone and Dr. Ralph Izard filling shoeboxes



# Auxiliaries

## Texas WMA ends 2022 strong, excited for the New Year

By **GLENDAM CHAMBERLAIN**

The Texas WMA met First, Livingston Nov. 8, 2022. President Kristi Key presided over the business portion of the meeting and gave a warm welcome to everyone. Jackie Ricks led the opening prayer. Ms. Key then read Matthew 5:14 and a special poem written by Claudie Thompson, in tribute to Ann Pugh, who recently passed away. Betty Blakley welcomed everyone to Livingston BC.



▲ **Texas WMA Officers**

Visitors, missionaries, church planters, National WMA officers, former state WMA presidents, pastors' wives and pastors were recognized.

National WMA president Charlotte Johnson encouraged the ladies to attend the national meeting next year in Conway, Arkansas. She then led the WMA motto. Song leader Cindy Allen, accompanied on the piano by Vera Koonce, led the WMA song, "Called".

GMA promoter Hayley Rasco introduced her younger sister, Aileena Maynard, who is representing the state as Texas Junior Miss GMA. Ms. Maynard read from Matthew 6:23. We had the opportunity to view a video by Texas (and National) Miss GMA, Audrey Johnson. She spoke on Isaiah 60:22 and Romans 8:28.

Cindy Allen and Glenda Chamberlain awarded door prizes. President Key called the business meeting to order with the seating of the messengers. Sunbeam Promoter Vera Koonce spoke of the fun Houseparty held during the summer at Jacksonville College, and encouraged all churches who have children to make plans to come to the 2023 Houseparty. Theme for next year will be "Tis So Sweet."

Hayley Rasco gave a report on the GMA Houseparty held at First, Jacksonville last spring. She mentioned the next houseparty will be at Daniel Springs March 10-11, 2023. Theme will be "Spread the Word."

Project promoter Jeannie Walker gave a brief report of our project, JW of Southeast Asia. Ms. Walker presented certificates to the churches with the top donations. Year-to-date donations total \$13,192.77. All monies received through the end of November will be applied to the current project.

President Key announced the following committees: Registration— Alicia Johnson, Cathie Ross, and Melissa Halley; Petitionary letters— Sandy Jones, Berenda Mewborn, and Joan Decker; Finance— Jo Strong, Charlotte Johnson, and Johnnie Ross; Resolutions— Ann Bergman, Sandra Kizer, and Bettye Wilson.

Kerri Heuermann of the project selection committee presented the two choices for projects for the coming year. Johnnie Ross spoke

about the need to provide Bibles for our Texas mission locations. Then a video was shown about the Jeevan Prakash School in India. After a vote, the Texas mission project was selected and made unanimous after a motion and second.

The slate of new officer nominations was accepted as a whole. Texas WMA 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president Diana Morris presented each officer with a delightful bag of holiday stovetop simmer. The simmer represented her theme for the coming year "Taste and See" from Psalm 34:8. Kristi thanked Elizabeth Midkiff for her many years of work as a recording secretary.

After nominations were open for the new position on the nominating committee, Elizabeth Midkiff was elected. Also elected from the floor were the new advisory council: Bro. Jed Whitaker, Bro. Leon Ross, and Bro. Adam Key.

The registration committee gave their report of 54 messengers and 19 visitors for a total of 73 present from 45 churches, 1 state and 1 foreign country.

Cindy Allen led the group in singing "I Love to Tell the Story." Then we were blessed by Lindsie Burchett singing "I the Lord of Sea and Sky." Diana Morris introduced the guest speaker, Cheryl Hughes.

Ms. Hughes spoke of how we could all help carry out the great commission of Matthew 28:19-20. She told of her many BMMI trips to various countries. She encouraged us to consider going on a mission trip by saying "You are never too old and it's not too late."

Diana Morris and Jason Prewitt did a skit to highlight the national project of Daniel Springs Encampment. Following that, Bro. Jason blessed the delicious BBQ lunch which First, Livingston provided.

Following lunch, Kristi reminded everyone about the upcoming 2023 retreats: spring retreat at LakeRidge, Lubbock and fall retreat at Cornerstone, Jacksonville.

Diana Morris introduced the afternoon speaker, Rose Ng. Rose spoke of her journey to salvation and education for her mission work. She shared her ten-year plan for beginning a school in Cambodia to help the children of the boat people.

Kristi Key led in the final prayer before dismissing the WMA meeting.

### 2023 SPRING RETREAT IN LUBBOCK

"Created to Worship" is the theme for the Spring Retreat at LakeRidge Baptist Church in Lubbock, March 31-April 1, 2023. Guest speaker will be award-winning Babbie Mason. She is a two-time Dove Award-winning Christian singer, songwriter, author and TV talk show host. A Christian Music Hall of Fame inductee, Babbie Mason has 26 recorded projects to her credit and authored 8 books.

The retreat will feature wonderful workshops. Meals will include

a light supper Friday evening, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, as well as snack stations throughout the retreat. Registration is open now, the cost is \$65 per person, and if you make the early-bird registration by Jan. 31, 2023, the cost includes a special retreat T-shirt. You can access the online registration at <https://form.jotform.com/222336193598161>.

Barbie Reynolds is the retreat coordinator. She can be reached by calling or texting 806-470-9384. For more information email: [SpringRetreat2023@mylakeridgebaptist.org](mailto:SpringRetreat2023@mylakeridgebaptist.org) or check out the Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/lubbockspringretreat2023](https://www.facebook.com/lubbockspringretreat2023)

### DISTRICT NEWS

**Liberty District WMA** met at Antioch, Gilmer Oct. 8, 2022. The GMA girls and their leaders met at the same time.

President Teresa Gipson presided, and read Psalm 119:105-107. Tami Blackburn gave the welcome and opening prayer. Teresa led the WMA Motto.

Shirley Hoffpauir introduced the Sunbeam Theme for this year, "All Aboard With Jesus". The Sunbeams will be led to think about Heaven, the Pearly Gates, Light, Garden, and visualize what heaven will be like.

Sandra Kizer gave some pointers on observing Pastor and Deacon Appreciation. She presented a pen to each Pastor and Deacon present. She asked prayer for them as they lead in the Lord's work.

Special music was brought by Elyssa Pool, preparing hearts for the spiritual time.

Program Chairperson, Johnnie Ross introduced the Theme for the year, "Finding True North." The theme verse is: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6). Some people seem to know with conviction God's plans for their lives, others spend much of their lives searching. We're going to spend time this year during our district WMA meetings searching together.

Small groups were formed with Amanda Anderson, Teresa Gipson, Ava Pool and Kirby Pool as leaders. Pondering Values and Passions was the general topic. Questions were used to start a list of things to do every day to become better Christians.

Our project for 2021-2022, was Editorial Bautista (Spanish Publications) and the offerings totaled \$3,043.81. Director Belinda Caudle expressed her appreciation for the offering.

The project selected for 2022-2023 is for The Master's Builders Work Fund. The next meeting will be at Latch Baptist Church, Gilmer, January 7, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Dismissal prayer was led by Jack Hoffpauir.

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



▲ **Babbie Mason**



# 2023 Evangelistic International Ministries mission trips



By **FONDA NORRIS**  
*Evangelistic International Ministries*

Have you ever said, “I wish I could do a mission trip,” but you didn’t know how or with whom? Evangelistic International Ministries would like to invite you, our fellow BMA of America brothers and sisters, to be a part of our 2023 Global Evangelism Teams. You will have the opportunity to spend several days on a foreign field investing in the lives of children and adults pouring into them the good news of the gospel.

For over 25 years, EIM has taken teams to work with BMA missionaries and church planters all around the world. We have seen God move and transform countless lives as team members have shared the gospel with people who have never heard. We have several opportunities for you in the summer of 2023.

The following are the available trips, dates, and costs.

<b>GHANA, WEST AFRICA</b>		
JUNE 21-30, 2023		\$3,000
<b>TANZANIA, EAST AFRICA</b>		
JULY 12-22, 2023		\$3,000
<b>HONDURAS</b>		
JULY 31-AUGUST 5		\$2,200

An online application and non-refundable deposit is due on or before JANUARY 27, 2023. If you are interested and would like more information please call me at the Warren EIM office at 870-226-3626 or email me at [fnorris@eimworldwide.org](mailto:fnorris@eimworldwide.org). You can also visit EIM’s website at: [www.eimworldwide.org](http://www.eimworldwide.org) and click on the TAKE A TRIP link to view all the requirements to be placed on a team.



## Be a Missionary Care Giver

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**  
*BMA Ministry Center*

“Our prayer is that we can encourage and strengthen missionaries so they can spread the gospel as effectively as possible, to as many as possible, for as long as possible.”

Former International Director (and Missionary Care Director) Jerry Kidd established the BMA’s missionary care initiative years ago and has a great love for missionaries and their unique needs while on the field. During his time leading missionary care, he organized regional conferences, which involved a great deal of planning and outside support, but these conferences were so beneficial for our missionaries.

Brother Jerry has always dreamed of a global conference for all our missionaries. That goal will become a reality April 27–30, 2023, as missionaries from around the world plan to come to the States for the BMA National Meeting and Global Care Conference to follow.

Current Missionary Care Director Jonathan Montgomery has a passion for ministering to our missionaries so they can minister to others. He says, “You cannot pump water from a dry well, so our Global Care Conference aims to pour into our missionaries and their families and replenish their spiritual, mental, and emotional needs so they can return to their fields with a stronger passion for making disciples and planting churches.”

After the 2016 Asia-Pacific Care Conference, one missionary said that the conference came “just at the right time” for him and his family. He explained, “We were physically exhausted, spiritually down, and feeling all alone in ministry. The messages were encouraging, the songs were inspiring, and the fellowship with the other missionaries was exactly what we needed.”

Studies show that 70 percent of missionaries leave the field earlier than planned and for reasons that could have been prevented had there been adequate support and care while serving. Burnout is one key reason missionaries leave the field early, but if provided an opportunity to connect with their peers, there is mutual encouragement, immediate connection, and beneficial fellowship.

Our goal is to give every BMA Missionary the opportunity to attend this global conference by covering every missionary family’s expense for this conference through donations, which will ensure that every BMA Missionary has an opportunity to attend. Expenses include international airfare, lodging, and meals.

### Breakdown of expenses:

Average Meals – \$150  
Average Lodging – \$500  
Average Airfare – \$1,250

### Expenses per family:

Individual – \$2,000  
Couple – \$3,500  
Family of Four – \$6,000

### Overall estimated cost:

\$250,000.

If you would like to donate to this ministry, please visit [bmamissions.org](http://bmamissions.org) or mail checks to BMA Missions, P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033, and in the memo line write “missionary care.”

# events

## 2023 BMA OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING

**DATE:** April 25-27, 2023 (Corrected Dates)

**PLACE:** Antioch Baptist Church, Conway, Arkansas

**HEADQUARTERS HOTEL:** To be decided

## 2023 SOAR

**DATE:** July 3-5, 2023

**PLACE:** Gaylord Texan, Grapevine, Texas

# personnel & positions

**CALVARY, ARLINGTON** is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 2101 S. Davis, Arlington, Texas 76013 or [resumes@calvarybaptistarlington.org](mailto:resumes@calvarybaptistarlington.org). For more information, call or text 214-762-9807. <sup>11/22</sup>

**YOUTH PASTOR/MINISTER**—New Harmony, Tyler is seeking a fulltime youth director/minister. Send resume to the church at 10251 FM 724, Tyler, Texas 75704 or to Russ Jackson at [rgjackson63@yahoo.com](mailto:rgjackson63@yahoo.com). <sup>TEN</sup>

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

# church news

**NORTHSIDE, GARLAND** will celebrate 60 years of ministry and is hosting a homecoming from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Dec. 4, 2022. Northside Baptist Church was founded Dec. 2, 1962 and the church’s first pastor was John C. Ridley. Former pastor Greg Thomas will be preaching. Everyone is welcome to attend the service at the church, located at 2510 N. Glenbrook Drive in Garland. For more information, call Pastor Chris Winkler at 682-321-4672. The church will also present an original Christmas musical play called, Home for Christmas, written by Pastor Chris Winkler at 6 p.m., Dec. 18, 2022. There will also be a Christmas party at 4 p.m. All are invited to join us for the party and play. All donations in lieu of tickets will go toward the Texas Baptist Home for Children.



# Apply for the Spring Semester by December 1!

All degrees  
now 100%  
online!



BMA Seminary

**[bmats.edu](http://bmats.edu)**

**800-259-5673**

