

# Baptist Progress

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## HISTORIC 115TH BMA OF TEXAS MEETING IN HOUSTON

By **JERRY FULTON**

*Baptist Progress Editor*

HOUSTON—The fellowship experienced was sweet, the messages delivered were inspiring, the reports given were visionary and there was a spirit of revival that pervaded the 115<sup>th</sup> BMA of Texas (BMAT) Meeting at Champion Forrest Baptist Church in Houston, Nov. 10-11, 2015. Two hundred thirteen messengers and others were present at the annual meeting. As the Association conducted business and worship in the chapel of the church, just down the hall, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention did the same. Tuesday evening, the two groups met together for worship, with congregational singing and a powerful sermon from Wes Pratt, pastor of Northside, Conroe.



▲ **Wes Pratt, pastor of Northside, Conroe, preaches during joint BMAT/SBTC worship service**

Before the meeting began, the Women's Missionary Auxiliary (WMA) held their annual state meeting, and a leadership conference, sponsored by BMA of Texas Missions was held. A complete report on the WMA meeting will be included in the Dec. 2 issue of Baptist Progress. See page 12 of this issue for a report on the leadership conference.

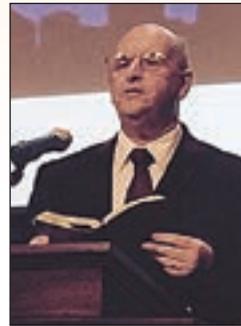
Following the WMA meeting and leadership conference, a reception was given in honor of Jerry Burnaman, state missions director. See page 12 of this issue for more

details.

As the first sessions of the BMAT Meeting got underway, Jason Wofford, worship leader of Northside, Conroe, led congregational singing. BMAT President Charles Johnson, pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer, called the meeting to order introducing the theme of the meeting, *In All Judea—In All Texas, (Acts 1:8)*. Eddie Marsh, president of Texas Baptist Home for Children, delivered the annual message, speaking from 1 Kings 18, stressing the need for revival in the land. Marsh noted that revival is taking place and souls are being saved on the campuses of Texas Baptist Home for Children and Jacksonville College, as well as a number of churches throughout the state. He spoke of the awesomeness of God and His ability to bring revival in America and turn the hearts of His people back to Him.



▲ **BMAT President Charles Johnson**



▲ **Eddie Marsh, Texas Baptist Home President**

This editor was the first of the department directors to give a report to messengers present. A brief history concerning the decline of the newspaper industry, since 1999, was given, followed by an explanation of why it has become necessary for *Baptist Progress* to increase subscription and advertising rates. A vision to expand the ministry of *Baptist Progress* from simply a communications ministry to also a resource ministry was shared.

Concerning resources, a newsletter for pastors and ministry leaders will be emailed each Monday morning. It will include leadership and church growth articles, sermon outlines, videos and more. The newsletter is called *Ministry Connection*.

A series of workshops and/or conferences, sponsored by *Baptist Progress*, for BMA of Texas pastors and ministry leaders will be offered in the coming year. Timely topics will be addressed in the workshops/conferences. Also, this editor is putting together a team as well as working in close partnership with other BMAT and BMA of America department directors to develop more resources for ministers and churches.

### ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Recommendations from the BMAT Administrative Committee were presented and approved, including an addition to the BMA of Texas Constitution and Bylaws regarding the biblical definition of marriage. The addition

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*From the Editor*

Glory, glory, glory

By **JERRY FULTON**

*Baptist Progress Editor*

Repeatedly, throughout the 115<sup>th</sup> BMA of Texas Meeting, I resisted the almost overwhelming urge to shout “Glory, glory, glory!!!,” as Heaven surely came down and filled my soul. The urge began as I sat and listened to the annual message brought by Bro. Eddie Marsh. He preached from scripture of how the Lord can bring revival to his people and presented evidence that revival is taking place right now within our association of churches.

Again, I wanted to shout, “Glory, glory, glory!!!,” as Bro. Marsh spoke of how several children have professed Christ as Savior during the past year and how 37 children were adopted through the Home’s adoption ministry.

I wanted to shout, “Glory, glory, glory!!!,” when Dr. Mike Smith informed those of us present at the BMAT Meeting that over 100 students have been saved within the last two months at Jacksonville College.

As we gathered with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention for worship on Tuesday evening, I could hardly contain myself from shouting, “Glory, glory, glory!!!,” as we were led in singing praises to the Lord, enjoyed a concert by the Jacksonville College Choir and heard a great sermon by Bro. Wes Pratt. Okay, by the time Bro. Wes took the pulpit, the urge went beyond wanting to shout, “Glory, glory, glory!!!,” to almost run and up and down the aisles! I’m telling you, I got excited!

Being who I am, I didn’t shout or run, but rest assured, I gave God the “Glory, glory, glory!!!” for what He has done, is doing and will do through the churches of the BMA of Texas, as we work closely with the BMA of America and Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. Never have I been as encouraged at a BMA meeting as I was in Houston this year.

As 2016 approaches, Lord willing, I promise you that *Baptist*

*Progress* and I will do more than ever to encourage you and your church as we serve the Lord together!

**Thank you Bro. Jerry Burnaman**

Anyone who knows me well, knows that I would rather preach any day than give a report or share announcements. There is something unnerving to me about speaking to a crowd, unless I’m preaching. Perhaps one of the reasons I dislike giving a report is because I usually say something that I did not mean to say, or I forget to say something that I should have said. Well, the latter is true in this case.

One thing I intended to say during my report at our annual meeting is, “Thank you Bro. Jerry Burnaman.” I have worked in the same office building with Bro. Jerry for 11 years. During those years, I have come to know Bro. Jerry as a great theologian, excellent preacher of God’s Word, exemplary family man, loyal member of the BMA of Texas and lover of Christ.

It would take too much room to expand on the things I mentioned above. Just know Bro. Jerry, that I love you in the Lord, and I count it a high honor to have served with you these past several years. Thank you for the advice you have offered me and the leadership you have given to our association of churches.

I look forward to more years of service with you as you continue to lead the Baptist Missionary Loan Association. Thank you for giving of yourself for the cause of Christ.



▲ Jerry Fulton

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# Thank You



This Thanksgiving, I think of the many ways God has blessed Jacksonville College. We are now able to offer online degrees, we continue to expand our course offerings, and we have experienced revival on our campus.

Paul told the church at Philippi, “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you” (Philippians 1:4). Jacksonville College also thanks God for you—state association, state convention, local associations, churches,

and individuals—who have given to the College financially this past year. Many others, not listed as giving financially, have given in volunteer labor and prayers; we thank you.

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# Church Health

## 5 Questions your church needs to answer

By LARRY BARKER

Recently, Daniel Im, Director of Church Multiplication for @newchurches with Lifeway, shared five questions on Twitter that every church planter needs to answer. I agree that they do need to be asked by church planters, but they also need to be asked by every ministry and every church. Bill Hybels has said, “The local church is the hope of the world and its future rests primarily in the hands of its leaders.” I agree with this but also think it should also include “members” because we are in this together.

There is a great need to remember what Jim Collins has said, “Great vision without great people is irrelevant.” The old adage says it well, “Don’t forget that many hands make light work!” We must be on the same page and the only way to do that is to lay a biblical foundation that defines who we are and why we do what we do. We are in this together and if we want our team to function properly then we need to provide the training and tools to accomplish the task to which God has called us!

**First, What is the Church?** A New Testament church is a local congregation of baptized believers in Jesus Christ who are united by covenant in belief of what God has revealed and in obedience to what He has commanded. The church is not an organization but a living and breathing organism. We are the body of Christ and an extension of heaven on earth. The local church is to be the best expression of God’s kingdom in the here and now. We must not forget that we are a “who” not a “what.”

**Second, Why does the Church Exist?** The church’s mission is evangelizing sinners by preaching the gospel, baptizing those who believe, and maturing them by instruction and discipline. We should not be afraid of the term “sinners” because “all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God” and “there are none righteous, no not one.” Member or not, we are all sinners and we are not sinners because we have sinned but we sin because we are sinners. The church exists to be a place of refuge and safety for sinners to hear the gospel.

**Third, What Should Your Church be Known For?** Hopefully, every church will be known for the mighty God we serve. We should be known as a place of worship where we stay centered on God. We need to always desire to love God more. We should also be known as a family where we stay connected to one another and learn to love one another more. Then we should be a place that is concerned about our communities. We want to love God more, love people more, and then love more people. The early church engaged unbelievers rather than avoiding them.

Luke 14:12-14 says it very clearly, “He also said to the one



who had invited Him, “When you give a lunch or a dinner, don’t invite your friends, your brothers, your relatives, or your rich neighbors, because they might invite you back, and you would be repaid. On the contrary, when you host a banquet, invite those who are poor, maimed, lame, or blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

**Fourth, How do you Protect Your Church’s Identity?** God calls us to an altar before He ever calls us to a position, a platform, or a program. The pastor’s ultimate calling is not first and foremost to pastor the church but rather to walk with Jesus everyday. That is every members’ first priority, not attending every service, not serving a particular ministry, and not even participating in corporate worship. Our first responsibility is to love the Lord with all of our heart and then reflect the heart of God to people around us!

Fifth, How do you put your church’s identity on display? The reality is that when people think of your church they first think of the members they know. Right or wrong, they determine what kind of church you are by how members they know live their lives and display the love of Christ.

Matt. 5:16 says, “In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” Even more more important than representing our church we are called to be ambassadors for Christ.

II Cor. 5:20 says, “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, certain that God is appealing through us. We plead on Christ’s behalf, ‘Be reconciled to God.’” It has been said many times before but remember that your life is the only Bible some people will ever read. Do they see Christ in you? Have you been the feet and hands of Christ to the lost, the last, and the least?

Larry Barker is the operations director for North American Missions. For more information or to contact him, visit [www.bmamissions.org](http://www.bmamissions.org).



# Family Matters

## Passing on a legacy to your family

By DR. TRAVIS PLUMLEE

Six young men dressed in their uniforms carried the flag draped coffin to its final resting place. The family followed behind in a processional. The preacher spoke about all that a soldier is called to do. He must bear strength and courage to protect us, and the nation. The minister also said how wonderful it is for the Christian soldier who also has on the spiritual armor of God. He has a high calling from His Lord, Jesus Christ.

The bagpipes played the most beautiful rendition of Amazing Grace. As he finished, he turned and walked out of the cemetery still playing until he was out of sight and we could no longer hear the music. There was the 21 gun salute. The folding of the flag was heart warming as the two soldiers held it across their chest and up to their heart and each saluted it. And taps played signifying the day is done. This soldier who was a devout follower of Christ and defender of freedom would now be laid to rest. He fought the good fight. His race

is over. He kept the faith. And suddenly I had the truth hit me. My beloved daddy had gone home.

As we drove back to his church, I started thinking of all the things he had done for me. My question to all of you is; what kind of legacy will you leave for your children, grandchildren, family and friends? We all eventually die because of sin. Christians live forever in heaven with Jesus. But physically we must pass on. When you have left this earth what will they remember about you? For the most part, your children and grandchildren will not remember material things. There may be a few special birthday or Christmas gifts they will remember along the way. They will remember with fondness an accumulative time of fishing or camping trips or something like that. These serve as special memories. But the lasting things you leave behind are what you have given them to live their life. It is not money, cars, clothes and toys. It is not trips to fun places. There is nothing wrong with these, but they

are over just like my dad's life on earth is over. Gone except as a sweet memory. What is eternal last. What you did with your life that taught them how to live there life. That is the legacy you leave. In the end, that is all that really matters. Let me give you a few examples so you can understand better what I am trying to say.

My dad taught me and my brother how to be real men. Men of God and follower's of Christ. He also charged my son on his 13<sup>th</sup> birthday to be a man of honor and to love Christ first, then family and then duty to country and the place you live. I learned how to be a man of integrity. I learned what character was all about. He didn't tell us. He showed us! My dad was not perfect. No one is. But he knew how to be a Godly head of the house. As a little boy, I would watch him take care of my mom. To cherish her. To hold her up. Even to send flowers to her and be romantic. I didn't know that

I would ever be a preacher. That thought never entered my mind. But God did. He put me in a home with a good Godly marriage. When I do marriage retreats today, I use scriptures and demonstrate how to implement this by what I saw growing up at home.

I was taught to be a gentleman by my dad. Everyone is so quick to put down manners in this dog eat dog society today. But it is a good thing. This would usually occur in relationship to giving up a chair for my grandparents, or holding the door open for my mom. I teach in churches about having family meetings and home worship. Years before people all over the country started writing books about it; my parents had nightly devotions and family worship. We were strongly taught how to work. My dad would not take whining. He would say, "fall in and hit it." He taught me service. He would go out all night sometimes in a blizzard to rescue people stranded in cars along the highway in northwest Texas. He would deliver hay to cattle farmers. He would give his last \$10 bill to a friend or family member that needed it. He taught us so much about hard work and serving the Lord with a smile. A memory that is burned into my mind is the night that this brave soldier stood up in our church and told the whole congregation what Jesus meant to him. He started crying. I had never seen him cry like this. While I knew Jesus at this time; I didn't "know" Jesus as Savior. I was saved later that summer at church camp. I wanted to know this Jesus that made my daddy cry. This is just a few of hundreds of examples how my dad taught me about life that guide my life today.

Three young men that I mentored told me that my father had made such a great impact on their life. It confused me at first because they had never met my dad. But they all told me that he influenced their life because he influenced my life and I was teaching them the things my daddy taught me. This showed me that a person's legacy will go for generations to people they never even know. My dad is now with Jesus and my mom. My son was so impacted by my dad in his life that he just cried out loud all through the service. What a legacy he left him and my daughter. When you are gone – what will be the legacy you have left your family?

It's never too late to start, but it must be about the things that really matter. My dad was my hero and I will always love and miss him. Someday I will be with him. Bye daddy.

*Dr. Travis Plumlee is a full-time professional speaker and leads Family Ark Ministries. He is national board certified as a therapist/specialist in various areas of human behavior. For more information or to contact him, visit [www.travisplumlee.com](http://www.travisplumlee.com).*



Round Up 5K  
for Their Lives  
Supporting Texas Baptist Home for Children Adoptions

Date: Saturday January 23rd, 2016

Place: Getzandaner Park  
400 South Grand Avenue  
Waxahachie, TX

Cost: \$30 per person

Group of 4 or more: \$25 per person

Registration Time: 8:00 a.m.

Race Start: 9:00 a.m.



Bounce houses and fun activities for kids of all ages.

Register at [www.tbhc.org](http://www.tbhc.org)

Questions and Sponsorship opportunities contact  
Christin Barber at [cbarber@tbhc.org](mailto:cbarber@tbhc.org)

**HOME**  
TEXAS BAPTIST FOR CHILDREN  
SINCE 1950

Funds raised will go to support the adoption department and the post adoption services at Texas Baptist Home for Children.

# HISTORIC 115TH BMA OF TEXAS MEETING IN HOUSTON CONT.



reads, "Marriage—God created Adam and Eve and joined them together as husband and wife. Marriage is the union of one man and one woman according to the Divine Plan of God (Genesis 2)." The addition was made to protect BMAT in light of the US Supreme Court's legalization of same-sex marriage in America.

## TEXAS BAPTIST HOME FOR CHILDREN

President Marsh reported that 37 children found permanent homes through the adoption ministry of Texas Baptist Home for Children. A total of 34 professions of faith were made by children in care of the Home in 2015. One child celebrated as she became the first in her family to graduate from high school.

A Christmas campaign is now underway at the Home. For more information on how you can help a child or children have a wonderful Christmas this year, visit [www.tbhc.org](http://www.tbhc.org).

## JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

Following a worshipful concert by the Jacksonville College Choir, Dr. Mike Smith, president of Jacksonville College (JC), informed messengers that the JC is the only faith-based two year college in Texas. Once a college where Christian young adults enrolled to receive their education, the president noted that the majority of those who now attend JC are not Christians, thus it has become a mission field. A total of 56 students from 24 different colleges are enrolled at JC. In the past two months alone, over 100 students have come to faith in Jesus Christ.



▲ Dr. Mike Smith, Jacksonville College President, and JC students

In May, the college witnessed its oldest graduate walk the stage—a 74 year old lady who has spent the last 11 years studying for her degree.



▲ Jacksonville College Choir

## STATE MISSIONS

Jerry Burnaman gave his last report as director of State Missions this year. Burnaman, who has served in the role for 18 years, will continue as part-time manager of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association. The director said that he has no regrets for his years of service, but a few disappointments were experienced along the way, as some church planters and church plants were not as successful as he had hoped for them to be.

In appreciation of his service, on behalf of BMAT, Clinton Everitt, chairman of State Missions Trustees, presented the director a plaque, a laptop computer and a love offering, received by churches, totaling over \$6,000. Mrs. Nancy Burnaman was presented with a bouquet of flowers for serving alongside her husband. If you would like to contribute to Bro. Burnaman's offering, you may mail your check to the attention of Cassie Fulton, BMA of Texas, P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, Texas 75168.

Elected to serve as church planters for the coming year were: Dewey Davidson and Rick Sydnor, Tyler; Will Hutchinson, Hutto; Cecil Linke, Allen; George Martinez, Lewisville and Gary Southard, Valley Ranch, New Caney. Messengers also voted for State Missions to continue partnering with BMA of America in support of Matthew Prather, Celina; Darren Lemons, Terrell; as well as continuing a partnership with Arnulfo Maldonado who works at starting Hispanic groups in the greater Houston area.

Upon nomination by State Missions Trustees, Heith Mitchell, pastor of Myrtle Springs, Quitman was elected as the new director of State Missions. Mitchell pledged to work closely with the churches of the BMA of Texas and the BMA of America Missions in planting churches throughout the state. Biographical information about Mitchell was

included in a previous issue of *Baptist Progress*. Much more of Mitchell's plans for State Missions will be included in future issues.

## BAPTIST MISSIONARY LOAN ASSOCIATION

Burnaman reported that assets of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association (BMLA) continue to grow. Presently, total assets are about \$10.1 million, an increase of \$800,000 in the past year. Loans are being provided for 27 projects with more money available to assist more churches with funds to help with their growing ministries. Churches planning to build or buy property, are encouraged to contact BMLA for more information regarding a loan.



▲ Clinton Everitt presents gifts to retiring State Missions Director Jerry Burnaman and wife, Nancy



▲ Nancy Burnaman presented flowers by State Missions Trustees



▲ Heith Mitchell, new State Missions Director

## OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2015-2016 ASSOCIATIONAL YEAR

Elected to serve as BMAT officers for 2015-2016 were: President – Wes Pratt, pastor of Northside. Conroe; First Vice President – Robert Easterling, pastor of Mahl, Nacogdoches; Second Vice President – Jason Collins, pastor of CrossRoads, Rowlett; Recording Clerks, Eddie Ballard, pastor of First, Rowlett and Wayne McKay, senior adult pastor of Liberty, Henderson. David Snelson, pastor of Landmark, Cushing, was elected to preach the annual message at the Annual BMAT Meeting to be held at Farley Street, Waxahachie, Nov. 15-16, 2016. Tim Brown, pastor of Calvary First, Mesquite was elected as the alternate to bring the annual message.



▲ 2015-2016 BMAT Officers (L to R): Eddie Ballard, recording clerk; Wayne McKay, recording clerk; Jason Collins, 1st Vice President; Robert Easterling, 1st Vice President; Wes Pratt, President

More news and information from the 2015 BMAT Meeting will be published in future issues of *Baptist Progress*.

# Reaching out to the Sioux in South Dakota



▲ Merritt Youngdeer and Rick Russell are guest announcers at a station of the Rosebud reservation.

By RICK RUSSELL & HOLLY MERIWEATHER

Lifeword Media Ministries

Rick Russell and Lifeword speakers Merritt Youngdeer and Eddie Swimmer had always wanted to visit Indian reservation radio stations to encourage more of them to air *Spiritword*. Beginning on Oct. 25, Rick and Merritt and Lulie Youngdeer (Merritt's wife) were finally able to make a week-long tour of some of the stations that serve the various Sioux Reservations.

Armed with a map, *Spiritword* CDs, and a list of radio stations and managers in South Dakota, they began the ambitious journey to get more broadcasts on the air. Their first stop was the Yankton Sioux Reservation station at Lake Andes. The station manager there was not easily convinced and, after listening to the CD and appreciating the humor and quality of *Spiritword* programs, commented that the name "Jesus" was offensive to her and to her listeners. However, since most of the programs refer to "God" instead of Jesus, at least they had an open door. (Merritt will be raising money for those spots, and money sent to Lifeword can be designated to *Spiritword*.)

Their next stop "was truly a God appointment, which was what Merritt and Lulie and I prayed for before we started," said Rick Russell. Although they had encountered some hostility from the Lake Andes station manager, the first of many divine appointments began with her suggestion that they should visit a Christian radio station in Wagner, just down the road. A great conversation with the station engineer suggested the possibility that his employer would likely be interested in using *Spiritword* across its network of stations that can be heard by many Native Americans in South Dakota. At his suggestion, the Lifeword team contacted John Two Bulls, an effective evangelist among the gangs on

the Pine Ridge Sioux Reservation. Pastor Two Bulls' passion to use radio to glorify God matches Lifeword's and he is very excited to have *Spiritword* as a tool to use in spreading the gospel there.

During a visit to the tribal station at the Rosebud Sioux Reservation, Merritt and Rick were pressed into service as guest announcers and Mary Fast Horse interviewed the "celebrities." (Rosebud is a longtime *Spiritword* affiliate, so Merritt and Eddie are well known to the audience.) The next divine appointment was with the missionary/pastor of Eagle Butte's First Baptist Church. Over lunch at the local Dairy Queen, God knit their hearts together and the Lifeword team found yet another group of believers that wants to use *Spiritword* to share the gospel by radio.

The tour ended with a visit with Jerome Renville, pastor of Eagle's Wing Baptist Church on the Sioux Sisseton Wapeton Reservation. Jerome's church sponsored *Spiritword*'s very first radio station and now he wants to lead the church to begin a new Community Radio station.

As for the next phase, Rick says, "Now that those relationships are established, we will be able to push them forward. An added bonus to our trip was that since Merritt heard me talk about Community Radio several times during our five days in South Dakota, he will be able to share the idea of Community Radio to other reservation churches across the country. It is critical to tie the broadcasts to local churches so they can provide follow-up to *Spiritword* broadcasts. There are so many positive things going on in Native American churches right now and the BMA's involvement is helping to change lives."

# Celebrating 125 years

By JACK CLEVELAND

Baptist Progress Correspondent

Established in 1890, Mount Selman, Bullard celebrated their 125th anniversary on Oct. 25, 2015. Mount Selman Baptist Church started as a homestead church with S.R. Gore as the pastor. The church was founded with 22 members. The original building was torn down in 1927 and in its place a newer building was erected and served the church's needs until 1977 when the church built an addition for the purpose of more Sunday school classrooms. In 1986, the church was growing and had to build a new sanctuary where they still have services today.

Despite the weather, the sanctuary was full of members past and present joined together for worship and celebration. Before the services, there were sounds of old friends meeting together once more and families getting their pictures taken to mark the occasion. After the services, there was a meal provided by the church. Much joy was shared, and at any given moment, there would be a new story told either for the joy of the memory or for posterity's sake. After the meal, there was a time where any member past or present could either present a testimony or a song.

For the celebration Dr. Ricky Williams was the guest speaker and Hal Small was the guest song director. Dr. Williams was elected youth pastor in July of 1971. In March 1975, Dr. Williams was ordained as associate pastor, where he served until 1978. Hal Small is the son of former pastor Harold Small. He was elected song director in January 1977 and served until 1980. The current pastor is Michael Bowen. He was elected as associate pastor in 1987, and in 2011 was elected as

senior pastor.

Pastor Bowen describes the church as "A small country church that is focused on the building up of the family and reaching out into community." Pastor Bowen says that the past 25 years have had ups and downs, but a lot of great memories and times. However, they are looking forward to the next 25 years. Things they are specifically looking forward to include the search for a new youth pastor and a new music director.



▲ Pastor Michael Bowen



*Editor's Note: The article above is a corrected version of what was published in our last issue. We apologize for an incorrect date as well as a misspelling of the pastor's name. God bless Mt. Selman as members press on for the cause of Christ.*



▲ Merritt Youngdeer, John Two Bulls, and Rick Russell listen to *Spiritword* CDs on the Pine Ridge Sioux reservation.

# Mission Life

By **JERRY BURNAMAN**

State Missions Executive Director

We will celebrate Thanksgiving in about a week. While thinking about this special holiday, this passage of Scripture came to mind.

“See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (2 Thessalonians 5:15-18)

## Here are some things I’m thankful for:

Most of all, I’m thankful for salvation, for Jesus Christ coming into my life and giving me a purpose for living. I give thanks to Him everyday for walking with me, giving me instruction, and courage to live like I should.

I’m thankful for Nancy, my wife of 54 years. She has supported me through smooth times and tough times. And

for being a wonderful mother to our two children.

I’m thankful for our two talented children and their spouses: Stephen and Sandra Burnaman live in Austin, and Terri and Roy Hathcock live in Edmond, Oklahoma.

I’m thankful for three wonderful grandchildren: Seth Burnaman, Caleb Hathcock and Hannah Hatchcock.

Next year in January Caleb will marry Katherine Sowell and in May Hannah will marry Grant Malone. I’m thankful for a grand-daughter-in-law and a grand-son-in-law.

I’m thankful for the churches that I’ve pastored for their gracious support they gave me and my family.

I’m thankful to the BMA of Texas that has allowed me to serve as Mission’s Director for almost 18 years. Your love for missions and your willingness to help start churches has been a blessing to me.

I’m thankful to the church planters that I’ve worked with,

the souls that have been saved through their ministries, and for their friendship.

I’m thankful to the co-workers in the office who work diligently to care for business of the BMA of Texas.

These are just some of the things that I’m thankful for and as I think about the Lord’s blessings and provisions for all my life, my heart overflows. I pray you will have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday and as you give thanks to God, let’s all remember to give thanks everyday, all year long.

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



## Thank You cont.

Perkins, Ken and Pam  
Phillips, Huey and Mary Jo  
Phillips, Michael and Lisa  
Pilgrim Rest #1, Emory  
Pilgrim Rest #2 WMA, Golden  
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden  
Pillans, Mrs. R. P.  
Pine Brook, Tyler  
Pine Grove, Diboll  
Pine Grove, Logansport, LA  
Pine Valley, New Waverly  
Pineview, Winnsboro  
Piney Creek, Kennard  
Pleasant Hill, Nacogdoches  
Plunkett, D. and L.  
Polk County Baptist Missionary Association  
Polk County Baptist WMA  
Prairie Valley, Whitney  
Price, J. M.  
Raif, Randall and Beverly  
Ramah, Tenaha  
Ransom, Mrs. Freddie  
Rawson, K.R. and Carla  
Red Springs, Tyler  
Reed, James  
Reed, Terri A.  
Reeves, C.J. and Patsy  
Reynolds, Walter and Sharon  
Rhodes, Elwyn, Sr.  
Richards, James W.  
Richey, Charmel  
Richey, Nolan and Patricia  
Richland Heights, Grand Saline  
Riley, Barbara  
Robinson, Susan  
Rocky Hill, Huntington  
Rohlin, Robert  
Rose Hill, Mineola  
Rose Park, Shreveport, LA

Rosewood, Gilmer  
Round Prairie, Fairfield  
Sacul Baptist, Sacul  
Salem, Huntington  
Sand Flat, Grand Saline  
Sand Prairie, North Zulch  
Sanders, Alma Grace  
Sanders, Jerry Don and Claudia  
Sanders, Virginia  
Sardis, Henderson  
Sardis, Jewett  
Sardis, Mansfield  
Sardis, Waxahachie  
Security Calvary, Cleveland  
Sepaugh, Mrs. Ben E.  
Shady Grove of DeBerry, Inc.  
Shady Grove, Purdon  
Sheppard Drive, Eules  
Sheppard, Kenneth  
Sheridan Terrace, Palestine  
Sherman, Alonzo\* and Billie  
Shiloh Road, Dallas  
Sikes, Mrs. Jo Ann  
Simmons Hill, Diana  
Smith County Association  
Smith County District WMA  
Smith, Dr. William and Susan  
Smith, Glenn and Dianna  
Smith, Michael  
Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn L.  
Smith, William Michael  
Socia, Melvin and Patricia  
Sockwell, James and Linda  
Soda, Livingston  
Sonrise Prayer Ministries, Arp  
Souter, Thomas and Sherry  
South Park, Fort Worth  
South Texas Children’s Home, Beeville  
Southern Baptists of Texas Convention  
Southline WMA, Cleveland

Southline, Cleveland  
Southside, Clyde  
Spring Hill, Nacogdoches  
Springer, James O.  
Spunaugle, Lonnie and Sarah  
Stacy, Jerry R.  
Stanley, David and Sue  
Starr, Greg and Dee Ann  
Stigall, Eunice V.  
Stone Ridge, Kilgore  
Stone, George A.  
Suburban Wood, Humble  
Sunset, Lamesa  
Swindol, Don  
Tabernacle, Jacksonville  
Tanner, Betty R.  
Tarrant County Association  
Tate, Dennis and Vera  
Taylor, June  
Temple, Mexia  
Texas State Bank, Joaquin  
Texas State Galileans  
Texas State Sunbeams  
Thigpen, James and Buelah  
Thompson, Glenn and Barbara  
Thornton, Bobby  
Thornton, Richard D. and Barbara G.  
Thornton, William M.  
Timmons, Tim and Nancy  
Tolon, Mike and Shelba  
Tramel, Marcus and Linda  
Trinity, Longview  
Tryon Association  
Tryon District WMA  
Tundra, Canton  
Turner, Duane and Charlotte  
Twenty-First Street, Slaton  
Union Hill, Brownsboro  
Union, Springtown  
University, Nacogdoches

Vaughn, James Thomas and Beverly  
Vestal, Billy  
Victory SS Class, FBC, Beckville  
Victory, Centerville  
Waldrop, Mr. and Mrs. Riley G.  
Walker, James and Anne  
Walnut Springs, DeBerry  
Walnut Street, Winnsboro  
Walston Springs, Palestine  
Ward Prairie, Fairfield  
Wardell, Joe and Patricia  
Weeks Chapel, Jasper  
Wegmet, Lu  
Welch, Lee and Marolyn  
Westside, Nacogdoches  
Westwood, Palestine  
Whisenhunt, Donald and Christine  
Whispering Pines A Texas General Partnership  
White, David  
Whitworth, Kristin  
Williams, Brian O.  
Williams, Mrs. Gail  
Williams, Jack and Sue  
Williams, Major Edward  
Williams, Norville and Bea  
Williams, S.W. and D.G.  
Willow Oak, Gilmer  
Wilson, Beth and Wilfred  
Winterfield, Pickton  
WMA of Texas  
Wood County Association  
Wood County District WMA, Mineola  
Wood, Robert and Ellen  
Woodland Heights, Jacksonville  
Woodland, Splendor  
Woodman, Jo  
Wyatt Drive, Fort Worth  
Zion Hill, Jasper

\*These generous contributors to the College are now with the Lord.

As the end of the year approaches, consider giving an extra financial gift to Jacksonville College—it would help us tremendously.

Mail checks to:  
Jacksonville College  
105 B.J. Albritton Dr.  
Jacksonville, TX 75766

Donate online at [www.jacksonville-college.edu](http://www.jacksonville-college.edu). Go to “Ways to Help” under the “About” tab and click “Donate Now” on the left-hand side. Or, go to the direct link at <https://jck.empower-xl.com/donation/fusebox.cfm?fuseaction=EntryForm>.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Registration for Winter and Spring 2016 is ongoing

### Winter Term:

Begins December 14  
(online and face-to-face classes)

### Spring Term:

Begins January 19  
(online and face-to-face classes)

# Auxiliaries

## Thankfulness is a choice

By SHARON COLE

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches we turn our thoughts with more emphasis on being thankful for what we have, understanding that God has blessed us so much. First He has given us life. What we do with that life God gives us a free will to choose. We can choose to serve and honor Him or not. We can choose to be a positive witness for Him or not. We can choose to believe in Him or not. All of these choices and many more make us what and who we are. We as Christians believe that God blesses us according to the choices we make. He does not force His will upon us, but waits patiently on us to seek fellowship with Him and listen to the Holy Spirit's voice as He draws us to Him for an eternal relationship. If you asked ten people what they were thankful for, you would get ten different answers. Many things that God has provided we take for granted, such as the beautiful world He created for our pleasure, a sunrise or sunset, a sudden soft breeze on a hot day, music from the birds. Sometimes we complain about things we have to do not realizing what life would be without them. I'm thankful for:

- Being awakened too early, for it means there are children to love and care for.
- A house to clean means a safe place to live.
- Mountains of laundry means we have clothes to wear.
- Dirty dishes to wash mean we have food to eat.
- Crumbs on the floor under the table mean we eat together as a family.
- Grocery shopping chore means we have money to buy food.
- Toilets to clean mean we have indoor plumbing.
- Lots of happy playful noise means happy people in my life who love one another.
- Endless questions mean my children trust my wise answers.
- Soreness and fatigue at the end of the day means I'm still alive. Thank you, Lord.

*"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."* 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

We should have an attitude of thanksgiving all the time, but it is time once again for the holiday we call "Thanksgiving." I recently asked a group of children what they were thankful for. Some responses were: Momma and Daddy, brothers and sisters, home, pets, church, pastor, food, candy, toys, butterflies, etc. Of course this age group was from three to eight. A more mature group would give different answers: teachers of God's Word, assurance of a home in heaven, the privilege of prayer, friends, independence, victory over Satan, etc. Because God is the giver of all things, we have to be thankful even for the bad. Our trials are allowed by God to make us stronger, more dependent on Him and gives us the resources with which to help others in their time of need. As you gather around your Thanksgiving dinner table this year, think about how God has blessed you. There are many people who will not have a table filled with good food. Perhaps you can invite someone or a



family to share in your abundance. Maybe you could provide the fixings for a good meal and have it delivered to their home several days before "turkey day." Whatever you choose to do, God will bless you. Although there are tragedies, pain and suffering, loneliness and poverty, we are still blessed because we have a Savior who is in control of all things and knows what we need.

### DISTRICT NEWS

The Cherokee District WMA met with Friendship Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Oct. 20, 2015 at 6 p.m. with 49 present. A delicious meal was prepared by the host church and New Summerfield helped with desserts. President, Rose Bowen, presided over the meeting. The theme song, "This Is the Day," was led by Jan Patton. Renessa Parsley presented special music by playing "Amazing Grace" on the piano. Bro. Eddie Marsh expressed his thanks for the school supplies collected for the Children's Home. He also related that many children come to the home and live there until they graduate high school or college. There were 37 adoptions last year. New by-laws for the Cherokee District WMA were adopted. The new project for the year will be Jacksonville College and BMAA Seminary with a goal of \$2,000. Dr. Mike Smith, Jacksonville College President, and a representative of the Seminary expressed their thanks to the WMA for all the work the ladies do. Mt. Selman Baptist Church received the attendance banner. The next meeting will be January 12, 2016 with Sardis Baptist Church, Henderson.

The Mt. Olive District WMA met Oct. 27, 2015 with

Antioch Baptist Church, Carthage at 6:30 p.m. enjoying a delicious meal of salads and desserts. President, Nelda Salas opened the meeting conducting opening exercises and business. The theme song: "Bridge Over Troubled Waters," (Christian version) was sung. Emily Baker spoke about the improvements at Daniel Springs camp and encouraged everyone to support the project: "Funds for Fire Prevention Equipment." Special music, "Just Build Me A Cabin," was presented by J.P. Norris. Second Vice President, Shawn Norris, introduced the program for the year, "Building Walls or Building Bridges," and Polly Maines, who installed our new officers for the year, 2015-2016. Using the theme verse: John 17:18, Polly related how we build walls for protection, but some walls prevent us from reaching out to those who need Christ. Bridges are important because they fill a gap so that we can get across a span that can't be easily crossed. God made a bridge for man to reach Him and that bridge is Christ. Officers are as follows: President-Nelda Salas; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Renee Nolen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Shawn Norris, Secretary/Treasurer-Sharon Cole, Sunbeam Promoter-LaVerle Spurgeon, Pianist-Host Church, Project Promoter-Leona Wimberly. The next meeting will be with Old Center Baptist Church, Tenaha, on Jan. 26, 2016.

Sharon Cole is the editor for the Texas WMA. Contact her at [S9Co@aol.com](mailto:S9Co@aol.com). For more information on the Texas WMA, visit [www.texaswma.com](http://www.texaswma.com).



## EVENTS

**APRIL 25-27, 2016**

67th Annual Session  
of the BMA of America  
@ Gatlinburg Convention Center  
Gatlinburg, Tennessee  
Headquarters Hotel: Glenstone Hotel

## OBITUARY

### Hazel Vaughn

Funeral services  
for Hazel (Lee)  
Vaughn, 93, of  
Palestine were  
Oct. 21, 2015.



Mrs. Vaughn passed away on Oct. 17, 2015. She was born on May 19, 1922, in Red Flat, Nacogdoches County, to Joe Robert Lee and Fannie Mertice Hudman Lee. She married Bro. Gilford Vaughn of Laneville on July 24, 1943. She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; brother, Charles Lee; and sisters, Ione Blanton, Oleta Self, and Leona Pickard; and son-in-law, Kenneth Adams. Survivors include one sister, Josephine Devaney of Burleson; one sister-in-law, Nell Lee of Nacogdoches; daughters, Judy Croft and husband Wayne of Palestine, Brenda Hornaday and husband Jack of Magnolia, Ark, and Vicky Adams of Normangee; nine grandchildren; 17 great grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

Memorials may be made to Jacksonville College at [www.jacksonville-college.edu](http://www.jacksonville-college.edu).

## PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

### AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**PASTOR**—Myrtle Springs, Quitman is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Myrtle Springs Baptist Church, 2185 FM 2225, Quitman, Texas 75783.

**WORSHIP/STUDENTS**—Calvary, Fayetteville, Arkansas is seeking a fulltime worship/student pastor. Send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, Attn: Kirk Shelton, 1410 N. Porter Rd., Fayetteville, Arkansas 72703. <sup>11/18</sup>

**PASTOR**—Eighth Avenue, Teague is seeking a fulltime pastor. Send resume to 201 S. 8th Avenue, Teague, Texas 75860 or [eabccw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eabccw@sbcglobal.net).

**PASTOR**—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a fulltime pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346 or to [jimmysealy@aol.com](mailto:jimmysealy@aol.com). <sup>TFN</sup>

**MUSIC**—First, Crandall is seeking a bivocational music leader. Salary negotiable. Mix of contemporary and traditional. Call Bro. Mike Waits for more details: 214-697-7998 or [mbwaitssr@att.net](mailto:mbwaitssr@att.net). Visit church website at [firstbaptistcrandall.org](http://firstbaptistcrandall.org). <sup>TFN</sup>

**YOUTH**—Antioch, Gilmer is seeking a bivocational youth/student minister. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 688 Gilmer, Texas 75644; Contact person—Michael Pool, [pool-michael@hotmail.com](mailto:pool-michael@hotmail.com). 903-315-6822. <sup>TFN</sup>

### SPEAKER FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

**STACIE BOSTIC** is available to speak at women's luncheons, youth retreats, adult conferences, seminars, Bible studies and other events. She has a powerful testimony that focuses on the art of surrender, walking by faith and rising above circumstances. Her message resonates with a wide range of listeners. She has the ability to tailor her message to fit a group's unique event theme. Stacie is a member of Liberty, Gun Barrel City. Contact her at [Stacie@claypotworks.com](mailto:Stacie@claypotworks.com) or 903-603-8597. Also, visit [www.claypotworks.com](http://www.claypotworks.com) or connect with Stacie on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/claypotworks>. <sup>12/15</sup>

## PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

**JOSH MCDONALD** has resigned as pastor of Richmond Road, Texarkana.  
**MIKE MCEUEN** is the new pastor of New Beginnings Bible, Ferris.



### What Happens To Your Gift to the BMA Foundation?

All gifts to the Foundation, except those designated for operating expenses, are placed in an endowment fund and invested for one or more of the BMA departments or agencies as specified by the donor. Income from the investments provides supplemental funding for those ministries until the Lord returns. Gifts of cash should be mailed to P.O. Box 1188, Conway, Arkansas 72033. Call the Foundation office at 501-329-6891 for more information on other ways to give.

## CHURCHES IN REVIEW

### NOVEMBER 1, 2015

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	54	70	
Cedar Creek, Teague	11	19	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	506	587	1 By Letter
First, Blooming Grove	223		1 By Baptism
First, Palmer	39	77	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	22	45	
Jackson, Joaquin	81	133	
Little Flock, Lufkin	11	11	
New Harmony, Tyler	346	411	
New Hope, Mineola	76	110	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	42	50	
Pine Forrest, Huntington	36	39	
Rosewood, Gilmer	117	225	
Round Prairie, Fairfield	75	124	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	15	35	
Temple, Mexia	34	48	
Yellowpine - Macedonia, Hemphill	15	20	

### NOVEMBER 8, 2015

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Antioch, Gilmer	42	84	1 By Letter
Anthony Drive, Ennis		80	
Cedar Creek, Teague	14	17	
First, Palmer	44	73	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	20	56	
Jackson, Joaquin	86	156	
Little Flock, Lufkin	6	13	
New Harmony, Tyler	308	364	
New Hope, Mineola	71	101	1 By Baptism
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	51	60	
Pine Brook, Tyler	36	58	1 By Statement
Pine Forrest, Huntington	37	39	
Rosewood, Gilmer	138	224	1 By Baptism, 4 By Letter
Round Prairie, Fairfield	65	112	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	17	33	
Temple, Mexia	32	46	

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

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# Sunday School Lessons

## 1 Chronicles—Roots

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: November 29, 2015

TEXT: I Chronicles 10:13, 14; 11:9; 15:12, 13; 17:23; 18:1; 21:1; 22:5; 29:28

With perhaps a different perspective, first and second Chronicles covers the same information as the two books of Samuel and the two books of the Kings.

First Chronicles covers the historical records from Adam to Abraham. And rather than to focus on the dark side of the character of the rulers of Israel, emphasis was placed on obedience to God.

Chapters 1-9 of I Chronicles traces the lineage of David from Adam through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Judah. Although it would seem tedious scrolling through the bloodline, there is a message there. God the Father, being sovereign and perfect, is well able to use anyone, flawed as they were, (and as we all are) to accomplish His will for His chosen people, and to provide the bloodline which would one day be used to produce His Only Begotten Son, Jesus.

Chapters 10-29 is a commentary of David's rule over Israel following the death of King Saul, who was mortally wounded (I Chronicles 10). David, who had already been touted as a hero and warrior at his slaying of Goliath, became king, ruling over Israel for 40 years (chapter 29). He assembled a mighty army, re-captures Jerusalem, and brings the Ark of the Covenant, the symbol of God's presence in the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle, back to Jerusalem. The king is victorious over the Philistines, and his early years, which might be considered the heyday of his reign, found him often in prayer to God and in writing psalms to Him.

David developed plans for the construction of the temple, but would not live to see it come to pass. To illustrate another example of the grace and miraculous workings of a sovereign, holy God, the temple was built by the son born as a result of the sin of David and Bathsheba, Solomon. Israel saw a great measure of peace during his reign.

## 2 Chronicles—Tragedy

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: December 6, 2015

TEXT: 2 CHRONICLES

Second Chronicles recaps the 40 year reign of Solomon as king of Israel. His reign was relatively peaceful, and God's hand was upon him because of Solomon's prayer for wisdom. God not only blessed him with wisdom but with vast riches. (9:22)

There seems to be two sections to II Chronicles:

### Solomon's reign (chapters 1-9)

To try to understand the wealth of Solomon, chapter 9 and verse 13 Solomon's annual income in gold alone was 666 talents. In today's gold market, that would amount to \$187,000,000 per year. Multiply that by 40 years, and one can readily understand why he was the most influential person on the world stage at that time. The Queen of Sheba alone, brought him 120 talents of gold during her visit with Solomon.

Although Solomon's reign may be considered "successful" in comparison to other kingdoms, he reveals in the book of Ecclesiastes how empty a life of fame and wealth is, unless God the Father is acknowledged in all things. That's what prompted him to make the great declaration, (which I recall Bro. Ruben Leslie teaching a bunch of us boys in class to quote at Latham Springs years ago) "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."

**The decline of David's kingdom from the division of the nation under Solomon's son, Rehoboam to Judah's excel in Babylon. (note the lament of Judah in Psalm 137)**

Even in those years of decline, we still see sporadic outbreaks of spiritual renewal among Israel. The book of 2 Chronicles records at least five different incidents:

Chapter 15: Asa receives godly counsel from Azariah, and was inspired to remove all idols from the land of

Judah. He led the people to make a large sacrifice to the Lord of 700 head of cattle and 7000 sheep and goats. Asa sought the Lord, and challenged Judah to do likewise.

Chapter 19-20: Jehoshaphat appointed judges to fortify cities of Judah telling them, ". . .take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the Lord who is with you in the judgement." 19:6

Jehoshaphat was faithful to call upon the Lord in battle with the Ammonites, ". . .O Lord God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? And in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?" II Chronicles 20:6

Chapter 24: Joash "did that with was right in the sight of the Lord all the days of Jehoiada the priest." Joash was faithful to maintain the temple.

Chapter 29: Hezekiah also "did that which was right in the sight of the Lord according to all that David his father had done." verse 2. Hezekiah took steps to maintain purity in the Holy Place (verse 5) Hezekiah expressed his desire to make a covenant with the Lord so the Lord's wrath would be turned away from them.

Chapter 34: Josiah "did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left." (34:2) Josiah destroyed the altars of Baalim, and "burnt the bones of the priests upon their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem."

One common denominator in all nations, which turn back to God -- it happens when their leaders do "that which (is) right in the sight of the Lord."

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



## Memorials-Honorariums

### An Expression of Everlasting Love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from October 1, 2015 – October 31, 2015.

#### ENDOWMENTS

E ANN PACE: Karl & Martha Pace

MYRA STOKES: Mr. Bill Stokes

#### HONORARIUMS

VELMA LUSK: Billy Lusk

#### MEMORIALS

WALTER BECKER: Dennis & Ilona Myrice

ELMA GOODMAN: James & Linda Sockwell

HEATH: Jimmy & Cynthia Green

DOUGLASS D. HEARNE: Welch Watt III

BRO. DON HOGAN: Northside Baptist Church

MARY HOLMES: Betty Holmes; Patricia Chappell

HELEN JOHNSON: Marcelene Clemens

JERRY KOPEC: Leon & Linda Lee

MARSHA LUSK: Billy Lusk

JIM MORRIS: Cecil & Jackie Blair

BETTY NORFLEET: Calvary Baptist Church

BOB ODELL: Mr. & Mrs. Bob Thomman

EUEL PALMER: Mr. & Mrs. Bob Thomman

MRS. OMA PATE: Mr. & Mrs. James Hill

DON ROUSE: Concha Rouse

CHARLES STOUT: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

JEFF STROUD: Mildred Burkhart

WAYNE THOMPSON: Antioch Baptist Church

OCIE "SONNY" WINTTERS: Red Springs Missionary Baptist Church

JOE PATE WORSHAM: Glenda Lily

# Leadership conference kicks off historic meeting in Houston

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

*Baptist Progress Correspondent*

HOUSTON—BMA pastors, staff and laymen gathered in the choir rehearsal suite of Champion Forest Baptist Church of Houston at 9 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 10 for the Leadership Conference, sponsored by the BMA of Texas Department of Missions.

Included on the program were Jerry Burnaman, outgoing Director of Missions, a post he has held for 18 years; Todd West, DiscipleGuide's Director of Church Solutions for the national BMAA, and founding pastor of The Oasis of Maumelle, Ark.; and Larry Barker, Director of Operations for North American Missions. The missions director-elect, Heith Mitchell, was introduced to the crowd, and briefly verbalized his excitement for the work of church planting.

Jason Wofford, worship leader for Nortside, Conroe, led in worship during each session of the association meeting, including the Leadership Conference.

Burnaman noted the urgency of pastors and church leaders for continual personal development, including reading, and doing other exercises to develop the mind - the thinking processes.

"There are several scriptures verifying the importance of the mind," Burnaman said. "Do everything possible to increase



▲ Heith Mitchell

the potential of your mind -- read at least two books each month."

Burnaman reminded the audience to not forget that alongside a developing mind is the power of the Holy Spirit.

He also cited the characteristics of strong leadership skills, including being a servant/leader and being a leader with credibility and Godly character. He said there were different styles of leadership, including a task-oriented, strong leadership.

"The negatives of this kind of leadership is that he or she struggles with relationships," he added.

There are also inspirational/charismatic leaders who are able to engage people. The downside is being obsessed with the desire to be liked.

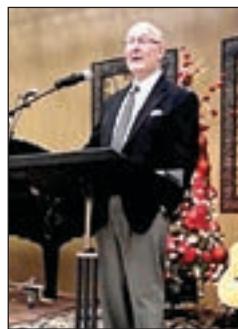
The diplomat is a strong team-player, but struggles with confronting difficult situations.

And finally, the analytical leader, one who deals in facts, details, and great teaching skills. Their negative is striving to maintain status quo.

Burnaman admonished the crowd to set goals, write down their purpose and that of their church.

"J.C. Penney once said, 'Give me a store clerk with a goal, and I'll give you a man who will make history; give me an store clerk without a goal, and I'll give you a store clerk,'" Burnaman quoted.

He also noted that networking through building relationships,



▲ Jerry Burnaman

and finding ways to help more people become successful are key factors in effective leadership.

Todd West cited the need to step away periodically, and evaluate, and most of all, rest.

"I did something in my ministry I had never done before -- I took a three-week sabbatical from my church," he said, saying that, included in his downtime was to turn his cell phone off for awhile.

Declining churches was also a burden of West, and he shared three types of churches.

"Sardis, in Revelation, was a declining church -- they were admonished by Christ to 'wake up' and reevaluate," he said. "Laodicea was a 'reclining church,' self-satisfied, and Philadelphia was an 'inclining' church, a church with an open door."

He also noted that growing churches are biblically sound, and culturally relevant, and that, on the heels of great victories in churches comes great trials.

Larry Barker cited the need for pastors and leaders to stay balanced, cultivate a close walk with God, develop a prayer team, make family top priority, provide financially for the family.

"Our nation will be great when local churches are great," he said.



▲ Todd West



▲ Jason Wofford



▲ Larry Barker

## Burnaman honored for 18 years as State Missions Director

By **JERRY FULTON**

*Baptist Progress Editor*

HOUSTON—Elected 18 years ago to serve as State Missions Director, earlier this year, Jerry Burnaman announced his retirement from that position, effective Dec. 31, 2015. In honor of his years of service, a reception was held in conjunction with the 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the BMA of Texas at Champion Forrest in Houston. Catered food from Chick Fil A and a beautiful cake with the words, "Thank You Bro. Burnaman," were enjoyed by those in attendance.

Burnaman's children, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, a grandson, sister-in-law and nephew came for the celebration. The room was filled to capacity with well-wishers and those who wanted to express their appreciation to Burnaman for

his years of leadership in State Missions.

Those who planted churches under Burnaman's direction, as well as those who worked closely with him spoke of their experiences and gave thanks to the director for his friendship, advice, coaching and encouragement along the way.



▲ Bro. Jerry Burnaman & Family

# 2015

## UNITED THANKSGIVING OFFERING

Sunday, November 22, 2015

Overall Goal: \$125,000

Goal Per Church: \$1,500

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

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