

# Baptist Progress

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## BMA of Texas pressing forward

The 114th Annual Session of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas concluded in Lufkin Nov. 5, 2014. Once more, the pastor, staff and members of Keltys First Baptist Church served as gracious hosts. Messengers from 91 churches were represented by messenger and 31 churches were represented by letter. A total of 185 messengers and 56 visitors were present for the meeting.

Cornerstone, Jacksonville petitioned the association for membership and was accepted. An offering of \$8,414 was received for the associational expense minute fund.

Charles Johnson, pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer, was reelected to serve as president of the state association. Wes Pratt, pastor of Northside, Conroe, was reelected as first vice president, and Andy Comer, pastor of Davis Street, Sulphur Springs, was reelected as second vice president. Eddie Ballard, pastor of First, Rice, and Wayne McKay, pastor of Oak Hill, Gilmer, were reelected as recording clerks.

Chosen to deliver the annual message in 2015 was Eddie Marsh, president of the Texas Baptist Home for Children in Waxahachie. Dr. Mark Livingston, pastor of Keltys First, Lufkin, was elected as the alternate to bring the annual message.

### Leadership Conference

Clint James, an attorney who specializes in church law, spoke to pastors and church leaders about incorporation, emphasizing that incorporating a church limits liability of individual members. James stressed that bylaws and a detailed church governance structure are essential in protecting churches against lawsuits. The attorney's office is located at 815 Rice Road in Tyler. Churches needing legal advice concerning incorporation may call Mr. James' office at 903-579-0630.

Wayne Whiteside, a volunteer prison chaplain, who ministers to prisoners in Louisiana, Texas and elsewhere, gave an incredibly inspiring presentation. Whiteside said that his work in prison ministry began when a grandmother asked him to visit her 19 year old grandson who had been charged with capital murder. As the teen's grandmother prayed for Whiteside's efforts in reaching her grandson, the chaplain said that all preachers need such "trench warriors" praying for them as they share the gospel. The chaplain spoke of leading hardened gang members, Muslims, murderers and others to the Lord. He said that when he is waiting to see a prisoner, he even takes the time to



▲ Wayne McKay sings prior to president's address



▲ Wayne Whiteside, volunteer prison chaplain, speaks at Leadership Conference



▲ Clint James, attorney, speaks about incorporation at Leadership Conference



▲ First Vice President Wes Pratt, welcomes messengers of Cornerstone, Jacksonville to the BMA of Texas



▲ Eddie Marsh, president of TBHC, delivers annual report

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# Pressing forward through church revitalization and revival

By **PAUL GAUNTT**  
Baptist Progress Correspondent

Under the direction of Texas State Missions, most of the Wednesday morning schedule of the BMA of Texas, which met at Keltys First, Lufkin, Nov. 4-5, was dedicated to Revival Initiative. Speakers for the session were, Orval Barger, pastor emeritus at First, Livingston, Brett Lester, senior pastor of First, Livingston, Richard Murry and Cheryl Flowers of Suburban Wood, Humble.

**ORVAL BARGER**, a veteran pastor who has also served as a church planter and for years, as an intentional interim pastor, as well as pastor of Webb Chapel, Dallas and First, Livingston for 16 years, addressed the process involved in planning for revival, noting the emphasis placed on revival both in the Old and New Testaments.

"I appreciate our (missions) workers for developing this revival initiative, which needs to be brought to the forefront of our work," Barger said. "It has been called many things—renewal, restoration, revitalization, and many others, but I personally like the term 'revival.'"

He noted that the idea of revival is a huge concept which is woven throughout the Old Testament and the New Testament, and was always begun by a leader raised up by God to take the initiative.

"Such a movement is not limited to church leadership," he said. "The membership must catch the vision."

Barger emphasized the notion that there are no shortcuts to revival, and that just having one revival would not suffice, but at least a five-year program with members continually talking revival up.

"The sad thing about such an initiative is that many times it will start up, but there will be no follow through, and people often let it drop," Barger said, noting that one of the most important ingredients to revival is relationship-building.

He cited Nehemiah's revival model, stating that it was brought about by (1) prayer; (2) leadership; (3) vision and (4) determination.

"Our mandate is from II Chronicles 7:14, and I'm sure there's not a person in the house who can't quote this scripture," Barger told the congregation. "And the mandate wasn't intended for just pastors, but for all,"

Barger illustrated the mandate for revival by citing statistics which are symptoms, if not part of the cause for lack of revival. He said 57 percent of all pastors said they would leave the pastorate if they could; 77 percent of all pastors confess they do not have a good marriage, and a majority are experiencing some depression and/or burnout.

Similar statistics plague churches in America as well.



▲ Orval Barger

"Eighty-seven percent of all evangelical churches in America are either plateaued or in decline in America today," he said. "One half of all evangelical churches added no new members during the past two years."

He noted that the U.S. is third behind China and India in the number of people who are not professed Christians.

In his closing remarks, Barger read a mock news release, prepared by a newspaper reporter giving examples of the dismal process that a denomination might take in closing operations due to dying churches and no revival.

**BRETT LESTER**, senior pastor of First, Livingston, shared with the body how creativity is proving successful in his church, which is enjoying a weekly attendance of 750-800 in two services.

"I believe creativity is a gift from God, and our congregation is open to it," he said, saying that the mission of the church is to "change Polk County for the cause of Christ."

He said every age group in the church is involved in being creative in reaching out to the community, and nothing will be considered, which is not biblical nor beneficial.

In describing the process, Lester notes that preparation is vital, often with months of prayer and planning invested in any initiative.

"Collaboration is key," the pastor said. "We have a team concept among our staff, and in every meeting we have a giant white marker board which is used to contribute creative ideas."

One of the creative ideas which has reaped benefits is to lead his people from thinking of church as a place, but as people. From an idea Lester got from a music video, he introduced the concept of building a mosaic utilizing photos of each member of the church. The mosaic was developed, using the hundreds of photos to create a 19 foot tall mosaic of Jesus, which is displayed in the church's atrium. Podcasts have been created, highlighting individual members from that mosaic, and showing it to the congregation.

First, Livingston is taking a hands-on approach to reaching the community for Christ, including a food bank, and other community initiatives.

**RICHARD MURRY**, a layman from Suburban Wood,



▲ Brett Lester

Humble, described how the declining 50 year old congregation took the suggestion to contact a former pastor, Bob Lane.

"On Sept. 28, we celebrated our 50th anniversary at Suburban Woods," he said. "Two of the former pastors, Bob Lane and Floyd Loven, were present for the celebration."

A group from Suburban Wood met with Lane at First, Livingston a while later who, in turn, contacted Jerry Burnaman and State Missions.

"We have a lot of tenured BMA people in our church, and we wanted some help finding a pastor," Murry said. "We didn't want an independent or someone who wasn't familiar with the BMA work, so State Missions assisted us in finding BMA preachers to fill the pulpit, including Bro. Lane and Bro. Burnaman."

Experienced church planter, Dean Renfro, one of the men to serve as pulpit supply, was called to be the pastor. Soon, things started to fall into place. As soon as it was learned that Renfro had experience working with different ethnic groups in church, the concept was introduced to have multiple congregations within the same church.

"Ten months later, we had five congregations in our building," Murry said. "A group of women who loved to quilt -- they meet each week for quilting, after devotion and prayer."

Other groups include a Hispanic service, home ministry, basketball on Tuesdays and Thursdays (three groups of people totaling over 60 in number, meet for basketball, and have a devotional and prayer, and a group of older members who are known as the builders.

"This is truly a partnership experience between our church and State Missions," Murry said.

**CHERYL FLOWERS**, who has been a member of Suburban Woods spoke to the body concerning her joy in the new experience at the church.

"I had already decided that if nothing was going to happen here, I was ready to go somewhere else where things were happening," she said. "Today, I can see the anointing of the Spirit on this place."

For further information, contact Texas State Missions, 972-923-0757, or e-mail [jerryburnaman@yahoo.com](mailto:jerryburnaman@yahoo.com). Contact First, Livingston at [fbclivingston.org](http://fbclivingston.org).



▲ Jerry Burnaman



▲ Cheryl Flowers

# Church Health

## We need a pastor

By LARRY BARKER

“We need a pastor!” That is something I am hearing quite a bit these days. Churches do need a pastor, but often I hear desperation and someone will say, “The sooner the better!” While, yes, a church does need a pastor, they do not need to rush into this decision too quickly. This is one of the most important, if not the most important, decision a church will ever make. This cannot be rushed, nor should a church approach it too slowly by dragging its feet. You should approach this process prayerfully and with much wisdom as you seek out the man of God to lead your congregation.

When it comes to making such a major decision there are three basic approaches that are often used.

**First, some congregations are time-driven.** The need is now and we must get busy in making sure this happens as quickly as possible. We live in such a fast paced society which seems to be getting quicker by the minute, or maybe by the second. Slow down and find out who the candidate is, what his track record has been, and

what the references of his references have to say about him. Remember, the only way you can predict future performance is based upon past behavior. Adrian Rodgers once said, “A change of scenery never guarantees a change of character.”

**Second, some congregations are goal-driven.** They have a picture of what kind of pastor they need and quite often it is unrealistic. The “perfect” pastor does not exist and if you are not careful, the new pastor will begin his ministry with unrealistic expectations that even Superman could not fulfill. The pastor is not called to do all of the work, but to equip the members to do the work of the ministry. Make sure your “job description” fits the word of God and that the expectations will not put more pressure on the pastor than it should. The goal should be the right man, in the place, at the right time! Some congregations are only going to use a resume to trust their family to, someone they don’t really know and have never lived with!

**Thirdly, congregations should be Spirit-driven.**

Most would say “amen” to this, but be careful to not over spiritualize it as a “mystical” decision. It is difficult when a church member says to a preacher that “God told me you were to be our pastor!” What if God has not told him that yet? Being Spirit-driven does not cancel out being time conscious. Doing your due diligence in the process is very important. Being Spirit-driven also does not cancel out being goal-driven. The goal should be to find God’s man. The unique dynamic in looking for a pastor is that the congregation must hear from the Lord and the man God is calling to lead them must also hear His voice.

The reality is that there will always be those who want to go too fast and those who will want to go too slow. Both are dangerous and that is why we must listen closely and carefully to the Spirit’s direction. Not only is this one of the biggest decisions a church will ever make, it is also one of the biggest decisions a man and his family will ever make. They may have to pick up stakes and start from square one. All the transitions a family will have to go through when moving to a new field of service can be quite overwhelming.

There is a key question your church must consider as it prays for a pastor to be your spiritual leader. **Are they willing to do the work of an evangelist?** Jesus said, “I have come to seek and to save the lost!” As you consider someone to be your pastor you must examine to see what their track record has been in this area. Is there evidence of their pursuit of the lost and of sharing the gospel with others? Have they trained those around them in how to effectively evangelize? Have they intentionally built times into their schedules to be around those outside the church and not just hang out with the “in” crowd? How have they related to the unchurched where they are presently ministering? How will they lead your church to obey the Great Commission locally? What is their vision to equip your congregation to live as missionaries in your zip code? All of the other characteristics you can look for in a pastor will have limited or meaningless impact if he does not have a burden for the lost!

Healthy churches are Spirit-driven!

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





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# The Power to Press Forward

## President's Address at 114th Annual Session of the BMA of Texas

By **CHARLES JOHNSON**

*BMA of Texas President*

“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” Philippians 3:13-14.

Thom Rainer, CEO of LifeWay Christian Stores, released a new book titled, *Autopsy of a Deceased Church*. A spiritual forensic examination was made of 14 churches which have literally died and closed their doors. These churches ranged in size from the average BMA congregation to one larger than any BMA church in Texas. They all had one thing in common: they died and ceased to exist as a New Testament body of Christ.

According to Rainer, 90 percent of the churches in America are either in a state of decline or they are not growing as quickly as the community around them. One-third of these declining groups are in a spiritual comatose state; the proverbial “plug” just has not been pulled.

Several common causes of death were found in these churches. First of all, all of these had begun to live in the past. The members often pointed to some “high-water” mark in her history in which the church had great success. Some would even post photos in the entrance foyers of these prosperous times as though they expected these progressive eras to somehow magically reoccur.

The BMA has a great legacy. I am personally proud of our past. There is no one here today more “BMA” than I am. If I live until the 19th of this month, I will be 62 1/2 years old. Add nine months to that, and that is how long I have been attending a BMA church. I certainly was not around when the BMA of Texas was organized at the beginning of the 20th Century. I was not even born when the BMA of America was founded in Lakeland, Florida, in 1950, but my grandmother, Zelma Hymer, was a messenger at the meeting.

The Lord has done great things through the BMA in the past, but if we are to press forward for Lord, we cannot look back and live in the past. Paul echoed this sentiment when he expressed “forgetting those things which are behind, I press toward the prize.”

Another common trait of the dead churches was a menial mindset. These groups developed a mentality, “I would rather die than change.” And they did.

Money was not a problem for these churches, but money was a problem. I am not speaking out of both sides of my mouth at the same time. Let me explain. Most of the dead churches died with a sizeable treasury balance. They had been saving for “a rainy day” but failed to look around and see the storm clouds had already been gathering for a long while.

Missions had become a low priority. In the case of many of the deceased

churches, missions support had ceased altogether. I personally looked at some congregations which had folded in our local association and in a neighboring one and found, without exception, each church had stopped their giving to missions.

The dead churches had also lost their meaningful vision. This was true in their local outreach as well as their vision of lost souls “to the uttermost.”

The churches which died had developed a massive self-centeredness with a country club mentality. They had subscribed to the humanist philosophy of “What’s in it for me?” They had limited their membership.

No, they had not voted to do this with a motion in conference, but in reality this had taken place. If visitors came and they didn’t look, act, or smell like the established group, they felt expelled and usually did not return.

All of these dead churches had forgotten the purpose of the New Testament Churches is not what she can do for us personally, but is what we may do for the Lord and the Kingdom of God’s sake through His Churches.

In the spring of 1972, I had the blessed privilege of being in Dr. Leon Gaylor’s “Life of Paul” class at Jacksonville College. In the organizational meeting of this course, Dr. Gaylor gave us a syllabus of the class and explained the material we would be covering which consisted of individual reports of the Pauline epistles. The main part of our study, however, would be the Book of Acts.

Dr. Gaylor explained there were three major influences to look for in Acts: prayer, the Holy Spirit, and preaching of the Word of God. He suggested marking in the margins of our Bibles each time there was a reference to these three factors.

I have a worn copy of a 1611 King James Version Bible my church gave me when I was licensed to preach in my personal library which I was using at the time of this class. I wrote in the margins a “P” for prayer, “HS” for Holy Spirit, and “M” for messages preached in Acts. The edges of this Bible are filled with these letters in the Book of Acts section.

I submit to you for the Lord’s churches to have the power to press forward in today’s world, it is absolutely essential for us to tap these three resources.



▲ Charles Johnson

## Plan Now for 2014 Year End Giving

As we approach the end of another calendar year, are you planning special year end contributions to your church, or favorite charity? Why not add the BMA Foundation to your list this year?

Your contribution will never be spent. It will be invested and only the earnings will be used to help the departments of the BMA of America spread the gospel to a growing number of people around the world. Please send your contribution to: BMA Foundation, P.O. Box 1188, Conway, Arkansas 72033. Contributions must be received by December 31 to be tax deductible for 2014 income tax purposes. If additional information is needed please call 501-329-6891.

## EVENTS

### NOVEMBER 23, 2014

Harvest Sunday  
@ Anthony Drive, Ennis  
Dr. Mike Smith, guest speaker  
Concert by The Jacksonville College Singers  
Lunch following worship

### DECEMBER 18, 2014

Liberty Association BMA Theological Seminary Rally  
@Camille Acres, Longview

### JANUARY 15, 2015

Liberty Association State Missions Rally  
@ Cherokee, Gilmer

### JANUARY 17-22, 2015

The Great Escape  
Youth & Children's Leaders  
Conference Cruise  
Go to [discipleguide.org/thegreatescape](http://discipleguide.org/thegreatescape)

### MARCH 12, 2015

Liberty Association Texas Baptist Home Rally  
@ Coffeerville, Ore City

### APRIL 20-22, 2015

BMA of America Annual Session  
@ University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center  
Springfield, Missouri  
Headquarters Hotel: University Plaza Hotel

### MAY 14, 2015

Liberty Association BMMI Rally  
@ Concord, Gilmer

### AUGUST 13, 2015

Liberty Association Lifeward Rally  
@ Cross Roads, Pittsburg

### OCTOBER 11, 2015

Liberty Association Annual Meeting  
@ First, Judson  
Begin at 3 p.m.  
First Session Speaker--Charles Johnson  
Dismiss for Supper at 5 p.m.  
Begin second session at 6 p.m.  
Second Session Speaker--Randy Stracener

### APRIL 25-27, 2016

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

## PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

### AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**PASTOR**—Antioch Missionary, Gilmer is seeking a pastor. Send to the church, ATTN: Larry Johnson at P.O. Box 688, Gilmer, Texas 75644. 12/3/14

**MUSIC OR MUSIC & YOUTH**—First, New Caney is seeking a bivocational music or music & youth minister. Send resume to Pastor Jonathan Fitzgerald, P.O. Box 1027, New Caney, Texas 77357 or to [fbcnwcaney@att.net](mailto:fbcnwcaney@att.net), or call 281-399-9930. TFM

**PASTOR**—Greenwood Missionary, Fulton, Mississippi is seeking a senior pastor. Send resume to Greenwood Baptist Church, c/o Suzanne Little, 1400 Greenwood Church Road, Fulton, Mississippi 38843; [suzanne.little@hunterdouglas.com](mailto:suzanne.little@hunterdouglas.com) or call 662-401-8910. 12/3/14

**YOUTH**—South Park, Fort Worth is seeking a director of youth ministry. For information about the position and to submit a resume visit [fortworthbaptistchurch.org/YouthDirectorSearch/](http://fortworthbaptistchurch.org/YouthDirectorSearch/). TFM

## PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

**JIM CRUMP** has resigned as pastor of First, Judson.

**JAMES YOUNG, JR.** is the new pastor of Little Hope, Wood County.

## Central Baptist College invites applications for Vice President for Finance

Central Baptist College in Conway seeks an innovative and experienced financial administrator and leader with a proven track record in the management of financial systems to serve as vice president for finance.

Reporting directly to the president, the vice president for finance serves as chief financial officer of the college. The vice president for finance will provide strategic leadership and oversight of the college's finance and accounting functions, business services and auxiliary enterprises, human resources and facilities and physical plant operations. As a member of the president's executive management team, the vice president will support the president and will contribute to the strategic objectives and direction of the college by providing sound and ethical fiscal planning and financial management to ensure the long-term financial stability and growth of the college.

The successful candidate will have an MBA or Master's degree in business management, accounting or related field and a minimum of five years accounting/finance related experience in a supervisory or managerial role.

The vice president for finance is a 12-month full-time position with remuneration and benefits commensurate with experience. The Search Committee will begin reviewing applications immediately. The search will continue until the position is filled.

Send letter of application, resume, and the names, addresses and phone numbers of three references to: Vice President for Finance Search Committee, c/o Terry Kimbrow, President, Central Baptist College, 1501 College Avenue, Conway, Arkansas 72034 or email [tkimbrow@cbc.edu](mailto:tkimbrow@cbc.edu). Electronic submissions are encouraged.

Candidates must support the Christian identity of the college and demonstrate mature faith, Christian lifestyle, and a strong belief in Baptist doctrine. CBC will conduct a criminal background investigation as part of the hiring process.

## CHURCHES IN REVIEW

### NOVEMBER 2, 2014

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	73	85	
Bethel, Groesbeck			
Cedar Creek, Teague	16	21	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	445	554	2 By Letter
First, Blooming Grove	205		
First, Palmer	38	61	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	18	30	
Jackson, Joaquin	71	121	
Long Creek, Sunnyvale	79	94	
New Harmony, Tyler	306	378	
New Haven, Dallas	40	56	2 By Statement
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	51	57	
Pine Acres, Gilmer	32	99	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	11	40	
Temple, Mexia	52	61	

### NOVEMBER 9, 2014

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	68	94	
Cedar Creek, Teague	18	22	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	442	567	1 By Letter, 1 By Statement, 3 By Profession
First, Blooming Grove	214		1 By Baptism
First, Palmer	40	71	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	18	40	
Harvest, Lufkin	20	25	
Jackson, Joaquin	75	108	2 By Baptism, 1 By Letter
Little Flock, Lufkin	15	20	2 By Letter
Long Creek, Sunnyvale	82	102	
New Harmony, Tyler	281	409	1 By Letter
Omen, Arp	41	60	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	49	59	
Pine Brook, Tyler	26	66	
Rosewood, Gilmer	105	175	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	20	65	1 By Baptism
Temple, Mexia	44	53	1 By Statement
Tundra, Canton	72		

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



### Want to Make a Gift That Keeps Giving?

The BMA Foundation provides that opportunity. Your gift is never spent, it is invested and only the earnings are used to support any or all departments of the BMA of America as you specify. Your gift keeps giving until the Lord returns. You may make a cash contribution or contribute through your estate plan. Checks should be made payable to BMA Foundation and mailed to P.O. Box 1188, Conway, Arkansas 72033. For more information, call the BMA Foundation office at 501-329-6891.

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# BMA of Texas pressing forward cont.

share the gospel with family members in the waiting room.

Perhaps the most touching incident related by Whiteside occurred during a visit to a prison, where a female officer tried to limit him from roaming freely throughout the prison, even though he had authorization. Exercising his right to go wherever he wanted within the prison, Whiteside walked into a darkened cell. Suddenly, an inmate emerged from the darkness and asked Whiteside, "Are you a minister?," to which the chaplain responded, "I am."

The inmate continued, "I have had the same dream that I died and went to hell four nights in a row.

"I prayed, "God, if you are real, send somebody to talk to me today, and here you are!"

Of course, the inmate accepted Christ as his personal Savior that day.

In conclusion, Whiteside encouraged pastors and other leaders to look for every possible opportunity to share the gospel with others, whether they be in prison, the workplace or the public square.

## Tuesday Afternoon Session

Following the call to order and introduction of the theme of the meeting, Wayne McKay presented special music. President Charles Johnson followed with the president's address. (See president's address on page 4 of this issue).

In the *Baptist Progress* report, this editor noted that during his 10 years as editor of the official publication of the BMA of Texas, he has witnessed progress being made. Among the accomplishments noted are the establishment of several churches, including Genesis Metro, Frisco; Rockhouse Church, Keller; and LifeQuest, Porter.

This editor has also witnessed a transition of leadership at Jacksonville College, during the last decade, with the retirement of Dr. Edwin Crank as president, and the election of a new president, Dr. Mike Smith. Building on the strong fiscal foundation Crank helped to lay, Smith has now overseen the construction of a new dorm on campus, needed physical improvements to the campus, a continued record enrollment of students each semester and plans for further expansion.

Over the past 10 years, the Texas Baptist Home for Children has expanded their adoption services and foster care services, now ministering to more children and families than ever before. An independent living home as well as a transitional living home have also been constructed on campus. Through the ministries of TBHC, lives are being changed for the better, for eternity.

It was finally reported that due to unexpected income and offerings *Baptist Progress* finished the 2013-2014 associational year in good fiscal shape.

The fellowship ministry agreement with the Southern Baptists of Texas

Convention that has previously been published in *Baptist Progress*, was renewed indefinitely, making the relationship between the convention and the BMA of Texas permanent, with the stipulation that both groups retain their individual identities.

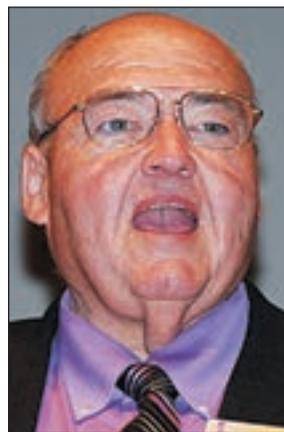
To express the commitment of fellowship with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, the BMA of Texas accepted the invitation to meet with the convention next year in Houston. Each group will have separate business sessions, then join together in worship. Specific place, times and dates will be published in a future issue of *Baptist Progress*.

## Tuesday Evening Session

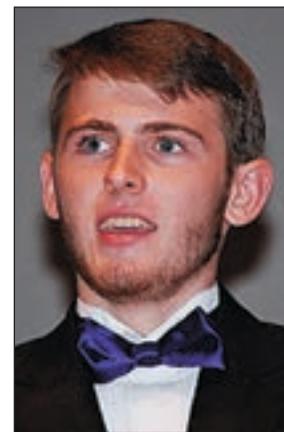
Messengers and guests were led in worship by Keltys' Youth and Music Pastor David Vandergriff and the Keltys First Baptist Church Choir at the beginning of the Tuesday evening session.



▲ Jacksonville College Choir



▲ Dr. Mike Smith, president of Jacksonville College, delivers annual report



▲ Joseph Allen, Jacksonville College student, shares testimony



▲ Valerie Holman, Jacksonville College student, shares how her life was changed at the college



▲ Grady Cashion delivers annual message



▲ Steve Coburn sings before annual message

The Jacksonville College report followed with JC President Dr. Mike Smith reporting an enrollment of 564 this semester. Smith also shared that 20 students were saved on campus during the last semester, and through community outreach an additional 300 souls were saved in the City of Jacksonville. Some of the college students have begun a nursing home ministry each Friday, following a request by Smith that students visit a dying Hospice patient at a local center that the students led to the Lord.

Students Joseph Allen and Valerie Holman gave moving testimonies of how the Lord used Jacksonville College to change their lives.

Led by Tim Timmons, the Jacksonville College Choir presented a beautiful concert following the president's report.

Steve Coburn, music minister at First, Blooming Grove sang "He Made a Change," prior to the annual message by Grady Cashion, pastor of First, Blooming Grove. (See the Dec. 3 issue of *Baptist Progress* for the annual message, and page 2 of this issue for further coverage of the meeting).

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# Daniel Springs Camp Upcoming Year

By **JASON PREWITT**

*Daniels Springs Camp Director-Elect*

Have you ever been so excited about something and you just could not put it into words or you could not explain it to someone else? That's how I feel when I think of what is going on at Daniel Springs.

This summer is the 50th anniversary of the camp opening. I don't know about you, but it excites me to think about the thousands of people who have come through the gates of Daniel Springs Camp and been transformed by God during their camp experience. Testimonies are heard all over the world of how God has moved in lives because of the ministry and leadership of Daniel Springs.

We have been so blessed to have had Bro. James Speer lead in amazing ways over the last 35 years. I count it a huge blessing to have been a student and then a Student Pastor under his leadership. His servant heart and willingness to take the camp in new directions to reach countless lives for Christ have made an impact on the Kingdom.

God is already opening many new doors for this coming camp season. Please begin praying for the impact 2015 will have on young lives visiting Daniel Springs. We want all that is done to be God honoring and the best we have to offer.

Planning is already underway for the 2015 camp season. This planning includes some new retreats along with the summer schedule. Keep checking on the website, [www.danielspringscamp.com](http://www.danielspringscamp.com) for details of upcoming events and updates. If you have any questions feel free to contact the camp at 903-685-2433 or email me at [jason@danielspringscamp.com](mailto:jason@danielspringscamp.com). We are so excited about the future and all that it has to offer.

## It's Time to Order Winter Literature!

DiscipleGuide will begin taking Winter Literature orders at 9am on November 3. Ordering early ensures your literature will arrive in plenty of time for the upcoming quarter.

DiscipleGuide offers a full line of literature including *Compass* for adults, *SOAR:lit* for youth, and DiscipleKids for children. Other books, studies, and auxiliary materials are available as well. To order, or to learn more about DiscipleGuide products, go to [discipleguide.org](http://discipleguide.org) or call 1-800-333-1442.

### Reception for Bro. Gary House

In honor of 41 years in the ministry, the family and friends of Gary House will host a reception on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in their home at 114 Lake Meadow Drive, Canton. All friends, former members, and especially pastor brothers and co-workers, are invited. Cards and letters may be sent to the same address, to be compiled into a book of remembrances.

For more information, please call 214-931-7069.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Winter Term Enrollment

October 1 through December 15

#### Winter Term Session I

December 15, 2014 - January 9, 2015  
(online and traditional courses)

#### Winter Term Session II

January 2- 12, 2015  
(traditional classroom courses)

#### Spring Term Enrollment

Begins November 1

#### Christmas Show: Christmas Cards

December 4 at 8:00 p.m. in Buckner Chapel

#### Campus Wide Garage Sale

December 5-6 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
at the former Joe Wright Elementary School at  
215 Kickapoo Street across from the main JC campus



## 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, 2014 – October 31, 2014.

### ENDOWMENTS

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

### HONORARIUMS

**ALL SERVICE PERSONELL FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM:** Mr. James D. Murphy

**BRO. & MRS. CHARLES M JOHNSON:** Leora Johnson; Ron & Lourita Coe; Plamour & Bertha McCool

**JUDY LAMBERT'S BIRTHDAY:** Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

**RACHEL & ANNA USSERY:** Lamar & Peggy Lee

### MEMORIALS

**W. T. ANDERSON:** Mr. & Mrs. L. A. Batterton

**NOAH BASS:** Mr. Olly G. Bass

**WALTER BECKER:** Dennis & Ilona Myrice

**JERRY BELL JR:** Margie Wolfe; Bro. & Mrs. Duane Turner

**HERBERT BERGSTROM:** Fifth Street BC Willing Worker's SS

**BUSTER CALVERT:** Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

**RICHARD CLARK:** Joe Dean & Betty Ann Blazek

**ROSE CAMPBELL:** Brent & Tammy Swanner

**C. D. COE:** Cindy Muniz

**CARROL COE:** Mrs. Louise Duffey; Craig Mullinex; John Boles

**AMOS COWART:** Lonnie & Brenda Williams

**MARY DAVIS:** First Baptist Church, Rosser

**JOE DENTON SR.:** Mr. Jerry Null

**JEREMIAH DRENNAN:** Brent & Tammy Swanner

**IRIS ELLINGTON:** Calvary Baptist Church

**DOUGLAS FENNEL:** Rosewood Baptist Church

**LEVI & LILLIE GRIMES:** Mr. & Mrs. James O. Hill

**HATFIELD:** Shady Grove Baptist Church

**DOUGLAS DOTSON HEARNE:** Mr. W. V. (Tres) Watt, III

**BOBBY HIGGINS:** Dorothy Sandlin

**JESSIE HITT:** Mrs. Regina Bonner

**MARJORY "JO" HYMER:** Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson; Leora Johnson

**FRANCIS KENT:** Harold M. & Jocie Lewis; Mr. Robert Kent

**IAN KENT:** Mike & Shelba Tolon

**MARGIE MARNEY:** Sara Howell

**DOROTHY MASTERS:** Mary Gilbert Hunt

**ANITA MILLER:** Emlyn M. & Anita Miller

**PEGGY MURRAY:** Johnny & Jerri Miller

**JOHN NORWOD:** B. W. & Ida Keeling

**ANN O'CONNOR:** Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson; Judy Lambert; Mrs. Myrtie Langford; Lawrence & Sandy Bell; Palmour & Bertha McCool

**JOYCE SHARPE ROGERS:** Clyde & Debra Wilson

**JOSIAH ALEXANDER RUIZ:** Concha Rouse

**CHRIS SEATON:** Calvary Baptist Church

**C WELDON SENN:** Reba Wade; Don & Susan Ross; Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson; Joe Jack & Norma Lyle; Ineta Archer; Larry & Carol Brock

**BAILEY SHAFER:** Mary Sprunck

**LEE SHORT:** Fay (Florence) Short

**J. R. KENMORE:** H. V. & Betty Minter

**JOHN SNEAD:** Mr. & Mrs. B K Hunnicutt

**ARCHIE SPRAGGINS:** Mr. & Mrs. Larry Campbell

**DOROTHY SWIFT:** Mr. & Mrs. Andy McCuiston; Robin Stewart; Colorado Baptist General Convention; Mrs. Neva McLaughlin; 311<sup>th</sup> G4 Family; Sarah Morris; Paul Calandra; Gary Rossi;

**PEGGY THOMPSON:** Mr. & Mrs. Andy McCuiston

**SHIRLEY THORNTON:** Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

**WANDA:** Mr. Bob (Austin) Hickingbotham

**LEOTIS WILLIAMS:** Clyde & Debra Wilson

**MARY E. WOLFINGTON:** John Wolfington

# Christian Living

## Self Control

By PAUL GAUNTT

People have often misunderstood the word “meek.”

To many, the word connotes “weakness”—lack of boldness or courage. But meekness is anything but weakness. But it is “power under control.”

Jesus epitomized meekness, yet He didn’t violate that trait when he entered the temple, overturned the money changers’ tables, and drove them out, saying, “My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.”

This came from the Savior, the one “meek and lowly in heart”—but the action portrayed anything but weakness. Jesus was meek—yet He was a man’s man.

A meek person can exercise power and courage, yet it’s always for a right and godly motive. It’s never for his own defense—never to gain attention for oneself—but always for the glory of God.

My good friend, Rick Robinson, pastor of Center of Life, Houston, was keynote speaker in one of our Breakthrough youth conferences a few years ago. During one message, he shared his experience of being a constant victim of bullying in school. He was a little smaller than most of the rest of his peers, making him a natural target.

He decided to enroll in martial arts training, and learn not only the art of self-defense, but the important life lesson of self control. After an extended period of training in karate, he earned his black belt. Now, the bullies would be faced with something which they didn’t bargain for.

But Rick noticed another dynamic in his life—he was suddenly keenly aware of the devastating effects the full force of the martial arts could have on his foes. Prior to

his karate training, he was faced with the possibility of being beaten up by bullies—now, he had another concern. So with a chuckle, he said, “I just decided it was best to let them beat me up.”

That is a great illustration of power under control.

When a boy is young and immature, he loves to burn the tires his father bought—drag racing and showing off his powerful muscle car. Older, more mature men may drive high-performance cars, but it’s enough for them to just to know it’s there—and there is little or no need to impress anyone with its power. They can look over at the teenager next to them at the traffic light, smile at them, and let them win.

That’s self control.

Jesus said that He was “meek, and lowly in heart”—quite an incredible statement coming from the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. This is the One Who spoke the universe into existence—This is the One Who raised Lazarus from the dead simply by calling out his name. This is the One who re-attached the ear of the Roman soldier which Peter severed in an attempt to defend his Savior. This is the One Who, one day, according to Revelation 16, will make His descent upon the earth, smiting the nations with the sharp sword out of His mouth, and then ruling the earth “with a rod of iron” during His Millennial reign. Now that’s power! But Christ was no less powerful during His first advent on earth—but during that time, He came to be the Sacrificial Lamb on the cross of Calvary, for the remission of our sin.

As believers in Christ, we already have His power

working in us (Ephesians 3:20) We are filled with all the fullness of God (verse 19). Yet, we are commanded of Him to walk in meekness and lowliness upon this earth.

When you are genuinely meek and lowly in heart, you are able to curb harsh words to debaters, regardless of how “right” you may be. When you’re meek, you do not feel the need to defend or usurp yourself. In fact, God says that vengeance is His, and he would defend us. Long-time pastor, revivalist and writer Lynn Stephens once noted, “A man who must defend himself has no defense.”

Paul exercised this control in his life in 1 Corinthians 8, when he declared that partaking of meat once offered to idols did not violate his own conscience, but he willingly refrained from eating it in order to not be a stumbling block to those young in the faith—those who were converted from paganism, and who still had a problem with consuming meat which had been offered to pagan gods.

Self-control is one of the greatest hallmarks of a genuine, faithful Christ follower.

Proverbs 25:28: “He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.”

Paul Gauntt is the former 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 paul.gauntt@att.net.



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# Mission Life

## God's call to the ministry

By JERRY BURNAMAN

We believe every believer is to share the gospel; we're all "ambassadors for Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:20). We also believe the Holy Spirit specifically calls men to preach and then appoints them to be overseers of a church, and be able to say with the apostle that they have "received this ministry" (2 Corinthians 4:1). This requires the dedication of a man's entire life to spiritual work and has precedence over secular involvement (2 Timothy 2:4).

There are many Old Testament examples of men called of God for a specific mission. I am using two, Isaiah the 8th Century B.C. prophet and Jeremiah the 7th Century B.C. prophet to verify God's call to men.

Isaiah tells us that while he was in the temple attending to priestly duties one of the seraphim touched his lips with a live coal from the altar, and the voice of the Lord said, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" (Isaiah 6:8). He responded, "Here am I, send me." Notice, he did not go until he was sent and qualified by God.

Jeremiah gives details of his call in the first chapter of his book. "Then the word of the Lord came to me saying: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations. Then said I: Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak for I am a youth. But the Lord said to me: Do not say, I am a youth, for you will go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord" (Jeremiah 1:4-8). Here again is the idea of being sent and qualified by God.

A study of the New Testament reveals overwhelming evidence of God specifically calling men to do His work. When our Lord ascended on high He gave gifts unto men, and it is noteworthy that these gifts were men set apart for various works: "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-12). I pray for young men in our churches to listen for the call of God, then completely dedicate themselves to His service and make every effort possible to be equipped for an effective ministry.

How may a young man know whether he is called or not? This is a most solemn and weighty question and it is essential for the individual making the decision as he spends time in prayer seeking God's guidance. No family member or friend can make the decision for him. Here are some thoughts to consider:

**1. He has an intense desire to do God's work.** The man God calls will have an overwhelming craving and raging thirst for telling others what God has done in his own soul. Someone said in Spurgeon's day: "Do not enter the ministry if you can help it." If a man can be content as a newspaper editor, computer expert, doctor, lawyer, senator then do so. The calling is to those who have no other notion but to say, "Woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel."

**2. He chooses to SERVE in attitude and action.** In Philippians 2:5-11, Paul writes about how we should embrace the same "mind" that drove Jesus to serve in attitude and action. Although He was God, He did not cling to His position, but instead to His purpose. He was not position conscious, but purpose

conscious. He knew the best way to accomplish His purpose was to serve people. Pastors experience their sense of calling when they determine to serve.

Serving always starts with a need: (1) the need sparks passion within a person. (2) That person acts in response to the need. (3) This action moves others to cooperate. You get the idea that a pastor or other leaders in the church must love people because that is what God's calling is all about, to reach people with the gospel.

**3. Recognize your GIFT from God.** Paul wrote to Timothy: "Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all" (1 Timothy 4:13-16). When the preacher recognizes his gift and uses it to serve, is another step confirming his call. The discovery may follow this order:

- First, the preacher identifies a primary gift.
- Second, he develops the gift through Bible study and perhaps seminary study.
- Third, he allows the Holy Spirit to match the gift with a place of service.
- Fourth, the gift provides a platform for influence.
- Fifth, the pastor eventually flourishes because of his gift that God gives him.

**4. The powerful judgment of the Lord's church verifies his call.** Whether the pastor values the church or not, one thing is certain, no preacher can pastor without the loving consent of the flock. Therefore, this will be a practical indicator of the preachers call if not a correct one. God's churches are always urgently in need of anointed preachers and most of them have the Holy Spirit's leadership to detect the real thing.

Therefore, be fit for your work, "study to be approved," and you will always have a place to preach. Spurgeon wrote in his Lectures to My Students, "Do not run about inviting yourselves to preach here and there; be more concerned about our ability than your opportunity, and more earnest about your walk with God than about either. The sheep will know God sent the shepherd; the porter of the fold will open to you, and the flock

will know your voice."

There is a great need for pastors, evangelists and teachers among us. Are young men surrendering to God's call in your church? If not, why not? Pastor, it is wise to preach a sermon occasionally, or often about God calling men specifically to preach the gospel. I encourage pastors and church members to pray that God will call men to serve Him, and as a result we will see communities changed because of the presentation of the gospel.

These are just a few thoughts about God's call to the ministry. There are many other instructions presented in the Bible, and as church leaders we should constantly present them to people and allow the Holy Spirit to do His work.

*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.*



**2014**  
**UNITED THANKSGIVING OFFERING**

**Sunday, November 23, 2014**  
**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

# Auxiliaries

## Missions, a matter of the heart

By SHARON COLE

Keltys First, Lufkin graciously hosted the Texas WMA meeting Nov. 4, 2014 with 95 ladies registering. A special thanks goes to the ladies of Keltys First, Angelina District WMA and all others who helped for their hard work, thoughtfulness, helpfulness and kindness.

To begin the program, special guest, Austin Anderson, a student from Jacksonville College, blessed our hearts with singing: "Everybody Praise the Lord," "I Am What I Am," and "The Longer I Serve Him, The Sweeter He Grows."

The focus of the program was "My Call from God," introduced by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Lynda Marsh.

Jane Meyers spoke on her call from God "In Salvation." She related how a little Cajun girl from south Louisiana moved to Texas and through step-family members, heard the gospel and God chose her to be His child.

Kristi Key told of her call from God "In the Home." She said that when God calls you to do something, Satan will attack, but God will provide.

Lynda Marsh told of her call from God "In Service." She asked the question: "In your service to the Lord, how do you serve or help others?" Her answer: "We're all different and God will use us if we are faithful." In business, the total for the Project was \$19,455.79. Praise the Lord! We exceeded our goal of \$15,000. The Master's Builders received \$18,482.91 and the Youth Fund received \$972.88.

Bro. Eddie Sikes spoke thanking the State WMA for their support to the Master's Builders. The Project for 2014-2015 is 10 percent Youth Fund and 90 percent Work Fund for Ashraf and Jenny Sara, missionaries to the Arab speaking people, presently in the Dallas area. They also are doing mission work in Oklahoma and Louisiana. The goal is \$15,000. The body accepted the petitionary letter for State WMA membership of Cornerstone, Jacksonville.

Patricia Thomas presented certificates to Myrtle Springs, Quitman and Camille Acres, Longview for meeting the Standard of Excellence. The following officers were elected for the new year: President-Diana Morris; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Sherry Decker; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Johnnie Ross; 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-Cindy Allen; Corresponding Secretaries-Jo Strong and Dian Brooks; Editor-Sharon Cole; Historian-Alicia Johnson; Project Promoter-Charlotte Johnson; Recording Secretaries-Jane Meyers, Winnie Friend, and Elizabeth Midkiff; GMA/YLA Promoters-Kristi Key and Cheryl Hughes; Sunbeam Promoters-Mellissa Henry and Cheryl Hughes; Song Leader-Sherri Walker; Pianist-(Chosen by Song Leader for each meeting); Project Selection Committee-April Meyers, D'Andra Smith and Pat Quesenbury; Nominating Committee-Bettye Wilson, Johnita Winters and Ann Pugh, Advisory Council-Bro. Adam Key, Bro. Leon Ross and Bro. Buddy Sadler. Installation of officers was conducted by Johnnie Ross. Using passages from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7, she related that we have to maintain our relationship with God. The Beatitudes are conditional statements: (Example: V.3-If we are poor in spirit, the



kingdom of heaven is ours). Also there are bold statements of fact: (V.13-Ye are the salt of the earth) (V.14-Ye are the light of the world). Gifts of a hand-fashioned salt candle, was given to each officer to remind us that we are to be salt and light in this world.

JoAnn Bass, Glenda Haynes and Shirley McAnally submitted the following resolutions:

1. That as Christian women, we strive daily to live as godly examples according to Titus 2:3-5.
2. That as homemakers we will daily pray for and diligently teach our children the commandment "to love the Lord your God with all your heart...talk of it when you sit down...when you walk...when you lie down and...rise up." Deut.6:5-7.
3. That we strongly support God's institution of marriage as between a man and a woman. Rom.1:24-32, Matt.19:4-5.
4. That we pray for all military men and women's physical protection, emotional stress, stability and recovery, plus spiritual guidance. Matt.11:28; I Jn.4:4.
5. That we be acutely aware of "the principalities and powers and rulers of the darkness of this age"-the spiritual warfare of these "latter days" and be prepared to make a stand! Eph.6:10-13.
6. I Peter 3:15..."always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you..."
7. That we give a rising vote of appreciation to the ladies and gentlemen of the churches of Angelina District for their kind and generous preparation in hosting the 2014 BMA of Texas meeting. Eph.5:19.

Texas WMA Project

The major portion of our project this year is the work fund

of Bro. Ashraf and Jenny Sara, missionary church planters working with the Arabic speaking people in America. They are currently working in the Dallas area and are working with beginning mission work in Oklahoma and Louisiana. They have two sons, John and Mark. Their needs are many including: (1) A van to pick up people to come to worship. Many of them do not have transportation. (2) Rent expenses for meeting places. (3) Sound system/Video equipment to record and broadcast through Arabic satellite channel to reach millions of Arabs in America. (4) Women's Ministry Outreach. (5) Charity meal for Thanksgiving (for people who have no family in the states). They become their family for a day. (6) Travel expenses to new mission work in Oklahoma. They ask above all for your prayers for God's wisdom and protection for their family, for more workers, and for many souls to be saved through their work. Contact them at 1418 Timber Ridge Dr. Allen, TX 75002, 903-721-1882; 214-843-7811, email-Iraqbp@aol.com, Website-http://www.LWDallas.org. Invite him and his family to your church for an inspiring message and more information about his work and vision for reaching the Arabic speaking people in America. To support this Texas WMA Project send all offerings to Texas WMA: Jo Strong, 149 NW Suzanne Terrace, Burleson, TX 76028.

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).



# Sunday School Lessons

## The Coming Judgements

By GARY HOUSE

DATE: Nov. 23, 2014

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 3:9-15; Revelation 20:11-15.

LESSON IN BRIEF: Every person will face God in judgment (Hebrews 9:27; Romans 14:12).

Many are of the opinion that there will be one general resurrection and judgment, but the Scriptures speak of as many as seven judgments that span from the cross of Christ to the beginning of the eternal state. These include: (1) the judgment of Christ at the cross (John 12:31); (2) of the believer himself (1 Corinthians 11:31-32); (3) of the believer's works (2 Corinthians 5:10); (4) of the nations (Matthew 25:31-46); (5) of Israel (Ezekiel 20:33-44); (6) of the fallen angels (1 Corinthians 6:3; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6); and (7) of the unsaved at the great white throne (Revelation 20:11-15). Today's study highlights The Judgment Seat of Christ (for the believer) and the Great White Throne Judgment (for the unbeliever, or rejecter, of Christ).

**THE JUDGMENT OF BELIEVERS (2 Corinthians 5:10).** This appearance before Christ, who has been appointed Judge of all things (John 5:22) is for believers only. No lost person will appear there.

**The time.** When will this future judgment of the believer take place? Paul told the Corinthian believers: "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts; and then shall every man have praise of God" (1 Corinthians 4:5; cf. 1 John 2:28; 2 Timothy 4:8; Revelation 22:12). Therefore, the judgment seat of Christ will take place at the rapture of the church, when we "meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thessalonians 4:17), prior to returning to the "heavens."

**The reason.** "...that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." This judgment is not to determine salvation, but rather an examination of how we as believers lived our lives after we were redeemed. This judgment is an accounting, a judgment of our works, our actions and the reality of our faith. The judgment seat of Christ will be a time when the true character of our works will be manifested. For many, it will be a day of reward and honor; yet there will be those present who will also suffer loss (2 John 8). John declares, "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming" (1 John 2:28).

**The results.** What will be the results of this examination? The believer will either receive a reward (1 Corinthians 3:8a), or forfeit reward (1 Corinthians 3:15). The believer must build on the proper foundation, and others were to build on that foundation, which is Christ (1 Corinthians 3:10-11). The believer must also build on that foundation with the proper materials. Two types of builders and two kinds of materials are mentioned. The spiritual believer will build with gold, silver, and precious stones; the worldly believer will build with wood, hay, and stubble (1 Corinthians 3:12-15). The gold, silver, and precious stones are a product of creation, while the wood, hay, and stubble are a result of natural growth. The former are the results of the Spirit of God working through the believer's life, while the latter represent the fleshly works of the old nature. No one builds completely with gold, silver, precious stones, or with wood, hay, and stubble. In this life one's achievements may seem massive and imposing, yet at the judgment seat they will be revealed for what they are: wood, hay, and stubble. "The day shall declare it" (1 Corinthians 3:13).

All works produced through self-confidence, self-conceit, and some other words that begin with the prefix self- (and there are many), will be examined at the judgment seat only to be found wood or stubble.

The worldly builder will find his works destroyed by fire, yet he himself will be saved, "yet so as by fire" (1 Corinthians 3:15), which one commentary explains, "--i.e. as a builder whose building was consumed would escape with personal safety, but with the loss of his work."

The Scriptures speak of rewards that will be awarded the believer whose life has been faithful to the Lord. (Please refer to the Compass Teacher's quarterly for a discussion of these potential crowns. (See also Psalms 58:11 and Revelation 22:12).

**THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT (Revelation 20:11-15).** The lost will also be judged, but at a different judgment.

**The time (verse 11).** When will the Great White Throne Judgment take place? When the earth and the heavens flee away. This is a poetic way to describe the destruction of the present heavens and earth. Remember, God has promised a new heaven and earth. To do that, He must destroy the present heavens and earth, just before the New Heavens and the New Earth.

**The place.** The Great White Throne of God is the very throne of God. It is "great," because it is God's court. God Himself sits upon it. It is "white," because His judgment is pure and holy.

**The participants (Revelation 20:12).** The "dead" are those spiritually dead in trespasses and sins. Every unbeliever, every Christ rejecter, who ever walked the face of the earth, will be there.

**The Judge (John 5:22).** It is only fair that Jesus is the One to be the judge at the "Great White Throne."

**The purpose.** The Great White Throne Judgment is to reward the wicked for their wickedness.

**The basis of judgment—"The books" (Revelation 20:12).** There are two kinds of books kept in heaven. Both will be present at the Great White Throne Judgment.

There is the book of life. This is the book where every human being who has ever lived has his name written. It is the book that includes the names of everyone who has ever lived or ever will live upon earth. God wants everyone to live with Him forever, so every person's name is recorded in the book of life. But when a person fails to receive Jesus Christ as his Savior, his name is erased from the book, and he loses the right to live as a citizen of heaven with God.

**The other book--actually books--are the books of records.** These books are the records of all the works of unbelievers. When a person's name is found erased from the book of life, then the books of records are opened, and he is judged out of them. They are not opened to see whether or not a person is doomed to hell. The book of life tells that. The book of records shows the degree of punishment a person is to receive. The books will condemn them. The "Book of Life" is just there to SUPPORT the verdict.

**The verdict (Revelation 20:15).** The second resurrection results in the second death. There is no appeal. The verdict is final. The penalty is eternal torment in the Lake of Fire. No hope ... no peace ... no end. Death is just the beginning of eternity. Where you spend eternity is determined before you die the first time. Afterwards, it's too late. If you are a Christian, you are born twice and you die once. If you are lost, you are born once, and you die twice. This second death is the gateway to the Lake of Fire.

"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation" (Hebrews 2:3). Jesus suffered on the cross to suffer Hell for you and me. He died to take our penalty upon Himself. He was condemned of your sin, so you might escape condemnation. How shall anyone escape, if they neglect so great a salvation? Jesus offers an alternative to the Lake of Fire.

## The Eternal States

By GARY HOUSE

DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 2014

TEXT: REVELATION 21:1-4, 6-8, 23, 27

LESSON IN BRIEF: The unsaved will experience eternity in hell, but the saved will experience eternity in heaven.

Where will you spend eternity? How many times have we noted these words as we drive along the road? Sadly, the teaching of both heaven and hell are denied, ignored, or made fun of by an uncaring, yet eternity-bound world. Their concept of Heaven and Hell seem limited to this earth. Heaven is life's good experiences, while the adversities and unpleasantness of life are "hell." Eternity is nothing to toy around with; Hell is no joke, and Heaven is more than a temporary state of mind. Man is an immortal being. Physical death is not the end of the story. That truth requires man to respond in this life to the Gospel, for only in this life can an eternal decision be made.

**THE CERTAINTY OF HEAVEN AND HELL.**

**Heaven—The "Home Sweet Home" of God's Children.** Heaven is the habitation of God, the seat of His throne, a real and permanent place (John 14:2) in which God reigns supreme, and the realm in which His subjects serve Him in glad submission. It is a place of perfect fellowship, where all the redeemed unite in praise and worship before the Triune God, together with the Holy Angels and with one another.

The greatest fact about Heaven is that the sinner will be with his Savior forever (Revelation 21:3, John 14:3). Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God which was slain (Revelation 5:9) is the source and strength and center of Heaven. The songwriter has accurately stated, "Jesus will be what makes it Heaven for me." Without Him, there could be no Heaven.

**Hell.** As certainly as there is an eternal home for the saved, there is a place for the unbeliever. Hell is the place of God's eternal justice against sins of God's eternal holiness. Hell vividly illustrates the hatefulness of sin and the holiness of God. Hell is the English translation of the Greek Word "Gehenna," which refers to the Valley of Hinnom located south and east of Jerusalem. Originally, child sacrifices were made to the idol Moloch at this place (2 Chronicles 28:1-4). To the Jews, it was a horrible place. There they cast the refuse of the city—the dead bodies of animals, and even the bodies of criminals who had been executed. Fires were kept burning continually to consume the refuse. It is this word, Gehenna, that the New Testament uses to describe the place of punishment appointed for the wicked after death. Hell has been called God's dumping ground where that which is not fit for Heaven is cast away for all eternity.

Most of the New Testament teaching on Hell came from the lips of Jesus, who compassionately warned against the punishment to come. (That is the attitude we must exhibit when teaching on the subject of hell.) Jesus declared that hell is a real place. (See Luke 16:23, Mark 9:43, 48). Hell is not a place where one is annihilated (burned up) for the soul lives forever. (Matthew 25:46 Jesus used the phrase "everlasting punishment.")

Hell is a necessary part of the explanation of God's sovereign control over His universe. There must be harmony in the Kingdom of God. That means voluntary submission to the will of God in all things. For those who refuse to obey God, a place outside the kingdom must be reserved. There are two reasons for that. One is that God will not force any to obey Him. The other is that every soul is immortal. Since God cannot and will not annihilate wicked souls,

and since he will not force them to obey, there must be a place provided for them where they can live on in their chosen path of sin. That place is Hell.

Hell was not planned for man, but for Satan, and his fallen angels (Matthew 25:41). Hell is also the place for those who reject Jesus Christ (Revelation 20:11-15). Scripture declares that if our name is not recorded with the saved, we shall be cast into Hell. Perhaps the saddest thing about Hell is that unsaved man goes there as an uninvited guest. How tragic that the unrepentant sinner will reject Heaven, the place prepared for all repenting men, only to advance into Hell, a place not originally created for Him.

Summary: Heaven is the haven of the redeemed. Hell is the home of the rejecter (Revelation 21:1-8).

**THE ESSENCE OF HEAVEN AND HELL.** Both Heaven and Hell are described as places, and both are declared to be eternal in their duration. Heaven is detailed as a beautiful city, with streets of gold, walls of jasper, and gates of pearl, with the river of life flowing through its midst. Heaven is a city of light and eternal joy, where the redeemed residents have eternal rest from pain, sorrow, night, sin and death. Heaven is a burst of praise, a place of music, where the eternal song of worthy the Lamb is echoed. Heaven is a place where everybody is pure, holy, and good, a place of utter unselfishness, righteousness, pure desire and a place of joy unbounded in serving God.

Hell is polluted with sin, everything that is sinful and impure and debasing putrefies Hell. Hell is populated with sinners (Revelation 21:8). Hell is pitiful with screaming, painful with suffering, a place of torment and anguish, of weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. In the lake of fire and brimstone. Hell is a place of outer darkness, eternal night, and the undiluted divine wrath of God upon unbelievers for all eternity, which one student defined as "the lifetime of God."

Summary: The worst thing about Hell is closely related to the best thing about Heaven. Hell is a place where Jesus Christ be conspicuously absent, while Heaven is the place where Jesus will be gloriously present.

The consequences of Heaven and Hell. Heaven will bring rewards to the saved for genuine faithfulness (Matthew 25:21). Heaven will bring a holy completion of knowledge (1 Corinthians 13:12). We shall be like Christ (1 John 3:2). Heaven will be a time of unbroken fellowship and service.

Hell will bring condemnation, as mankind remains in utter moral depravity. The full harvest of sin with all its defilement, will continue unabated in the environment which Satan produces. Hell brings retribution—the wicked dead will suffer in punishment for their sins, a suffering that is beyond the power of the written or spoken word to describe.

**The eternal states.** Hell is a permanent sentence (Revelation 20:10) to which God-denying man assigns himself because of his attitude toward sin and Christ. Heaven is a Hope secured in Christ (Colossians 1:5). How clear the Word of God is about the one way to Heaven. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

Where will you spend eternity?

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**JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE  
WE ARE THANKFUL.  
WE ARE BLESSED.**



Jacksonville College has been blessed with record enrollment and a record number of students living on campus. Through the prayers and support of many of our friends, we were able to build a new residence hall, which was dedicated on October 29, 2014.



Following the Manley Distinguished Lecture Series on October 29, guests marched from the Chapel to the new SBTC Dorm for the dedication service. The JC Band led the march.



Scriptures and words of encouragement welcome students to their new home. Comfortable rooms and an open living area make the residence hall feel like home away from home.



The crowd gathers for the dedication service.



During the ribbon cutting ceremony, three men (pictured from left to right) cut the ribbon: Dr. Jim Richards, Executive Director of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention; Dr. Mike Smith, President of Jacksonville College; and Charles Johnson, President of the BMA of Texas.

