

# Baptist Progress

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## FIRST WAVE OF BMA ASSISTANCE ARRIVES IN GULF COAST AREA



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

**A** BMA recovery team is now in Mont Bellvue, near Dayton, assisting those affected by Hurricane Harvey. The BMA of America and the BMA of Texas are partnering with Just the Crumbs, a Christ-centered non-profit, to help in relief efforts. The clean-up team is assisting those whose homes have been damaged and are feeding up to 3,500 people daily.

First Baptist Church of Livingston has partnered with a nearby camp to house and provide meals for those who serve on recovery teams. Supplies and food may be brought to First, Livingston and they will be distributed

from there. Contact the church for information on housing, meals and supply delivery at 936-327-4417.

More than supplies and food, funds are needed. The relief fund at BMA Global Missions is accepting donations for Hurricane Harvey victims. These funds will be used in the immediate to feed and help those who are affected as well as assist those who are serving them. Long term, these funds will be administered in the rebuilding effort. To contribute, send your donation to PO Box 878, Conway, Arkansas 72033.

Dr. John Ladd and Dr. Ralph Izard, with

Baptist Medical Missions International, have each set up medical clinics at Suburban Wood, Humble.

Those desiring to serve on a recovery team may volunteer for several months to come by contacting Levon Haden with Just for Crumbs at 601-522-6055. Those wishing to serve on a medical missions team in the Gulf Coast Area are asked to call Angela Rice with BMAA Missions at 501-455-4977.

The BMA of Texas office is happy to help connect anyone with Gulf Coast BMA churches in need with projects in the region. Call 972-923-0757.



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It's good to be part of such a caring association

By **JERRY FULTON**

**H**urricane Harvey hit the Gulf Coast and much damage was done. How thankful I was that within a week, the BMA of America and the BMA of Texas had formed an action plan to help those affected by the storm. It was a reminder to me that while we cannot do much on our own, we can get a lot done together.

Right now, in the Gulf Coast Area, BMA groups are feeding thousands daily and supplying needed resources to help with the recovery process. It's a good day to be a part of the BMA and the cause of Christ in Texas and throughout the world.

May our combined efforts to help those affected by Hurricane Harvey serve as a reminder to us of how

together we can reach more with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**MORE CHURCHES GIVE TO ANNIVERSARY OFFERING**

Thank you to those who have given to our \$105 for 105 years of ministry anniversary offering. Others who have given, in addition to those listed in our last two issues, include the following:

**Already reported: 5,635.00**

- Calvary, Arlington
- Farley Street, Waxahachie
- Little Mound, Big Sandy
- Macedonia, Etoile

**New Total: \$6,450.00**



▲ Jerry Fulton

**LOCAL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS**

Below is a list of local association meeting dates and places:

ASSOCIATION	DATE	LOCATION
Tarrant County	Sept. 16	South Park, Fort Worth
East Fork	Sept. 17	Mt. Olive, Scurry
Ellis-Hill	Sept. 21	Campuzano's, Waxahachie
Tryon	Sept. 24	New Bethlehem, Cut and Shoot
Dallas County	Sept. 25	Calvary First, Mesquite
Central West Texas	Oct. 7	Central, Aspermont
Mount Olive	Oct. 7	Mt. Calvary, Carthage
Original Bethlehem	Oct. 7	Brookeland, Brookeland
Trinity River	Oct. 7	Mt. Zion, Buffalo
Landmark Montague	Oct. 8	Saint Jo, Saint Jo
Liberty	Oct. 8	Oak Hill, Gilmer
Van Zandt	Oct. 8	Sand Flat, Grand Saline
Harris County	Oct. 9	Suburban Wood, Humble
Navarro County	Oct. 10	Shady Grove, Purdon
Wood County	Oct. 10	Crossroads, Winnsboro
Angelina	Oct. 12	Harmony O'Dell, Huntington
Harmony	Oct. 14	Bethel, Springtown
Plains	Oct. 14	LakeRidge, Lubbock
Gulf Coast	Oct. 15	Bethel, Port Arthur
Houston-Anderson	Oct. 15	Antioch, Palestine
Navasota River	Oct. 15	Sand Prairie, Normangee
Landmark Nacogdoches	Oct. 19	Westside, Nacogdoches
Central Texas	Oct. 21	Eighth Avenue, Teague
Cherokee	Oct. 23	First, Jacksonville
Polk County	Oct. 29	Magnolia Hills, Livingston
Smith County	Oct. 30	Red Springs, Tyler

**Bibles, Books, Music & Gifts**

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

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



# DiscipleGuide

CHURCH RESOURCES

## SOAR Visioneer

**W**e at DiscipleGuide want to hear what YOU have to say.

SOAR 2017 has come and gone, leaving thousands of students having spent time with their Creator. The theme this year was “Selfless,” challenging students to live a life of ministry, even at their young age, and no matter their future career.

With this year’s conference only recently in the rearview mirror, DiscipleGuide is already planning SOAR 2018—an event that we hope will be our best conference yet!

But we need student leaders to help make this a reality. This conference belongs to you! You know your students best. You have a pulse on the major topics and tendencies of your students, and we want your opinion on how best to equip them as followers of Christ.

So join us at one of our five Visioneer meetings—a free event open to all leaders of students in your church. Snacks will be provided, and all meetings are at 7:30 p.m. We’ll see you there!

September 18, 2017—Cornerstone in Jacksonville, TX  
September 19, 2017—Farley Street in Waxahachie, TX  
September 25, 2017—BMA in Conway, AR  
September 26, 2017—ABS @ SAU in Magnolia, AR  
October 3, 2017—Facebook Live @soarconference



## Start getting ready for SOAR 2018

**T**hough it’s still months away, DiscipleGuide is already gearing up and getting ready for next summer’s SOAR conference! It will be held July 3-5, 2018 at the Omni Dallas Hotel, which is connected to the Dallas Convention Center.

Get ready for three days packed with learning, worship, and hands-on ministry opportunities that focus around next year’s theme: Local: The Church is Here. The focus of the conference will be the vitality and necessity of the local church in Christ’s kingdom. Sessions will emphasize to students the need for involvement in and commitment to their local church. They will also share with students

the effects that the local church has on furthering the great commission—how will missionaries, pastors, and laypeople go on mission if they are not sent and equipped by their local church?

“Somewhere along the way, people have lost their sense of appreciation for the local church” explains Scott Attebery. “We want to show students the value of their church. Churches need our youth, and youth need our churches.”

More information about SOAR 2018 will be coming soon. Until then, we are excited to see the many students who will pour in to the Omni next July, ready for their hearts and lives to be changed!



Suddenly the road felt bumpy. Our car pulled toward the right and that’s when I heard a loud POP! This was the last day of our “perfect” sister’s trip, and a blowout was definitely not on my itinerary! Thankful for roadside assistance, we agreed that this minor distraction could not erase the special memories we had shared all week. No worries! Help was on the way!

Don’t you love it when bouncing back from a problem is quick and easy? It’s fun when it works that way but sometimes I respond differently. That’s how it was just a few minutes later. As we waited for help to arrive, a surprise message that would change my life came through a routine text from a friend. Simply stated, the company for which I had worked the past 27 years was closing their doors. As of Aug. 31, I would not have a job! My first reaction was shock. Then questions flooded my mind. From there, a mix of emotions including concern, sadness, grief, and raw fear filled my heart. And for just a few minutes my mind was racing out of control.

Ever been there? If you have I’m guessing you have also experienced what happened next. Bits and pieces of Truth came to mind. Bible lessons both studied and learned by experience, along with verses memorized quickly surfaced. I could “hear” Paul’s words from II Corinthians 4 reminding me that while we are in this world we will have troubles but we don’t have to be distressed. We will be perplexed but we can skip the despair. Even though persecution may come we never have to face it alone. And this is the best part: Yes, we are weak but God is strong. And He’s always looking out for His children!

Suddenly a sweet, settled relief filled my heart, and even a bit of excitement crept in as I tried to imagine what His new plan might be. That was July 20. Today I’m still waiting. And wondering. I’m sure you’ve been there too and you know that the “waiting room” is not always a fun place. From time to time unwelcome visitors show up bringing dark clouds, thick fog and confusing messages. Or sharp accusations and hints of failure sneak in, sucking out the oxygen causing us to gasp for breath.

Can we survive the wait? Absolutely! This is a simple and incomplete answer but a good beginning as we clear out the clutter and fill up our waiting room with truth that helps us grow:

**Learn more about our Heavenly Father. To know Him is to trust Him! I love these words from Corrie Ten Boom: “Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”**

**Remember what He has done in the past—in Scripture and for us personally. He is the same powerful God today!**

**Believe He is Who He says He is and that He will do what He says He will do. Build “faith muscles” every day, expecting and watching for God to show up and deliver on His promises. Remember: A weak faith HOPES and a strong faith KNOWS!**

**Stay put and wait for His answer. Someone said: “Until God opens the next door, praise him in the hallway.”**

**That’s what I’m doing today. Waiting and watching to see what the next chapter holds, believing with all my heart that He’s got it covered and the best is yet to come! Until then . . . I’ll keep on walking by faith and not by sight . . . celebrating every step of the way!**

(Ck out II Cor. 4 and 5).

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



# BMA of america



## Senior Adult Conference

**Y**ou are invited to DiscipleGuide's Senior Adult Conference! This year, the conference will be held at the Hilton Convention Hotel in Branson, Missouri; a sleek hotel located in the heart of Branson's historic downtown. When seniors from all across the BMA gather from Nov. 13 through 15, it will feel just like a family reunion!

Attendees will soak in the powerful preaching of Pastor Don Brown, pastor at Central Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas, during the main sessions. Seasoned worship leaders, David Attebery and Neil Dumas, will lead the congregation in singing classic hymns during times of worship through song.

For this year's concert, the accomplished Steve Green will be performing for conference attendees. Green has been using his music for ministry for over thirty years, and has performed with groups such as the Gaithers and TRUTH. He has received four Grammy nominations,

seven Dove Awards, and has 18 number one songs. In addition, the Central Baptist College Singers, who regularly sing in churches across the southern United States, will bless the attendees with Christ-focused music performance.

The conference will not conclude there, though, because attendees who register by Oct. 19 will receive a ticket to the Miracle of Christmas, an interactive show at Branson's premier Sight and Sound Theater. It will be an immersive experience that will bring the story of Christmas to life on stage.

Register today for this BMA family reunion! Those who register through Oct. 19 will receive the ticket to Miracle of Christmas and a discounted rate, but registration is still open after Oct. 19. Visit [discipleguide.org/senior](http://discipleguide.org/senior) to get more information and to register! For any questions, you can contact DiscipleGuide at [info@discipleguide.org](mailto:info@discipleguide.org) or 1-800-333-1442.

## Daniel Springs is making a comeback

**T**hanks to the overwhelming support of churches and individuals, the financial strain on Daniel Springs is beginning to ease. If donations continue to pour in, the camp will be able to continue changing hearts for Christ in future years.

"I believe the camp is worth it. Not because of the campgrounds, but because of the 54 young souls who professed Christ as Lord this summer, and the twelve who surrendered to



ministry. That's why we have camp. That's why Daniel Springs is worth the investment," said camp director Jason Prewitt.

After a time of questioning the future of Daniel Springs, donors have given the camp hope for the future. "We're not out of the woods yet," explained Prewitt. But things are looking up.

Over the past year, as Prewitt has shared the camp's needs with churches, many have taken special offerings, begun monthly giving, or increased budget giving.

"It's been a blessing to see our general offerings increase steadily all year. God is answering our prayers through our local churches," commented Prewitt. "Many of the offering increase has come through special gifts, and we are so appreciative. Now, however, as we look to the future of Daniel Springs, the most crucial factor will be consistent giving on a monthly or quarterly basis. For the camp to continue operating, we still need to see more churches and individuals partner with us monthly."

Currently, the general offerings for this calendar year are up nearly 50 percent from Daniel Springs's budget!

According to Prewitt, "If folks out there have been considering supporting Daniel Springs but are wanting to make sure it's going to make it before they give, now is the time to invest. The momentum we are experiencing financially is stronger than ever, and we are so close to resolving these issues and moving forward. We just need a few more people to help us close the remaining gap."

The Daniel Springs board of trustees will meet in September to review the finances and discuss the future of the camp. Individuals and churches desiring to help close the remaining financial gap have an opportunity to show the trustees a positive outlook for the future of Daniel Springs by acting now.

As said before, the camp isn't out of the woods yet. Help keep the momentum moving forward. Offerings for Daniel Springs should be marked "Daniel Springs" and sent to PO Box 1749, Conway AR, 72033. Online giving is available at [danielspringscamp.com/give](http://danielspringscamp.com/give).

**SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE • BRANSON, MISSOURI**

**DON CHANDLER   STEVE GREEN   DAVID ATTEBERY   NEIL DUMAS   SIGHT & SOUND**

**November 13-15, 2017**

# BMA of america



## DiscipleGuide CHURCH RESOURCES

### Unlimited: Lifeword's New Media Vision-Part One

By HOLLY MERIWEATHER

**N**ow unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

When Lifeword's board members met on Aug. 18, they were given the details of the new path God has given to Lifeword Executive Director Donny Parrish and, subsequently, to the Lifeword team. All agreed that, as the 2017 Lifeword Sunday T-shirt logo proclaims, this initiative is exactly where and how God is directing Lifeword to "Reach the World."

Donny says that, "When I think of the future of Lifeword, the word that rings in my heart is unlimited. Because we serve a God that is unlimited in his love and power and because he has adopted us as his children, we have his unlimited potential at our disposal. Our God has all power and all authority. He is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

"How could we not dream big dreams for his glory? How could we not take big risks for a God so powerful? How could we not ask God for a vision that would result in him getting all the glory for something only he could accomplish?

"I am dreaming of an unlimited opportunity to reach the world with the gospel. The Lifeword team and the Lifeword board members have bought into this dream. And I'm praying that you'll dream with us."

#### THE SAME MISSION BUT A NEW VISION

Our mission is set. Jesus gave us our mission in Matthew 28:18-20. We can set no other course than the one our Master has given. The directive is clear. But the method to accomplish that mission has and must change.

For over 50 years Lifeword has sought to accomplish the mission given to us by Jesus through primarily radio and analog technology. This has been the most effective media delivery system available. It was the right

approach for the right time.

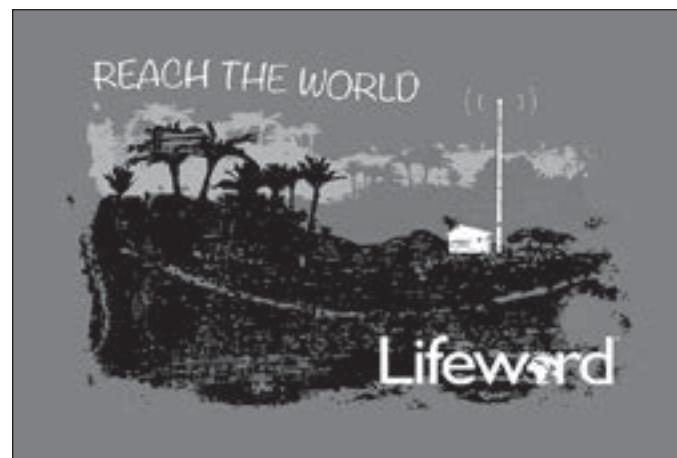
But the world is changing. In fact, it already has changed.

"The analog technology of yesterday has given way to the digital technology of today," Donny explains. "The internet has made the world much smaller, much more accessible. Lifeword leadership envisioned this day coming when the O3b initiative was introduced several years ago. Dr. Steve Crawley and his team laid the groundwork when they told us of a day approaching when the internet would soon make it possible for the gospel to be preached to the entire world. And that day has arrived.

"That reality is causing Lifeword to think in a new way about how we will tell the world the good news. We believe that we have a vision, a strategy and a plan that will enable Lifeword to capitalize on this new opportunity and will serve us well for years to come. It involves the Lifeword Network powered by the Lifeword Cloud."

Ultimately, Lifeword's forty languages and their gospel programming would be accessible for people worldwide in audio and video at anytime, anywhere. Lifeword.org will be able to control the content locally and be the repository or the hub. Discipleship material would be available as well, bringing us one step closer to "Reaching the whole World" with the gospel.

Next week, we will share details of this exciting new vision in "Unlimited: Lifeword's New Media Vision-Part Two."



### Liberty Association hosts Lifeword rally

By CHARLES JOHNSON

*Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer*

**O**ide Tyme, White Oak was the site of a rally for Lifeword Media Ministries sponsored by Liberty Baptist Association Aug. 17. Twelve churches were represented with a total attendance of 60.

Pastor Jim Crump welcomed the association and read Scripture to open the meeting. Moderator Leon Ross presided over the business session. Joe Caudle submitted his resignation as assistant treasurer and missions' committee member as he is now serving at Walnut Street, Winnsboro, which is in Wood County Association.

Luis Ortega, Lifeword program director, spoke of the ministry of the radio/TV department of the BMA of America. He showed slides and videos of his recent trip to the high altitudes of the Andes Mountains in Peru and brought an inspiring message. Lifeword is now reaching many with the Gospel in this region of the world using low-power, FM transmitters.

The association received a generous offering for Lifeword. Following the meeting, the host church served a meal to the messengers and guests in their fellowship hall.

The next meeting of Liberty Association will be the annual association which meets with Oak Hill, Gilmer Sunday, Oct. 8, beginning at 3 p.m.



# JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

*Did you know?*

By **DR. MIKE SMITH**  
*Jacksonville College President*

## DID YOU KNOW THESE FACTS ABOUT JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE?

1. JC was birthed out of a prayer meeting in a Baptist pastor's home in January 1899.
2. An offering of \$23 was taken to start the college.
3. In March 1899, a group met in Palestine to form "The East Texas Educational Society."
4. The East Texas Educational Society applied for a charter for the college on June 10, 1899, and the Secretary of the State of Texas approved and signed the charter on July 26, 1899.
5. July 20, 1899, a building site of 18 acres was bought for the college.
6. The first building was known as "Old Main" and was completed in December of 1899.
7. The college enrollment started with 34 students but grew to 85 by the end of the first session.
8. R.C. Burlison, President of Baylor University and the man who baptized Sam Houston, gave the dedicatory address.
9. The college was organized as a senior college and operated as one until 1918 when it was reorganized as a junior college and continues to function as such to this day, awarding the associate degree.
10. From 1918 until 1958, the college also operated an academy that offered high school courses.
11. In 1923, the original charter was amended to allow the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas to become the owners of Jacksonville College.
12. On April 19, 2004, the college affiliated with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.
13. The college's official name has always been Jacksonville College even though it is often referred to as Jacksonville Baptist College.
14. The governing body is The Jacksonville College Board of Trustees. Ten trustees are from BMA of Texas Churches, four are from Southern Baptists of Texas Churches and one is at large.
15. The mission of Jacksonville College is to provide a quality education from a biblical worldview that challenges minds, transforms lives, and equips students for servant leadership and lifelong learning.
16. Jacksonville College is the only faith based two-year college left in the state of Texas.

Now you know. Pray for Jacksonville College and support us financially.

## CORRECTION

Jacksonville College wishes to apologize for inadvertently misspelling Bro. James Schafer's name in the College's "A Legacy" article in the August issue of the *Baptist Progress*.



▲ On Wednesday, August 23, JC Dean of Students Donny Sadler spoke in Chapel. He preached a message that challenged students to examine their relationship with God, and nine students came forward to trust in Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

**2020**

**DEBT FREE IN THREE**

\_\_\_\_\_ (Your name/church)  
 commits to pray for Jacksonville College and to give:

\_\_\_\_\_ a month for operating expenses

\_\_\_\_\_ a month for "Debt Free in Three"

\_\_\_\_\_ as a special gift for "Debt Free in Three"

\_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed

(Cut out and mail this form to: Jacksonville College, 105 B.J. Albritton Drive, Jacksonville, TX 75766)

## Thank You

Thank you for the memorial gifts to Jacksonville College, your prayers, calls, cards, food, and visits following my parents' recent deaths. Your words and acts of kindness mean so much to us.

Our church family, First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, and Pastor Vernon Lee were especially supportive. The Jacksonville College family offered love and support. The Baptist Missionary Association of Texas, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, churches, members, and pastors also ministered to us.

The caregivers of Senior Care of Jacksonville provided excellent care for my parents during the past three years. Staff members of Heart to Heart Hospice were especially helpful during this time, as were those from Autry Funeral Home.

Rotary Club members and citizens of Jacksonville extended many words of sympathy.

**How does one walk through times of grief? By the grace of God and the prayers and support of friends.**

*May God bless you.*

*Mike and Susan Smith*



## Encouraging Your Pastor

By **DR. ALLEN TILLEY**

**P**eter Drucker, a leading authority on management, once made a profound observation on what he believed were the four most difficult jobs in America today: The President of the United States, a university president, a hospital administrator, and a pastor of a local church.

Let me add: every pastor needs encouragement. For the man who is always on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, here is a list of ways that you can support and bless your pastor.

1. Surprise him and his wife by taking them out to a nice place to eat. Talk with them about something other than your problems.
2. Schedule a Sunday in advance when the laymen take the Sunday services and give him a long weekend away with his wife (Friday until Monday).
3. Offer free baby-sitting, so the pastor and his wife can have an enjoyable evening alone with each other.
4. Force him and his family to take a one-month authentic

sabbatical at least once every 3 years. No ministry. No giving. Just pure fun with the family, refreshing time off to read and re-vitalize his relationship with Christ.

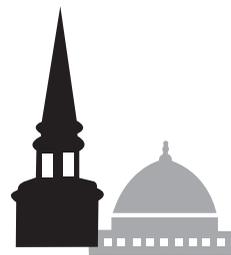
5. Write him a hand-written note of appreciation for who he is and how God has used him in your life. Be specific; avoid broad generalizations.
6. Pray for him daily. Then call him and tell him you're doing just that and ask him for his prayer requests—pray for his wife, too.
7. Offer to fix things around his home. Some ministers are all thumbs when it comes to working with their hands (like me). Others are too busy to take the time!
8. Occasionally send him a clever cartoon or joke that mirrors a point he made in a sermon—just so he'll know that you're listening!
9. Find out what problem in the church, if solved, would move the church forward in the coming year. Then, roll up your sleeves and solve it.

10. Clean his car while he's at the church office one day.
11. Let him know that you appreciate the load he carries: the pressure of caring for sheep, the pace of a growing ministry, and the daily sacrifices he makes for ministry. Communicate that you understand he does more than just show up and preach.
12. Don't forget your pastor's wife. She makes many sacrifices too in giving up her husband to ministry opportunities. Send her notes of appreciation, flowers, or a gift certificate. Express gratitude for the part she plays in the teamwork of pastoring your church.

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



## Judeo-Christian Heritage Series The Issue of Abortion/Pro-Life—Series #1



By **DR. JOHN M. ADAMS**

*Moral Action Executive Director*

**R**evelation in regard to human origin and birth, and in regard to the inner mysteries of bodily life, is characteristic of our times. It must suffice us to set before our minds the great truth concerning God and life-birth.

According to our scripture text God designed man, and the complications are beyond us; we can only wonder and adore. Every embryo is a bundle of possibilities. God alone can know the small child in the mother's womb. He knows the child from the beginning. For this reason, we in our Judeo-Christian heritage are firmly convinced that life begins at the time of conception in the motherly womb.

When is human life expendable? And the question is answered never. Yet on Jan. 22, 1973 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the landmark, Roe versus Wade decision, that unborn

human beings are not legal persons according to the U.S. Constitution. An unborn baby is the property of the owner, and she can have the child killed at her request. Ours is a peculiar society; we have laws protecting wildlife and dogs but not defenseless human embryos. The real question today is not when human life begins but what is the value of human life?

### **ABORTION IS EVIL**

Time Magazine states, "even in the earliest stages of pregnancy, the embryo is amazingly babylike. By the ninth week the fetus is kicking and moving, and even today its sex can be recognized at 9 weeks." Dr. Everett Koop, author of the book, *The Right to Live, The Right To Die* said, "Once there is the union of sperm and egg, and the 23 chromosomes of each are brought together, that one cell with its 46 chromosomes

has all the DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), the whole genetic code that will, if not interrupted, make a human being just like you with the potential for God-consciousness." He asks a crucial question, "At what point can one consider this life to be worthless and the next minute consider the same life to be precious?" Ecclesiastes 11:5; Deuteronomy 30:9.

Every day in the U.S. 1 every 10 seconds babies are aborted. It's a horrible, painful death considering that the baby's heart is beating at 3 weeks and the embryo's nervous system is very sensitive to pain.

### **ABORTION IS AN ERROR**

There is a wrong attitude toward human life. Every human

**MORAL ACTION** continued on p. 14

# BMA TEXAS

## MISSIONS

Your Church's Mission Movement in Texas



By HEITH MITCHELL

### A WORD FROM YOUR MISSION OFFICE:

**Y**our Missionaries in the area affected by Hurricane Harvey have been very fortunate. None of them saw flooding in their homes. Bro. Jaime Garcia and the Hispanic Mission in Splendora did see flooding in their meeting place. All other Mission locations were spared.



▲ Heith Mitchell

The church and many of the members in Splendora are a very long way from life as normal. Their church building is gutted and drying out. Many of their members are in shelters or living in flood damaged homes. Many of these are mobile homes and will require more work to restore. This mission needs additional funds and laborers. Contact Arnulfo Maldonado at 281-204-3198 or Michael Hight at 501-326-0198 to help.

Our English and Spanish missionaries across the Houston area have engaged their communities by providing housing, food, water, supplies, clean up help, and much more. I thank each church and individual who has helped them physically or financially. I've been amazed at all they have accomplished.

BMA of Texas churches in Harvey's destructive path have also been affected. The Bethel Baptist Church in Port Arthur have again seen their building flood. Several of our churches have come to their aid with labor and funds. Pastor Willfredo of Suburbanwood Baptist Church in Humble Texas saw water rise to over 6 feet in his home in an hour. This area has never flooded and they didn't have flood insurance. They can use additional assistance. (Contact Arnulfo or Michael at the numbers above.)

I want to thank BMAA Missions for their continued partnership. Bro. John David and I have talked and worked together repeatedly along with Bro. Michael Hight, Arnulfo Maldonado, Dr. Ralph Izzard, and Dr John Ladd. We are encouraging all help funds to be sent and dispersed through the standing Disaster Relief Fund at BMAA Missions. Money has been dispersed to help the individuals and churches affected. Bro. Brett Lester and First Baptist Church of Livingston have secured warehouse space for the collection and dispersal of relief supplies. They have also secured housing for teams looking to come down and help. Lavon Haden of Just for Crumbs Ministry along with volunteers from across the BMA of Mississippi are set up in Dayton, Texas feeding the needy, providing for them, and coordinating clean up. BMMI scrambled and put on a medical clinic on Saturday that helped many area residents affected. They are preparing another clinic in Splendora this Saturday. Contact them if you can help.

### AN UPDATE ON RESONATE COMMUNITY MISSION, HUTTO

You may have heard by now that Bro Will Hutchinson

has resigned as Missionary at Resonate Community Mission in Hutto. They are preparing to move to Mississippi to be closer to their family. I know you will keep Will, Kelly, and their kids in your prayers. Pray also for all the sweet people who make up this mission. They have worked hard and sacrificed much in their community. God has blessed their efforts and they have had Kingdom Impact in Hutto. Will is working to help connect them to a church of like faith.

We aren't looking to continue this mission forward. Will is it's second mission pastor and we know that a new missionary and vision would see easier success in a new location. Remember that 100 percent success rate in church planting isn't achievable and never has been. Missions are on the front lines of the spiritual battlefield. Our goal is 80 percent success rate and we are working hard to provide the equipping and support to make that goal a reality.

### A WORD FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES:

#### MATTHEW PRATHER— THE BRIDGE MISSION, MIDLOTHIAN/WAXAHACHIE

August was a good month at The Bridge. Schedules started returning to normal and a lot of our summer outreach is starting to make a difference. We are looking forward all that God is going to do in the month of September. We are kicking of a new series called "What On Earth Am I Here For?" We ask that you would join us in prayer for this series. We fully expect God to do some amazing things during the next six weeks and can't wait to share that with you next month. In the month of



▲ Matthew Prather



August we had the opportunity to baptize two! We celebrate this public profession of faith! We are planning another baptism soon as we have more that have accepted Christ as their Savior. Continue to pray that we continue to see more accept Christ as their Savior. Thank you for your continued support and prayers!

#### BRANDON DURHAM— REDEEMER'S LOVE MISSION, HOUSTON

It was a surreal feeling to be standing at the wedding altar in Brazil while my city was drowning in an epic flood. Harvey was an uninvited guest and now we're left to face the aftermath. We know God is able to turn this catastrophic event



▲ Brandon Durham

into glorious gospel advance and we want to be a church ready to serve during this unexpected season of opportunity. Prayers, to that end, appreciated.

#### JAIME GARCIA— SPANISH MISSION, SPLENDORA

Blessings brothers. We are working very hard in the church. We are not only cleaning up the damage in the church, we are also helping the community with their needs; distributing food, water, etc. The red cross is using the church to help. I have a lot of people asking me to pray for them. The community is getting to know the Hispanic work here. Thank you.



▲ Jamie Garcia

#### JOSHUA PICKARD— INTERN AT THE BRIDGE MISSION

God is good. I'm excited to see how he is and is going to use my family to help impact Texas for His Kingdom. Pray for us that God would reveal where he will have us serve.



▲ Joshua Pickard

#### JOHN HARRIS— FOUNDATION COMMUNITY MISSION, BENBROOK

We have been really encouraged by God this month, and have seen several prayers being answered in our efforts to serve and love others. Pray for us that God will give us the right words at the right times, and that the growth will continue! Here is a picture of one of our neighborhood outreaches.



▲ John Harris



BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p.11

## FREE online course

# INTRODUCTION TO DISCIPLE MAKING

Course Begins September 5

bmats.edu/free  
800-259-5673



**BMA Seminary** has consistently focused upon helping students grow in their abilities to make disciples in obedience to Christ's Great Commission and would like to expose others to such training. If you have questions related to how you or a church can make disciples, you might be interested in this fall's free online course: Introduction to Disciple Making. The course really is free of financial obligation for those who simply complete a brief registration process to enroll.

**Introduction to Disciple Making** is an introductory study of Christian disciple making with a focus on applying biblical principles and disciple making philosophy in a local church. Those enrolled

will use the Bible, two textbooks, audio/visual presentations, and interaction with each other to examine selected issues related to making disciples.

For the most part, those enrolled can anticipate weekly quizzes, essay questions, and interactive forums based upon assigned readings. The course's first assignment is due on September 6 and the final assignment on November 1.

Seminary Dean, Philip Attebery, will lead the course and personally extends an invitation for those interested in learning about disciple making or seminary online education to take the course. **To apply go** to [www.bmats.edu/free/](http://www.bmats.edu/free/)

## Schedule for 117th Annual Session of the BMA of Texas at New Harmony Baptist Church, 10251 FM 724, Tyler, TX 75704 November 6-7, 2017

**Theme:** "On Mission" – ... that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light... - 1 Peter 2:9-10

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2017

- 11:00 a.m. Registration
- 1:00 p.m. **General Session (Worship)**
- 1:15 p.m. Welcome/ Introduction of Officers  
Enroll/ Finance Committee Initial Report
- 1:25 p.m. On Mission Video
- 1:30 p.m. Presidents Message—Wes Pratt
- 2:00 p.m. Prayer
- 2:10 p.m. Worship
- 2:20 p.m. Message—Gary Southard
- 3:00 p.m. Special Music—TBD
- 3:10 p.m. Message—Brandon Durham
- 3:50 p.m. Dismiss
- 4:00 p.m. **Breakout Sessions**
  - "House in Order—  
Leaving a financial legacy behind" —  
Jeff Steed (SBTC Foundation)
  - Activate—Todd West
  - Hispanic Training—Arnulfo Maldonado
- 5:00 p.m. **Dinner Break**
- 7:00 p.m. **Worship**
- 7:15 p.m. On Mission Video
- 7:20 p.m. Message—Cristian Martinez
- 8:00 p.m. Special Music—TBD
- 8:05 p.m. Message—John Harris

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017

- 8:30 a.m. Department and Missionary Meet and Greet
- 9:00 a.m. WMA Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Leadership Conference
- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch Breakout Session**
  - BMAT 101 Orientation—Heith Mitchell
- 1:30 p.m. **General Session (Worship)**
- 1:40 p.m. Texas Baptist Home
- 1:50 p.m. Jacksonville College
- 2:00 p.m. Baptist Progress
- 2:10 p.m. Missions Department
- 2:20 p.m. Baptist Missionary Loan Association
- 2:30 p.m. Election of Administration Committee  
Representatives
- 2:40 p.m. Nominating Committee Report
- 2:50 p.m. WMA Report
- 3:00 p.m. Master's Builders Report
- 3:10 p.m. Election of Annual Speaker and State Officers
- 3:20 p.m. Miscellaneous Business
- 3:30 p.m. **Dinner Break**
- 6:00 p.m. **General Session (Worship)**
- 6:10 p.m. Jacksonville College Choir
- 6:45 p.m. Annual Message—Dr. Blanton Feaster
- 7:30 p.m. Missionary Commissioning Service
- 8:15 p.m. Adjourn

### BMA of Texas Meeting Hotel Information

In order to receive discount, be sure to let the hotel know that you are with the BMA of Texas.

#### HAMPTON INN BY HILTON

903-882-1002  
Hot and Cold Breakfast  
20 King 94.05  
20 Queen 104.05

#### LAQUINTA INN & SUITES

903-882-1600  
Hot breakfast  
12 King 99.00  
2 Handicap King 99.00  
16 Double 99.00

#### BEST WESTERN

903-882-8884 or 1-800-528-1234  
Hot breakfast  
15 King 60.00  
15 Full 65.00

#### COMFORT SUITES

903-882-8613  
Hot breakfast  
20 King 90.00  
10 2-Queens 90.00



**145TH BIRTHDAY  
NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH  
581 FM 416 ST. ELMO  
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
OCTOBER 8, 2017 10:00AM**

#### GUEST SINGERS

BILLY EDDIE FITCH  
JERRY MANIS  
JOANNA FRITZ

#### GUEST SPEAKERS

DOUG WELLBORN  
JERRY MANIS  
BILLY JOE WILBANKS  
BRANDON LINGLE  
DENNIS MORRIS

**12:00 LUNCH SERVED  
1:00 BALLOON RELEASE**

# ON MISSION

## 1 Peter 2:9-10



# Memorials - Honorariums - Endowments

## 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 Aug. 1, 2017 – Aug. 31, 2017.

### ENDOWMENTS

**MYRA STOKES:** Mr. Bill Stokes

**E. ANN PACE:** Karl & Martha Pace

### HONORARIUMS

**ROBERT HAMBRICK:** Faithful Followers SS Class @ Soda Baptist Church, Livingston

**DAVID & SUE STANLEY:** Christopher Stanley

### MEMORIALS

**ELIZABETH ASHTON:** Gary & Margaret Ashton

**RICKY BAILEY:** Kenneth & Carol Cline; Red Springs Missionary Baptist Church, Tyler

**J.S. & MYRTLE BASS:** Charlotte Morgan

**GLENN BASS:** Lynn & Brenda Stanley

**MILTA WILLIAMS BAUGH:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**WALTER BECKER:** Dennis & Ilona Myrice

**ALAN BOYD:** David & Dianne Wisener

**RUBY BURT:** Duane & Charlotte Turner

**ELMER & LULA DENNIS:** Raymond & Claynell Dennis

**CECIL DOWNEY:** Charlie Downey

**RAY FULLERTON:** Nila Brown

**TRENTON GIANUNZIO:** Friendship Class @ FBC Carthage

**TIM HARRIS:** Treasure Cove Mall

**VERDA HASLEY:** David & Dianne Wisener

**GLORIA HAYWOOD:** Duane & Charlotte Turner

**RICKI MARIE JOHNSTON:** Duane & Charlotte Turner

**EARNEST 'BUDDY' LANGE, SR.:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**BOBBY MARTIN:** Earlene Crenshaw

**JIMMY MOORE:** Pleasant Ridge Missionary Baptist Church, Athens

**ANN NEWTON:** Mary Hunt

**ROBERT PHILLIPS:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Rosewood Baptist Church

**ROBBY SANDERS:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Rosewood Baptist Church

**F.E. SHAHEEN III:** Neta Hicks

**BILLY SMITH:** Debra Beathard

**DOUG SOULE:** Charles & Charlotte Johnson

**JIM TANKERSLEY:** Margaret Tankersley

**ROY THAMES:** Ken & Diane Smith

**DARLENE WALKER:** Leon & Linda Lee

**MARY WINKLE:** J.C. & Anita Lassiter

**WILANE W. WRIGHT:** Wes Wright

# "Let's Make A Lasting Investment"

By **SHERRY LAMINACK**

*National Sunbeam Promoter*

**S**eptember 18-24, 2017 is Sunbeam Enlistment and Promotion Week. The theme is "LET'S MAKE A LASTING INVESTMENT." Our theme verse is Isaiah 55:11: "SO SHALL MY WORD BE THAT GOETH FORTH OUT OF MY MOUTH: IT SHALL NOT RETURN UNTO ME VOID, BUT IT SHALL ACCOMPLISH THAT WHICH I PLEASE, AND IT SHALL PROSPER IN THE THING WHERE TO I SENT IT"

Plan special activities for this time. If you already have Sunbeams, make this week a special time for your group and make a special effort to enlist children in your church and community who are not members of your group. If you do not have Sunbeams, now would be a good time to organize a group.

Sunbeams are children birth through third grade. Sunbeam lessons are designed to help the children develop a firm foundation in the Christian principles and doctrines upon which the Baptist Missionary Association of America is founded. The goal of the program is to train the children to live in his/her community and church and to challenge the children to know more of God, His salvation and how to live for Him. If you would like more information or help in organizing a new group, please contact me at [jaslaminack@cox.net](mailto:jaslaminack@cox.net) or at 870-543-9640.

Listed below are suggestions for activities for this week of promotion. These are just suggestions. Do whatever works best for your group.

1. Have a special awards program for the Sunbeams who completed Star Awards requirements
2. If your group is just getting started, have a special program and present each student with their pin or sash

3. Use pictures of Bibles for decorations
4. Invite the parents to your meeting and explain the Sunbeam program to them
5. Let the Sunbeams sing in a church service
6. Serve cake and ice cream at one meeting and invite children in your church and community who do not attend Sunbeams
7. Take your group to a nursing home to sing
8. Select a method to raise money for the Sunbeam project, SHEPHERD BAGS.

Sunbeam counselors have been blessed with great treasures, the lives of children. LET'S MAKE A LASTING INVESTMENT during Sunbeam Enlistment and Promotion Week, September 18-24, 2017. God's Word can change the lives of these boys and girls!



## Sunbeam Missionary

By **SHERRY LAMINACK**

*National Sunbeam Promoter*

**F**our year old Lydia Maestri of Denver Street Baptist Church in Greenwood, Arkansas made a strange request for her birthday gifts. She asked her mom to ask all her friends who were invited to her birthday party to give donations to the National Sunbeam Project. As a result, she gave \$105.20 to the Shepherd Bag Ministry. What a wonderful gesture on her part! She has learned in Sunbeams to be a missionary at a very young age. Keep up the good work, Lydia!



# BMA Texas Missions cont.

## GARY SOUTHARD— THE CHURCH AT VALLEY RANCH MISSION, NEW CANEY

With adversity comes opportunities! Hurricane Harvey proved that our small mission could be a channel of blessing for many Houstonians.

Here is just a few things our mission did to relieve some victims of Harvey. We donated \$1,200 to a needy family. We donated \$50 in gasoline. We donated bedding, clothes, toiletries and gave \$300 to local shelter.

We gave food to a local shelter and purchased water and ice for those working in the fields. We supplied meals and provided labor cost for four men to demo homes.

We help one family who had two big oak trees fall close to their home in cutting them up. We offered housing for victims & laborers. We assisted fellow BMA churches bringing supplies to local shelters.

One of the biggest blessings was to demo 7 houses and getting to share Jesus with those families. We prayed with many people offering them hope in spite of the devastation that Harvey brought.

Your mission at the Church of Valley Ranch was able to assist by a total of over \$5,500 worth of relief efforts in many different ways.

We want to thank the churches of the BMA of Texas who sent money, supplies, water, clothing, bedding, toiletries and above all else hope in a time of need.



▲ Gary Southard

We did our best to represent the BMA Missions Dept. by being a mission focused on ministering to others as best we could. May God bless you and the BMA of Texas!

## CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ— INTERN AT CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSONVILLE

We thank God and those who have been praying for us. We had been praying for direction in where God wants us to church plant. We had been considering Lubbock or Austin. We were directed to go to Lubbock and there is so much peace in finally knowing where we are headed. We also learned so much in the process of waiting for clarity. God grew us in areas of prayer, dependence, humbleness, and wisdom with the help of our church and brothers and sisters from other churches.



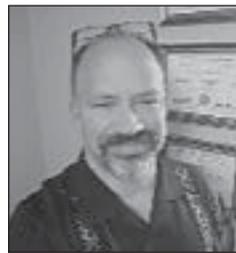
▲ Christian Martinez

## CLIFF ROBERTSON— CARPENTER'S HOUSE MISSION—LAKE JACKSON/CLUTE

Sorry my report is a bit late but it's been a bit crazy around these parts. The county that I am in was declared a disaster area and there are thousands of home that were destroyed by the rising waters in the aftermath of Harvey.

So we set out to serve the greatest needs of our members and the community. We had three families within the church that suffered damage. Attached you will see the pictures of the homes.

We currently three crews working in these homes. The work is exhausting and respirators are required. We also took everyone and got tetanus shots before we started as well. The support of the BMA has helped us move at a pace that has astounded many. We have one finished and the other two will finish tomorrow. We already have calls to go and help others. Some of these neighborhoods look like war zones. It's going to take months to get all the work done and begin the process of rebuilding. The scope of the work is mind-boggling! We are committed to do the very best we can with the opportunities we have been given to serve.



▲ Cliff Robertson

Anyone want to come down and help? Call me at 903-262-7613

Anyone want to give to support the efforts? Send it to the BMA of Texas C/O The Carpenters House-Disaster Relief Fund. We are loving our community in ways we never knew we would be called upon to do but God doesn't call us to the "easy road" but to the narrow and difficult road.

*See prayer requests and praise reports on Page 13.*

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



# Obituaries

## CHARLINE SPEARMAN GIBSON

Charline Spearman Gibson, 71, of Kennard, passed away Friday, August 11, 2017 in Houston Methodist Hospital. Charline was born September 26, 1945 in Houston to parents, Albert Spearman and Jeanette Mills Spearman. Charline was raised in Houston and married Terry Gibson in Houston in 1963. She is survived by husband of 53 years, Bro. Terry Gibson, who pastored several BMA churches; daughters, Renetta Hight and husband, Michael, of Waxahachie, Rebecca Canales and husband, John, of Friendswood, Robbin Gibson of Kennard; honorary daughter, Denise Shoemake and husband, Cliff, of Guam; honorary son, Gerald Gibson of Kennard; son-in-law, Mark Sebren of Tyler; several grandchildren and great grandchildren and other relatives. Funeral services were Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 10:30 at Good Shepherd Fellowship in Crockett.



## HORACE MCEIG

Funeral services for Bro. Horace Lee McCeig were held on Friday, Aug. 25, 2017, at Eighth Avenue Baptist Church in Teague. Bro. Charles Hunt and Bro. Stephen McCeig officiated. Interment followed the services at Dew Cemetery with military honors provided by the U. S. Air Force. Bro. McCeig passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017, at the Fairfield Nursing & Rehab Center. He was born in Lanely on May 8, 1930, to John Alton & Leona Black McCeig. Horace joined the U.S. Marines in 1948 and fought in Korea. He was honorably discharged in 1956, but re-joined the services, this time the U.S. Air Force in 1957 and served until 1969. After his career in the military, he served as Pastor for several churches in California, Louisiana, and Texas. He loved serving as Pastor and loved to preach to people about Jesus. His last pastorate was at Sanger Ave Baptist Church in Waco. Bro. McCeig was a past member of 8th Ave Baptist Church in Teague and a current member of Ephesus Baptist Church in Latexo, where his son, Stephen, serves as Pastor. Bro. McCeig enjoyed doing carpentry work for many years along with his ministry. He was a "jack of all trades" and kept himself busy with work as long as his health allowed. He is survived by one son, Stephen McCeig of Dew; one daughter, Loretta Pearman & husband Ricky of Red Oak; four grandchildren, Angela Easley & husband Chad, Amy Earl & husband Carl, Thomas Benjamin Page, and Bradley Michael Page & wife Krystal; three great-grandchildren, Caleb Earl, Olive Page, and Jordan Autrey; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.





# Shine for Jesus, reaching others through Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment, Texas WMA 2017 project

By SHARON COLE

**F**or over 50 years, Daniel Springs has ministered to children, teenagers and adults of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. In that time, over 10,000 souls have trusted Christ. Many more have surrendered their lives to different ministries including national and international missions, music ministry, etc. Many men have surrendered to the call to preach the gospel. Still many more have dedicated their lives to a better walk with the Lord and a desire to be a witness for Him. Many have gone home from camp with a new zeal to begin outreach ministries in their church.

This beautiful facility has been given, over the last few years, a facelift in its buildings and landscaping. It has become more comfortable with more modern and up to date cabins and furnishings. It is a place for students and adults to get away to focus on Christ without the interruptions of everyday life. It is located on FM 999 just outside of Gary, about 3 miles from Highway 59. The camp can house 1,000 students each week of the summer. That translates to 1,000 souls being reached and taught God's word for four days each week. Many souls are saved, lives are rededicated, hearts are surrendered to missions and lives are forever changed.

Many more updates need to be made to make it modern, comfortable and safe. Each year the staff begins early to prepare the cabins and grounds, cleaning and making sure all necessary facilities in each cabin is in working order. There are many ways to raise money for our project and the most used one is "the good old yard sale." You know, one person's junk is another person's treasure. And the WMA project gets the benefit from it.

One idea is to decorate 20 oz. water bottles. Give one to each person participating and see who can fill their bottle first. You can choose to use one particular coin, such as all dimes, or all quarters, or a mixture of all coins. Pick a deadline by which to have them filled and have a counting party to see the results. Host a homemade ice cream party. Charge a certain fee for each bowl or accept donations of any amount.

So far, the project fund has reached \$7,274.29. Of that number \$2,500.50 has been given in memory of Trevor Morris. This amount is way below what it should be at this time of year. Give from your heart. Be a part of the solution to the necessary needs of Daniel Springs. It is all worth every penny when you

witness the salvation of even one soul. To ensure the future of Daniel Springs camp, consistent giving is the key as well as special offerings. To contribute to the Texas WMA Project, you can create your own fundraising method, send donations in honor or in memory of someone, choose to pledge a certain percentage of your WMA offerings, etc. Whatever way you choose, send your money to: Jo Strong, 149 NW Suzanne Terrace, Burleson, Texas 76028. For more information contact her at [Jokenstrong@juno.com](mailto:Jokenstrong@juno.com) or 817-480-0888.

## YOU WERE SAVED TO SHINE

Ladies, it's time once again for the Texas Ladies' Retreat slated for Oct. 6-7 at Rosewood, Gilmer. The registration fee is \$40 so get yours in today for this dynamic event. This retreat is designed to equip, encourage and challenge you to SHINE FOR JESUS. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

You'll experience inspiring worship with great speakers. On Saturday, Christy Beam, author of *Miracles From Heaven*, will share the remarkable true story of her young daughter, Annabel, who was plagued by a chronic illness; of the trials she and the family endured while working toward a cure. How this brave girl survived a dangerous accident and of Annabel's visit to Heaven followed by the miraculous disappearance of the symptoms of Annabel's chronic disease.

Christy said, "This journey has taught me to remember that no matter how hard things get, I am now and have been blessed beyond measure and for that I am so grateful!"

Betty Gibbs will share her inspired message of love and grace on Friday and Saturday. Betty admits to being passionate about individuals who struggle with the daily challenges inherent with various disabilities. Her granddaughter, Ryleigh, has Down Syndrome, and at nineteen is excelling in her senior year of high school. Says Betty, "Our life was forever changed when God blessed us with the incredible love and beauty of Ryleigh. She continues to teach me as I experience her unconditional love, and uninhibited joy. The girl is crazy about Jesus."

On Friday you'll find a time of worship, plus fun and creative workshops. You can pick any two workshops to attend: \*Fellowship Roundtable: Betty Gibbs will lead a

delightful discussion and a relaxing time of fellowship. \*Publishing: Jackie Ricks will give insights into the publishing world. If you've got a book you've been wanting to write, this workshop can help you get started. \*Bible Journaling: Shawna Blissett can show you how to bring the scripture alive by adding your own personal artwork and typography right on the page of your Bible. (\$5 fee) \*Craft Time: Kelly Laminack will guide you to create your own work of art that you can take home with you. (\$15 fee). \*Crochet a Granny Square: Johnnie Ross will help you crochet a Granny Square that will be added to an afghan to be given to someone in need. OR: you can enjoy movie time watching *Miracles From Heaven* dvd. It is the movie based on the true story of the Beam family. On Friday a sandwich box dinner will be served, Saturday, a snack is provided and a delicious lunch. Register today for this awesome retreat. Download the registration form at [texaswma.com](http://texaswma.com), click-Events tab and download the pdf. If you need a registration form mailed to you please call 903-725-6570 or email [gcham33@yahoo.com](mailto:gcham33@yahoo.com). Rosewood Baptist Church is located at 8260 Arrowwood Rd, Gilmer, Texas 75644.

## NATIONAL WMA NEWS:

The 2017-18 National WMA project is the BMA Bible College in the Philippines. The college was established in 1976.

Bro. Doug and Diane Lee and the Stan Scoggins family lead the college ministry now. A project video & brochure promoting this project will be available soon.

The support of the college is a very worthy cause. Please pray for the ministries of the college and support it as God leads you and your WMA. Our goal this year is \$40,000, & thus far \$4,268.96 has been raised. Please mail your offerings by February 28, 2018 to Pat Duncan, P.O. Box 30, Hardy, Arkansas 72542.

*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).*



# MONEY WISE

BAPTIST MISSIONARY  
**BMLA**  
LOAN ASSOCIATION

## Give to BMA Disaster Relief Fund

By **JERRY BURNAMAN**

**M**y article for the Baptist Progress is to inform readers about the Baptist Missionary Loan Association, how we provide funds for churches, and the ways people can invest fund to help growing churches. However, for the past month, Hurricanes Harvey and Irma have occupied our minds, therefore, I'm deviating from the routine to share some thoughts with you.

We are overwhelmed by seeing TV reports about the destruction of property, and hear heartbreaking stories of people losing everything. Some have lost their lives. But catastrophes often bring out the best in people.

Those with a heart to help came from everywhere to help rescue people and pets in south Texas. They came from California, New York and towns in between. Now they are going to Florida and repeat the grueling work. Words fail to express full appreciation for people, the Salvation Army, the Red Cross and other charitable organizations. And the amount of money given by generous hearts is beyond amazing.

There is one story that caught my attention. CBS New reporter Steve Hartman aired the story and it touched my heart. I'm sharing some excerpts from his report.

It's not hard to find a high school football team practicing in Texas. But what is amazing was to find one in Rockport, TX

after Hurricane Harvey. When it slammed ashore August 25 as a Category 4 hurricane, Rockport took the brunt of it.

"It looked literally looked like a bomb went off in the town," said player Johnny Soto.

The teammates returned Sunday to houses full of garbage. "Heartbreaking! Some of them don't have street clothes. It's the clothes on they've got on their back," said coach J.D. Medrano.

The coach was surprised when the kids started showing up for practice, even though school was closed indefinitely. "I honestly believe that this is home to them. This is what they know," he said.

So, they lined up on the field, ran plays like it mattered, kicked the ball at the goal posts Harvey tore down—all in an effort to recover, together for the greatest loss of their lives.

Part of their therapy included helping their community. They cleaned brush from about 60 homes—much to the delight of homeowner Like Lucille Wright.

"Don't you ever doubt yourselves. What you've done here today is the heart of a warrior, and I love each of you," she told the boys.

They became more than a football team, they became a family. "Nothing will stop the way we work as a family. It's just amazing," said Franklin Ramirez. "No, we're not a team

anymore. We're always going to be together as a family and we're going to get through everything."

At the close of practice for the week they knelt in a circle and had prayer. Although they lost to Sinton 26-6, they are off to a winning start as a family. Who said football is just a game.

This story warmed my heart and renewed my confidence in our young people. I pray you had a similar experience.

If you have extra funds to give, I encourage you to send it to the Disaster Relief Fund at the BMA of America Missions Office, PO Box 878, Conway, Arkansas 72033. There are relief teams providing necessary items for living, reconstruction teams, and medical assistance from qualified doctors.

And, in the future if you would like more information about the BMLA of Texas and how your investment can assist churches to remodel facilities, build new ones, and purchase property, just give me a call. The number is 972-923-0758. It would be my joy to talk with you.

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



## The Issue of Abortion/Pro-Life—Series #1 cont.

being reflects to some degree the likeness of Almighty God. When man dares to take another human life, he lifts his hand in rebellion against the image of Almighty God – Genesis 4:10. Abortion on demand laws give one person – (the mother) – the legal right to kill another – (the baby) in order to solve the first person's social problems. It's hard to believe that this is happening in a civilized society. A second wrong value is the wrong emphasis on self. That is, that the mother has the right to decide what happens to her own body. The question is raised – is not the rights of the unborn child to be recognized? Former and late President Reagan quoted by L.A. Times "When they put it simply and say 'I believe in the right of someone to have a free choice.' What I came back with was, "that's what a murderer is insisting on, that he's got free choice to decide that he thinks somebody should be dead." Job 31:14,15; Isaiah 49:1.

The main question, R. J. Gardner puts is, "What will we do with a human life that has been given to our keeping?"...Medical Society Journal.

### ABORTION AND ITS EFFECT

The effects of this willful death are far greater than we think. Proverbs 24:11,12. Moody Monthly asked – "Have we been sitting – Lot-like, quiet at home, unruffled, even critical of those who are easily alarmed about babies? If the blood of Abel, one innocent adult, cried out to God from the ground, how many more millions of babies since 1973's legislation.

The problem of throw-away life will not lessen. It presses on the American conscience with great agony. And it should.

To put one's will above God's will is to rebel against the Sovereign of the universe. When we flaunt the will of God we are walking in the footsteps of a doomed and defeated Satan. We cannot expect His help or blessings as individuals or as a nation if we ignore His word and set aside His Bible precepts. Isaiah 59:7,8.

In conclusion, this dramatic statement haunts our nation: "You can kill babies without penalty because according to our U.S. Supreme Court, the word person as used in the 14th Amendment does not include the unborn." We ask God to spare our nation.

## BMA TEXAS MISSIONS PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAISE REPORTS



### PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE FIELD

- Brandon Durham asks you to pray for his city, his new marriage, and the health of his wife.
- Intern Joshua Pickard asks you to pray for God to reveal where they should serve.
- Cliff Robertson asks you to pray for his core team, his city, and for their efforts to help others.
- John Harris asks you to pray for opportunities to share Christ and to disciple. Pray for the relationships that have already developed.
- Gary Southard asks you to pray for a youth minister and for Mrs. Rhonda's recovery. She is recovering from a concussion.
- Matthew Prather asks that you pray that more people would be saved and for a more permanent meeting place.
- Neptaly Molina from the Nacogdoches Mission is waiting on his Religious Work Visa approval. Pray that it will be resolved this month.
- Jaime Garcia asks that you pray for his church and community as they recover from Hurricane Harvey.
- Arnulfo Maldonado asks you to pray that God will continue to provide more Hispanic Missionaries.

### PRAISE REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Your missionaries were personally spared the destruction of Hurricane Harvey!

- 7 salvations and 6 baptisms were reported this month!
- They said I do! Brandon and Amanda Durham were married August 26th.
- God continues to answer your prayers on behalf of your mission effort!

# EVENTS

## HOME COMING

**DATE:** Sept. 23-24, 2017

**PLACE:** Yellowpine-Macedonia, Hemphill

There will be an evening of gospel music to kick off homecoming at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, featuring congregational singing and special music by locals. The homecoming service begins at 10 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 24. There will be local singing as well as special music by The Southern Plainsmen. The homecoming message will be delivered by Dr. David Digmon of Lumberton. A covered dish lunch follows. An afternoon singing with The Southern Plainsmen will follow at 1:15 p.m. All are invited to all aspects of this year's event. Yellowpine-Macedonia is located on Hwy. 87 South at FM 2343 in Sabine County's Yellowpine community near Hemphill. T.A. Lane, pastor

## 130TH ANNIVERSARY

**DATE:** Sept. 24, 2017

**PLACE:** First, Omen

Covered dish lunch following service

## 145TH ANNIVERSARY

**DATE:** October 8, 2017

**PLACE:** New Hope, Streetman (St. Elmo)

The celebration begins at 10 a.m. in the auditorium with singing, and guest speakers. Billie Eddie Fitch will lead the singing. Guest singers are Doug Wellborn, Joe Manis and Joana Fritz. Guest speakers are former members Doug Wellborn, Joe Willbanks, and Brandon Lingle. Dennis Morris, Davis St. Baptist Church of Sulphur Springs will bring the message. Lunch will be served at noon followed by a balloon release at 1 p.m. Visit us on Sunday the 8th and enjoy the fun, fellowship and food.

## SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

**DATE:** November 13-15, 2017

**PLACE:** Branson Hilton Convention Center, Branson, Missouri  
DiscipleGuide.org

## BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION 117TH ANNUAL SESSION

**DATE:** November 6-7, 2017

**PLACE:** New Harmony Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas

## CHURCH LEADERS CRUISE

**DATE:** January 13-18, 2017

**PLACE:** 5-day Caribbean Cruise

DiscipleGuide.org

# PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

## AVAILABLE MINISTER

**GRADY MOORE** is available for pulpit supply or to serve a bivocational pastor or interim pastor. He is a member of Northside, Garland. Contact him in Allen at 817-403-4769. <sup>10/17</sup>

**MIKE CROSS** is available for pulpit supply or to serve as pastor or interim pastor. Contact him at 979-402-5491 or mikecross413@gmail.com. <sup>10/17</sup>

## AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**YOUTH PASTOR**—Davis Street, Sulphur Springs is seeking a full-time youth pastor. Send resume to dennis@davisstreetbaptist.org. <sup>TFN</sup>

**YOUTH/STUDENT MINISTER**—Afton Grove, Jacksonville is seeking a bivocational youth/student minister. Send resume to the church at 360 CR 4208, Jacksonville, Texas 75766 or aftongrovebaptistchurch@gmail.com. <sup>10/17</sup>

**YOUTH MINISTER**—First Baptist Church of Cross Roads (Athens) is seeking a full-time youth minister to develop and oversee a program for youth and young families. Parsonage available. For information or to apply, contact Brian Spurling, 903-681-0195 or bspurling@tvcc.edu. <sup>9/17</sup>

**PASTOR**—Sunset, Littlefield is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to the church at 1720 E. 18th Street, Littlefield, Texas 79339, Tomandsheilaedwards@gmail.com or call 806-385-4822 for more information. <sup>9/17</sup>

**OUTREACH DIRECTOR**—Farley Street, Waxahachie is seeking a bivocational outreach director. Send resume to resume@farleystreet.com.

**PASTOR**—Hill Creek, Whitehouse is seeking a pastor. Send resume and recorded sermon to Hill Creek Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 1287, Whitehouse, Texas 75791.

# PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

**RAYMOND TENPENNY** preached his last message as pastor of Glade Creek, Gilmer Aug. 27, 2017. He is retiring after more than 60 years as a church pastor. He has served Glade Creek, Gilmer for the pastor 9 1/2 years. Members of the church wish he and his wife, Peggy, a happy retirement.

## MINISTERS RESOURCE SERVICES SEEKS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bro. Ron Chesser has announced his retirement as Executive Director of Ministers Resource Services (MRS), effective May 31, 2018. The board of trustees will be accepting resumes from individuals who would like to be considered for this position. Resumes may be submitted between September 1, 2017 and November 15, 2017.

At our board meeting on February 23, 2017, it was approved to sell the MRS property in Texarkana and relocate MRS operations to the BMAA Global Ministry Center in Conway, AR upon Bro. Chesser's retirement. As a result, interested individuals would need to be willing to reside in or near the Conway area. Additionally, persons with a strong financial background are highly desired.

Resumes should be submitted to the board chairman:

Kenneth M. Lott  
1360 Purvis-Oloh Road  
Purvis, MS 39475  
E-mail address: KennethL@ssw1776.com

May God grant great wisdom to the MRS board of trustees as we seek to recommend to the association in April, 2018 the Executive Director with which HE would be most pleased.

# CHURCHES IN REVIEW

## AUGUST 20, 2017

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	62	124	
First, Blooming Grove	214		1 by baptism
First, Omen	41	66	3 by baptism
First, Palmer	44	85	1 by baptism
Glade Creek, Gilmer	18	45	
Jackson, Joaquin	85	130	
Little Flock, Lufkin	80	80	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	40	43	
New Hope, Mineola	47	102	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		50	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	39	49	
Pine Brook, Tyler	34	56	
Rosewood, Gilmer	125	288	2 by baptism
Security Calvary, Cleveland	34	65	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	18	24	

## AUGUST 27, 2017

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	67	106	
First, Blooming Grove	214		
First, Omen	27	59	
First, Palmer	76	85	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	16	66	
Jackson, Joaquin	71	122	
Little Flock, Lufkin	35	50	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	8	24	
New Harmony, Tyler	292	365	2 by letter
New Hope, Mineola	56	127	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		51	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	31	39	
Rosewood, Gilmer	148	260	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	60	85	6 by letter

## SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Blooming Grove	224		1 by baptism, 2 by letter
First, Omen	33	64	3 by baptism
First, Palmer	50	70	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	15	40	
Little Flock, Lufkin	80	80	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	43	53	
New Harmony, Tyler	257	335	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		52	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	42	51	
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	43	71	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	24	42	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	18	23	

## SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
Anthony Drive, Ennis	58	106	
First, Blooming Grove	226		1 by baptism
First, Omen	38	65	4 by letter
First, Palmer	50	63	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	16	34	
Little Flock, Lufkin	50	70	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	34	41	1 by baptism
New Harmony, Tyler	279	354	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		41	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	34	41	
Rosewood, Gilmer	125	258	1 by baptism
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	51	73	
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	22	25	

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# Sunday School Lessons

## When the best is threatened

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: October 1, 2017

TEXT: Song of Solomon 2:8-17

In verse 8, the woman envisions her beloved leaping and bounding over mountains, which demonstrates an overwhelming anxiety - a passion to get to her. The Amplified Bible refers to her beloved as a shepherd, which is obviously the man's role in the relationship. Paul referred to the husband in Ephesians 5 as the one who is the dominate lover, and the woman demonstrates herself to him with a reciprocal love. He is commanded to "love" her — she is commanded to "submit" to him. It is not a slave to master relationship, but rather two who complement (or complete) one another. Men, do you remember the first time you "laid eyes" on that sweet young thing God brought into your life? Did you not begin, at that particular moment, scheming and rehearsing your approach to her?

Were you not like the gazelle (verse 9) peeping through a window, or bushes, or some place where you were obscure to her, because (1) You were unsure of yourself and did not want to blow the opportunity to win her over or (2) you were so enthralled with her

beauty, her grace, you just wanted to "size her up" without her seeking to impress you. You wanted to see her totally uninhibited.

Verse 10 showcases her thrill at his behest — perhaps this was the proposal. "Come away with me!"

It is amusing the myriad of styles of proposals men present to their "intended." This anxious "gazelle" cut to the chase — he was ready to be enjoined to his love.

Could it be that in verses 11-13, God the Father has created an environment for love and romance? The sterile, chill of winter has given way to that glorious season when flowers bloom and birds sing. What time of the year do the number of marriages reach their apex? Of course — springtime. I believe God the Father designed our romantic senses to become enhanced by the smell of flowers, honeysuckles, gardenias, and fresh grass of the fields. You must admit, these things help romantic feelings to flourish. Today, a splash of cologne never hurts.

In verse 14, the "gazelle was so smitten by her beauty, charm and grace, he wanted nothing else but to be alone with her — she was the only person on earth he longed

to be with. He had, stored up in his heart, "sweet talk" for her. He was only interested in wooing her — and she was absolutely receptive to his wooing.

In verse 15 - 17 Because her heart was touched by him she expressed it in song. When you are in love, your heart sings. Do you, as a couple, have your special song that helped seal your courtship? Is there a song that you hear on the radio that takes you back to those romantic days?

But also, we find how possible it is for the little foxes to spoil the vineyards of their love. I am not sure as to what is separating them — it may be his tedious task of tending the flocks which infringes on their time together — or it may be something else which may be pulling them apart. Many things threaten to pull a marriage apart. Satan wants nothing more than to destroy a marriage and family. When he does, it's pain is felt in the Body of Christ — the church, and this is the beginning of the downfall of a nation.

Keep those romantic passions as fresh and as youthful today as you did many years ago.

## The pursuit of love

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: October 1, 2017

TEXT: Song of Solomon 3:1-5

Love creates a myriad of attitudes, passions and resolves — the woman we read about in Song of Solomon 5 was already in bed for the night, but she was in turmoil — because she longed for her lover. She was experiencing a deep loneliness and desperation. She arose and hit the streets, in pursuit of him. She even summoned night watchmen to help her search for her lover. It was a glorious reunion.

Song of Solomon, which is an integral part of the totally Holy Spirit inspired work which was breathed into the hearts of "Holy men of God" (2 Peter 1:21) lays forth God's perspective on love, marital intimacy, and all the pleasurable passions which accompany it. He also says there are rules of decorum (verse 5) that when true love comes along, it will happen, God's way. It will be sweet, tender, and not coerced. We are admonished not to prematurely conjure up a love affair. Many marriages have failed because passions were stirred up before the time was ripe. Could God have been cautioning us about how we

must avoid the 'one night stand' at all costs?

I also believe God is giving us an object lesson on how imperative it is that His people are in pursuit of Him with even more passion than the lovers about which Solomon writes. Isaiah 55:6-7 says, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him: and to our God for he will abundantly pardon."

## Here comes the groom

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: October 15, 2017

TEXT: Song of Solomon 3:6-11

In this week's lesson, we see the groom coming for the bride. Since this is obviously a Jewish wedding, As the bride-elect sees her man approaching her house in his carriage, we see a picture of Christ coming for His beloved — the Church.

When the Israelite groom comes for his betrothed (Mary and Joseph were betrothed for a year before marriage) he gives out a shout. She is ready to leave her home and be whisked away by her lover to his father's house, where the wedding feast is prepared, as well as her dwelling place. Solomon surely had a place for her, which was surely something to behold. Here comes Solomon — and the ride is also something to behold; a carriage built from the finest cedar, framed with silver, with a gold roof, and beautiful purple upholstery and leather lined interior. And the smells! myrrh (an ointment for fragrance and healing) and frankincense and fragrant powders. Remember how essential fragrances are to romance. (2 Corinthians 2:15)

Come and behold, women of Jerusalem! There is joy and gladness in the air!

One day, our "King Lover" will arrive, unexpectedly, and with a shout, call for His bride and whisk her away to the Marriage Supper, and on to His Father's House, to a glorious mansion, where there shall be eternal wedded bliss. Are you ready?

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).



## Altogether lovely

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: October 22, 2017

TEXT: Song of Solomon 4:1-5:2

Those who knew my earthly father remembers him as a man's man — one who always spoke confidently, authoritatively, boldly, and minced no words. But I recall the times when my Dad totally choked — broke out in a cold sweat, stammered and stuttered, and desperately sought a way to change the subject — that was during the rare times that a conversation about male and female intimacy came up. I later realized that awful sensation of trying to have a conversation with my own son. I am afraid this culture in which we live has degraded something God intended to be pure, holy, sweet, and a great gift to man and woman - those blessed and enjoyable benefits of marital bliss. God had a specific purpose for this blessing, which was to occur only between a husband and wife. (Song of Solomon 4:11 - "O my spouse.")

1. For procreation Genesis 1:28
2. For protection — 1 Corinthians 7:8-9 (from lust, disease, dissension, and guilt)
3. For physical pleasure — Song of Solomon 1:2, 4:16

In these Holy Spirit inspired words in the Song of Songs, which must have been the greatest of Solomon's over 1,000 songs, we see romantic expression as God intended. Our society has cheapened such expressions, but these descriptive terms in chapter 4 and 5 are beautiful, pure, and godly.

Not only do we see romantic expression, we see that all his attention is fixed upon his lover — it is reserved for the marriage relationship. This is the marriage, after King Solomon came in his carriage to whisk his bride away. There is no other woman in the world, as far as he is concerned. He is gentle, nurturing, and knows how to make her feel special. Often, these beautiful expressions of love and adoration fade with the years. This is the wedding night — these are the lessons God wants to teach a man concerning how he is to regard his love on the wedding night. If you really want to know how to talk to your lover, ask God to show you. Finally, all his descriptive terms are compared to the beauty of God's creation. Beautiful red jewels describe her lips, honeycomb describes the sweetness of those lips (4:11) (remember

Jimmy Rogers hit of the 1950s - "Kisses sweeter than wine?") the black, silky shimmer of a flock of mountain goats, teeth and smile with all the beauty of a freshly shorn ewe lamb. God the Father has provided us with magnificent sights from His creation to help us menfolks express our thoughts and feelings concerning her beauty. Chapter four is a litany of beautiful descriptive terms concerning her beauty.

Not only sight, but scent contributes to the romantic feelings. Song of Solomon 4:16 "Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits."

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