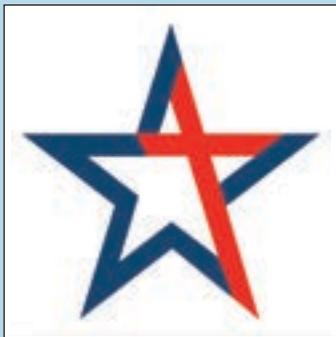


# Baptist Progress

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# Kingdom Chapel, Fort Worth

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

Kingdom Chapel, located in north Fort Worth, held their launch service Aug. 25, 2019. A near capacity crowd was on hand for the worship service. Excitement and praise for what God has done in a short time was expressed by church leadership.

Kingdom Chapel, a church plant sponsored by BMA Texas Missions, began Oct. 7, 2018 in the home of Ronnie Mills, founding pastor/state missionary, and his wife, Tiffany. For months they transformed their living room into a worship area for weekly gatherings. Because the number of children attending grew rapidly, the couple converted their garage into a children's area.

Finally, having outgrown their home, Kingdom Chapel moved to a school located at 13105 Harmon Road in Fort Worth. Since the first time they met, 14 people have been baptized, and two others were awaiting baptism at the time of this writing. The church has also organized its leadership by selecting elders, a communications director and a family life coordinator.

The motto of Kingdom Chapel is, "We're a little chapel about a great big Kingdom." According to their mission's statement, they exist to bring glory to God by making disciples through gospel-centered worship, gospel-centered community, gospel-centered service and gospel-centered multiplication. They do this through community life gatherings in the homes of members throughout the week and their Sunday gatherings.

The mission believes scripture is relevant to lives today, and that its teaching is the catalyst for transformation in an individual's life. This belief is evident in the preaching provided by Pastor Mills each Sunday.

Mills said of the special day, "We stepped out in faith together, and we've seen God do what only He can! I'm so incredibly thankful for all the relationships that have been built and are continuing to be built around this mission. I'm in awe of Him."

BMA Texas Missions Director Heith Mitchell said, "It is exciting to see what God is doing at Kingdom Chapel Mission. Bro. Ronnie and the church family are serious about sharing their faith, making disciples, and equipping leaders. God is building His church. It's a joy to partner with them beside each of you."

Please pray for this exciting church plant. They are a friendly group of people in love with Jesus and His Kingdom.



▲ State Missionary Ronnie Mills





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**BAPTIST PROGRESS**

Jerry Fulton, Editor/Business Manager  
P.O. Box 2085, Waxahachie 75168  
972-923-0756 • [www.baptistprogress.org](http://www.baptistprogress.org)

**BAPTIST MISSIONARY LOAN ASSOCIATION**

Jerry Burnaman, Manager  
PO Box 73, Waxahachie 75168  
972-923-0758

**BMA OF TEXAS MISSIONS**

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

**JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE**

Dr. Mike Smith, President  
105 B. J. Albritton Drive  
Jacksonville 75766  
903-586-2518  
[www.jacksonville-college.edu](http://www.jacksonville-college.edu)

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# MAKING PROGRESS

## Where's the Gospel?

By **JERRY FULTON**

As we all know, the Gospel is the Good News of Christ's death, burial and resurrection. It is the Good News that Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for our sin so that we might become the children of God through faith alone in Christ alone. My question is, where is the Gospel in today's sermons?

Recently, I watched a well-known and respected pastor on television. While he preached from the Word of God, not once did he refer to the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Not once did the preacher tell a lost soul how he or she could receive forgiveness for their sin and be given eternal life in Jesus Christ.

This was not the first time that I'd heard such a sermon preached to a large, diverse group of people. And, to be honest, it really bothered me as I thought to myself, "What a wasted opportunity!"

There are countless sermons being preached today on how to have a good marriage, how to raise your kids, how to manage your finances, how to overcome addiction, etc. While there is a place for these types of messages that can easily be preached from God's Word, Christ and life in Him should always be at the center of them all.

Charles Spurgeon once quoted a Welsh minister who said, "I have never yet found a text that had not got a road to Christ in it, and if I ever do find one that has not a road to Christ in it, I will

make one; I will go over hedge and ditch but I would get at my Master, for the sermon cannot do any good unless there is a savour of Christ in it."

Jesus said clearly, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the **gospel** to every creature (Mark 16:15).

And let us not forget the words of the apostle Paul, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16).

Pastors and preachers, my point is that there should always be some sort of an appeal for the lost sinner to come to Jesus. May we never forget that Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. His goal was not simply to come in order to give good advice.

Brandon Hilgemann wrote, "A sermon without the gospel is like a boat without water. It may sound and look good, but you're going nowhere." I couldn't agree more!

Preach the Gospel!



▲ Jerry Fulton

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**Jerry Fulton, Editor/Business Manager**  
editor@baptistprogress.org  
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# “Single”—1 Corinthians 7:32

By **DR. JOHN ADAMS**

*Moral Action Executive Director*

There is biblical advice on staying single and living the life without a marriage partner. Sometimes our society makes the widowed person, the divorced person or the individual who has never married feel out of place. It may surprise some of the marrieds to know that it can be God’s will for some not to be married. It is time for all to realize there can be happiness in being single.

There are some benefits of remaining single. I have in mind those who have never married or those who have been married but are no longer.

## I. Less of Present-Day Distress (1 Corinthians 7:27)

In remaining single, you are certain to have a less amount of stress and distress. In our day there are certain hostilities and distresses that you simply encounter because you are a Christian and married. Children and marriage add a beautiful, but great responsibility. When Paul said, “Are you released from a wife?”, he is saying, don’t seek to get married to solve your problems. A single person does not have to live a lifestyle of seeking a mate. They should seek the Lord and if they desire to marry, or remarry let the Lord seek their mate. So many go to parties, bars, colleges, single clubs, etc. under the presumption, “we are supposed to pursue a marriage partner.” Verse 27, simply says, “Put the Lord Jesus Christ in control of your singleness. Seek Him – not some available mate.”

## II. Less Difficulty (verse 28)

This verse adds a dimension that single persons readily ignore in being alone. It is saying that people who remain single may have fewer difficulties in their personal lives. Success in life consists not so much in marrying the person who will make you happy, as escaping the person who will make you miserable. Don’t marry just for companionship, sexual relations or financial security.

## III. More Time for Spiritual Matters (verses 29-31)

Marriage is not sinful, but Paul is simply teaching that there is an alternate lifestyle different from marriage. In the single stage of life there are no reservations or resistance and



the person is available to Christ’s call. If you are living alone, ask yourself, “Is God allowing me to be single, so that He can greater use me?” He may wish to use you in some area of His work that you could not take on if you were married. We are often short-sighted in that we think only of what we are not enjoying, rather, than what God may have for His glory, and for our spiritual enrichment. The ultimate in God’s plan is that you, who are unmarried, seek the Lord and listen to what He is saying to you. Verse 32 says, “But I want you to be free from concern.”

## IV. More Time for a Vertical Relationship (verse 32-35)

Those of us, who are married, cannot apply verse 35, as those who are single. It is good to be married, if God is in the marriage. But the single person, undoubtedly, has more time for God.

### 1. Be Happy

Since God has allowed you to be single, you are to capitalize on the scriptural benefits that are yours to enjoy. Whether single, divorced or widowed, God is sovereignly in control.

### 2. Look Up

Turn all of your energies to the vertical, instead of the horizontal panic and worry. God is good at finding you a mate or giving you great satisfaction in being single.

### 3. Calm Down

Relax and give all the control of your life over to the Savior. Watch Him direct your life toward others who could really use some things you have to offer through Christ.

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



## An Audience of One

I still remember the feeling. July 4, 1964 just hit the top of my “Best Day Ever” list. The man of my dreams had finally popped the question and I was ready with a happy “Yes,” thrilled and honored to be chosen! Sunday, one day later, I was on my way to meet the congregation for my first “inspection” and I knew—for sure and for certain—that I would never pass the test. Doubts, fears and loud accusations filled my mind with lies and mass confusion, leaving me with a serious question: What was I thinking? Pictures of gifted, godly preacher’s wives I loved and admired paraded through my mind in living color, reminding me that I was not even close to being qualified for this important position.

That was 55 years ago and today I look back at the long journey we’ve shared with a sense of wonder and with deep gratitude. In those early years, my patient understanding husband offered up a good mix of encouragement, support and a whole lot of humor. At the same time, he poured wisdom and truth into me until I was able to dig through the Word and make it my own best source. In every place we were privileged to serve, God used sweet people to dish up a lot of love and acceptance, along with practical on-the-job training. There were even a few unwanted bumps along the way—an inevitable part of life (including the ministry). In some ways they remind me of the safety bumps on our streets which force us to slow down, pause and ease over the hump before moving on. We can learn a lot during the “pause” and make the “bump” count for good. Instead of shutting down, it helps to slow down, and listen for that still small voice until it brings peace and clarity to the problem. Together we celebrated the big and little victories, feeling blessed because of God’s faithfulness.

The best advice I ever received came from my pastor’s wife, Jean Sullivan, when I confessed how very inadequate and unprepared I felt about being a pastor’s wife. Her answer was simple and straight to the point: *Pat, just read and study the Bible.* That was it? I was looking for a list of duties I could master and check off, a specific 1-2-3 formula on how to do a great job and make everyone happy. That’s what I wanted; what she gave was a priceless gift—a constant source of wisdom, a light in the darkness, and a hope eternal. Pushing through the ups and downs of ministry can be challenging and discouraging if we stick to our own resources. Zero JOY is the result when serving to please people becomes our highest priority. At times I’ve wondered about my own heart motives. In the beginning, I was settled and committed to this new exciting ministry—God’s way for God’s plan but somewhere in the middle of saying “Yes” too often to every good “opportunity”, my focus began to shift a bit and the result was evident.

Serving in the name of Jesus is a joy; worrying about what people think takes the fun out of it. And it’s not productive! According to 2 Corinthians 4:9, Paul’s one aim was to please God. Our Savior came to this earth on mission to do the will of His Father (John 4:34). May our heart cry out with that same single-minded purpose as we remember that . . . *we serve before an audience of One. Before all others we have nothing to prove; nothing to gain, and nothing to lose.* May the precious Word of God fill your heart with overflowing JOY as you serve Him this week!

*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).*



# Retirement Celebration Service honoring Aultmans

On Sunday, September 1, 2019, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Texas held a special Retirement Celebration Service honoring Bro. Buddy and Jeanette Aultman for their more than 64 years of faithful service to church, educational and music ministry. In addition to those attending from churches where the Aultmans have previously served, special guests included many from the Aultman family. The family ministered in song and Dr. Jason Aultman presented the morning message. Bro. Aultman has served First Baptist Church of Jacksonville on three separate occasions. He currently completes five years of service in both educational and music ministry with the church. Mrs. Aultman has played the piano and taught Sunday School. Through service on church staff, leading music in revivals, teaching music classes, providing music at graduation services,

weddings, funerals and numerous other occasions, Bro. Buddy and Jeanette have touched many lives through their music. Many of you have been a vital part of their music ministry during these years as well.

Dr. Philip Attebery said, “The Aultmans are an incredible example of a couple serving the Lord with their talents and faithfulness. They are loved and respected, especially throughout the BMA of Texas, where He has used them for decades. We pray for the Lord’s continued blessing as they continue to serve Him during retirement at First Baptist Church.”



# ChangeMakers 100: Missions Executive Director Does it Again



By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

*BMA of America Missions*

It started innocently enough, BMA of America Missions Executive Director John David Smith wanted to reach a personal fitness goal on his fiftieth birthday in 2018. An avid cyclist for seven years, he was averaging 70 miles per week when that goal became a fundraiser called ChangeMakers 100 during a break at the office.

“In January of 2018,” Smith says, “I told my boys (Josiah and Seth) that my goal for my 50th birthday was to ride 100 miles. So, I began to increase my distance each week. Then, months later, in a casual conversation with the production team guys, I mentioned I’d like to raise awareness somehow through the bike ride.

“It was only three weeks or so until my birthday on Aug. 12, but the production team just ran with it and got excited about it. So, it was all them. They literally road with me, well, in the van at least, and that was a huge encouragement. They kept me going.”

So, the first ChangeMakers 100 was born. The “century ride,” a 100-mile bike ride completed in less than twelve hours, would be dedicated to the “ChangeMakers” of BMA Missions. Historically referred to as nationals, they lead our national church planting efforts in 80 nations.

These missionaries, he says “are the thrust of what we do in BMA Global Missions. In this event, we want to spotlight them and let people know who they are.” Numbering in the hundreds, these national missionaries in their native countries are the result of decades of American missionaries’ disciple-making efforts.

Last year’s end result was \$190,000 for the Global Missions Fund. The 2019 ChangeMakers 100 ride will be on Sept. 20 and it will be broadcast live on Facebook.

Please give to this second annual fundraiser at <https://bmamissions.org/changemaker100/changemakers-100/>.

# National Senior Adult 2019 to feature Dennis Swanberg!

Dr. Dennis Swanberg, “The Swan,” is considered by many as “America’s Minister of Encouragement” will be one of the featured artist at the 2019 National Senior Adult Conference in Branson, Missouri. Dennis Swanberg uses laughter as a tool to break down the barriers people have in order to promote faith and family values in a lighthearted and humorous way. He has the reputation for revealing and instilling hope and motivating people in all walks of life.

Dr. Swanberg graduated from Baylor University in 1976. He holds a masters and doctorate degree, both from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He was formerly the host of the nationally broadcasted television shows “The Dennis Swanberg Show” and “Swan’s Place.”

He is a much sought-after speaker for churches, civic groups, corporations, fundraising campaigns, military encouragement, and many family related events. Dennis prays that the time you spend with him will not only bring you laughter and a time of reflections, but hopefully, you will leave feeling like you have just had a time of fellowship with someone over the back-yard fence.

Dennis and his wife, Lauree, have two grown sons

and a daughter in law, Chad, Dusty, and his wife Britney. “The Swan” resides in hotels and airports all across the United States and sometimes makes his way home to Monroe, Louisiana.

National Senior Adult Conference is scheduled for Nov. 18-20 at the Branson Convention Center in Branson, Missouri. Cost for the three-day conference is only \$125/person and includes two buffet breakfasts. The Hilton Branson Convention Center Hotel is the headquarters hotel for this event.

You may register for the conference and make your hotel reservations at <https://bmaamerica.org/senior/> or book your rooms by call the Hilton directly at 866-442-0959 and use the GROUP CODE NSA19. All attendees are urged to stay at the Hilton so that the price of the conference can remain low for all.



▲ Dr. Dennis Swanberg

# BMMI in the Jungles of Peru

By **ANGELA RICE**

The mighty jungle. There are no words to describe the beauty of it. As we traveled the Tambo River, I took a multitude of pictures, none of which truly captured the beauty of this place.

But the greater beauty came when we docked the boat and moved into the trees where the most beautiful people are found. You can’t see the villages from the river, but nestled behind the stunning trees, there is life.

The most recent Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) trip was to Peru in August. For the third year in a row, BMMI was invited there to set up four medical clinics in two new villages. In addition to making many new friends, we saw almost 500 patients with 111 professing Christ as their Savior.

But it’s not easy to get to the Ashaninkas. It takes three days to get there by plane, vans, and a long boat ride. But the travel is worth it because God is doing amazing things in this area, mostly due to the relationships Pastor Paul Tinoco has built with the village chiefs.

On our first visit three years ago, we were not sure how we would be received, but we were welcomed and invited back. Since that visit, the tribes have been meeting about planting the first church in this area, which is what Pastor Paul prays for.

It has been such a blessing for BMMI to be able to work alongside our national missionaries and help open doors for them. That is what BMMI medical clinics do: Open doors so that more people can hear the saving message of Jesus. To God be the glory for what He is doing in the jungle of Peru.

Please pray with us for the Ashaninkan Indian tribes.



▲ Angela Rice, Ashaninkan tribal leader and Pastor Paul Tinoco

# LEAVE IT TO CLEAVER



## My car kept dying

By **DR. TONY CLEAVER**

Some years ago I wrote about my complications with the fob on my new pickup. Some of you will remember my learning curve involving no key for a vehicle. Well, now I have another POT story (POT stands for Pore Ole Thang) to tell you.

I bought my wife a different car. It too had a fob. I was ready this time for any fob complications, for I had previously learned all about having a fob for your car. We got through with the paperwork and drove her car out of the dealership. I noticed when I stopped at a traffic signal or a stop sign the car died, that is the motor stopped running. When I stepped on the gas the car would start again. This was perturbing to me. The car kept dying. I knew in my heart I had just bought a lemon. The earliest appointment with the dealership was the next day, and I was going to give them a piece of my mind!

The next morning, I met the nice young lady representative. She looked like her next birthday would move her to her mid-teens. I explained my problem to her that my car kept dying at stop signs and traffic lights.

“Mr. Cleaver that is not a problem. Your car is designed to do that.”

“What do you mean? You’re telling me my car is designed to die when I stop? Does it have anything to do with that fob?”

“No, Mr. Cleaver. Your fob has nothing to do with this. The manufacturer designed the car to have the motor turn off at stop signs and red lights in order to save fuel. It is a part of the company’s effort to be more environmentally friendly.”

“Oh! Well can it be fixed so it doesn’t die when I stop? I might not want to be that modern in my POT state.”

“Mr. Cleaver I trust you don’t smoke pot while driving.”

“No, no. POT is my acronym for Pore Ole Thang.”

“Certainly, Mr. Cleaver. I understand. Let’s take it for a short ride around the block.”

We came to the first stop sign. The car stopped running it died.

“See, I told you. Will it cost a lot to fix it so it won’t die?” I asked.

“Mr. Cleaver, we can fix this with a simple push of a button.”

“Young lady, there are a lot of buttons on this car. Which one will fix it?”

“Mr. Cleaver, before we come to the next stop sign up there, push that button in the left side of the display.”

I obeyed her instructions. There was a noticeable silence from the child dealer representative sitting with me in the front seat of my brand new dying automobile I had purchased the day before. Her next words to me were slow and deliberate. She spoke through somewhat gritted teeth and with some sounds of exhaling large breaths as she spoke.

“Mr. Cleaver, you have now turned on the emergency flashers.”

“Oh. OK. You didn’t mean that button, did you?”

“No, I meant that other button right next to it.”

“Oh. OK”

I pushed the button marked “A.” She gave me a smiling approval and shake of her head to indicate I had somehow

overcome my POT status. Sure enough the car did not die at the stop sign. Of course I was wasting fuel and not being very environmentally friendly by pushing that button. But we did not speak of that.

I’m not sure the car had come to a complete stop before she exited at the dealership. She thanked me for being a customer. She even gave me her card with her phone number to call if I had any more questions. The card she gave me had another name on it-not her name. I wonder if she got it mixed up?

When I got home, I read the owner’s manual. There it was in plain print about the motor stopping at traffic signals and stop signs.

Sometimes it’s good to read the owner’s manual. In life the owner’s manual is called the Bible. In the Scriptures there are wonderful words to make certain your life does not die at the stop signs and red lights.

*Tony Cleaver is the director of distance learning and a professor of Biblical studies at Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. He is an author and writer of the popular newspaper column, Leave It to Cleaver. He may be contacted at [tony.cleaver@bmats.edu](mailto:tony.cleaver@bmats.edu).*



## DeVries to speak at Leadership Conference

BMA Texas Missions is pleased to announce that Dr. Dave DeVries will be the featured speaker at the annual Leadership Conference on Tuesday, November 5 at 10 a.m. during the annual BMA of Texas Meeting. He will speak on leadership and the equipping/developing of leaders.

Dr. Dave DeVries is a coach, trainer and strategist – and founder of Missional Challenge. He is passionate about coaching and training church planters and missional leaders. His training skills have been used to mobilize church planters, pastors and ministry leaders across the country and around the world.

Dave has been coaching pastors and church planters for more than 10 years and has 25+ years of church planting and leadership development experience.

Dave is author of Six-Word Lessons to Discover Missional Living and co-author of The Missional Journey with Bob Logan and 99 Powerful Questions for Christian Leaders with Steve Ogne. Dave and his wife, Deanne, live in Bellevue, Washington.



▲ **Dr. Dave DeVries**



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# CHURCH HEALTH

## Are you running on empty?

By **LARRY BARKER**

The need to face your limitations openly and honestly cannot be overstated. Leaders are not spiritual supermen. You cannot do it all yourself, nor should you because it builds an unhealthy church culture. You may be carrying the workload of three people but it is not healthy for you nor is it healthy for your church. You need to consider if you really need that ministry or system if you do not have the necessary leaders to carry the workload. There will be seasons where your workload will be overwhelming but that cannot be sustained long term.

Over-functioning has been defined as doing for others what they can and should be doing for themselves. Instead of encouraging and empowering disciples to continue to grow and to step up to the plate, over-functioning leaders enable those around them to slide on their responsibilities. Under-functioning disciples will continue to under-function as long as over-functioners are willing to do for them what they can and should be doing for themselves. It is not an easy culture to build and will take a lot of prayerful planning and perseverance.

**First, you must be willing to say no when you are already at your limit.** The stress of adding more can be debilitating. It can wear you down physically, emotionally, and spiritually. The busier you are the more you need your quiet time with the Lord because you cannot give what you do not have. Your spiritual health and development cannot be rushed and it cannot exist very long on the fumes of your past spiritual disciplines. It will suck the joy, passion, and strength out of you if you do not protect your daily walk with the Lord.

**Second, you need to develop other leaders around you instead of accepting spiritual immaturity in them.** Focus on your team leaders who need you to help them cultivate their own relationships with Jesus. How are you helping them to grow? What are you doing intentionally to help them mature spiritually and professionally? Lead by example in spiritual growth but also share with your team what that looks like practically. Hold one another accountable with integrity by holding one another accountable in this process.

**Third, you need to realize that God builds His church and He actually does not need you.** How blessed

believers are that He desires you to be involved and that He allows you to be a part. The reality is that He runs the world and does not need your help. Pete Scazzero says, “We cross the line when we try to run the world for God.” Jesus says in John 15:5, “I am the vine; you are the branches, The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me.” He has not called us to produce crowds but to make disciples.

**Fourth, accept that what we see as of little importance God sees as very important.** God has a unique calling on every believer’s life. Think about how every believer has a role and they need to be fulfilling that role for their spiritual health and for the church’s. 1 Corinthians 12: 22-23, “But even more, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are necessary. And those parts of the body that we think to be less honorable, we clothe these with greater honor, and our unpresentable parts have a better presentation.” Everyone is invaluable!

**Fifth, build a culture of integrity where we lovingly challenge others concerning having a team approach.** Be honest with yourself about your limits but also be honest with others that you need their help. Listen to what Jethro says to his son-in-law Moses who had come to the end of his rope by over-functioning in Exodus 18:17-18, “What you’re doing is not good,” Moses’ father-in-law said to him. “You will certainly wear out both yourself and these people who are with you, because the task is too heavy for you. You can’t do it alone.”

Over-functioning not only burns you out as a leader but it begins to destroy the unity and community culture you are working so hard to build. When you are over-working and over-loaded you can very easily become bitter and angry with others. Your perspective becomes, “Look at everything I am doing and no one around here is working as hard as I am.” You can easily become resentful, negative, and overly focused on how you are the only one really serving the Lord. You will become overly sensitive and judgmental if you continue down that road.

Elijah demonstrates this when he thinks he is the only really serving the Lord in I Kings 19:17-18, “He entered a cave there and spent the night. Then the word

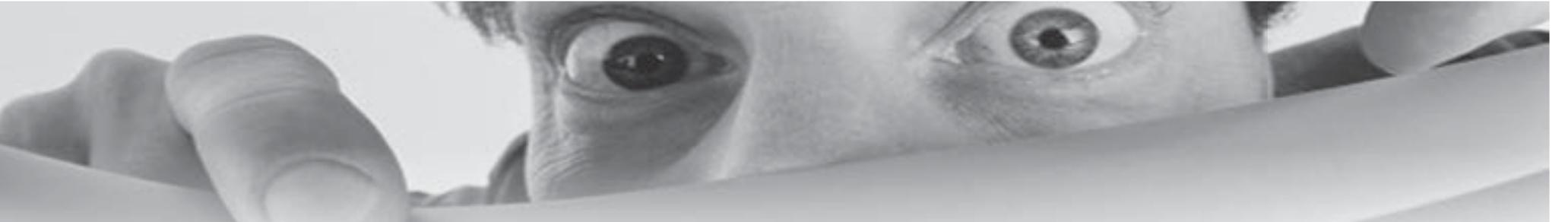
WHEN YOU OVER-FUNCTION  
YOU CAN BLOCK OTHER'S  
ABILITY TO FUNCTION!

of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’ He replied, ‘I have been very zealous for the Lord God of Hosts, but the Israelites have abandoned Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are looking for me to take my life.’” You are not alone and the reality is that there are others ready to serve.

Don’t accept the mindset of Elijah but ask yourself what the Lord asked Him, “What are you doing here Elijah?” Get alone with the Lord and allow Him to refresh you and replenish you spiritually. Maybe you need a break for a couple of days or even a couple of weeks. Step away from the over-functioning, which can lead to burnout by slowing down and seeking to be in the Lord’s presence. Seek solitude and silence and search the scriptures as the Holy Spirit ministers to your soul. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 7: 4, “I am overcome with joy in all our afflictions.”

Larry Barker is the pastor of Cornerstone, Jacksonville. He also serves as the operations director for North American Missions. For more information or to contact him, visit [www.bmamissions.org](http://www.bmamissions.org).





# INSIGHTS *for* PASTORS

## A pastor's home life

By DR. ALLEN TILLEY

By all appearances, Tom was a successful pastor. His church was growing. His people loved him. The community respected him. Each Sunday he delivered powerful sermons that touched hearts and changed lives, but his home life was a wreck. His wife hated him; his children resented the church. Tom thought things would get better – the larger the church grew; however, things only became worse. Over time, his wife left him, and his children stopped attending church.

While the name is fictitious, the story is true. Today, Tom is out of the pastorate. He drives a delivery truck. His wife divorced him, and his children are just beginning to reconnect with him. Tom thought he was a success, but it all came crumbling down. What went wrong? He neglected his family. Pastor, before that happens to your family, include these safeguards in your home life.

**Make your family a priority.** Too many pastors give their families their leftovers: leftover time, energy, love, laughter, and attention. Instead of giving them what's left of you, give them your best by investing yourself in their lives first. Shower them with your presence. Saturate them with your love. Let them know that you care for them more than your career.

**Have a weekly date night with your wife.** Set aside a

night each week on your calendar, and don't let anything interfere with it. If necessary get out of town, away from members of your church, so the two of you can be alone. Promise you won't talk about church. Look into her eyes and remind her of your love and loyalty.

**Attend your children's activities.** Your children see you attending funerals, weddings, surgeries, and other church events. Let them know they are just as important by attending things that are important to them. The milestones in your children's lives only happen once. Don't let them pass you by.

**Turn off the phone.** Cell phones are a blessing and a curse. Yes, they let us stay in constant contact, but they also rob our families of our time and attention. Never be afraid to turn off your phone. If the call is urgent, the caller will leave a message.

**Grow your family spiritually.** Spiritual leadership doesn't start in the pulpit; it begins in your home. Have a daily family devotional and prayer time. Share with your family new insights you've learned from the Bible. Develop a strategy for helping your family stay connected with the Lord.

**Include your family in your ministry.** While you never want to force them to do ministry (just as you would never

push any other church member), invite them to join you in the Lord's work. When they work with you, they will not see the church as a competitor for your affection and attention.

**Speak well of your family.** The pulpit is not a place to reprimand your family, make fun of them, or share their childish fears. Even if the story is funny, it might cause lasting embarrassment, or worse, ridicule from their peers. If you choose to speak about a family member, always paint that person in a positive light.

Pastors, your family is your most precious asset. If you were to gain the world but lose your family, you will have lost everything. Be intentional about protecting, serving, loving, and nurturing your family.

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

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## Billy Byrd ordained to the Gospel Ministry

By CHARLES JOHNSON

*Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer*

Oak Hill, Gilmer was the site on Sunday afternoon, August 11, for the ordination of Bro. Billy Byrd to the Gospel Ministry. He has recently been called and accepted the pastorate of Oak Hill.

Billy was saved at Oak Hill in 2015. He and his wife, Kelli, have been serving as the youth directors at the church. He felt the call to preach in late 2018 and was licensed by Oak Hill in January. When a vacancy occurred in the pastor's position, his church asked him to consider accepting this position.

Billy and Kelli were married on Feb. 17, 2007. They have three sons: Justice, 10, who is a fifth-grader this year and twin sons Selleck and Sabin, 8, who entered third grade this fall. Billy has served as the criminal district attorney of Upshur County since Jan. 1, 2007, and is currently in his fourth term.

He is a graduate of Union Grove High School and

received a B.S. degree in education from Texas Christian University in 1998 where he was a member of the Horned Frog baseball team. He graduated from Oklahoma City Law School in May 2001 and started work as an assistant district attorney in Gregg County.

Bro. Byrd was examined by a sizeable presbytery composed of ordained ministers and deacons from seven different churches. The doctrinal questions were asked by Dr. Charley Holmes who also served as moderator of the presbytery. Bro. Riley Pate was clerk for the ordaining group.

Bro. Byrd stood the questioning well. He shared his experience of grace and call to the ministry. His wife also gave her salvation experience and willingness to support her husband in the ministry.

Bro. Charles Johnson, pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer, brought a combined charge to both the candidate and the Oak Hill Church

from 2 Timothy 4:1-5 and 1 Timothy 5:17-21. This was followed by the presbytery members surrounding Bro. Byrd and laying hands on him as Bro. Ward Sutton led the ordination prayer.

A reception for Bro. Byrd and his family was held in the family life center after the service.

At the reception, a lady who had been attending Oak Hill came under conviction and trusted Jesus as her Savior.



▲ Pastor Billy and Kelli Byrd



## A word from your missions office

By HEITH MITCHELL

It's fellowship time--twenty-six local association meetings that culminate in the BMA of Texas meeting. Before you question my sanity, I don't like business meetings any more than you do, but I will gladly sit through each of them to get to visit with each of you. I look forward to the opportunity to brag on God and all he is doing through your missions movement. I want to hear what God is doing in your life and in the life of your church as you are about the Lord's business. I love and appreciate our BMA family.

I want to encourage you to join me in being present at your local and state meetings. Let's encourage one another, build up one another, help one another and love one another. We are an association of edifying relationships if we're an association at all. We need each other. Don't fool yourself, you're not better in isolation. You need encouragement, challenge, and rebuke. I do too.

Together for the King and His Kingdom!

Will you join us in praying and working toward:

**PROJECT 2029**

**100 New Churches/10 years**

That we see an aggressive multiplication movement of churches who make disciples, equip and release leaders and start churches for the glory of God and the advancement of his Kingdom mission

- That each new mission begins with a plan to begin three new churches in their first 10 years
- That pastors and churches of the association be encouraged and equipped to start new churches
- That we connect, evaluate, identify and train new prospective church planters

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

### A WORD FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES

**LEE (NICKNAME)—BMA TEXAS MISSIONARY AMONG ARABIC REFUGEES, RICHARDSON**

*"through whom we received grace and apostleship, unto you the obedience of faith among all the nations, for his name's sake;"* Romans 1:5

I thank the Lord for the month of August which was full of grace and blessings.

While my wife and I were visiting one of the people we are discipling, another family came for a visit. They are open-minded. We talked about Abraham and his son. Through this talk they asked us questions about what is meant by sin and how can we get rid of it. We spent much time and we talked about God's love and that he sent the Savior for us. That night we didn't finish with them, but I left with them to find a way to salvation without shedding blood. We prayed with them and blessed them. They respected that and we left.

After a week, they called my wife to continue what we started and to answer the questions by visiting them in their house. They

made an appointment for the coming week.

Pray for us that God gives us more grace while we're visiting them.

The Bible study is great. We meet in my house every Friday and another one every other Saturday in Wilmar. We are studying Romans now. Please pray for these two meetings.

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

God is good! We had an amazing Party @ the Park. Met over 300 people, shared Jesus with many of them and we are excited about what God is doing in Oyster Creek. We are in need of a worship leader. Pray for us!

Prayer Needs:

Pray that the Lord will send us worship musicians.



▲ Cliff Robertson

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

Thank you for your faithful support. I announce to you that on July 11, my son Ethan was born. My wife is recovering well and the baby has been healthy. Thank you for your prayers. We continue to spend most of our time in evangelism and growing disciples in maturity. Please pray for conversions, perseverance of the disciples and faithfulness. We want to see more people coming to the knowledge of the truth and being reconciled with God through faith in Jesus in some neighborhoods in the city of Lubbock that in the present time lack opportunities to be exposed to the faithful preaching and display of the gospel.

Prayer Needs:

Pray for new believers with jobs that require them to go out of town for weeks.



▲ Cristian Martinez

**GAMALIER LUNA—  
NEW MISSION IN EL PASO  
GAMALUGA@HOTMAIL.COM**

Hello to all the BMA Churches. I encourage you to continue conquering the world for Christ, do not stop, keep moving forward, even if you go slow, but do not stop. God will bring the harvest in due time.

Prayer Needs:

Pray that the people to whom we communicate the gospel of Jesus receive it.



▲ Gamalier Luna

**RONNIE MILLS—  
KINGDOM CHAPEL MISSION, SAGINAW/NORTH FORT WORTH  
RONNIE@KCHAPEL.ORG**

Hey, BMA family! We had a wonderful launch Sunday on August 25, and we couldn't be more excited about it. We want to thank all of you who prayed for us, and ask that you would continue to lift us up in prayer as a new church, that we would be built upon and walk in unity together.

Prayer Needs:

Please pray that as our launch was August 25, that we would keep momentum as a church, staying unified together in the common goal God has us on.



▲ Ronnie Mills

**MIKE WATT—  
CROSS-WORK MISSION, TAHOKA  
MIKE.WATT@CROSSWORKCHURCH.ORG**

We have one church in town shutting down this month for lack of attendance, so starting a new church in the same town is difficult. Pray that we would be obedient to the task God has called us to, even when it is hard.

Prayer Needs:

Pray that we fully engage the culture at community gatherings (football games, harvest festival, etc...).



▲ Mike Watt

**CESAR CANTU—  
INTERN PREPARING FOR RICHMOND/KATY  
MATTHEW@DISCOVERTHEBRIDGE.COM**

Discipleship, we currently have a celebrate recovery group in West Columbia that has grown from eight to 11 members. We meet every Thursday at 6:30 p.m., share a meal and discuss issues concerning our own lives. Topics range from suicide to feeling lonely. Our group usually ends at about 9:30 p.m. I sense a huge need for the group in the area and all those in attendance are genuine (they are eager to share).



▲ Cesar Cantu

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

One thing I've learned over the years, living in a farming community,



▲ Chris Driver

BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p.12

# Walk T-shirts: Doing something different

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

*Lifeword Media Ministries*

It was a brand-new way of fundraising, something that Harvest Gleaner Hour Executive Director Paul Bearfield heard about while attending a conference in 1980. It had been very successful for raising money for ministries and organizations, so he came back from the conference excited to try it.

It was called a “walk-a-thon.”

The idea was that prior to the event, participants would gather sponsors to give an amount of their choice for every mile walked. For the first three years of the Harvest Gleaner Hour Walk-a-thon, as it was called in the beginning, that number was 20.

That only lasted until 1983 when the official number of miles was reduced to 20 kilometers (12.4 miles) then 10 miles in 1998. Now, if churches even have a walk at all, three miles is the standard.

In addition to mile reductions and name changes, the number of participating churches has drastically reduced throughout the years.

However, one thing hasn't changed: T-shirts. They have been popular for almost four decades, and if you have saved every one of them since 1980, you should have 38 in your collection.

For every one of those years, churches and individuals have ordered Walk T-shirts, and every year we've had to pre-order by guessing what sizes people want. When we receive your orders, we then pack and ship them from the BMA Global Ministry Center.

This year we're doing things differently.

Your orders will now go to a T-shirt company that will produce them on-demand and ship them from their central Arkansas location. No more guessing, no more packing and shipping.

For you and for us there will be some adjustments, and we hope you will not even notice the change.

Bro. Bearfield's idea to unite BMA churches in Lifeword Sunday/Walk fundraising has yielded 12.5 million dollars to spread the gospel throughout the world. Close to 10 percent of those dollars have come from T-shirt sales.

We hope you'll love this year's navy blue “We Tell The Story” shirts and wear them proudly. When people ask what the story is, tell them about your media ministry that shares the good news of the gospel in more than 60 languages and makes Jesus' name famous around the world.

Then point them to [lifeword.org](http://lifeword.org) to share a video, devotional or blog with someone who needs to hear The Story.

Church registrations and T-shirt orders are at [lifeword.org](http://lifeword.org)/[lifewordsunday](http://lifewordsunday). For some of you that will be T-shirt number 39. Go ahead and order. You don't want to break your streak!



## Kingdom Chapel, Fort Worth, cont.

### LAUNCHES





## Texas Ladies' Retreat—Sept. 20-21, 2019

By **GLENDAM CHAMBERLAIN**

The Texas Ladies' Retreat is almost here. Hope you've got your advance registration done, hotel reservations made and ready for a great time of Christian fellowship, wonderful speakers, inspirational music and so much more at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, 7391 Giraffe Road, in Gilmer.

Registration for the event begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 20 followed by delicious finger foods to snack on, the program begins at 7 p.m. On Saturday, Sept. 21, registration begins at 8 a.m. followed by a breakfast bar, the conference begins at 9 a.m.

Christi McDermott, 2nd vice president, has planned a retreat that is sure to draw you closer to God and be a blessing to everyone.

Suzie Umbel, guest speaker, has a background in women's ministry and a passion for the Word of God. Mrs. Umbel has recorded Christian music and often incorporates singing with the message. There will be two main sessions with our speaker and breakout sessions in between. This will give time for the ladies to share what God is speaking to us and how we can all become more humble in His sight. Breakout sessions to be led by Charlotte Johnson, Cindy Allen, Johnnie Ross,

Christi McDermott, Diana Morris and Glenda Chamberlain.

We love when Holly Merriweather comes to our retreat, she'll be sharing news about Lifeword. Plus, we'll hear from Jason Curry, president of Texas Baptist Home for Children.

Diana Morris, project promoter, has planned a FUN-raiser for the state project. Swimming pool repairs at the Texas Baptist Home for Children is the current project. The Home needs to replace the deck and repair the piping underneath the pool. The FUN-raiser is Pound-In-A-Purse Auction. Each lady brings a new or gently used purse and fills it with a pound (or more!) of goodies. Be creative with the contents, such as: stationary, home decor, bean soup mix, books, candy, jellybeans, soaps, lotions, etc. Just make sure it weighs a pound or more. It will be fun to see what each winning bidder finds as she discovers the contents of her new purse. T-shirts will also be available to purchase for \$20, proceeds to benefit the project.

Plus, school supplies for Texas Baptist Home for Children will be collected during the retreat. There will also be booths available to learn more about the state project, Sunbeams, GMA, Missionary Care, Water for Christ and Darlene Carey

School.

Rhonda Thompson and Lesia McNeel will bring special music. Antioch has planned a delicious taco bar for lunch on Saturday. For more information go online to TexasWMA.org or to Facebook and search for Texas WMA.

Everything has been in the planning stages for months, many prayers lifted for every aspect of this retreat, plus, prayers for each lady in attendance, the time is at hand, you won't want to miss a single moment of this retreat. Let's make the retreat be More of Jesus and less of ourselves.

If you haven't registered yet, it's not too late, call Ava Pool at 903-790-5598 or 903-725-6220 to reserve your seat. Hope to see you there.

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



## Ministry Appreciation

By **CHARLOTTE JOHNSON**

*National WMA, 1st Vice President*

October is coming, and the question is, "Have you thought about your pastor, youth minister and deacon appreciation for the service they do for your church?" We shouldn't just wait until one time of the year, but we should show appreciation often for the service they give to your church.

"Often pastors feel like they're in a NASCAR race, it's hard to manage it all. You hit the gas and you just go, go, go."

I know being a pastor, deacon, or church staff member is one of the most difficult jobs in the world. While it has unbelievable highs, we know leading volunteer armies to face Satan and his demons is a daily battle. Pastors have given their lives to serve people on a daily basis. Two of the most important words that we can ever say are "thank you."

1. Thank you for going to God on our behalf and praying for us daily.
2. Thank you for studying God's Word and communicating His truths to us in a compelling fashion.

3. Thank you and your family for being willing to live in a fishbowl.
4. Thank you for demonstrating grace, love and patience when people question your motives and competency. Sheep may be dumb, but they bite. And they have a taste for pastors and church staff.
5. Thank you for putting in countless hours.
6. Thank you for being men of impeccable character and integrity.
7. Thank you to your spouses and children for their willingness to share you with us.
8. Thank you for challenging and then helping us live a life of meaning and purpose.
9. Thank you for presiding over the landmark moments of our lives—baptisms, weddings and funerals.
10. Thank you for having the courage to tell us about the sin in our lives and our need for repentance and a Savior.

11. Thank you for walking with us through tragedy, marital troubles, raising children and life's great challenges.
12. Thank you for the periodic phone calls, texts and emails just to see how we are doing.
13. And most of all, thank you for not quitting each Monday.

In conclusion, we will thank you every day of eternity for serving the church, our Lord and us so well. "Thank you" is not nearly enough, but I hope these two words encourage you today.

Churches need to recognize the hard work that the pastor, deacons and staff accomplish for the church and the Lord. How to do this? Gift cards, handwritten notes, a money tree, a vacation package, detail their cars, baby sit their kids for a night out to eat, old fashion pounding (for those who don't know what this is—it is staple foods given by members called a pounding), a new suit, but the best gift is your faithful attendance to church services.



# TEXAS BAPTIST HOME FOR CHILDREN

## Raising men and women of God

By **JASON CURRY**

I remember the first time we had nine children in the house. We had more laundry than we ever had or may ever will. I remember some of our daily routines like if you're at the store, always buy milk... if you're at home start a load of laundry. We created all sorts of systems to help.

The oldest kids all got the reusable shopping bags with their name on it and we would fold and put it away after they carried in the groceries. The older a child was the more their job grew. From washing their own to simply helping in the transfer from washer to the dryer.

Folding and putting away was an event in itself. I remember almost weekly sitting on the floor with the kids. Sitting next to me was a basket full of clothing and I would get out shirt after shirt and it felt like the basket would never get empty. (Come to find out my wife had been refilling it up without me knowing.) Each age did their part but it took creativity to find the right way to get them involved and know that they were important to the process.

As a kid pastor, one of the books I read called leaders in the church to remember: When kids accept Christ, they don't have a junior Holy Spirit living in them. The same God living in any adult lives in our children when they become an adopted member of The Family of God. So we should never look at our kids' contributions in church or life as second rate or valued less but as God intended.

What I mean is I'm not raising boys I'm raising men. We as Christians, in and out of the church, are not raising junior Christians. We are preparing men and women of God to change the world. And who knows? Kids submitting to the Spirit of God will also have something to teach us.

Matthew 18:3 NKJV "and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."

Unconditional trust is the best lesson I have learned from children...and keep learning. God's Word is clear. We must become like a child to enter His kingdom. Let me invite you to join us in our ministry at TBHC. Children have something indirectly, and sometimes directly, to teach us. Know that giving to us makes it possible that one of these children entering care may hear the message of God's kingdom and the grace extended to all that would receive it. Thank you for what you do in our church, homes and life. And thank you for helping bring kids home.

*Jason Curry is the president of the Texas Baptist Home for Children. Contact him 629 Farley St, Waxahachie, TX 75165, 972-937-1321 or [jcurry@tbhc.org](mailto:jcurry@tbhc.org). For more information, visit [www.tbhc.org](http://www.tbhc.org).*



## OBITUARY

### VIRGINIA SANDERS

Virginia Sanders, of Waxahachie, passed away peacefully of natural causes in her apartment at Brookdale Assisted Living in Waxahachie on Aug. 16, 2019 at the age of 93. She was born on June 19, 1926 in Washburn, to parents Lila Druin Roberson and Ellery Dall Roberson. She grew up in Amarillo and graduated from Amarillo High School in 1944. She loved playing the piano and was an accomplished violinist playing in both the Junior and Senior Amarillo Symphony Orchestras.

On May 28, 1946, she married Royce Lindsay Sanders after he returned home from serving in World War II. In 1948, Royce surrendered to the ministry and both she and Royce remained in the ministry until the Lord called each of them home. Virginia's life could be summed up as a loving pastor's wife, loving mother, loving grandmother, loving great grandmother, loving great-great grandmother, and faithful Christian servant.

Royce and Virginia served in BMA churches all over the state of Texas in Whitney, Itasca, Greenville, Harlingen, Amarillo, Snyder, New Sumerfield, Teague and Fairfield. At the time of her passing, Virginia was a member of The Avenue in Waxahachie where she

served as a greeter until her health forced her to quit at the age of 92.

Virginia was blessed in life with two daughters and their families. Daughter Brenda Hoeinghaus (married to Ronnie), grandchildren Heather Dineen (married to John Paul III) with great grandchildren Lila, John Paul IV, Amelia, John Paul V and Cody Hoeinghaus (married to Allison Hearne) with great grandson Harrison. Daughter Ginny Evans (married to James) grandchildren Justin with great grandchild Magen with great great grandson Roland, great grandchildren Justin Jr. and Jacey and John Evans (married to Maura Smith) with great grandchildren Levi Nathaniel, Lorelee, Annabelle, and Julianne. Virginia was preceded in death by both parents Lila and Ellery Roberson, husband Royce Sanders, and great grandsons Levi Nathaniel Evans and John Paul Dineen IV.

Funeral services were Aug. 19, 2019 at Wayne Boze Funeral Home in Waxahachie. A graveside service was held Aug. 20 at Greenwood Cemetery in Teague where she was laid to rest beside her husband, Royce.



## An expression of everlasting love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home for Children, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from Aug. 1-31, 2019.

### ENDOWMENTS

**MYRA STOKES:** Bill Stokes

### HONORARIUMS

**PALMER & HOLLIN ANDERSON:** James & Susan Anderson

**MONICA DANIELS:** Paula Miller

**CAMERON L. JOHNSON:** Donna & Paul Johnson

**CHARLES & CHARLOTTE JOHNSON:** Charles & Patsy Harrell

**CHLOE LOUDERMAN:** Berenda Mewborn

**SHELLY LOUDERMAN:** Berenda Mewborn

**MR. & MRS. ROY MERRILL:** Leon & Johnnie Ross

**MY LORD JESUS:** Earlene Crenshaw

**RANDY ODOM:** Jimmy Woodson

**XANDER REYNOLDS:** Berenda Mewborn

**CLINT SEWELL:** Paula Miller

**MR. & MRS. A.E. SPRINGER:** Leon & Johnnie Ross

### MEMORIALS

**CLYDE J. BARNHART:** Lea Barnhart

**BILL BEDDINGFIELD:** Busy B Ranch- Nancy Beddingfield

**ROY BROWN:** Brian & Mary Mauk

**DUSTIN COE:** Craig Johnson

**RITA VAN DAVIS:** Red Springs Missionary Baptist Church, Tyler

**WILLIAM FRANK & DORIS DILL:** Barbara Ann Brown

**CECIL DOWNEY:** Carlie Downey

**DOROTHY DUGGER:** Debbie Murphy; Charles & Charlotte

Johnson; Jed & Glenice Whitaker; Brian & Mary Mauk

**PAULINE & AUBREY GANDY:** Jerry & Virginia Gipson

**DONNA GRESHAM:** Mary Hunt

**PAULINE HARRISON:** Wanda Stracener; Philip & Deborah

Howell; Terry & Judith Brown; Enon Baptist Church, Gilmer;

Bobby & Glenda Helpinstill; Larry & June Johnson; Caleb & Jami

Davidson

**ERWIN HILDERBRANDT:** Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church,

Mineola

**DIANE HINSON:** Mark & Jeanne Thomas

**LINDON HODGES:** Dorcas Life Group @ Northside Baptist

Church, Conroe

**CARLA JACKSON:** Caleb & Jami Davidson

**MR. & MRS. D.C. JENSEN:** Jimmy & Mary McCoy

**HALEY R. JOHNSON:** Donna & Paul Johnson

**BECKY JONES:** Linda Lewis

**JUDY LAMBERT:** Tonee Berry

**PATTY LEDFORD:** Travis & Audry Shipp

**KEVIN LEWIS:** Linda Lewis

**ROY LEWIS:** Linda Lewis

**CHARLES MITCHELL:** Gay Mitchell

**MR. & MRS. JERRY MOORE:** Leon & Johnnie Ross

**JOHN MORTON:** Simmons Hill Baptist Church

**COACH JIMMIE RAY:** Bell Scott

**MR. CONNIE RUBY:** Concha Rouse

**ANNIE SHELTON:** Margaret Cash

**EVA BETH SHINN:** Mark & Jeanne Thomas

**JUDY STRICKLAND:** Jed & Glenice Whitaker

**JIMMY TANKERSLEY:** Margaret Tankersley

**CULLIS & AULETA WADE:** Lena Green

**BERT WALLACE:** Raymond & Clayness Dennis

**SHIRLEY WHITE:** Doug & Lisa Maddux

**CLAYTON WHITE:** Doug & Lisa Maddux

**CHARLETTA WINTERS:** Red Springs Missionary Baptist

Church, Tyler

**JOHN WOLCOTT:** Gay Mitchell

**MARY WOLFINGTON:** John Wolfington

memorials-honorariums

# A dead church and a living church

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

*Pastor of First, Palmer*

There were two churches in Asia Minor, which were complete polar opposites—the persecuted church that was alive in Smyrna and the aristocratic, prestigious, wealthy church that was dead in Laodicea. To which would you rather belong?

One would think Laodicea would be one where revival fires burn—there’s so much money—so many resources—so many grand opportunities to really change the world for Christ—so many privileges which would give them great visibility in the city—or perhaps throughout all Asia Minor and even the world!

Laodicea was likely a magnet for great businessmen and political leaders. After all, if one truly wanted to rub shoulders with the elite, bolster business, or political careers, the prestigious church in downtown Laodicea would be the most likely place.

But far too often, wealth, prestige and power have proven to be a killer of fellowships. They have served as nothing but cold water to be doused on revival fires. How can this be? When one’s bank account is heavily padded, it brings great comfort, contentment. Is that not what we strive for in our fellowship? To be content, blessed, happy, in unity—and wanting nothing? But a heavily padded general fund causes us to say something like the rich fool said, “I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry” (Luke 12:19). This scripture concerns a wealthy individual, but the same holds true for a church.

In our study in Ecclesiastes recently, our minds started wandering about how much Solomon would be worth in today’s monetary system. Someone said they read that he would probably be worth \$2 trillion. The idea was posed, “What if Solomon were a member of our church—what would the tithe from \$2 trillion do to our fellowship?” I think we all concluded that it would destroy

our church—that is, unless we immediately put 99.99 percent of it to use in God’s kingdom work—while only keeping back a little dab—maybe a couple of million or so.

What happens to a church that has a heavily padded general fund? She tends to lapse into a state of faithlessness. After all, why try to trust in an abundant Heavenly Father, when we have all we need on deposit?

Trust in money was very effectively illustrated to our church where I was pastor in East Texas once. We were investigating adding a full-time staff member—a music-youth director. Simultaneously, we had just liquidated the note on our educational building—payments of around \$1,500 per month. This pastor made the dreadful mistake of saying, “Now that we are free of that debt, we will have no trouble adding another full-time salary.” I may as well have told our church that we did not have to rely upon God’s resources, because now we were able to take care of it ourselves. We added the staff member, but God showed us, in no uncertain terms, who was in charge of our finances. That extra \$1,500 dollars we thought we could rely on, dried up. God allowed us to experience some hard times until we learned our lesson about Who is in charge of the money. Sadly, I had to plead guilty to the blunder.

I believe this was the plight of the Laodicean church. She was increased with everything she thought she needed, while Jesus delivered the harsh truth that she was poor, miserable, wretched, blind and naked. Then He implored her to invest in “spiritual” gold if she wanted to be rich—and to anoint her eyes with “spiritual” eye salve, so she could see, spiritually—and clothe herself with “spiritual” white raiment, that the nakedness of her spiritual destitution did not appear.

In stark contrast, the struggling little church at Smyrna, while poverty-stricken, was deemed “rich” in the eyes of God. She endured persecution. Any church that is on fire for God, is going to be in the cross-hairs of Satan’s gun. Why was Smyrna spiritually rich? Because this world could only offer her things that would impair her spiritual sight. She had to totally rely on God the Father. She was rich spiritually in the midst of her material poverty.

That same principle is illustrated in 2 Corinthians 8:2, when Paul wrote to the destitute churches of Macedonia, and commended them for their willingness to dip into their empty pockets and bless the brethren in Jerusalem. “. . . in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.” The world financial market does not operate that way—Wall Street doesn’t get their profit and bolster their bottom line through empty pockets, affliction and deep poverty. That, my friends, explains the difference between “God’s Miraculous Plan of Economy” (Jack Taylor) and the world’s economy.

And the church alive, doesn’t operate through shrewd, earthly monetary prowess. But according to Revelation 3:14, the church “dead” has all the money anyone could ask for—only she’s spiritually poor, miserable, wretched, blind and naked.

Please do not read into this that I am advocating that churches carelessly toss money to the wind—or cease from fiduciary responsibility. Scripture is clear on “counting the cost” and being responsible. But woe be unto us if we seek to trump God’s supernatural power with our human abilities.

So which church would you like to belong to? Well, you can’t go wrong choosing the financially destitute one, which is spiritually rich.

## BMA Texas Missions cont.

is that there is a lot of work and waiting involved between planting and harvest. My time as a pastor and now as a church planter and leader has revealed the same to be true in ministry. As fast as things started here in west Texas, we seem to be in a time of working and waiting. We know God is at work and we see Him moving all around us, but like the cotton harvest, sometimes it seems like it doesn’t happen as fast as we’d like. But over the years, I’ve learned one more valuable truth concerning these times in farming and ministry: They also provide valuable opportunities for rest and reflection. Over the last month, I have had a chance to stop and marvel at how great God has been and how humbling it is to think that He has allowed us to be a part of such an amazing ministry! Please continue to pray for west Texas. Seeds are being planted so I know the harvest is coming!

**NEPTALY MOLINA—IGLESIA BAUTISTA MISSION, NACOGDOCHES**  
**NRMOLINA23@GMAIL.COM**

I share that in the work of the Lord we receive blessings and it is gratifying what God does when we allow ourselves to be used by him.

I am supporting Mileidy, a young woman of Puerto Riquen origin but who lived a good time in Buffalo, New York and has now been living in Nacogdoches for six months. She is going through a hard test has cancer and has no more family here in Texas. My wife and I are dedicated to helping her. She is congregating with us and she says that God spoke to her that she would be healthy here in Nacogdoches and has shown firmness, faithfulness, courage, is punctual and it shows.

**SPENCER SIMPSON—**  
**REDEEMER’S LOVE MISSION, HOUSTON**  
**SPNCRSMPSN@GMAIL.COM**

We are excited to see what God is going to do this fall in southwest Houston! Thank you for your prayers and support that encourage and allow us to bring the gospel to this area of Houston.

Prayer Needs:

Please pray for wisdom and the ability to be an encouraging Shepherd. Also pray for the continued commitment of our members and that they would be taking discipleship seriously and actively reaching our community.

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

Thank you for your support in praying for more stability. Thank you for providing treaties and materials of evangelization, discipleship and financial support.

Prayer Needs:

Pray for document arrangement, for vehicle acquisition and my own residence. Also, pray for the new contacts we visit.

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

God help us to stand firm in preaching his gospel and to be

faithful to him even when we do not look at a good response from people. We know that his Word will never become empty. Blessings for all of you.

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

As I am writing this, the school year has just kicked off and everyone is finding their new normal in their schedule. With a new school year comes new opportunities to reach people. We are excited about what God is going to do through the rest of 2019. We ask that you would join us in prayer as we move into the school year and continue to build on the momentum that we have seen through the summer months. Recently, I challenged our church to find four families or individuals to be “FOR.” People won’t know that Jesus is for them until they know that we are for them. Our prayer is that these families would come to know Christ over the next 16 months. At The Bridge, our desire is to lead people from where they are to where God wants them to be. We appreciate your continued prayers and support.

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



# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

## Captivated by Christ

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: October 6, 2019

TEXT: Colossians 2:8-15

### THE HOOK

What does it mean to be “captivated” by something, or someone? Negatively, it means being bewitched, or seduced. It can mean, “to be imprisoned, or kidnapped.” It comes from the Latin *captus* which means, “taken captive.”

But positively, it denotes, being fascinating, enchanting, charming, alluring, attractive, riveting, gripping or enthralling. The Apostle Paul always regarded himself and introduced himself as a captive, or a “prisoner of Christ.”

We cannot go wrong when we are captivated, allured and fascinated by Christ. Obsession can be harmful to a person, but not so when one is obsessed with Christ. I believe this lesson will help us to examine ourselves to see if we are truly a captive of Christ, or if He is regarded as just an “incidental” in our lives—someone with whom we pay attention when life’s turmoil comes.

### THE BOOK

1. Being captive to Christ gives us immunity to evil influences (v. 8). When we are totally absorbed with our Savior, we will be watchful and perceptive to any false, empty, worthless, evil teaching which is replete with human philosophy, eastern mysticism, and the like. The deception one falls into is to be enthralled by a false religion that has some “Christian” verbiage. One who is captive to Christ will see through it.

2. Being captive to Christ gives us a clear understanding as to Who Christ really is (v. 9). A believer who is sold out to Christ understands that the fullness of the Godhead dwells in the person of Christ. The Expanded Bible (EXB) words it this way: “All of God lives fully in Christ.”

3. Being captive to Christ gives us a clear understanding of our position in Christ (v. 10). When you have been baptized into Christ, by the Agent of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 3:27) then you have been filled with Christ, and the Holy Spirit. You have become the temple of God. You are baptized into Christ—He fills you and lives in you. The

Holy Spirit has filled you, and translates your prayers to God, He comforts you, convicts you and guides you into truth. This is what it means to be complete in Him (v. 10).

4. Being captive to Christ means our sin debt has been paid (vv. 11-15). Just as circumcision cuts away the physical flesh, Christ’s spiritual circumcision has cut off the power of the flesh over our lives in Him. He has made us alive in Him—He has cancelled our sin debt, which the Old Testament law did not do—it simply pointed out the details of our sin against a Holy God. All of that, along with the evil rulers in high places, have all been nailed to the cross, giving us victory in Jesus.

### THE LOOK

Know who you are in Christ Jesus. You are far more than just someone who has signed up for eternal fire insurance—but you have been given a vast load of spiritual riches. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3).

## Christ is the Head of the body

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: October 13, 2019

TEXT: Colossians 2:16-23

### THE HOOK

The human body has been designed of God to function with the proper amounts, and qualities of food and drink. To eat unhealthily, or ingest harmful drugs and chemicals, is for the body to function in an unhealthy manner. As our text will point out today, the church will likewise suffer and become dysfunctional as it feeds on the piety of false teachers, humanism, new age “worship” and other movements and thought which, on the surface, almost sound holy. But it is wolves in sheep’s clothing.

### THE BOOK

1. False religion places emphasis on the wrong objects (v. 16). False religion will cause one to worship angels, and to eat or drink only certain substances. They look with disdain upon others who fail to “worship” as they do. They pretend to have extra spiritual perception, yet their false humility and pride eventually give them away (v. 18).

2. False religion cannot stand the test of Christ (v. 19). A people that worship, or believe in a way which is alien to Holy scripture, are not of Christ. Paul was confronted by such a dogma in Corinth. Some of the young believers had been converted from paganism, and was therefore offended

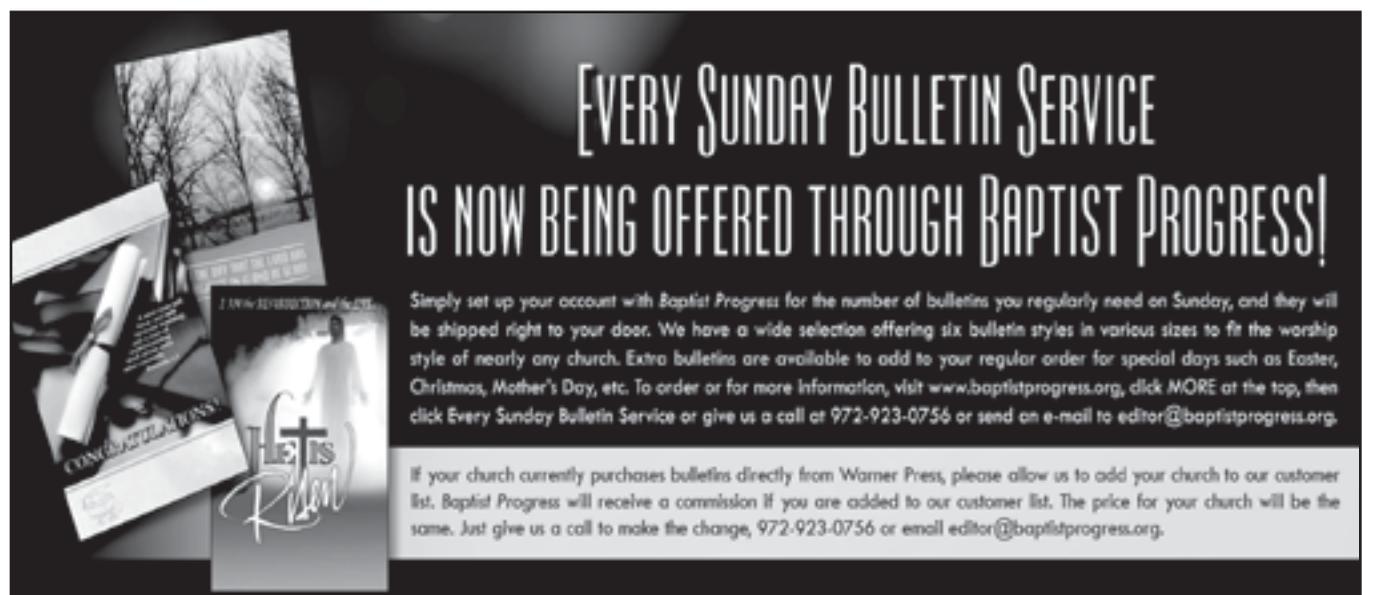
to see other brethren and sisters partake in it. Paul considered the belief to have no validity, but another issue came into play. While he had no problem with meat that once had been offered to idols, he elected to refrain from eating it in order not to violate the consciences of the new believers.

3. Believers are admonished to shun false religion (vv. 19-23). The sound church flourishes as she is held together by

the rich nourishment of Christ (v. 19). The wavering church seeks to mix the “doctrine of men” into its program (vv. 20-23).

### THE LOOK

The scriptural New Testament Church follows the precepts of Christ, and shuns the doctrines of world and all its dogma.



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# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

## Focus on what is above

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

**DATE:** October 20, 2019

**TEXT:** Colossians 3:1-4

### THE HOOK

The old hymnbooks contain many gospel songs which refer to our Heavenly Home, including “I’ve Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop,” “When the Roll is Called Up Yonder,” and a great old standard, “When We All Get to Heaven.” One in particular, is “This World is Not My Home, I’m Just a Passin’ Through.” Scripture emphatically states that followers of Christ are strangers in this world. John 15:19 says, “If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.” John 17:15 says, “They (believers) are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.” But one of the greatest sensations of a believer in regard to this world is found in the song, “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus.” The ending phrase says, “. . . and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.” That’s what walking with Jesus does—it dims your view and appetite for the things of the world.

### THE BOOK

1. The believer is to seek things above (v. 1). The most beautiful view ever is not anything which this earth can produce—but that place of glory—where Christ sits at the right hand of God. Stephen saw Him as his life was being pummeled from his earthly body. Peter, James and John got a view of Heaven’s glory on the Mount of Transfiguration, and it was so overwhelming, Peter wanted to just build tabernacles and remain there (Matthew 17:4).

2. The believer is to set affections on things above (v. 2). A thorough study of Ecclesiastes reveals the dismal life and view of things “under the sun” as Solomon saw them. He came to the conclusion that anything that is good, holy, pure, and satisfying occurs above the sun. Solomon knew this truth well because he had everything the world had to offer, at his disposal, and his conclusion was that it was all “vanity and vexation of spirit. (empty, meaningless—full of hot air). For a true believer, this dismal view of earthly things becomes more and more in focus as he or she grows in grace and experiences God’s life-long sanctifying work.

3. The believer reckons himself or herself as dead: The old man is symbolically buried when he is baptized,

and his rising up out of the water, is a picture of the new man—the new life in Christ. The real change comes when one turns their life over to Jesus and becomes His follower. The latter part of verse 3 says, in no uncertain terms, that your new life in Christ is so identified with Christ, that it is hidden. One becomes “of Him” so therefore all earthly, sensual, fleshly identity is vanished from view.

4. The believer longs for the return of Christ (v. 4). One day Christ will come back to earth and set up His Kingdom. We shall share in his glory—and be revealed with him in glory.

### THE LOOK

The believer’s walk in Christ involves pursuing the things of Christ. It means not being focused on the world, nor to have a love for it. It means having an increasing view life, people and commodities from His perspective. When you return to earth with Christ when He sets up His Kingdom, as The Message states it, “you’ll show up, too—the real you, the glorious you. Meanwhile, be content with obscurity. . .” Be thankful to be hidden in Christ.

## Out with the old; in with the new

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

**DATE:** October 27, 2019

**TEXT:** Colossians 3:5-11

### THE HOOK

Now that we have a new life in Christ, we are commanded to kill, to deprive of power, the evils of natural man which still lie dormant in this flesh. Paul refers to the warfare in the members—the lust of the sinful flesh, and the Spirit of God, Who is living in us. These two natures create a “warring in our members” to borrow Paul’s terminology. We do not have the power in our flesh to mortify our sinful lusts—but the new power within us—the Spirit of God, will take care of it, as we are yielded to him.

### THE BOOK

1. Mortifying the ungodly flesh. Because Christ has redeemed us through His blood, we now have a source within, which will help us overcome that which, at one time, came naturally. Earthly impulses such as sexual devices, sensual and godless desires, greed, covetousness and placing our flesh and worldly materials over the deity of God, are to be forsaken—crucified. We are reckoned as dead to self and alive to Christ.

2. Turn from your former walk (vv. 6-7). The very sins mentioned above, are the very things that anger a Holy God. And they are natural activities of the “sons of disobedience.” A son of disobedience, to quote Adrian Rogers, “leaps into sin and loves it.” Now that you are redeemed, you despise the addictions and appetites of the world—but sometimes the flesh struggles against this new nature. When you are in Christ, you are no longer a “son of disobedience,” but that doesn’t mean that you aren’t a “disobedient son” once in a while. But your new nature in Christ causes you to be driven to confession when you “lapse into sin” (1 John 1:9).

3. Turn from your former inner attitudes (vv. 8-9). Your new nature gives you victory over anger, rage, hatred toward others, and vial language and lies. Paul told the church at Ephesus, “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

4. Put on the new man (vv. 10-11). The new man has a renewed knowledge. He now is able to let the mind of Christ reside in him. The power of Christ is able to abolish the distinctions between Jew and Greek, slaves and free. When people come to Christ, walls are torn down between entities (Ephesians 2:15).

### THE LOOK

Christ has made us overcome to the nature of sinful man. But because we still reside in this tabernacle of flesh, we must put on the whole armor of God every day (Ephesians 6). We are to confess and forsake our sin; We are to take up our cross and follow Christ daily. We can never let our guard down, because Satan is, “as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, kill and destroy” (John 10:10). But Jesus said in that same verse, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

*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).*



# EVENTS

## HOMECOMING

**DATE:** Oct. 6, 2019  
**PLACE:** Simmons Hill Baptist Church, Diana, Texas  
**SPEAKER:** Bro. Dicky Mauk  
 Refreshments following service

## BMA OF TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING

**DATE:** November 4-5, 2019  
**PLACE:** Keltys First Baptist Church, Lufkin, Texas

## BMA OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING

**DATE:** April 27-29, 2020  
**PLACE:** Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas

# Upcoming Events

## 32ND ANNUAL JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE JAG CLUB BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

For registration and additional information, contact JC Athletic Director and Tournament Director Ken Hamilton at khamilton@jacksonville-college.edu, (903) 589-7130

## SAW YOU AT THE POLE 2019

September 25

## MANLEY DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

Wednesday, September 25 at 11:00 a.m. in Buckner Chapel  
 Speaker: Dr. Kenny Digby, executive director of the Christian Action Commission (CAC)  
 Topic: Upstream Christians in a Downstream World



# PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

## AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**PASTOR**—Central, Texarkana is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to CentralBaptistTxkSearch@gmail.com or 2117 E 35th, Texarkana, Arkansas, 71854.

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

**YOUTH MINISTER**—Mt. Olive, Scurry is seeking a full-time (20-40 hours per week) youth minister. Email pastorgarris@hotmail.com or call Mt. Olive Baptist Church at 972-452-8585. TFM

# PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

**DAVID L. COOK** is the new pastor of South Park, Fort Worth.  
**TIMOTHY NALL** is the new pastor of Mt. Pisgah, Mineola.  
**JEREMY BLACKBURN** is the new pastor of Fifth Street, Levelland.

# CHURCH NEWS

**WEEKS CHAPEL, JASPER**— The Christmas Shoebox Ministry Team at Weeks Chapel, Jasper had a great time putting 50 boxes together and shipping them out to the drop off point. Oddie Powell is the pastor.



IMPACT@Bethel, the former Bethel Baptist Church of White Rock, in Dallas has forty-three 13.5 foot and six 12 foot pews we would like to sell immediately. They are in good condition with red padded seats. Please contact Gwen at gkwa1970@hotmail.com or 214-794-4439

# CHURCHES in REVIEW

## August 18, 2019

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	53	78	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	16	32	
Jackson, Joaquin	84	131	
New Harmony, Tyler	314	402	2 by statement
New Hope, Mineola	95	155	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		44	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	46	59	
Rosewood, Gilmer	111	253	1 by baptism
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	42	65	
Sand Prairie, Normangee		46	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	13	29	
Simmons Hill, Diana	37	48	

## August 25, 2019

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	61	72	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	18	37	
Jackson, Joaquin	79	145	
New Harmony, Tyler	309	364	
New Hope, Mineola	82	159	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		42	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	50	64	
Rosewood, Gilmer	106	220	
Sand Prairie, Normangee		52	

## September 1, 2019

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	64	78	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	20	31	1 by letter
Jackson, Joaquin	78	124	
New Hope, Mineola	83	181	
Oak Hill, Gilmer			
Olde Tyme, White Oak		41	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	33	43	
Rosewood, Gilmer	115	225	2 professions of faith
Sand Prairie, Normangee		52	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	20	40	
Simmons Hill, Diana	35	42	

## September 8, 2019

CHURCH	SS	WORSHIP	ADDITIONS
First, Palmer	55	83	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	21	35	
Jackson, Joaquin	76	146	1 by baptism
New Harmony, Tyler	308	322	
New Hope, Mineola	87	146	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		42	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	46	61	
Rosewood, Gilmer	136	252	2 by baptism
Sand Prairie, Normangee		50	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	24	39	
Simmons Hill, Diana	40	45	



# JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

## A great start

By **DR. MIKE SMITH**

*President of Jacksonville College*

The fall semester is underway at Jacksonville College, and it is a joy to welcome new students, faculty, and staff to our campus. Every fall, I look forward to seeing how God will work on our campus, and how He will answer the prayers lifted on our behalf.

Because of generous donors, we have been able to start the school year with improvements across campus. We were able to paint hallways and doors and install new flooring and LED lights in the C.R. Meadows Administration Building. The Norman Library is getting a facelift, and we have replaced the air conditioning units in the library and in the Curtis Carroll Fieldhouse/Gymnasium. JC alumni have volunteered their time and resources to make our campus look beautiful for our new and returning students.

What I look forward to the most each semester is to see how the Spirit of God will move in the hearts of our students and employees. How many will come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior? How many will rededicate their lives to Christ? Will God call some to full-time Christian service? Will God send revival to Jacksonville College?

Throughout the semester, Jacksonville College students meet in Life Groups to study what the Bible has to say about who God is and what His Word says about relevant life issues. The first time the Life Groups met this semester, they discussed the problem of sin and God's plan to rescue sinners. Leaders presented the gospel and answered questions about salvation.

The second chapter of Acts tells us that on the Day of Pentecost, the followers of Christ were filled with the Holy Spirit and were empowered for ministry. Peter was moved by the Holy Spirit to preach a sermon that would pierce the hearts of those present, and three thousand were saved and baptized. My prayer is that as the Word of God is proclaimed at Jacksonville College in classrooms, in Chapel services, in small groups, and in individual relationships, the Holy Spirit will draw the unsaved to repentance and the saved to a deeper love for our Lord and His Word.

Pray with us that God will do great things at Jacksonville College this year.

### DEFENDING THE FAITH

"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).

During Chapel on August 21, JC Head



Tennis Coach Jonathan Becker spoke about his struggle to believe the claims of the Bible when he was younger. Even though his father was a pastor, Jonathan admitted "I was a skeptic. Many times, I questioned whether this Christianity stuff could be real." His doubts motivated him to determine for himself the validity of the Bible. After extensive research, he realized that the Bible was true. Now he wants to help Christians defend their faith, and he wants to help skeptics see that the Bible is reliable and that Christianity does make sense. In his Chapel message, Jonathan shared several of the proofs and evidences that helped him to see the truth of Christianity. He explained, "I want you to know who Jesus really is."

Jonathan graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Religion from Liberty University and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Biblical Literature from Wesley Biblical Seminary. He serves as a Sunday School teacher for junior and senior high school boys at Spring Baptist Church in Tyler.



The JC men's soccer team is one of the many Life Groups that met on August 28 as part of Chapel time to discuss what the Bible says about salvation.



JC alumnus Craig Salsbury braved the August heat to power wash the Buckner Chapel steps and surrounding sidewalks. We are thankful for alumni who volunteer to serve Jacksonville College.

Under the leadership of Coach Kirby Shepherd, the Jacksonville College cross country teams have had a great



start to their season. In their first meet of the season, our teams competed in the Nicole Leman Invitational hosted by LeTourneau University on August 31. The men's team won their division, and four of the men finished in the top ten in individual standings. Antonio Chavez crossed the finish line first, and Isiah Garzon came in second place. For the women, Karen Torres came in third place in the individual competition, and Laura Luna finished in sixth place.



JC faculty and staff introduced themselves during the first Chapel service of Fall 2019.

*Dr. Mike Smith is the president of Jacksonville College. Contact him at 105 B.J. Albritton Drive, Jacksonville, TX 75766, 903-586-2518 or [msmith@jacksonville-college.edu](mailto:msmith@jacksonville-college.edu).*

