

Baptist Progress

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MARTHA JOHNSON SCHOOL,
A BEAUTIFUL LEGACY

BMLA business manager, former BMA of Texas Missions director called home

Bro. Jerry Burnaman, business manager of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association (BMLA) and former director of BMA of Texas Missions, went to his heavenly home to forever be in the presence of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, early Wednesday morning, Aug. 13, 2020. He was born Dec. 24, 1941 in Etoile. After graduating from Woden High School, he attended Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches.

While at home in Etoile, during the summer of 1960, he attended a revival meeting and accepted the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Later that night, he felt God calling him to be a preacher, and he surrendered his life to the full-time Gospel Ministry.

In the fall of 1960, he attended Jacksonville College where he met his wife, Nancy Stephens, of Lubbock. They were married at Central Baptist Church in Lubbock Aug. 25, 1961.

Bro. Jerry received his Bachelor of Arts in History from Texas Tech University and then went on to complete his Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth.

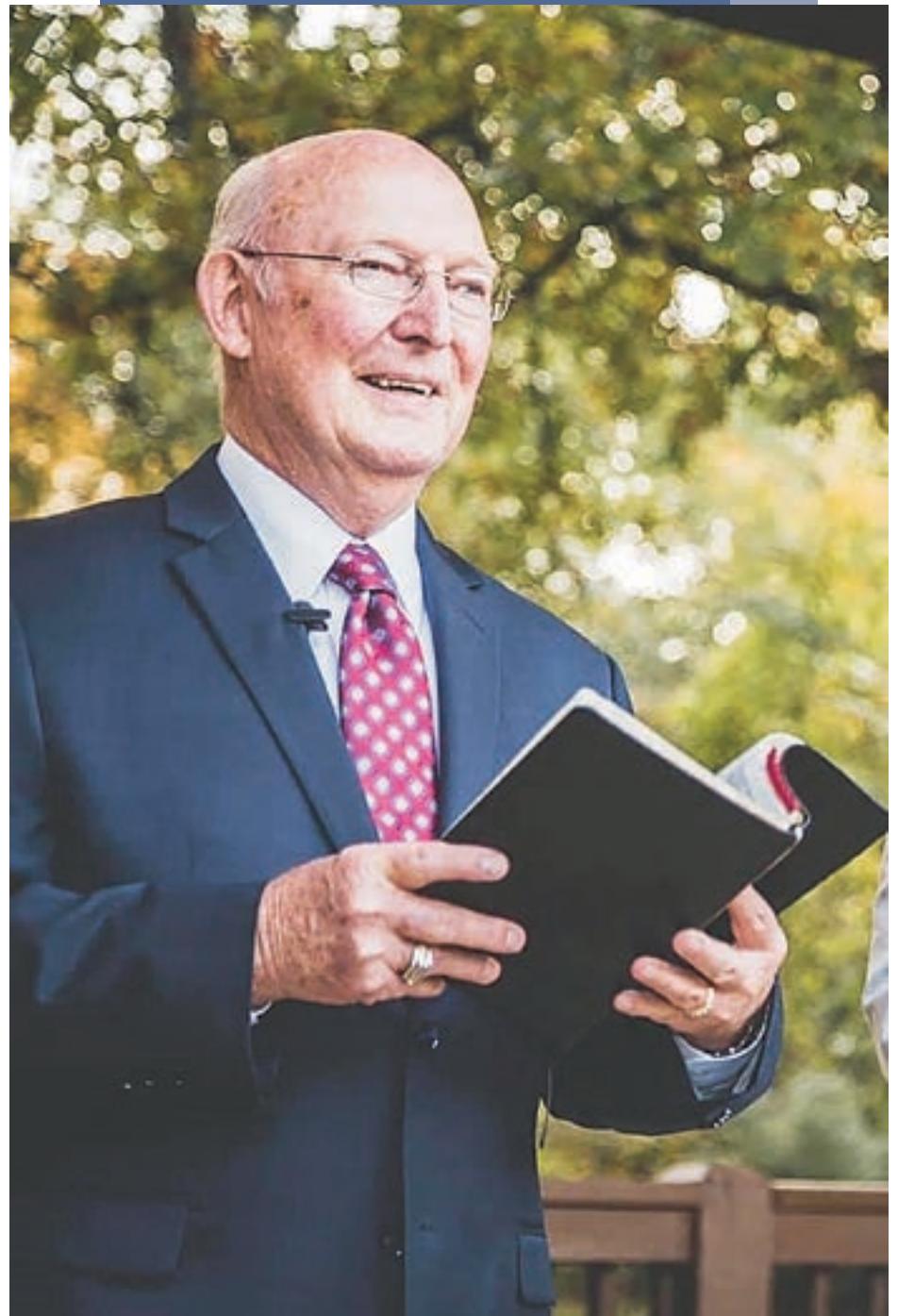
He was a BMA pastor for 38 years with his longest tenure being at First, Carthage, from 1977-1998.

In 1998, he became the director of BMA of Texas Missions and the business manager of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association until 2015. At that time, he retired as the director of BMA of Texas Missions, but continued serving part-time as the manager of the BMLA until his death.

He was a devoted husband and loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

He is survived by his wife of almost 59 years, Nancy; his son, Stephen, and wife, Sandra; daughter, Terri Hathcock, and husband, Roy; grandchildren, Caleb Hathcock, and wife, Katherine, Hannah Malone, and husband, Grant, and Seth Burnaman; great-grandsons Hudson Malone, Briggs Hathcock and Nathan Malone; two sisters, Eunice Morton and husband, Troy, of Longview, and Maggie Martin of Alexandria, Louisiana; and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and dear friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Doyce and Vivian Burnaman.

Some of his favorite past times were reading Louis L'Amour novels and watching Texas Rangers baseball. He was a lover of God, His Word, His people and the family and friends God gave to him along his journey on this earth. He loved to preach the Gospel and was an avid story teller. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.





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Farewell dear brother

By **JERRY FULTON**

The last month or so has been difficult for those of us who work in the BMA of Texas Office Building because our dear co-laborer and brother in Christ, Bro. Jerry Burnaman, was called home to Heaven. The silence that is present in the place of his voice is obvious. When I walk by his office and do not see him sitting at his desk, it is heartbreaking. Still, I rejoice in the fact that Bro. Jerry is in the presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, finally Home.

Although I worked with Bro. Jerry for almost 16 years in the BMA of Texas Office Building, it was only in the past few years that I really got to know him. Every day, at 3 p.m., we met to have our coffee (him) and Coke Zero (me) in the office breakroom. The knowledge and wisdom the man imparted to me during those meetings was immeasurable. I will always treasure our conversations.

Throughout the various seasons of my life, being the introverted only child that I am, I've usually had only one good friend at a time in whom I could truly confide. During this latest season of my life, Bro. Jerry was that friend.

How honored I was to have been asked by his dear wife, Nancy, to speak at Bro. Jerry's funeral. I shared with those in attendance how I loved hearing about his life experiences, greatly admired his faith, was amazed by the incredible love he had for his family and friends and was so impressed by his personal style.

Although Bro. Jerry is gone, he surely will not be forgotten. Please be in prayer for his family in the days ahead.

or any man currently serving in a ministerial position, who believes the Lord is leading him to another church, to please mail or email your resume to *Baptist Progress*. We will not share your resume with any church or publish your availability without first seeking your permission. We will simply keep your resume on file and contact you for permission to forward it to a church seeking a pastor.

Currently, we are aware of the following BMA of Texas churches in need of a pastor:



▲ Jerry Fulton

Bivocational:

- Center Hill, Oakhurst
- Elwood, Wills Point
- Enon First, Iola
- Little's Chapel Missionary, Chireno
- Richland Heights, Grand Saline

Full-time:

- First, Jacksonville
- First Missionary, Morton
- LakeRidge, Lubbock
- New Harmony, Tyler
- Walnut Street, Winnsboro

2020 JERRY BURNAMAN MEMORIAL UNITED THANKSGIVING OFFERING

In two months, the departments of the BMA of Texas will receive the 2020 United Thanksgiving Offering (UTO). BMA of Texas department directors have decided to receive the 2020 UTO in memory of Bro. Jerry Burnaman, who served as the director of BMA of Texas Missions from 1998 until 2015, as well as the business manager of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association from 1998 until the Lord called him home last month.

We are asking each BMA of Texas church to set a goal to give \$1,500 to the 2020 UTO. Our overall goal is \$125,000. If just 84 churches give \$1,500, we will surpass our goal. Perhaps your church would include the UTO in your annual budget or receive an offering on Sunday, November 22—the Sunday before Thanksgiving—encouraging your church to give a total of at least \$1,500.

The UTO is divided on a percentage basis between Baptist Missionary Loan Association, BMA Texas Missions, *Baptist Progress*, Jacksonville College and Texas Baptist Home for Children.

RESUMES NEEDED

I cannot remember a time when so many BMA of Texas churches needed pastors. Often, we receive calls at *Baptist Progress* asking if we know of any pastoral candidates. At this time, we are only aware of candidates who have placed an ad in *Baptist Progress* or online with us.

So, I encourage any person who is seeking to become a pastor

2020 ANNIVERSARY OFFERING UPDATE

During the month of June, *Baptist Progress* requested that churches, individuals, classes and groups give **\$108 for 108 years** of ministry to *Baptist Progress*. The goal for the anniversary offering was to raise **\$10,000** to help meet our budget for the year.

We are glad to report that the new total for our 2020 Anniversary Offering is \$10,248! Thanks again to everyone who gave.

Since our last update, we received the following offering:
Teel Witt \$108

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The preacher's wife

By PAUL GAUNTT

Pastor of First, Palmer

The position of preacher's wife is not a slot on the church staff—it's not even mentioned in the lists of spiritual gifts. In fact, the apostle Paul seemed to indicate that he could manage as a man of God without a helpmeet. If he said anything at all about a wife, his words were that if a person cannot harness the lusts of their flesh, then marriage is a wonderful safeguard against infidelity (1 Corinthians 7:9). Otherwise, he, personally favored the single life as being the life in which the most time could be devoted to God.

But Paul was keenly aware that most men were not cut out to go it alone in ministry. Preachers are human—they are men. They experience loneliness and the same physical and emotional needs any other man experiences. They desire companionship and the opportunity and privilege of being “. . . fruitful and multiply(ing) and replenish(ing) the earth” (Genesis 1:28). That's what most preachers would like to include in their lives.

In addressing those God-given rights by the Father to God's man concerning marriage, Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:5, “Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?” He wasn't advocating bringing his wife and his sister, but to explain that his wife is a sister in Christ. So, a wife—especially a wife who has a relationship with Jesus, is very beneficial to the pastor. In fact, you may be certain that sooner or later spiritual chaos will prevail in the parsonage if she is not a believer.

But the opposite is true—Paul modeled the truth that a man of God could remain single. But I think we as modern-day Baptists have virtually written a law into the New Testament that simply is not there—that is that the preacher must have a wife. When I was 20 years old, and single, I asked a missions director, “What do I need to qualified as a missionary?” The answer was simple: “Get a wife.”

Young ladies may fall in love with a young man who has already given his life to preaching the gospel. If so, she has the option to go with it, or bail out before walking down the aisle.

On the other hand, many women married a layman who works at a 9 to 5 job, thinking they were going to have a regular, obscure, normal life - that is until he surrenders to preach. Then, she's “locked in.”

Some women will gladly assume the role and be the helpmeet her husband/pastor needs—but it has been the heartbreaking experience of some pastors that their wives could not accept the new role and abdicated the parsonage.

Some women feel the call to be a helper to her husband almost as strongly as he feels the call to lead the church. They are right at home serving as the pianist, maybe even the choir director, preparing food for grieving families, teaching in Sunday school and Vacation Bible School and being right by his side at the hospitals and nursing homes.

If she has a desire to be her pastor/husband's assistant in many areas, that is fine. But the problem comes when the church expects the label of “pastor's wife” to be a 24/7 staff position.

Years ago, a good lady of our church stopped by my office one day and told me in no uncertain terms that my wife should be the president of the WMA. I was informed that the wives of the former pastors served in that capacity. I promptly told her that she is free to serve in any place God's

opens a door for her, just as any other woman was free to do so. I also told her that I had no greater expectations from her as a church member than any other woman in the church. Her major responsibility was to care for her children, her household, be a godly wife to her husband, and to hold down a job if she so chose.

Church, there are plenty of pressures heaped upon your pastor's home without issuing impossible demands on your pastor's wife as though she was a staff member. Church, I hate to break the news to you, but you simply do not have the “hold” on your pastor's wife that you think you have on the pastor. If there is great joy, fulfillment, happiness and contentment in the pastor's family, then it will have a wonderful effect on the overall spiritual health of the church.

So, pastor's wife, be all God intends you to be to your family. Serve Him in His church as He leads you. But don't be pressured by anyone in the church or community to be on a pedestal God didn't design for you.

Pastor protect your wife from those who would try to set the agenda for her. Let the church know, in a loving way, that her primary function is her own relationship with her Lord, and wifely and motherly duties at home. If you and she decide that she can work outside the home, that is strictly between you, her and the Father.

And church—if you will work to ensure the contentment, happiness and spiritual welfare of your pastor's family, including his wife, you will be astounded at the spiritual yield it will bring to your fellowship.



O Lord! Open our eyes that we may see

In spite of death, adversity and The Great Depression, Mama's faith in God never wavered. My brother, Raymond Kenmore, witnessed many of those challenging times and shared this story.

After the death of two baby boys (2 hours old and 2 years old), Raymond discovered Mama's secret to survival in the midst of hardship and tragedy. Without saying a word, she seemed to disappear for a short time every day. Out of curiosity, Raymond followed her down a path to a quiet place where, on bended knees, he heard her pleading for God to save her children and watch over her family.

Raymond had heard Mama pray in church, but watching her pour out her heart in this private audience with the Almighty was life changing. What he saw and heard was indelibly etched in his memory becoming a guiding star for many adult decisions.

One such time was shortly after he married. He said, “I thought I was my own man and could do what I wanted to when I wanted to.” He explained that they “had become slack about going to church and missed two or three times in a row.”

Mama encouraged him to get back in church and find his place of service, concluding with a promise that she was going to talk to the Lord about it. Enough said! He knew the power of her prayers and said to me, “That was the last thing I wanted her to do.” Raymond never looked back from his personal recommitment to the Lord, serving faithfully as a Bible teacher and as an ordained deacon until his death.

Mama's commitment to prayer reminded me of the Prophet Elisha's faith. Syria's King Aram was at war with Israel and he was sick and tired of Elisha's interference. Determined to silence the meddling prophet, he sent a massive army to surround the city of Dothan. It was shock and awe for Elisha's surprised servant, and he cried, “Oh my lord, what shall we do?”

In our own out-of-control world today where God's presence can feel distant and His guidance difficult to discern, we need to ask the same question. Elisha's quick response to his servant is the same strong reminder we need. “Don't be afraid,” the prophet replied, “for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” I'm guessing the servant did a quick count, and the two of them against the great army surrounding their city just didn't add up.

When we face a crisis, or when we don't, time alone with God is essential. That's where FEAR dies, FAITH nurtures and sweet FELLOWSHIP thrives, a perfect time to pray, “O LORD, open our eyes that we too may feel your presence, see your mighty wonders, and trust You with every challenge we face.

(For the surprising conclusion to this event read 2 Kings 6.)

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.



BMA of America Missions and Just the Crumbs helping in Louisiana



By **LAVON HADEN**

Just the Crumbs Disaster Relief Director

A host church and team members mobilized Sept. 1. Please keep them lifted in prayer. The Baptist Missionary Association of America Missions and Just the Crumbs (JTC) Disaster Relief has set up in Reeves, Louisiana to help those affected by Hurricane Laura. As always, they want to partner with you to help those in need. Prayers for team members and people in the community that BMA of America Missions and JTC serves are a huge blessing, but they also need donated help. Please help them serve others and share Jesus with them. Donations may be sent through PayPal at justthecrumbs21@gmail.com, designated "Just the Crumbs," mailed to BMAA Missions, P.O. Box 878, Conway, Arkansas 72033, or mailed to Just the Crumbs, 10 Wagon Trail, Sumrall, Mississippi 39482. For more information, contact Director Lavon Haden at haden.epastor.lavon2@gmail.com, Beth Haden at mebbh@hotmail.com or call 601-522-6055.

Unprecedented meeting for Lifeword global leaders

By **HOLLY MERIWEATHER**

Lifeword

On Tuesday evening, Aug. 11, an incredible global meeting took place from locations and time zones around the world. An unprecedented gathering of Lifeword's global team, it was more than just an opportunity to meet and greet. . . it was a time of fellowship and praise.

Logging on from five of the world's continents (some at 1 a.m. and 3 a.m.), these media ministry leaders manage and produce gospel content in their heart languages and load it onto the Lifeword cloud. Director of Operations Luis Ortega introduced the participants then let them say a few words about their ministries. All of them shared their appreciation for being able to see co-laborers for the first time.

Director of Church Connections Lauren Crawley, who organized the Zoom meeting, explains that, "In June Donny (Parrish, Lifeword executive director) began envisioning a meeting where Team Lifeword leaders (church coordinators) and Lifeword's global partners could connect. The goal was to affirm that the work these leaders do each year to plan and organize their church's Lifeword Sunday fundraising is truly impacting lives around the world.

"Having everyone in one meeting on one screen at the same time we knew could be difficult with time differences and possible wifi problems, but as planning continued, excitement grew and we extended this invitation to all Lifeword partners and supporters. We included the staff serving in Conway, board members, and Faith Inner Circle supporters."

Fund Accountant Ellen Siler said, "In a year filled with so much turmoil, we were able to witness a great time of rejoicing and sweet fellowship. As I scanned the faces on the screen I thought that Lifeword could never fulfill her mission without the help and hard work of every person pictured, with everyone working for a common goal of sharing Jesus and his gift of salvation with the world."

To be respectful of everyone's time, the meeting was set to last 45 minutes, but after a closing prayer by Dr. Steve Crawley, no one wanted to log off, and conversations began among the participants. There was one hundred percent

agreement on another meeting, so Ortega promised one would be scheduled soon, possibly by region.

Director of Internet Broadcasting and Digital Strategy Jon Dodson saw this unprecedented meeting from a different perspective: "As we continue to experience separation due to a global pandemic, God continues to use technology to connect his people for his purpose. Tonight's online meeting was so much more than encouraging to the global Lifeword team and all who were able to attend. A beautiful picture of and experience for God's family!"

Pedro Etabag, who has been serving Lifeword for 45 years in the Philippines, agreed that the meeting was very special: "Amen! Glad to be a part of a wonderful team, Team Lifeword! Let's do it again! So, blessed to see and hear from all of you. What an encouragement, because sometimes we feel alone, but glad to know there are a lot of us doing what pleases God all over the world! God bless!"

The Lifeword team is encouraged as well and excited to host more meetings for the men and women who make his name famous around the world through media.



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COVID-19 complications become blessings for Lifeword

By **DONNY PARRISH**

On March 13, 2020, the Lifeword Board met at the BMA Global Missions Center for the second of four annual meetings. It was an exciting day.

New broadcasts were introduced and ministry plans had been approved by the Board. A challenging fiscal year budget was presented and approved. Plans and dreams were prayed over, input from our Board had been given and all hearts were settled that God's will had been done. We all shared a meal together, then left thankful for what God was doing through the ministry of Lifeword and with anticipation of much fruit from his great plans for the future.

Fast forward to March 17 . . . In response to directives from the governor of Arkansas, the Lifeword team and everyone serving in the Global Missions Center were told to gather everything they needed from their offices and prepare to work from home until further notice.

It was a kick in the stomach for me. Everything that had been planned and approved by the Board on Friday seemed to be put on only hold just four days later. How could we produce new programming when we had no recording studios? All the computers, cameras, lights, teleprompters, sets and everything we depended on to broadcast the gospel were now off limits! I began to pray and ask God, "Did I make a mistake here, Lord? Are you telling me to back up or back out? What in the world are you up to?"

It was just a few days later that God's plans became clear. He wasn't putting Lifeword on hold. He wasn't putting the plans we had prayed about on a shelf. *God was using the pandemic to open doors for Lifeword in ways I could never dream.*

He was using the pandemic to force our team to begin to do ministry in new ways and to think in new and exciting ways. Incredibly, God's plan was to use the pandemic to expand our borders and increase our effectiveness as a ministry like never before.

For several years God had been moving behind the scenes to prepare Lifeword for this day. Almost four years ago, Lifeword made the strategic move to dive headlong into internet broadcasting, turning our ministry emphasis away from radio. It was a seismic shift for a ministry that for 50 years had focused on radio as her primary delivery platform.

Some people didn't agree with the move at that time, but the Lifeword leadership team and the Lifeword Board forged ahead, believing that this was God's direction for the ministry. God was now going to bless that decision in unimaginable ways. He had raised up the ministry of Lifeword for such a time as this.

Our team began to meet daily via Zoom to talk about how we could best serve our pastors and churches and how we could best equip our producers around the world to continue their broadcasts. We talked about the need for timely broadcast content and how to tailor our messaging to best present Christ during this unusual time.

Then the internet began to light up all around the world! People were stuck in their homes. They were frightened. They had questions about God and his plan for the world and for their lives. The Lifeword Cloud and all social media platforms Lifeword had invested in began to pay off in huge ways. Traffic to Lifeword.org doubled overnight and thousands of people from around the world began to tune into Lifeword programming.

The ministry of Lifeword was speaking to more people

about Jesus than at any time in her history. Churches from across the BMA began calling to ask our team how to live stream their services each Sunday. The Lifeword and BMA Productions teams consulted with multiple pastors and church staffs, helping them use technology to continue ministry each week. All of a sudden, God's church was forced out of their buildings and into the streets. The technology that many churches had avoided had now become their lifeline for ministry. The Lifeword and BMA Productions teams were there to help BMA churches fulfill their mission.

I asked the Lifeword team to help me encourage BMA pastors and church members each day by filming a short morning devotional. Everyone on our team became experts in iPhone broadcast production and willingly stepped out of their comfort zones behind the camera to become on-air personalities.

The results were amazing. People from across the country, both inside and outside the BMA, began to message us about their gratitude for the encouragement! They also began sharing those messages with family and friends via social media. Those short devotionals opened up opportunities for gospel conversations all across America.

As I'm writing this today, things are not back to "normal" around Lifeword. Learning to produce broadcasts while observing social distancing guidelines has been a challenge. Some of our staff continue to work from home. We are still producing many of our over 100 gospel programs in circumstances that are less than ideal. But while we are dealing with Coronavirus inconveniences in the U.S., many of our broadcasters, producers and writers around the world are dealing with daily struggles of how to find food to put on the table.

While we are dealing with simple inconveniences, they are dealing with life and death. As we talk to them, we quickly understand how to put things into a proper perspective.

No, things are not back to normal. The fact is, the old normal may be gone. There could be a new normal that will emerge. Whatever the situation and whatever the circumstance, God will be more than faithful to meet our needs. He had already prepared Lifeword to meet the challenge of Covid-19 before the virus had appeared.

I'm grateful for the BMA churches, individuals and friends who have been faithful to provide for the broadcast needs of Lifeword through difficult times. God is using you to give billions of people the answers they are looking for during these challenging days.

Luis Ortega, Lifeword's director of operations and Jon Dodson, director of internet broadcasting and digital strategies, are two of the team members that have done a great job guiding Lifeword through this crisis. God has and is using them and lifeword.org to share the love of Christ around the world through media.

And we are still anticipating much fruit from his great plans for the future.

Donny Parrish is the executive director of Lifeword, the media ministry of the BMA of America. Contact him at P.O. Box 6, Conway, Arkansas 72033, 501-329-6891 or donny@lifeword.org



Lifeword

Liberty Association hosts rally for Lifeword

By **CHARLES JOHNSON**

Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer

Rosewood, Gilmer was the host church for Liberty Baptist Association's rally for Lifeword, the radio, TV, and internet department for the BMA of America Aug. 13.

The RBC Praise Team opened the service by leading the congregation in songs. After a welcome and scripture reading by Pastor Charles Johnson, the association's moderator, Michael Pool, presided over a business meeting.

The treasurer for the association, Leon Ross, gave a four-month report. He highlighted the association had been blessed financially during the pandemic with all the ongoing mission projects of the group being adequately funded. Even though the association was unable to meet in-person in May, a liberal offering for Baptist Medical Missions International was received from the churches.

Billy Byrd and Charles Johnson were appointed as an audit committee for the association. Bro. Jed Whitaker was elected to fill the vacancy as alternate speaker for the annual association meeting.

Bro. Pool introduced Luis Ortega, director of operations for Lifeword. Bro. Ortega, a native of Mexico, grew up in Houston, when his family immigrated to the United States. He was called to the gospel ministry and now lives near Conway, Arkansas, where Lifeword is headquartered.

After a challenging message from 1 Samuel 15 and 16, Bro. Ortega shared that Lifeword now proclaims the gospel in 90 languages around the world with a goal of increasing to 200 languages in the next five years. This will have the potential of reaching most of the people around the globe.

He also told of some recent direct experiences from various missions fields, including: several salvation and baptisms in the high elevations of the Andes Mountains of Peru through the use of community radio transmitters provided by Lifeword; even in points where the residents do not have electrical service, they possess solar-powered cell phones which serve as receivers for the radio broadcasts from Lifeword.

Another emotional and heart-breaking experience he shared occurred just the previous week in Portugal. The government in control has launched a strong persecution towards Christians. He reported authorities storming the homes of believers and killing 12 and 14 family members only because they trusted in Jesus Christ.

Pastor John Gradberg from Stone Ridge, Kilgore, extended a gesture of appreciation to Bro. Ortega for his message, report and the ministry of Lifeword in helping churches fulfill The Great Commission.

There were 13 churches represented at the rally which was Liberty's first in-person meeting since early March. Liberty Association's next meet will be Oct. 11, at 3 p.m., at Oak Hill BC-Bettie. This will be the 141st annual meeting of the association which is composed of 28 BMA churches in Bowie, Camp, Gregg, Harrison, and Upshur Counties.

OBITUARIES

H. EDWARD RICKS

Pastor H. Edward Ricks, passed from this life into his Heavenly home Aug. 26, 2020. He was born Aug. 24, 1936 in Palestine to Horace Henry and Allie Mae Ricks. Bro. Eddie was an identical twin and the eldest of seven children.



He graduated from Maydelle High School in May 1955. He enjoyed singing in the Jacksonville College Men's Quartet as he continued his education at Jacksonville College in Jacksonville from 1956-1958. While working as a nursing assistant at Rusk State Hospital, he met the love of his life, Barbara Ann Conway, who also worked as a nursing assistant. They married on Feb. 14, 1961 and were blessed with three children.

Bro. Eddie surrendered to preach the gospel soon after high school. He pastored his first church, Parkview, Malakoff, while continuing to work as a full-time employee for the Texas Department of Highways in Athens. In April of 1973, he followed God's direction and became the full-time pastor of Anthony Drive, Ennis and served there for more than 30 years. He had a great love for music and some fondest memories were of his family singing together. He not only had a beautiful singing voice which he used in his service to God, but he could also wonderfully whistle any melody.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Barbara Ann (Conway) Ricks; daughter, Kasha Adams (Brad); son, Keith Ricks; daughter, Kemia Patrick (Adam); grandchildren, Lenzie Benjamin (Josh), Nikolaus Adams (Heather), Zakary Adams, Lacey Morris (Will), Andrew Patrick (Katelyn), Anna Patrick and Timothy Ricks (Jessica); 12 great-grandchildren with two on the way; three brothers, Tommy, Bobby, and Don; sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews and a host of wonderful friends.

A funeral service was conducted in the chapel of J.E. Keever Mortuary in Ennis Sept. 1, 2020.

MRS. RAYMOND (RUBY JEAN) SCHALCHLIN

Ruby Jean Armbrust Schalchlin, 87, of Conway, Arkansas, passed away Aug. 26, 2020. She was the widow of BMA Minister Raymond Floyd Schalchlin, who pastored churches in Arkansas, Alabama and Kansas. She and her husband also served as BMA missionaries in the state of Queensland, Australia for 18 years. Mrs. Schalchlin trained as a licensed practical nurse and enjoyed serving in that capacity. She was also an accomplished pianist and children's teacher, which served her well as a pastor's wife. Survivors include a daughter, Cindy (Dan) Williams; two sons, Andy (Connie) Schalchlin and Tim Schalchlin; 21 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. A funeral service was held Aug. 29 in Conway, Arkansas.



MRS. JERRY (NOLA FAYE) MANIS

Mrs. Jerry (Nola Faye) Manis, 61, daughter of James Condray, Sr. and the late Etta Mae Boyer was born May 12, 1959 in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, and departed this

life Aug. 16, 2020 in Longview. Nola had lived in Texas since 1987 and was formerly of Ellsinore, Missouri. She was of the Baptist faith and served in the ministry with her husband, Jerry, for 39 years. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, being a school teacher for over 28 years, watching movies, influencing and touching people's lives. Nola was caring, compassionate, thoughtful and loving.



Nola is survived by her loving husband of 44 years, Jerry; her father, James Condray, Sr. and wife, Evelyn; sister, Janet Wiltshire, and husband, Kevin; brothers, James Condray and wife, Kathy, Neil Condray and wife, Debbie and Stephen Condray; daughters, Jessica Gleason, and husband, Daniel, and Mellissa Henry and husband, Justin; son, Micheal and wife, Racheal; 12 grandchildren, Justice Henry, Dalton Henry, Austin Henry, Emily Henry, Jordan Dumas, Samantha Dumas, Trinity Gleason, Taron Gleason, Levi Manis, Savannah Manis, Shelby Manis and Brielle Manis; six nieces, four nephews, eight grand-nieces and nine grand-nephews and many close friends she considered to be family.

A funeral service was conducted in McSpadden Funeral Home in Ellsinore, Missouri Aug. 21, 2020.

MRS. DON (MARY ANN) VAUGHN

Mrs. Don (Mary Ann) Vaughn was born in Myrtle Springs Aug. 28, 1944 to Glen Worth Sr. and Reba Arlou (Burns) Stovall and passed from this life the morning of Aug. 14, 2020 at her home in Quitman from the complications of Alzheimer's disease.



Mary Ann lived in several areas of East Texas since her father was a Baptist minister. She started to school in Myrtle Springs and then attended school in Jacksonville twice, New Salem and Judson Grove near Longview. She finished as valedictorian of the 1962 graduating class of New Summerfield High School in New Summerfield. She then attended Tyler Junior College and graduated with an Associate's degree in business.

She went to work for Massey and Brown Sporting Goods in Tyler in 1964 and worked there for seven years. At the onset of Tyler State College, now University of Texas at Tyler, she became the secretary of the dean of admissions and records. March 12, 1971 she was married to Donald Vaughn and a readymade family of two children at First, Grand Saline, where her father was pastor, March 12, 1971.

Mary Ann worked as a substitute teacher for Quitman schools for a while and then started her own day care where she kept many kids that she considered her own. When her youngest child started to school, she went to work for Wood County in the Tax Assessor-Collector's office where she made many lifelong friends and retired as supervisor of the automobile registration section after 19 years of service.

She enjoyed her family, friends, reading, cooking, RVing and traveling. She was a very faithful pastor's wife and was a member of Mt. Pisgah, Mineola at the time of her death.

She is survived by her husband, Bro. Donald Roy

"Don" Vaughn; daughter, Traci Dawn Thompson; sons, Randall Lyn Vaughn I (Dawn) and Glen Ervin Vaughn (Karen); sister, DeAnn Sellers; sister-in-law, Mary Stovall; grandsons, Regan Thompson, Andrew Simmons, Austin Vaughn, Kolton Vaughn, Randall Lyn Vaughn II, Darryl Harris and Cash Harris; granddaughter, Briana Beard; eight great-grandchildren; five nephews and one niece.

A funeral service was held at Forest Hill, Quitman Aug. 17, 2020.

MRS. BOB (JOANN) WHITTEN

Mrs. Bob (Jo Ann) Whitten, 85, went to be with her Lord Aug. 11, 2020. She was born Oct. 13, 1934 to Arthur Tillman and Bernice Marie Sons, who preceded her in death.



She is survived by her loving husband of 67 years, Bro. Bob Whitten; four children, Karen Isaacs, Steve (Julie) Whitten, Tim Whitten and Deborah (Wes) Westmoreland; seven grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and one brother, J.R. Sons.

A funeral service was held at Friendship, Mesquite where her husband served as pastor for over 50 years Aug. 14, 2020.

CLAUDIE BOB HENDLEY

Bro. Claudie Bob Hendley passed away June 1, 2020 in Grand Saline. He was born Nov. 28, 1937 in Henderson County to Claud Hendley and Ruby Stewart Hendley. He grew up the Walton Community before moving to Waxahachie, where he graduated high school. Bro. Bob started preaching at the age of 14 and spent over 65 years as a pastor. He traveled 24 years with his sidekick Amos Matthews as an evangelist. Bro. Bob earned a Bachelor of Theology from North American Theological Seminary, Master of Theology from International Baptist College, Doctor of Ministry from International Baptist College, Doctor of Education in Religion from Landmark Baptist Theological Seminary, Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Counseling Psychology from Carolina University. He was also a biblical Christian counselor and temperament therapist.



He is survived by his wife, Judy Hendley; daughter, Brenda Long; sons, Bobby Hendley Jr., Ben and wife, Jill, Brian and wife, Becky; 11 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and sister, Dorothy "Dot" Duncan.

A funeral service was held June 7, 2020 at Crossroads, Canton.

MRS. TOMMY (GLENDA) HALL

A funeral service for Glenda Hall, 75, of Sulphur Springs, was held at Davis Street, Sulphur Springs at 11 a.m. Sept. 12, 2020. Mrs. Hall passed away at her home Sept. 6, 2020.



Editor's note: This is all the information that was available to us for Mrs. Hall at press time.



INSIGHTS *for* PASTORS

Weddings and funerals

By ALLEN TILLEY, D.Min

My first year as a pastor, I performed over 30 funerals. It seemed as if someone had either died or was dying. Exhausted and discouraged, I thought about quitting the ministry entirely. Little did I know that God was at work in me during that time.

Over the years, I have done countless weddings too. Weddings can be stressful. On the big day, the bride (actually, the bride's mother) wants everything done perfectly, down to the last detail. Unfortunately, it's in these moments that I make some of my most embarrassing blunders. Even then, I've learned that God was at work in my life.

While some pastors see weddings and funerals as intrusions into already busy schedules, they can be some of the most effective times of ministry—to both the pastor and his congregation. For example, God used weddings and funerals to mold me into a better pastor: one who is compassionate for the grieving and sympathetic to those who are nervous. Most of all, I've learned that by ministering to people during times of change, I can be the voice and hands of our caring Savior.

In turn, I've also learned that walking with people through life-changing events creates a deep bond between a pastor and his people. Because they know I cared for them, they reciprocate that care by supporting me as their pastor. In other words, they learned to trust me. For the younger pastor who is just starting in ministry, let me offer you the following suggestions.

WEDDINGS

Determine which kinds of weddings you will do and not do. Will you marry only church members, or will you also marry those from the community? Will you marry those who've been previously married? Will you marry those of the same sex? Once you set your boundaries, be sure that you back it up with scripture so you can explain your decision biblically. As for me, I will marry anyone who asks, but only after they meet with me so I can determine they are ready for marriage. However, I will not marry people of the same sex.

Offer premarital counseling. I once required premarital counseling, but I soon discovered it was a waste of time for those who didn't want to do it. When I worked on my master's degree at our seminary, I developed a premarital



plan, and I still use it today. If you can't attend seminary, there are several Christian ministries that can provide you with great resources.

Guard your calendar. As a rule, I will not cancel my family's vacation or special events to perform a wedding, to do so will only alienate my family. If I can't schedule the wedding, I offer names of other ministers who may be available.

FUNERALS

Meet with the family before the funeral. The days of "just preaching" at funerals are long gone. Today, people want a personalized service. At this initial meeting, find out if they have any special memories they would like for you to share. Ask for the deceased's favorite Bible verse. During your preparation, litter your message with your own personal stories of the loved one.

Attend family visitation. Typically, the family will have

a private viewing before the regularly scheduled visitation. This can be traumatic for some families. Be there so you can support and encourage them. After giving everyone time to grieve, say a word of prayer, inviting the Lord to supply His abundant grace.

Stay in touch. People don't stop grieving just because the funeral is over. By staying involved in people's lives, God can use you to help put their broken lives back together again.

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.





A word from your Missions Office

By **HEITH MITCHELL**

30 saved this month! Good reports of progress made at mission points! Are we emerging from the virus fog? I hope so! I am proud of your missionaries. They feel the weight and urgency of the Great Commission and they are about it. The Church Age will expire. We must tell this generation about our Lord and help them to be His disciples. Politics will not change anyone's life. Jesus will change their life and can change the lives of the generations that come after. I know we are two months from the election, but let's not lose sight of our most urgent task. A good soldier doesn't get tangled up in civilian affairs. Instead, we seek to please the one who enlisted us as a soldier (2 Timothy 2:4).

We had a good retreat together last month. Here is my favorite picture of us together:



We all join you in praying for the end of this virus and shutdown. We pray that God will get glory in this season.

Join us in laboring and praying for:



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**

We would love to share with your church about what God is up to and show you how you can be involved. I am personally available to come and share. We also have tools we can provide to help you become a partner in church planting. Reach out to us.

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

A word from your missionaries

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

Pray with me for society to open again so we may draw closer to people to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us remain faithful to the Great Commission.

PRAYER NEEDS:

Pray for my family in Columbia.



▲ Cesar Leal

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

God has been moving greatly at Redeemer's Love! We are overjoyed to begin looking at planting more churches in southwest Houston as the Lord continues to bless us with a growing flock to shepherd. Thank you for your prayers and support, God is blessing your faithfulness and kindness greatly.

PRAYER NEEDS:

As we grow and begin to look at planting more churches, we ask that you would pray that the Lord will continue to supply or raise up men in our congregation that will be faithful Shepherds of these future churches.



▲ Spencer Simpson

**JAIME HENRIQUEZ—
FUENTE DE VIDA ETERNA MISSION, HOUSTON**

I just want to thank you to all the BMA churches of Texas for all your support and prayers. We would not be able to do the work we are doing in our mission without your prayers and support. We are having our services in a rented church building that allows us to grow. Souls are being saved and lives are being transformed by the power of the Lord. You are part of everything that the Lord is doing through this mission.

PRAYER NEEDS:

The salvation of the souls and that God provides our own building.



▲ Jaime Henriquez



**WESLEY BURKE—
REDEMPTION BAPTIST MISSION, NACOGDOCHES
WESLEYDAVIDBURKE@GMAIL.COM**

We have had the opportunity in our new work to meet many different people. Some of them have claimed Christ and desired to join our church's covenant community. As we got to know some of them, we learned that they were participating in openly sinful activity, and we confronted them in love with the gospel message they claimed to believe, but refused to follow in certain public areas. They have chosen to walk away from our membership process. This is hard, but I share it to encourage all of you (especially pastors) to remember that the way is narrow, not broad, and Jesus Himself is sovereign and in control. It is He who looked at 5,000 and said, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44). After this speech, full of hard truth, only the 12 remained, one of whom was a devil (Jesus words concerning Judas). We are not Christ. I am not saying that, but we are under-shepherds (pastors) and sheep. Trust the Lord in these strange and difficult days and let the increase be because of Him and the promises of his Word, not just your efforts. This has been a hard but rewarding lesson for us to learn.



▲ Wesley Burke

PRAYER NEEDS:

I have started teaching part-time in a private Christian school in Nacogdoches. Please pray that this will lead to many good connections in the community that would benefit our growth as a body of Christ in the city.



BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p. 12



▲ TBHC Trustees (1961)



▲ TBHC Trustees (2018)

I'm just sayin'

By JASON CURRY

Allow me to paint a picture for you. In 1937, Pastor H. B. Carraway died of cancer. His wife, Geneva, and their six children were devastated and bewildered as to what to do. Before his death, he spoke of the Texas Baptist Orphanage as a place that could help her care for the kids in the face of this tragedy. She investigated with Bro. Bryant, a board member of the orphanage, and assured herself and him that she would only do this as a last resort for her children. Her feelings of loss and being overwhelmed must have been exceptional.

Day after day, she worked hard to get food for her children and seemed to make it work for a while. But, one day it was a meager meal. In an attempt to make enough food go around, she said she was not hungry.

After working all day and preparing this meal, sitting down and watching her children eat, what could Geneva have been feeling? Maybe hunger and relief that another meal was made, another day over. Whatever her thoughts and emotions, they were dashed by her six-year-old son, Bob, saying "Mother, I'm still hungry". This moment of tragedy is what prompted her to take the steps necessary to reach out to a board member of Texas Baptist Home for Children (TBHC), an ambassador in her community and a person of hope. She asked for help to get a home for her youngest children.

Bro. Day, the director of The Texas Baptist Orphanage, came in a car to pick them up shortly after the call. Geneva went on to be able to care for her older children and stay connected to her youngest by periodically visiting and eventually making her home there as well. But that's another story. She was able to find help in the face of hopelessness because of loving and caring people like a trustee down the street.

TBHC has always enjoyed ambassadors and people who have stepped up to care for people when they were at their most vulnerable. The job of a trustee today is no different. Trustees have been caring for TBHC since the beginning. Just like Bro. Bryant so many years ago, each today stands ready to talk to people about the hope that only Jesus brings and how He uses the work of TBHC.

The legacy of our trustees is alive and well, never just a meeting or a vote. It is, and always has been, a trusted Godly man or woman tasked with stewarding our organization. If you ask any of them, past or present, they will tell you the pay is not good but the "retirement" in glory is rewarding.

I would like to invite you today to reach out to us. We want to know if you have ever served on our board. Current records are not adequate to reach out to say thank you and invite each of you to be a part of our trustee alumni. TBHC had a special place in your heart we would like to continue to share how your work has impacted the children dear to our hearts. We are always working for the next generation and your investment then and now makes a difference.

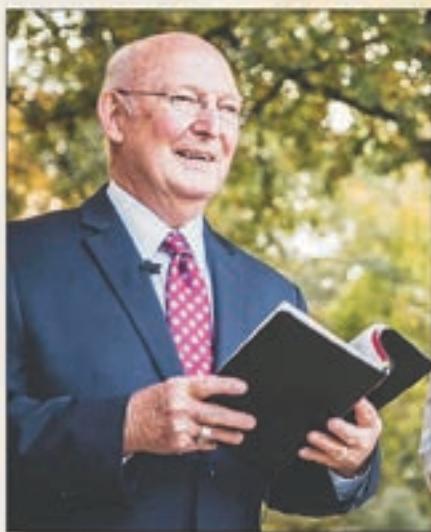
You can contact us by calling our office at 972-937-1321 or emailing us at info@tbhc.org. We look forward to connecting with you as an Alumni of our Trustee Board. We have a fun event planned to invite you to as our public events begin again soon. I'm just sayin'.

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



2020

Jerry Burnaman Memorial United Thanksgiving Offering



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020
OVERALL GOAL: \$125,000
GOAL PER CHURCH: \$1,500

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

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



Martha Johnson School, a beautiful legacy

By **GLENDAM CHAMBERLAIN**

Martha Johnson was an extraordinary woman; blessed with many skills, it was her passion for education that shaped her ministry. Martha was a missionary wife married to Bro. Buddy Johnson. The mission field God sent them to was Huejutla de Reyes, Hidalgo, Mexico. Together, they served God faithfully for many years in Huejutla, raising their family, sharing the Good News about Christ and showing God's love for everyone.

Martha saw a need to educate the children—to teach them English as a second language and to work in the hearts of the students and their families sharing God's plan of salvation.

Land was purchased in November of 1989 adjacent to their home in Huejutla, and plans proceeded to establish a bilingual elementary school (English and Spanish). Martha said, "People all over the world want their children to learn English, so why not give the people of Huejutla the opportunity to do that." They determined this was the calling card to reach others for Christ.

Martha, being trained in elementary education in the English language, had begun teaching every morning in the high school 10 years earlier. Through much prayer, they started to see their dream of a new school begin to develop.

Classes started in September 1990 for grades 1 through 4. The building was not yet finished, so Martha offered her home for the schoolwork. Furniture was moved out of the house and school desks brought in.

Bro. Buddy and Martha began the exhaustive work for the school to become accredited. Finally, after much labor, their efforts were recognized, and the school was awarded full accreditation. The school was named Colegio Lincoln, named after Abraham Lincoln.

Martha was the heart, soul and mind of Colegio Lincoln. Together, Bro. Buddy and Martha were blessed to not only reach the children and their families for Christ, but also town leaders and laborers alike received news of salvation and heard about a God who loves them.

In July 1991, Bro. Buddy and Martha were back in the United States on furlough. Martha's goal was to ask churches to help them pray, never asking for money, but always asking for prayer support. She believed so strongly in the power of prayer

Sadly, the night before they were to return to Mexico, Martha became ill with a horrible headache. Taken to the emergency room she was diagnosed with a cerebral hemorrhage and passed away a few weeks later.

After her death, state officials and local leaders including the mayor, doctors, lawyers and other people who live and work in Huejutla expressed their urgency for the school to



▲ Students continue to learn and grow in Christ at the Martha Johnson Bilingual School.

continue to function. In honor of Martha, steps were taken to officially change the name of the school to the Martha Johnson School.

Today, Bro. Grady Johnson (eldest son of Bro. Buddy and Martha) and his wife, Denise, continue the tradition of the school. The school has been so blessed to see their membership increase every year. They have outgrown their facilities.

Texas WMA selected the Martha Johnson School as their project for 2019-2020. We need your donations for this worthy project to reach the goal set last year. The school is in dire need.

Here is a note from Bro. Grady to the Texas WMA:

"The WMA has been a great support and a wonderful partner to the work in Mexico for many many years. The Martha Johnson School is in a time of suffering and hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We completed the school year online, and that presented its own challenges that we were able to overcome. Mexico is struggling with the pandemic and schools are closed until the government feels that they have a handle on the spread of COVID-19.

Even though we are closed, we are continuing to attempt to keep our teachers. This is a true payroll hardship but the

teachers have been patient to receive whatever money we can pay them. We hope to start classes again in 2021.

We have enjoyed the blessings of our Lord for many years, and we continue to see his hand even in this time of hardship. It is so very encouraging that the WMA took us as a project! In God's perfect timing he has prepared the way. Even before the storm, He prepared hearts to prepare the way for help."

You can be the difference for this school—for the students to excel in their studies and grow in faith by giving to this project. Please be in prayer for ways your WMA can help build the classrooms needed, keep the teachers employed and provide the curriculum this school needs.

Send your offerings to Jo Strong, 149 NW Suzanne Terrace, Burleson, TX 76028. For more information please contact Diana Morris, Texas project promoter, at 903-288-7575 or at grammydi1013@msn.com. Mrs. Morris would love an opportunity to share more information about the school and their needs at your District WMA meeting.

Information for this article was taken from the WMA study book Bro. Buddy Johnson wrote in 1992 titled Martha—A Missionary Remembers His Wife.

AUXILIARIES continued on p. 11

What is normal?

By **JACKIE RICKS**

National WMA Editor

Masks, social distancing, quarantine, masks, washing hands, lockdown, no cleaning products, masks, virtual school, eating too much, unavailable food supplies, lost jobs, masks, virtual church, NO TP!

This spring and summer has been a new environment for most of us in the United States. We've seen things we never dreamed we'd see. We're wondering when it will all get back to "normal." However, we are not the only ones impacted by this COVID-19 pandemic. It seems to be worldwide. Here are a few examples from around the world:

It seems that most nations have been affected economically. Many people lost their jobs in Romania during a period of lockdown, according to Chandra Barnett. Tamy Gaitan says the same thing occurred in Nicaragua, although most of their church congregation were spared. In Zambia, Meagan Phiri explains that many businesses had to completely shut down or at least let workers go because theirs is a tourist town. According to Donna Scroggins, the Philippines is beginning to open back up with people returning to work after being shut down earlier.

Just as in the USA, various items have been unavailable in these countries, some being hit harder than others. When most items are imported, as in Zambia, then it is hard to get things when the borders are closed. In the Philippines even inter-island travel stopped. Most of our missions and churches have helped as best they could during these times of food shortage. Although the Philippine government set up the Catholic church to distribute food, the other believers were left out because they delivered food only to the parishioners. When Sam Freeman was able to leave the house, he delivered food to those in need in their area of the Philippines as a result of donations for the famine that they have endured during this time. It has not been easy since at one point, they were allowed to leave the house only once a week.

One of the big controversies in our country is dealing with the government's regulations. The same has been true in Zambia and the Philippines. Romania was on complete lockdown for about two months but is beginning to reopen with the wearing of masks. Nicaragua, on the other hand, did

not put any restrictions on their citizens. However, businesses themselves insist on masks and temperatures taken at the door.

At the beginning, school in the Philippines was unaffected since their year usually runs from June to March. However, they were unable to go back for the new year in June. The Bible College runs on the American schedule and hopefully will begin soon. In Zambia schools closed in March but allowed those who were writing exams to return in June until they finished. Other areas are making hard decisions as the new school year approaches, just as the schools in the states are doing, including wearing masks and social distancing.

Finally, how has this pandemic affected the spiritual lives of people around the world? Churches were completely closed in Romania for two months, but were one of the first things to open back up. After initially shutting down the churches in Zambia, the government reopened them because so many people complained. Some are meeting outside, however, as a precaution. Although the government did not shut down the churches in Nicaragua, the Gaitans decided to utilize online as well as meeting in person.

Obviously, this does not cover information from the whole world, but I can only report what I learn. I did not contact everyone, and some I contacted did not answer. However, this is enough to let us know that our situation is similar around the world.

The thing we need to remember is that God is the One in control. We may not understand this situation, but He knows the plans He has and it will all be for His honor and glory in the long run. In the midst of whatever "hardships" we think we have, we should be thankful that at least we know Who is in control and that He will take care of us. In the meantime, we should also help those in need, whether at home or abroad. Ephesians 5:16 tells us to "make the most of every opportunity in these evil days." (NLT) Some of us can help financially by contacting the Missions Office or the missionaries. Even if we're unable to help financially or other tangible ways, we can all pray for God's love and help in each area of the world, including our own.

Martha Johnson School, a beautiful legacy cont.

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH WE HONOR OUR MINISTRY LEADERS

Maeva Thompson, Texas WMA first vice president, presents a variety of ways we can honor our pastor and deacons during this difficult time.

The writer of Hebrews was inspired to write in Hebrews 12:1, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, ... and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." During the realities of the past six months, our pastors and deacons in our churches have been faced with decisions and challenges never before encountered, challenges which involve literally the health of their precious church families. Our pastors and deacons have spent countless hours in prayer asking the Lord to help them balance church activities and ministry so as to safeguard the health of their congregation, while finding ways of ministry that would not neglect the spiritual needs of their people.

Our BMA pastors have sought the Lord and the wise counsel of medical personnel and consulted together to meet these needs, and in doing so, they have demonstrated before us a faith and a testimony that will inspire us throughout our lives. How faithful they have been!

In strategizing for ways to honor them during Pastor and Deacon Appreciation in October, we are challenged to plan gifts or activities that will honor the guidelines of keeping all safe from exposure to COVID-19, yet show them our love and gratitude for their extraordinary leadership.

The following ideas are ones that every ladies group can expand and use their creativity to implement.

Card showers are always deeply appreciated. Including a gift card that can be used online is especially helpful during this time.

Creating a visual presentation of the pastor or deacons and their families that can be shown in recorded services always becomes a treasured gift.

Have a vehicle parade by the homes of the pastor and deacons. Decorate cars or other vehicles to celebrate them and their families.

Have a testimonial service in which volunteers share special times of blessing about the pastor and deacons and what they mean in their lives.

Give gifts such as books, home décor, movies, and other items that can be enjoyed by their families and can even be ordered online to be shipped to their homes.

If your church is holding in-person services at this time, then plan a time of testimony and honor that will highlight the church's appreciation for their pastor and each deacon, while observing the protocols for safety that are currently recommended.

May the Lord richly bless you as you honor your pastor and deacons this October!



Bibles, Books, Music & Gifts

To order Bibles, books, music and gifts from **Baptist Progress**, visit 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!**

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



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

Separated and sent

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

DATE: October 4, 2020

TEXT: Acts 13:1-12

THE HOOK

One commentary noted that these five men, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen, childhood friend of Herod the tetrarch, Simeon, a black man, Barnabas and Saul, illustrate the color-blindness of the early church. It was multi-cultural and multi-racial.

THE BOOK

1. The appointment. Scripture says they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, a great posture in which to be when

one heeds the call of God. When one fasts, it is indication that person has his total attention and devotion to God the Father. The Holy Spirit said Paul and Barnabas were to be ordained for a particular work. Hands were laid on them and they were sent on their journey.

2. The journey. Barnabas and Paul were sent down to Seleucia, about 15 miles from Antioch, and then sailed for Cyprus off the coast of Syria—and also Barnabas' homeland. God opened doors in Cyprus, for them to preach in synagogues. John Mark also accompanied them.

3. The satanic resistance. Elymas, which means Sorcerer in Greek, is believed to have been a personal assistant or advisor to Sergius Paulus, the governor. He wanted to hear

the gospel, but Elymas sought to hinder the work of Paul and Barnabas.

4. Paul's bold stand. In verse 9, we see that Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, confronted the devil and struck him blind. This incident caused the governor to become a believer.

THE LOOK

When one is filled with the Holy Spirit and is set out on a mission to do God's will, satanic forces will always be on hand to come against God's people. But as God's servant remains faithful, the sovereign, protecting hand of God will accompany.

The gospel reaches Asia

By **PAUL GAUNTT**

DATE: October 11, 2020

TEXT: Acts 13:13-52

THE HOOK

I love to study the path of God's men whom He chose to travel and share His blessed gospel. I am fascinated at how God orders the steps of His servants. Psalm 37:23 says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. . ." Those steps may have difficulty, but the Father knows how to choose the most effective path to more efficiently have His gospel spread to the uttermost parts.

THE BOOK

The trip to Perga: From Paphos, they sailed northwest to Perga and Pamphylia, a Roman province in southern Asia Minor. It was in Perga that John Mark left the group to return to Jerusalem, which created a separation between Paul and Barnabas (Acts 15:37-40).

The next stop, Antioch, Pisidia, about 100 miles north of Perga. Remarkably, God opened the doors for Paul to speak (verse 15). The synagogue rulers obviously thought they were visiting Judaizers. Paul laid the groundwork for his address of the gospel by delivering a detailed history of the Israelites (verses 18-22).

Then Paul begins his treatise on the Gospel of Christ and the introduction of the age of grace (verses 23-41). The gospel was received well by the Gentiles and Jewish proselytes (verse 43).

Paul drew a large crowd to hear the gospel (verse 44) but the Jews were angered (verse 45).

The opposition and hatred of the Jews prodded Paul and Barnabas to grow even more bold in their presentation (verse 46).

The gospel was spread throughout the region in spite of the opposition of the Jews. Verse 51 says, "[They] shook off the dust from their feet against them." Is it not amazing how, in the face of adversity and rejection by an unbelieving crowd, it did not impair the joy of the disciples.

THE LOOK

God will lead His servants to exactly the place where the gospel is to be preached, and will fill them with boldness, joy and the Holy Spirit. Many will receive the word, and some will shun it (Acts 17:32-33).

BMA Texas Missions cont.

MIKE WATT—

CROSS-WORK MISSION, TAHOKA

MIKE.WATT@CROSSWORKCHURCH.ORG

Our little startup church is moving forward. We take comfort in knowing Christ will grow His church (Matthew 16:18). We are challenged to make disciples. Pray that we become a disciple-making church! We are under the conviction that online content is not the same as church. We will continue with value-adding online content. In addition, we have started changing our wording from "stay connected" to "join us for what you can."

PRAYER NEEDS:

Please pray that we impact our town with this challenging invitation.

ROBERT LEE—

HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH IN NORMANGEE REPLANT

BRO.ROBERT.F.LEE@GMAIL.COM

Our church is certainly looking forward to the days to come. Although the COVID pandemic has slowed our progress, God has been faithful to keep sending new people to be a part of us as we work toward replanting. There is a lot

of work left to be done here. One of my friends who pastors another church here shared some statistics with me the other day that his denomination had gathered about Normangee and the surrounding communities. Even before COVID, only 10 percent of our local population attended a church on any given Sunday. There are certainly plenty of people here in the Normangee area in need of the Gospel. I firmly believe that God will continue to be faithful to us and bless this effort to reach our community through this replant.

PRAYER NEEDS:

Pray for open doors in spite of the COVID pandemic, specifically opportunities to reach out to our local school.

MATTHEW PRATHER—

THE BRIDGE MISSION, MIDLOTHIAN/WAXAHACHIE

MATTHEW@DISCOVERTHEBRIDGE.COM

DUAL SUPPORT BMAA/BMAT

Hard to believe it is now September! School is getting started and moving us toward some sense of normalcy as some schools in our area are meeting face to face and others

BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p. 14

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

Faithful despite persecution

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: October 18, 2020

TEXT: Acts 14:1-28

THE HOOK

Things happen when the gospel of Christ is being preached, especially when the Spirit comes down. The spirit of the Lord came down and moved in a mighty way, when Paul and Barnabas were preaching in Iconium. They were usually permitted to preach at the local synagogue wherever they were. On this one particular preaching mission, the spirit of the Lord so moved during the preaching, a great number of Jews and Gentiles received Christ. This created quite a stir among the unbelieving Jews. Satan hates it when the Spirit of God moves as the gospel is preached.

THE BOOK

1. God uses persecution to scatter His word (verses 1-4). After Paul and Barnabas remained in Iconium for an

extended period of time, the power of the message was proven through miraculous signs and wonders. But the crowd was split—one side was with the apostles, and the others sided with the Jews. After the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles in Iconium, a mob was formed and the apostles fled to the region of Lycaonia. God has used many instruments to scatter His word throughout the regions of the world, and none are so effective as persecution.

2. Satan is always on hand to try to thwart the Word (verses 11-13). In Lystra, Paul and Barnabas called for a crippled man to stand up and walk. The miracle, which was totally of God the Father, was misunderstood by the crowd, which was into the occult—worshiping Greek gods. The crowd thought Barnabas was the Greek god Zeus, and Paul was Hermes. Satan loves nothing more than to try to twist and pervert the message of grace to an ungodly crowd. The two apostles rent their clothes and ran among the people explaining their purpose of proclaiming the gospel.

3. The Jews from Antioch and Iconium also turned the Gentiles against the apostles (verse 19). The same crowd that worshiped them as Greek gods, now stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, believing they had killed him. How the tables had turned on the former “chiefest of sinners” who once dragged Christians to their deaths. Now, he was on the receiving end of the persecution. Some believe this was the stoning of Paul that he testified of in 2 Corinthians 12:2.

4. The Apostles were not concerned with their personal safety (verses 21-26). They returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch of Pisidia, “strengthening the believers.” A genuine “on fire” and “sold out” servant of God is not concerned with personal safety—only to be used to spread the gospel.

THE LOOK

We should be challenged by this preaching mission of the apostles. There was difficulty and persecution—but the blessings far outweighed the difficulties.

Wise counsel for troubled hearts

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: October 25, 2020

TEXT: Acts 15:1-35

THE HOOK

Grace has been made available to mankind now for the past 2,000 years. Grace, which is God’s unmerited favor, has been provided through the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ—God incarnate in the flesh. But what causes fallen man to reject the teaching of grace, and to reject the idea that human effort is to no avail in inheriting eternal life? Why is man so incessantly given to seeking to get eternal life by his own means?

THE BOOK

False doctrine crept in. False teachers came from Judea to try to convince the new Gentile believers that they had to do works of the flesh in order to inherit eternal life—namely circumcision. A sharp debate took place. False doctrine always creates havoc and breach of fellowship in a church.

A delegation was sent. The Antioch church sent men to Jerusalem to appeal to the Jerusalem council over the matter. The conversion of the Gentiles at Antioch brought cause for much rejoicing throughout the areas of Phoenicia and Samaria. As they met with the elders in Jerusalem, they found that some who had already believed in Christ

who were still linked to the Pharisees, advocated keeping the law of Moses. New converts often get confused about doctrine and must continue to be taught.

Peter speaks with great authority. Peter was highly qualified to speak since it was through his witness in the house of Cornelius, that the gospel was first brought to the Gentiles. He chided the immature believers for placing heavy burdens on Gentile believers that they were not able to bear. One Bible translation said, “Why are you trying to out-god God?” He established the truth of Salvation by grace without any admixture of works (verse 11).

Paul and Barnabas testify (verse 12-15). The group listened as the two spoke of miracles, signs and wonders that God did through them, among the Gentiles, which further verified the truth that Peter spoke. They then deliver the truth that one day God would restore Israel and Christ would sit upon the throne of David during the Millennium.

The report to Antioch (verses 24-35). A delegation was sent back to Antioch with the encouraging message that Salvation was totally by grace without works.

THE LOOK

Be thankful and encouraged when you know you belong to a church body where the truth of the gospel of Christ is preached and taught. When this occurs, there will be a great harmony in the fellowship.

Paul Gauntt is the pastor of First Baptist Church of Palmer, Texas. 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.



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Letters to the Editor

PowerPoint presentations available

In my over 50 years as a minister in the BMA, I have tried to focus a lot on teaching. For the last 15 years or so, I have converted many of my former studies to PowerPoint presentations and have developed others to go along with them. My next birthday will be my 80th so I am aware that it is unlikely I will ever use any of them again. Therefore, I was seeking a way whereby they could be available to others who may want to use them. Obviously, anything that others disagree with can be changed. Therefore, I have just opened the website edsteeleministry.com to offer much of what I have prepared. There are over 90 PowerPoint presentations, including verse by verse studies of Revelation and Daniel. There are files containing class handouts that go along with 7 of these studies. Twelve documents I have written can be downloaded. One is as short as 6 pages and a study on the Gospel of John I recently completed has 29 lessons with over 160 pages. There are nearly 150 videos from 15 DVD discs that can be watched or downloaded. Everything I offer is free to any who want any of the items. The videos are not professionally done as you will readily see if you view them. I also will include a devotional that will appear on the home page for a short time before being archived on the site.

I am now working on another document on 'The Lordship

Of Jesus' that I hope to complete and add in a few days or weeks. I will also video tape another series containing several funeral messages. People are so distraught and tired at a funeral that most of them will not remember what is preached and no one but the preacher carries a Bible to a funeral anyway. Hopefully, these messages can be used to give comfort to people long after the funerals are over. I also see the possibility of someone who is approaching death may want to watch them because of what they are facing. I hopefully will have time to prepare other documents and videos to add later.

I hope you can check out edsteeleministry.com and feel free to make suggestions on what can make it better. Also, I would appreciate you sharing it with others. Preachers and Bible teachers may be interested in the PowerPoint presentations and class handouts. Many others may enjoy reading the documents provided or be able to watch the videos on an electronic device or television.

Ed Steele
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Expository Preaching by Dr. E. Harold Henderson

As you know, our dear preacher friend, Jerry Burnaman, went to be with Jesus last month. His gracious wife, Nancy, gave several of us the opportunity to come and pick out some books from his library. Among the great finds, I came across a rough draft of a 26-page dissertation written by Dr. E. Harold Henderson titled Expository Preaching.

The discoloration of the paper plus the fact it seems to be typed on an IBM Selectric tells me that it's at least a half-century old, and was possibly his Doctor of Theology dissertation at Southwestern.

I made contact with his son, Steve, who in turn contacted his sister, Sharon, and they have given me permission to retype it, and make it available to any and all of our preacher friends at no cost. The original rough draft will be sent back to his children.

Not only does he lead us into principles for developing expository sermons, but he demonstrates, in practical and easily understood ways, simple steps and procedures for taking verses, multi-verse texts, chapters and books of the Bible and developing outlines. When you read it, it's like you are receiving a homiletics refresher course.

Totally convinced expository preaching (which is considered by many a lost art in the church today) is essential for the strengthening and equipping of

the saints, I believe this tool will enhance your preaching ministry.

Dr. Henderson's children graciously gave consent for this valuable work to be made available—free of charge. If any preacher, Sunday school teacher or evangelist who preaches the pure, unadulterated Word of God would like a copy, the document will be emailed to you free of charge.

You can read it on your desktop, or print it to hard copy. Just email pastor@fbcpalmer.org and ask for Expository Preaching by Dr. E. Harold Henderson, and it will be e-mailed back to you quickly.



▲ Dr. E. Harold Henderson

Paul Gauntt, pastor
First, Palmer
pastor@fbcpalmer.org

BMA Texas Missions cont.

started off virtual only. Over the next month, all of them plan to transition back to face to face. We are excited to see this happen as more people return to a little bit more normal schedule. Through all of this we have been able to minister to a lot of hurting and struggling families. We receive messages almost daily from someone that is struggling in some way. Most of these messages come to us from people we have never met but are following us online. Pray for us as we continue to build these relationships and minister to them. We are also seeing one person a month accept Christ as their Savior due to our digital presence. We are thankful that God is using this ongoing situation to allow us to reach new people.

Prayer Needs:

Pray for us as we lead our church through COVID-19.

**Isaias Rojas Osechas—
Church Plant in Spring
isaias.roja5299@gmail.com**

Thank you for your prayers and support. We are providing training and enrichment activities. We are achieving our goals to reach new souls for Christ in three new mission points in Harris, Spring, and Montgomery (Woodlands) Counties.

**Neptaly Molina—
Iglesia Bautista Mission, Nacogdoches
nrmolina23@gmail.com**

I have been reflecting on why I plant new works, and I see there are five reasons why I should plant churches:

1. To follow the biblical strategy
2. To practice evangelism effectively
3. To bring in the harvest
4. To reach new groups of people
5. To obey the Great Commission

Prayer Needs:

Pray for my spiritual and family life. Pray that we reach the goals we have set for September to December as we continue to work in and around Nacogdoches.

3 My theological classes graduation next year God through.

**Gamaliel Luna—
New Mission in El Paso
gamaluga@hotmail.com**

We have moved into a new building and have these needs:

1. Bass speaker
2. Speaker for keyboard and a keyboard
3. Projector
4. Four microphones
5. Computer
6. Cables for microphone connections
7. Live studio audio mixer/mixing console
8. Microphone stands
9. Drum Set

We would be blessed to receive items or the money to purchase them. Thank you for everything.

Heith Mitchell is the director of BMA of Texas Missions. Contact him at P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, Texas 75168, 972-923-0757 or hmitchell@bmatexas.org. For more information, visit www.bmatexasmissions.org.



events

BMA OF TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: November 5, 2020

(Date changed to one day only meeting)

PLACE: Farley Street Baptist Church,
Waxahachie, Texas

pastor & staff changes

NICK BUMGARDNER is the new pastor of Mt. Olive, Scurry.

NICK KERRY is the new pastor of Beacon, Bryan.

RAIF TURNER has resigned as pastor of LakeRidge, Lubbock.

** If you are aware of pastor and staff changes, please let us know at Baptist Progress by emailing us at editor@baptistprogress.org.*

ordination

BRADY WEAVER was ordained to the Gospel Ministry at New Harmony, Tyler Aug. 23, 2020.

personnel & positions

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

PASTOR—Walnut Street, Winnsboro is seeking a senior pastor. Send resume to P.O. Box 587, Winnsboro, Texas 75494. ^{9/20}

PASTOR—Richland Heights, Grand Saline is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to Sheryl Rico, 740 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Canton, Texas 75103, bk2sq1@icloud.com or call 254-733-8863. ^{10/20}

PASTOR—Spring Branch, Taylor, Arkansas, established in 1857, is seeking a bivocational pastor. We are a small BMA church looking to grow our congregation. Send resume to Jody Taylor at jodytaylor2019@icloud.com or P.O. Box 366, Sarepta, Louisiana 71071. For any questions or concerns feel free to call 318-230-5856. ^{9/20}

PASTOR—Center Hill, Oakhurst, located off of Highway 190 in Oakhurst, is prayerfully seeking a experienced bi-vocational pastor. Send resume to chdcpastorsearch@gmail.com or call 936-662-7831. ^{11/20}

PASTOR—Elwood, Wills Point is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to P.O. Box 536, Wills Point, Texas 75169, to billypolege@yahoo.com or call 214-536-5795. ^{TFN}

PASTOR—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a pastor. Send resume to jimmysealy@aol.com or to FMBC Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346. ^{TFN}

PASTOR—First, Jacksonville is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 210 Philip Street, Jacksonville, Texas 75766 or email to reception@firstjax.org. ^{TFN}

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, 2020 – Aug. 31, 2020.

ENDOWMENTS

MYRA STOKES: Bill Stokes
E ANN PACE: Karl & Martha Pace

HONORARIUMS

PALMER ANDERSON: James & Susan Anderson
HOLLIN ANDERSON: James & Susan Anderson
DAVID & JUDY EVANS 48TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: Wayne & Linda Beason
DENISE GASTON (2020 VBS CO-DIRECTORS @ ROSEWOOD): Charles Johnson
CHARLOTTE JOHNSON (2020 VBS CO-DIRECTORS @ ROSEWOOD): Charles Johnson
MY LORD: Earlene Crenshaw
FRED MORROW'S 80TH BIRTHDAY: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
KARL & MARTHA PACE: Carrie Walker
ANNA & RACHEL USSERY: Lamar & Peggy Lee
MRS. BOBBIE WINTTERS: Jerry Null
ABBIE WOOD: Gail McVey

MEMORIALS

WALTER BECKER: Dennis & Ilona Myrice
LARRY & ROSELEN BOBO: James Bobo
JESSE GLEN BROOKES: Community Baptist Church, Killeen
JERRY BURNAMAN: Allen & Holly Cousins; Friendship Class @ FBC, Carthage
JANIE TRAYWICK BYMAN: Mike & Sondra Moore; Mamie & Chuck Henry
CHRISTINE CALLAHAN: Billy Smith
MAXINE CALLAHAN: Linda & Benny Lewis
HOWARD CARROLL: John & Marie Terry
LLOYD CASHION: Wayne & Linda Beason
VICKI CHRISTIAN: Bobby & Lillian Trimble; Renae James; Jed & Glenice Whitaker
TAYLOR COX: Nathan & Carolyn Andrews
REV. FRANK & DORIS DILL: Barbara Brown
WALT DUNN: Wayne & Linda Beason
RALPH E EDGE: Kirk & Emma Burleson; Waymon Blair; Terry & Patti Hooper
MARVIN J. 'SONNY' EFURD: Larry & Carol Brock; Weldon & Lana Sparks; Rebecca Youngblood
GLEN FRAZIER: Jed & Glenice Whitaker
MARLENE GORE: Jed & Glenice Whitaker
DONALD CHARLES HARTLEY: Dickey Hartley
CHARLES HOWARD: Wayne & Linda Beason
JOYCE 'MIM' JOHNSON: The Charles Mack Sansing Trust
JIMMY KEELING: Liberty Baptist Church, Henderson
GEORGIA NELL LANCASTER: Carolyn Fisher
TIM MABE: Corinn Stroud; Sulphur Springs HS Class of 1971; Brian West; Scott & Sharon Dresh
LINDA MABERRY: Wayne & Linda Beason
MR. & MRS. VIRGIL MAYES: Nelson & Veda Womack
COACH MEEKS: Colby Dickson
MR. & MRS. HARRY J. MEYER: Roy & Elizabeth Talbot
H.V. MINTER: Barbara Wilson; Amy Coburn; Margaret Semons
CHARLES MITCHELL: Gay Mitchell
EVELYN JO NEILL: Timothy & Eugenia Boley
SANDY & MACKENZIE PARKS: Adult Sunday School Class @ Mahl Baptist Church
FLOYD DUANE PHY: Jed Dockery
PEGGY REEVES: Nathan & Carolyn Andrews
SUE RIDDLE: Temple Baptist Church, Mexia
KENNETH SANDIFER: J.C. & Anita Lassiter; Dora Barnett
LEE SHORT: Fay Short
PEGGY SIMONEK: Jed & Glenice Whitaker
ABIGAIL SMITH: Renee Lusk
ROBERT STEDRY: Central Baptist Church, Mineola
REV. GLEN & REBA STOVALL: Donald Vaughn
MICHAEL TARPLEY: Margie Bailey
BRO. GLEN TROPP: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
MARY ANN VAUGHN: Buford & Sarah Delk; Wood County Baptist Association; Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Donald Vaughn
REBA WETZEL: Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Jed & Glenice Whitaker
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memorials-honorariums

Thank you, Lord! We are back in session!

