

Baptist Progress

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THE INFORMING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRY OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS | SEPTEMBER 2022 | VOL. 109 | NO. 09

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OLD BETHEL: REACHING OUT TO
HER COMMUNITY--SUPPORTING
HER DENOMINATION

THY KINGDOM COME

2022 BMA of Texas Meeting scheduled for Nov. 7-8

By **JERRY FULTON**

Baptist Progress Editor

Plans have been finalized for the 2022 BMA of Texas Meeting to be held at First, Livingston Nov. 7-8. The theme of this year's meeting is *Thy Kingdom Come* (Psalm 2). An added time of fellowship opportunities with soccer and frisbee golf will be offered this year. If one would like to participate in either opportunity, please contact First, Livingston at 936-327-4417 to register.

Registration for the meeting and the Women's Missionary Auxiliary (WMA) will begin at 11 a.m. Nov. 7. The first general session will begin at 1:30 p.m. and will include a concert by the Jacksonville College Singers and a message by BMA of Texas President Ryan Burchett.

Breakout sessions are set to begin at 3:30 p.m. and will include the following:

- **BMAT 101 (orientation for pastors new to the BMA of Texas)** with Heith Mitchell
- **Engaging Your Community** with Kevan Wood
- **Pastoral Self-Care** with Lee Poe
- **Reflecting Christ Through Christian**

Ministries—For Not Only Pastors' Wives but Every Lady Who is Willing to Serve Christ with Charlotte Johnson

- **Reaching Your Spanish-Speaking Neighbor** with Elvis Garcia
- **Children, Youth and Worship Swap Meets** with First, Livingston staff

The second session of the annual meeting will begin at 6 p.m. with a concert by The Erwins sponsored by *Baptist Progress*. A private donation is making this concert possible. The Erwins are a Grammy-nominated group who incorporate a variety of music styles into their concerts.

Following the concert, Todd West, BMA of Texas Pastor Connections Coordinator, will preach. West, a longtime beloved BMA pastor and evangelist, has worked diligently for the past year in connecting with pastors, state missionaries and local associations across the state.

The schedule for Nov. 8 includes the WMA

Meeting at 9 a.m. A leadership conference, sponsored by BMA Texas Missions will begin at 10 a.m. with David Crain. Crain is a high-energy Christian musician and speaker who will inspire and challenge you. He travels nationwide using music, humor and a very direct approach to reach people of all ages. As a speaker, Crain always delivers in a way that entertains while drawing the listener into a deeper relationship with Christ. He will be an encouragement to those who attend the leadership conference.

The afternoon session on Nov. 8 will include reports from each department of the BMA of Texas, the BMA of Texas Coordinating Committee, the BMA of Texas Nominating Committee, as well as other ministries. The final session will include a commissioning service for BMA of Texas missionaries and the annual message, delivered by James Schoenrock, pastor of Sheppard Drive, Euless.

A complete schedule and hotel information are included on p.12 of this issue.



WWW.BMATEXAS.ORG

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MAKING PROGRESS

We did it! 2022 Anniversary Offering goal exceeded

By JERRY FULTON

After reporting in the last issue that we almost reached the goal for the *Baptist Progress Anniversary Offering*, more donations poured in causing us to exceed our goal of \$10,000. Thank you!



▲ Jerry Fulton

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Blackjack, Troup | 110.00 | Jackson, Joaquin | 500.00 |
| Calvary, Trinidad | 110.00 | Lakeridge, Lubbock | 610.00 |
| Calvary, Ennis | 110.00 | Leggett, Leggett | 110.00 |
| Calvary, Fairfield | 1,183.75 | Little Mound, Gilmer | 110.00 |
| Camille Acres, Longview | 110.00 | Macune, San Augustine | 110.00 |
| Central, Aspermont | 200.00 | Mahl, Nacogdoches | 110.00 |
| China Grove, Eustace | 110.00 | Martins Prairie, Anderson | 150.00 |
| Cornerstone, Jacksonville | 110.00 | Matthews, David and Vickie, Purdon | 110.00 |
| East Tempe, Livingston | 110.00 | New Beginnings, Ferris | 110.00 |
| Ebenezer Friendship, Pittsburgh | 110.00 | New Hope, Mineola | 110.00 |
| Enon First, Iola | 110.00 | New Hope, New Waverly | 110.00 |
| Enon, Gilmer | 110.00 | New Hope, Streetman | 110.00 |
| Enterprise, Jacksonville | 110.00 | New Salem, Centerville | 110.00 |
| Farley Street, Waxahachie | 500.00 | Olde Tyme, Longview | 110.00 |
| First, Arp | 110.00 | Pecan, Robert Lee | 110.00 |
| First, Blooming Grove | 110.00 | Prichett, Gilmer | 110.00 |
| First, Cleburne | 110.00 | Red Springs, Tyler | 110.00 |
| First, Crandall | 110.00 | Rosewood, Gilmer | 110.00 |
| First, DeSoto | 110.00 | Round Praire, Fairfield | 220.00 |
| First, Glenn Heights | 110.00 | Sheppard Drive, Euless | 110.00 |
| First, McAdoo | 1,000.00 | Sheridan Terrace, Palestine | 85.00 |
| First, Morton | 110.00 | Slocum, Elkhart | 110.00 |
| First, Palmer | 110.00 | South Park, Fort Worth | 110.00 |
| First, Rice | 110.00 | Suburban Wood, Humble | 110.00 |
| Forest Hill, Amarillo | 110.00 | Sunset, Lamesa | 150.00 |
| Friendship, Mesquite | 110.00 | Walnut Street, Winnsboro | 110.00 |
| Glade Creak, Gilmer | 500.00 | Ward Prairie, Fairfield | 150.00 |
| Harmony Odell, Huntington | 110.00 | Weeks Chapel, Jasper | 1,110.00 |
| Harmony, Nacogdoches | 110.00 | Zion Hill, Jasper | 110.00 |
| Holly Grove, Livingston | 220.00 | | |
| | | TOTAL | \$11,528.75 |



A word from your Missions Office

By HEITH MITCHELL

It is fall, BMA of Texas Family! You know what that means: a lot of fellowship around the work of Ministry. I look forward to seeing as many of you as I can at local BMA meetings around the state. Twenty three local meetings will take place around Texas. I look forward to catching up with you, hearing about your local ministry and sharing all that God is doing through your missionaries. Our God is at work. His mission is alive and well.

The local association trail ends with all of us gathering together at the 2022 BMA of Texas Meeting. We look forward to seeing you, serving you and informing you. This meeting is a reunion each year as we catch up with brothers and sisters from around the state. Your missionaries will be there for you to meet and know. We will here good preaching, get reports and serve the Lord by carrying out important Kingdom business. I expect us all to be encouraged.

Would you and your church consider participating in your local and state association? I believe it matters and that you will benefit from attending. It is good for churches and their members to rub shoulders with other churches and to work together for the good of the Great Commission and the Kingdom of God.

Texas Missions is your ministry. It is governed by you and your church. We value your voice and oversight through the association as well as your partnership in your Texas Missions Movement. I'll see you there or in the air.

A word from your missionaries

**JEREMIAH AKINTUNDE—
LIVING HOPE CHURCH, DUNCANVILLE
AKINTOYEAKINTUNDE2@GMAIL.COM**

Though the beginning may be challenging or rough, we should never dismay because God is at work as we walk by faith, not by sight. Our strength and power source are from God, Who called us to minister to His people.

Prayer Needs:

Continue to pray for my family to join me and for the growth of the church, Living Hope Church, in Duncanville.

**TIMOTHY ALBA—THE BRIDGE, SEAGOVILLE
TIMALBA1986@GMAIL.COM**

I think one of the biggest parts of ministry is personal health. We often teach our members the importance of spiritual, physical and mental health but often dismiss these teachings for ourselves. I have learned that balance and exercise is good for your personal development, especially during ministry. I have now learned that keeping myself healthy will make my ministry healthy.

Prayer Needs:

Continue to pray for our church as we are constantly seeking direction each month and year. Thanks and God bless you.

**ISAIAS MARTINEZ—CONROE MISSION, CONROE
ISAIASMJ1966@GMAIL.COM**

We appreciate the camaraderie and coaching that the association is providing through Pastor Elvis Garcia, which has allowed us to maintain and deepen the work of the mission.

Prayer Needs:

Pray for our family as we go through the naturalization process.

**FIDEL TORRES—PLANTING IN DENTON
FIDTOL@MSN.COM**

We are very grateful to God for the opportunity of our first prayer meeting with three couples who are prospects to be men and women of peace. In our meeting, we were able to enjoy very uplifting Bible teaching which greatly encouraged me.

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

We continue to work on forming, not a church, but a set of churches in the city of San Antonio and all the towns around the southwest area of Texas. That is why we want to involve the greatest number of workers willing to prepare for conquest through evangelism and discipleship, without neglecting the five functions of the church known as PESCA (Proclamation, Teaching, Service, Fellowship and Worship).

Prayer Needs:

Please pray for the beginning of a new work in the northern area of San Antonio with Bro. Abner Núñez.

**JAIME HENRIQUEZ—FUENTE DE VIDA ETERNA MISSION,
HOUSTON
DAIRYJENY@YAHOO.COM**

We salute all the brethren and each of the churches of the BMA of Texas family and appreciate your prayers and help. Our mission is growing spiritually and numerically, little by little, and we are excited about what God is doing.

Prayer Needs:

Please pray for Ezequiel Ortega who needs a kidney transplant and whose surgery costs \$20,000 and for Juan Espinosa who is hospitalized for a heart infection. Pray that God will save souls every time we present the gospel.

**BICHITRANANDA SATPATHY—
INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST MISSION, FORT WORTH
BICHITRANANDA31@GMAIL.COM**

Thank you very much for your faithful prayers and giving which sustain us in the ministry. We need your daily prayers for our ministry and also your financial help as we continue to press on in the work of the Kingdom. This month, the Lord gave us another soul and we rejoice in it. The Lord is at work as usual. This reminds me that the labor we do in the name of the Lord is not in vain. Your prayers and support are not in vain. We are greatly encouraged!.

Prayer Needs:

I have a special and specific request for you to pray for my medical needs. Last month, I had to be in the emergency room due to pneumonia and the medical bill is \$3,000. I covet your prayers and kind support which will ease my financial burden. I believe God will meet this specific need according to His riches and glory.

**RUDY VILLAREAL—PLANTING IN SAN ANTONIO
ROBLESGUADALUPE51@GMAIL.COM**

They are partnering with us to reach many people here in San Antonio. We are sharing the Gospel, and seeing people looking for God connecting with us. We started a Bible study on Thursday mornings and a women's group on Tuesday mornings. We have met many people and shared the Gospel with several people. One lady confided in Janice about how thankful she is to have fellowship, because she has been discouraged not being able to find a church. I met with a veteran moving into our neighborhood thankful to have found a Bible study to be in fellowship with other believers. We also recently had a pool party where several couples that were there confessed their need to be in community together. They are seeking to belong to a church. Even though they go to church they have not sought and do not understand yet the importance of belonging to the church as members. We are seeing momentum and it is exciting to be apart of in our early part of this church plant. Please pray that these people will start belonging and commit to our church plant.

Prayer Needs:

Please pray that these 20 adults that we have started relationships with that they commit to our church plant. Also that these new 6 couples we recently met that want to belong to a community of believers also believe in the vision of our church plant and partner with us on our launch team. Pray that we are able to see our needs met as we seek to put up a booth at our city's Market Days each month to reach people. Also that our needs to put on a "Vision Night," and call all of the people we have started relationships with to commit to our church plant and partner with us to make disciples here in our hometown! Thank You!

**HARISHCHANDRA BINAYAK—
ASSOCIATE AT INTERNATIONAL
BAPTIST MISSION, FT WORTH
HARISRED1988@GMAIL.COM**

I would like to thank every individual and church that have been praying for me. It has been challenging but praise God that we have people coming to the Lord from Nepali community in Fort Worth. May God bless you all!

**CHRIS MINDI—ANCHOR AUSTIN MISSION IN LEANDER
CHRIS.MINDI@BMATS.EDU**

COMFORT OR COMMITMENT- I want to encourage you with few words from Luke 9:57-62. It's an awesome text talking about following Jesus and being in discipleship with Him. Our Lord does not appreciate a hasty decision to follow Him, He warns to make a decision to follow Him with careful consideration, it costs, family, security in life, comfort and sometime even death. He requires his disciples to be following him knowing all that will be lost. Secondly, He wants no

BMA TEXAS MISSION continued on p. 15



Compassionate Hope, a new adventure for TBHC

By JASON CURRY

God has been stirring our hearts and we are excited about our new venture to further the work of Compassionate Hope. If you have not heard or read about Compassionate Hope yet, here is a bit of background information. Compassionate Hope was founded 13 years ago by Joanna Noggle, a longtime TBHC employee and supporter, who began by serving orphanages in Romania, Moldova and Ukraine. Her late husband, Russ, taught evangelism and distributed Bibles throughout the area to spread God’s Word. Together, their driving force was compassion, intervention and evangelism. They worked this ministry together for many years before Russ’s passing in 2018.

Several months ago, Joanna and I started discussing the desire to expand TBHC’s ministry to include an international component. We have taken steps towards integration and with excitement, we see that this ministry fits within TBHC’s purpose to, “Glorify God by Caring for Children.” I see a future with challenges to reach the lost overseas, the chance to equip the workers locally and the opportunity to widen the ministry.

This will not be an adoption ministry. We will just be walking along side those that serve children and families in this area already. As we collaborate and bring this ministry together, it is my hope that we would continue the work with excellence and in time exceed the current work. We will walk ever gently but purposely towards God’s plans for His ministry.

As mentioned before, Joanna has been associated with TBHC for most of her adult life. She has held every role imaginable in the modern era of the organization. She has confidence in TBHC’s existing ministry and knows the commitment on my part to grow and help the ministry thrive under its umbrella. Neither I nor Joanna has walked into this agreement lightly. The legacy of Russ and Joanna is at the heart of its future success and the model they established will have a lasting influence on the ministry’s future.

Over its 13 years, Compassionate Hope has built a giving base that includes several churches and individuals. Many of these supporters have given to both ministries separately over the years. We want to assure you that your gifts made to TBHC will continue to support both ministries. Let me remind you, that if you are a ‘dual’ giver then we need your gifts to continue to both Compassionate Hope and TBHC ministries to be able to sustain them. If you have not heard or read about Compassionate Hope before then find out more by visiting www.tbhc.org/compassionate-hope

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.



Mark 3 describes Jesus withdrawing from the crowds that had begun following him everywhere. It was the most important time in history:

- The Messiah had come to save the world.
- He would soon appoint the Twelve.
- He would teach mankind the most radical ideas ever heard . . .

and Jesus took time to get away and pray, to reset and to refocus. If the Son of God took time to do so, how much more should we look for opportunities to change our pace and reframe our minds.

Re:Charge Leaders Oasis is scheduled for Sept. 27-29, 2022 at the beautiful The Hotel Hot Springs in Hot Springs, Arkansas. This year, pastor, author and speaker Bill Elliff will be speaking, Travis Sellers from Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas, will lead worship and funny man Brad Stine will provide dinner entertainment one evening.

For more information, registration and hotel reservations, go to www.bmaamerica.org/recharge.

An expression of everlasting love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend, or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in bold letters are those honored or remembered from Aug. 1-31, 2022.

ENDOWMENT:

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

MEMORIALS:

ANN PUGH: Elizabeth Midkiff; Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Sandra Hughes; Coulter Family; Cindy Allen; Gleta & David Hall; Ky & Pamela Evans
BECKY HARRIS: Jed & Glenice Whitaker
BRENDA BRUNSON: Galand Brunson; Frances Smith; Laure Henthorn
BRUCE SWANNER: Jed & Glenice Whitaker
BUDDY & LULU HAZELL: Cheryl Briscoe
BUSTER DUNN: Betty & Mike Dunn
C. W. SANDIFER: Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church; John & Dora Barnett; Brenda Mewborn
CAROL LUCKOW: Jim & Margaret Wolf
CAROLYN ODOM: Lois Tucker
CECIL DOWNEY: Charlie Downey
DANIEL BAKER: BMA Loan Association, Waxahachie
DON SEAHORN: Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Jed & Glenice Whitaker
DOROTHY WRIGHT: Thomas Jeter
EDDIE BYRD: Darinda Medcalf
ELWYN RHODES JR: David & Vickie Matthews
FAY BAKER: BMA Loan Association, Waxahachie
FRANK HOOD: 261 Steel
HELEN RAY: Ky & Pamela Evans
HELEN ROSSON: Red Springs Missionary Baptist Church
I D NEEL: Jed & Glenice Whitaker
JANET RACE: Richard & Kim Smith; Charles & Charlotte Johnson
JERRY EFURD: Marvin & Sue Efurd
JIM LABARGE: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
JOE JOHNSTON: Forest Hill Baptist Church
KATHY DANIELS: Jed & Glenice Whitaker
LARRY & ROSELEN BOBO: James Bobo
LESTER & MACIE COLLINS: David & Diana Wisener
LOVITA LOU OUIMET: James Ouimet
LUCILLE EDWARDS: Cindy Allen; Tabernacle Baptist Church, Jacksonville
MARY JO DEAN: Jed & Glenice Whitaker
MATTHEW RENEUX: Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Rosewood Baptist Church
MICHAEL TARPLEY: Patricia Tarpley
MIKE HORN: Jimmy Woodson
MOZELLE JAMAR: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
MR. & MRS. EDWARD E. TALBOT: Roy & Elizabeth Talbot
NORTON LOVELL: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
ORBA HIGHT: Jed & Glenice Whitaker
PHILIP HOLT: Jed & Glenice Whitaker
RICKIE JOHNSTON: Duane & Charlotte Turner
SAM BRITE: Jed & Glenice Whitaker
SHIRLEY & CLAYTON WHITE: Children's Choice
TEX & THERESA JOHNSON: 261 Steel
TORIE WALKER: Carrie Walker
VERDA HASLEY: David & Diana Wisener
VICKI EFURD: Marvin & Sue Efurd
WALTER BECKER: Dennis & Ilona Myrice
WANDA SMITH: Mary Ann Wylie Insurance Agency; Jed & Glenice Whitaker

memorials-honoring

Thompson honored for 70 years of teaching children at Red Springs, Tyler

By **JERRY FULTON**
Baptist Progress

Mrs. Claudia Thompson was honored by her church family, Red Springs, Tyler, for teaching children in the church for over 70 years Aug. 21. Former students, friends and fellow-church members totaled 136 in attendance for the celebration. Former students gave testimonies of the impact Mrs. Thompson made on their lives. Former pastor Fred Morrow gave a touching speech of the great memories he had as Thompson’s pastor. Thompson was presented with a sash that read, “Teacher of the Century.”

The theme of the day was *That Old Country Church*. In keeping with the theme, some wore overalls, plaids and old hats. A lot of old country church music was sung and played and included musical instruments such as banjos, mandolins and a washtub bass. The service can be viewed on the church’s YouTube channel. Thompson has been very instrumental in the Girls Missionary Auxiliary of the BMA and is a faithful attendee of BMA meetings.



▲ Pastor Collin Jones makes a presentation to Mrs. Claudia Thompson



GOD'S GIFT


HEAVEN IS A FREE GIFT!
It is not earned or deserved. No amount of effort or good works can earn a place for you in heaven. Why? Because . . .

MAN IS A SINNER.
“For all have sinned . . .” (Rom. 3:23) Because of this, man cannot save himself. GOD. On the one hand, God is merciful and does not want to punish us. Yet God is just and must punish sin. God solved this problem for us in the Person of . . .

JESUS CHRIST.
He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and rose from the grave to purchase a place for us in heaven—“the Lord has laid on Him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all” (Isa. 53:6).

THE GIFT IS RECEIVED BY FAITH.
Saving faith is trusting in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life. It means resting on Christ alone and what He has done, rather than what you or I have done to get us into heaven. “Believe on (or trust in) the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31).

SO MAY WE ASK . . .
Have you received God’s free gift of eternal life? The Bible assures us in 1 John 5:13 that we can know we have eternal life. Do you know for sure that you are going to heaven when you die? The Bible says, “Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” If you are willing to repent (turn away from your sin and to the Lord Jesus) you can receive the free gift of eternal life by simply praying: Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner and do not deserve eternal life. But I believe You died and rose from the grave to purchase a place in heaven for me. Jesus, come into my life, take control of my life, forgive my sins, and save me. I am now placing my trust in You alone for my salvation, and I accept your free gift of eternal life.



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

\$125 PER PERSON
UNTIL OCTOBER 1, 2022

\$145 PER PERSON
AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2022

NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

CHATEAU ON THE LAKE

\$132 PER NIGHT *PLUS TAXES AND FEES
UNTIL OCTOBER 1, 2022



SIGHT & SOUND
SHOW



ANTIOCH VOCAL BAND
CONCERT



RICHARD SMITH
CONFERENCE PASTOR



TRAVIS SELLERS
CONFERENCE WORSHIP



CBC CHOIR
CONCERT

WWW.BMAAMERICA.ORG/SENIOR

ROSEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 25**

10:30 AM

WE WILL ALSO HAVE A
DEDICATION SERVICE FOR
OUR NEW FELLOWSHIP
HALL BUILDING.
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.

BRO. WAYNE WHITESIDE
GUEST SPEAKER



www.rosewoodbaptist.net

LOCAL-CHURCH DRIVEN

BY: Dr. John David Smith
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

We believe that God's mission is all about his glory to the nations in and through his church. If you have been listening very long to BMA Global Missions you have heard the following two statements:

"The local church is both the source and the goal of New Testament missions."

"Missions offices and agencies do not reproduce, churches do."

If indeed the local church is the recipient and executor of the Great Commission, we must look deeper into what is a church and exactly how does it fulfill the mission.

A church is a group of regenerate, baptized followers of Christ who meet to worship God, obey the commands of Christ, and scatter to make his name known to the nations. Typically we are fairly adept at the gathering part for worship and gaining Bible information. But it is the scattering part - the missionary part - that challenges us many times. This must be overcome since the church is the normal and primary means of accomplishing the mission.

The New Testament prominence of the local church in fulfilling the mission is indisputable. Jesus' love for the church is noteworthy. In John 13 he "loved them to the end." In Matthew 16 and 18 we see clear instructions on authority given to the church that Christ initiated and loved. In Acts 20, Jesus declares that he purchased the church with his own blood. In the letters to the churches of Revelation (2-3), it is evident that Christ loves his churches.

This center stage for the church in the mission is evidenced all through the New Testament; as the gospel advanced, churches were started. In Acts 2, over 3,000 were added to the church as they proclaimed the gospel. Another church was started in Antioch of Syria that became the very epicenter of the missionary movement. Churches were started in Galatia on the first missionary journey then throughout Asia Minor, Greece, and all the way to Rome in the 33-year period that the book of Acts covers.

Churches as the source and goal of New Testament missions continued as those original churches multiplied more churches.

The church at Colossae helped to plant new churches at Hierapolis and Laodicea. Churches were started in "all the cities" on the island of Crete as told in the book of Titus. In all of these situations where churches were the result of fulfilling the mission, they then became the source of new churches. "In the New Testament the Christian life is the church life" (Jonathan Leeman).

We have defined a church, now what is the mission? There are five major commissions in the New Testament. We commonly call Matthew 28:19-20 the Great Commission. We will return to that passage in a moment. Mark 16:15 says to preach the gospel to all creatures. Luke 24 says to announce the message of repentance and forgiveness to the nations. John 20:21 tells us that just as Jesus was sent, so are we. Acts 1:8 says to simultaneously, like concentric circles, reach from our Jerusalem to the ends of the

earth as Spirit-empowered witnesses. The Great Commission gives us one imperative - "Go make disciples of all nations" - as carried out through three participles: going, baptizing, and teaching. The three participles also become imperative since they are connected to the one main command. This verse delineates our mission this way: "Go win disciples of Christ in all nations, baptize them in obedience to Christ and as a new identity in Christ, and teach them God's Word to the point where they internalize it in their understanding and externalize it through obedience." In other words, these are people in all nations who are won to Christ, baptized, taught God's Word, and now repeat all the above.

Another saying you have no doubt heard from us many times is, "The church is a disciple factory, not a believer warehouse." If our church is not spending most of its time, money, and energy in fulfilling this mission, we need to remember what a church is and what our mission is!

BMA Global Missions helps your church in the missionary process by providing the following:

- a credible recommendation system for other churches to help your missionary candidate get to the field
- detailed accounting and financial services
- pre-field and on-field training,
- a unified missionary effort under a unifying vision carried out with sound missions principles
- a structure of accountability to our churches
- very specified missionary care
- a security network
- basic requirements such as visas, insurance, and other daily needs

There are many who can support the church in the mission, but there is nothing that can supplant the church in mission. We pray that your church will be evangelizing, baptizing, discipling, and planting other churches. Our mission is local-church driven.



mission:world

NEWS

A HEART FOR YOUR COMMUNITY = A HEART FOR THE NATIONS

BY: Dr. Jason Aultman
Antioch Conway
antiochconway.com

If you went to the streets of any town and asked folks to tell you about Antioch, many would respond, “What’s an Antioch?” Maybe for those who would read a publication about missions we would be aware that the name is found in the Bible. But for many, it would be an unfamiliar name.

I pastored a church called “Antioch.” This Antioch, located in Conway, Arkansas, was organized in 1925. That was before my time, so I can’t say I got this information from the organizing members, but when that small group of folks considered what they would call their new church, I wonder if someone found their way to Acts 11 or Acts 13. Acts 11:26 says, “The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.” Scholars suggest that was not a term of endearment but of ridicule. But what likely began as mockery became an identification of honor. Christian . . . Christ-one . . . one belonging to Christ! There undoubtedly were certain characteristics, behaviors, and beliefs that clearly marked those who belonged to Christ. Shouldn’t it be the same today?

“What does that have to do with church planting?” you might ask. I believe it’s foundational to it. It doesn’t matter if your church is called Antioch Baptist, Timbuktu Baptist, or any other name that might be on the sign and website. If a church is being what a church is called to be, it should show evidence of those belonging to Christ. It should imprint Christ-like fingerprints on the community around it.

I wonder if anyone else would admit that when thinking about “missions” it’s often easier to think in terms of “out there” rather than “right here.” Maybe it’s easier to toss some money to people and delegate them to go be our missionaries than it is to look at the community around us and strive to reach that field too. I was asked to share about churches planting churches. So why am I talking about reaching our own community? Quite simply because if my heart doesn’t burn with a desire to reach my community, it’s unlikely that it will burn with a fire hot enough to do what it will take to be part of reaching another community. Are we making a difference in our community that would be missed if our church ceased to exist tomorrow? If not, perhaps we should reexamine our mission.

That church at Antioch . . . in Acts 13 we’re told that they sent out a missionary team - couple of guys named Saul (a.k.a. Paul) and Barnabas. (You can read the rest of Acts to see the ripple effect of that decision!) I want to be a part of something like that. A church making an impact on the field where God has placed us and as an overflow of that, seeking to reach others beyond our own geographic bounds.

That was some of the heart behind our planting a church in Georgetown, Texas – “Antioch Georgetown.” Georgetown is an area not dramatically different from Conway, so we felt this would offer some common ground. It is positioned in an area that is one of the fastest growing in the nation, just outside of Austin, so, strategically, it felt like a sky-is-the-limit field. As we searched it out, God continued to give green lights, and wheels were put in motion toward the planting of a church.

A key piece of the puzzle in our story was the selection of a pastor to lead the plant effort. We determined that a potential pastor would be asked to join our staff for an extended time (up to two years). This would allow the potential pastor to feel the heartbeat of the sending church as well as for us to observe his heart and skills. So the prospective pastor was identified, and Andy Comer joined our staff team. This time served to confirm things such as calling, passion, work ethic, and vision. It also served to deepen the church’s commitment and support of the planting effort.

It was determined from the outset that we would seek to plant with a team of people. We felt that there was merit (and biblical precedent!) to the adage “We is better than me,” so we established a goal of having a core team that would commit to be part of the launch effort. The time Andy spent on our staff provided the perfect opportunity to invite others to consider being part of the launch team, and as that team came into focus, to spend time in training and preparation. When all was said and done, a team of over thirty people (twenty adults plus children) formed the core of what would become Antioch Georgetown.

What a blessing it was to see a sending church standing in the gap with its church plant, doing anything possible to help it launch well. We provided prayer and financial support and sent teams to help canvas neighborhoods and staff launch services, for example.

What a blessing to see a church planting team accept the charge and go into a new community with a holy passion to reach people.

What a blessing to see God take those efforts and do things that give us no choice but to step back and say – Wow! God did (and is doing) that!

“So what now?” some have asked. And the answer is this: Let’s do it again. I hope that I . . . I hope that you . . . I hope that WE will dare to pray, ask, seek, dream, send and see what God will dare to do if we answer the call to be a church on a mission to reach the community where he has placed us and plant churches where he leads us.



Holding the Rope

BY: Larry Wood
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

The third of five value statements of BMA Missions says, “While multiplication is the process that fulfills the Mission of God in the New Testament, local congregations are both the source (sending) and the goal (planting) of that multiplication. Missions offices do not reproduce, churches do.” This value stands on Jesus’ command to the church to “go ye into all the world . . .” We have been eyewitnesses to the soundness of this value and its absolute necessity in planting churches at home and around the world.

To say that we could not have gotten to the mission field in Ukraine and accomplished the work of church planting without our sending church would be a gross understatement. Farley Street Waxahachie is not only our home church but our sending church. They helped to prepare us and supported us, and continue to do so, in many ways. Their decision to be an integral part of missions and church planting in Ukraine was necessary for the work to be effective.

Why is the church’s role necessary? Because it is God’s plan. God never intended the missionary to go alone. While some go, God intends for the church at home to be an active participant in the spreading of the gospel and church planting. In 1793, the Particular Baptist Society for Propagating the Gospel among the Heathen held a farewell service for William Carey as he prepared to leave for India as a missionary. Carey had a meeting with the four leaders of the society who promised him “as he went forth in the society’s name and their Master’s, they should never cease till death to stand by him.” One of the men, Andrew Fuller, described the meeting with this analogy. He said that the mission to India seemed like a few men who considered going into a deep, unexplored mine. It was as if Carey said, “Well, I will go down, if you will hold the rope.” The meeting, in Fuller’s mind, was as if he and the other brethren gave their word that “whilst we lived, we should never let go of the rope.” This rope analogy expresses a biblical truth: New Testament missions was designed by God to be a team effort. For every missionary that goes on the field there must be churches at home holding the rope.

How do churches “hold the rope?”

Financial support is an obvious and essential means, but it is not the only thing missionaries need to be effective church planters. We need the church to remain faithful to the Word of God. We need the church to be a place where those called to missions are discipled and trained. We need the church

to be prayer warriors and encouragers. We need the church to take mission trips, to come and see what God is doing. We need the church to hold the rope because without you the work will not be accomplished.

As we moved to Ukraine and settled in the city of Lutsk, a local Ukrainian church partnered with us for the purpose of planting churches. Fimiam Baptist Church extended an invitation to us to come to Lutsk and help them plant churches in their city and region. While Fimiam did not have the ability to provide financial support for a church plant, they did have a staff member who would become the Ukrainian pastor, and they sent some of their members to start the new church. The church, Fimiam, desired to start a new church plant because they realized this new church would reach people they would never reach. Fimiam realized a strong, evangelical church in another part of town would result in more people hearing the gospel and becoming followers of Christ. A church that would minister to local people, share the gospel, and disciple those people who would then reach more people for Christ.

Because churches in the United States and a church in Lutsk, Ukraine, were obedient to Jesus’ command, a new church was born. Water of Life Baptist Church had her launch service in November 2019 with over one hundred people in attendance, many of those members of Fimiam, who came to support the new congregation on her first day. Water of Life averaged fifty to sixty people each week in the beginning. God has continued to bless the church under the leadership of Pastor Sasha Grebenyuk and now has over two hundred people in worship every Sunday. One result of planting Water of Life has been the reestablishment of a sister church in Volodymyr. This

church was ready to close her doors but is now a thriving congregation because other churches came alongside her. Now there are other church plants beginning throughout Ukraine, all because churches followed the command of Jesus to “go ye into all the world . . .”

This is only one example of churches and missionaries working together as a team. There are many churches around the world that have been planted because churches sent and missionaries went. Missions

doesn’t work without the church being involved. The church is a vital part of God’s plan. Is your church “holding the rope?” If so, does it have a good grip?





MAKING MEDIA DISCIPLES AROUND THE WORLD

BY: Holly Meriweather
Lifeword
lifeword.org

Lifeword's global partners are also pastors, ministry leaders, and church planters, so the media they produce is an important part of their ministries. Planting churches is their primary mission no matter where they are throughout the world. Each of these men and women has a burden for their people group and unique challenges to sharing the gospel with non-believers and planting churches. Whether they meet in homes on a rotating basis or sponsor events for hundreds of children at a time, their purpose is to establish churches that further God's kingdom.

With five new churches being planted in the area, Brother Joseph Eniowo in Nigeria is now conducting discipleship with the help of smart phones that share the gospel with children and families. Nigerian parents want their children to learn about the Bible and Jesus even though they may never attend church. Hundreds of children come to kids events, which is the first step to meeting parents and eventually reaching them. Three new missions are also in the planning stages, and Brother Joseph and his leaders are praying about a BMA church in the future. He says God's Word is bearing fruit in the lives of their church members and disciples.

Eudo Rodrigues, who serves in Cape Verde, plants churches on other islands with the help of Lifeword programs he produces for both believers and non-

believers. People on his small island often recognize him from his videos, which allow him to help people find the churches he has planted or point people to those on other islands. European beliefs like "gnosticism" create cultural and spiritual challenges. But "spiritism", which eighty percent of Cape Verdeans claim as their belief system, makes it difficult to begin an evangelical work. However, Brother Eudo has recently baptized fourteen people and is planting a church on another island, which gives him the strength to continue.

With the help of Lifeword, Oscar and Tamy Gaitan have planted eight churches in eight years in Nicaragua and Cuba. In an effort to strengthen families within those churches, they have partnered with Lifeword to produce Spanish-speaking videos that teach biblical principles of marriage to Hispanic couples who may never have seen them modeled. It's rare that couples living

together are actually married, and men often leave the mothers of their children and start new families, only to leave them and father more children. So the Gaitans teach couples how to repair broken relationships, parent their children, and faithfully love each other. New churches are important in their efforts to serve families.

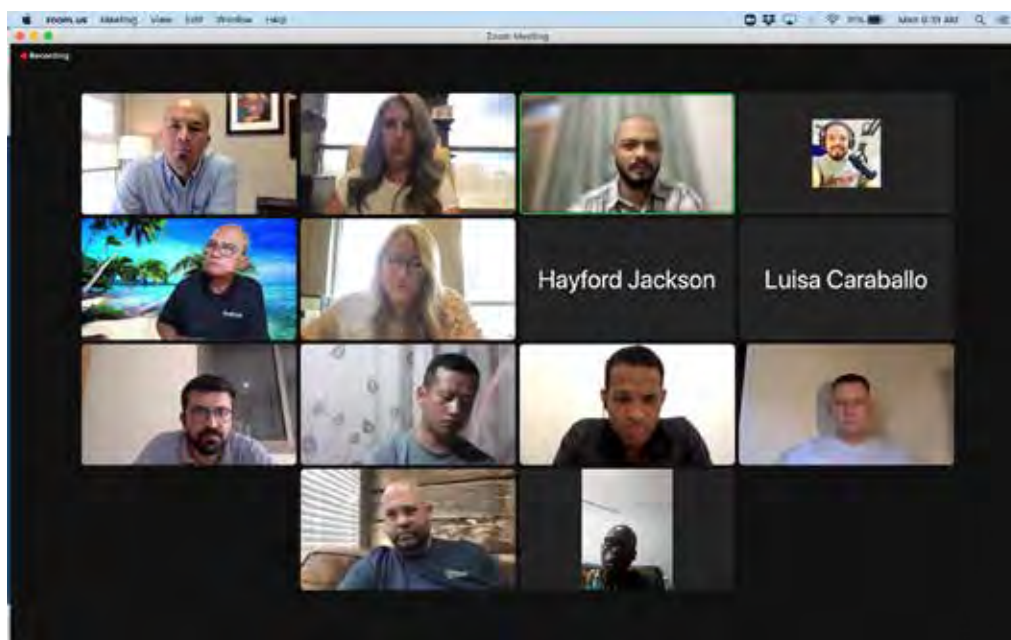
Valmori Zelaya has been serving in ministry for twelve years and now leads the Central American Online Radio Station, which feeds online radio stations and other Lifeword Community Radio stations in El Salvador. Although he lives in the larger city of Chinameca, he was born in the countryside of San Miguel, where there is no mission or church . . . until now. He has a

burden for both areas, but San Miguel has around fifty families who have not heard the gospel. Valmori has answered the call to plant a church there, beginning with a small group of fourteen people who are thirsty for God's Word and have been meeting despite the many government restrictions in El Salvador.

Making media disciples is Pete Etabag's main work, so he conducts seminars with Filipino broadcasters and technicians, many of whom are pastors and church planters. He teaches them to make short cell phone videos to reach people online with the gospel. Pastor Pete continues to add languages to Lifeword's list so more tribes can know who Jesus

is in their heart languages. Mindanao is the largest island in the Philippines and where many Filipinos remain unreached, so he installs transmitters that reach both the mountain and low land tribes where there is little to no WiFi. Churches have been planted in both areas, and Pastor Pete says radio ministry is still the most effective way to evangelize remote tribes.

Lifeword Director of Operations Luis Ortega says, "The Great Commission of making disciples of all nations was given to the local church, and what an honor it is for the local church to invite Lifeword to come alongside and partner with resources and tools as she obeys her Lord and Master."



Old Bethel: Reaching out to her community—Supporting her denomination

By **PAUL GAUNTT**
Baptist Progress Correspondent

Old Bethel Baptist Church, situated about 10 miles southwest of Canton about two miles off of Highway 198, has a history that stems back to the late 1800s. Since there were two Bethel churches in Van Zandt County back then, the church chose the name “Old Bethel” to remove any confusion.

Land was purchased in 1895, and by March, 1901, a new building had been dedicated. The present structure was completed in 1967, and in the following years the church had undergone several updates.

Adam and Kristi Key are in their 18th year of service to the church and have led the church to reach out to the community in the immediate area, as well as Phalba, just a few miles from the church. Old Bethel also reaches many people in Canton and Mabank. But she not only reaches people locally, she is helping reach people around the world by being avid supporters and promoters of BMA work. Since Adam and Kristi have deep roots in BMA work, having both been reared in BMA churches, it seems natural that they would spark great interest among their people in the associational work.

Old Bethel has a strong Women’s Missionary Auxiliary (WMA) and Girl’s Missionary Auxiliary (GMA) program, and in fact, two of the ladies are state officers. Kristi serves as the president of the Texas WMA, and a couple of the GMA girls serve as officers of the state GMA organization. They always take a group to the GMA Camp at Daniel Springs every year.

Kristi explained the very active Wednesday night youth ministry, which basically includes two groups, ranging from toddlers on up.

“Our junior high and high schoolers meet together for Bible study on Wednesday evenings while the adults have prayer service and Bible study—and after services, we feed all the kids,” she said. She also noted that one of the couples of the church, Chris and Kim Cade, volunteer youth directors, have been working with the youth since 2011.

“Chris and Kim have a Friday morning breakfast at a local cafe in Canton,” Kristi said. “They have done this for many years—it sort of started out as a ‘game day,’ with athletes, but it has turned into an every Friday event during school.”

Old Bethel goes all out during their fall festival every October, and usually reaches around 180 people.

“This year we’re having a group coming—a guy who has a ministry like an American ninja warrior theme, and sets up a whole obstacle course. People of the church help out with the program, which includes a devotional.

“VBS is always a good outreach for us,” Adam said. “A lot of folks come in from the community here that don’t even go to church but will bring their kids, and the interesting thing is the first night is attended well, and then it will build through the week. Our high school will always be the largest group.”

“Josh McKenzie, who is our song leader, is a paramedic and during VBS he teaches our high schoolers CPR, and leads them in an activity where they take ropes and repel from trees.”

They do their own summer camp for their youth.

“We set up our own camp in Arkansas where my mother and father-in-law have a cabin up there on a river,” Adam said. “They usually take 20 or so kids up there every year. We have a couple in the church who go specifically to cook. They take a whole kitchen and set it up.”

The church has a mailbox where people can place their prayer requests to be prayed over during the week and the blessing box is there and people in the community can come by and get items from it.”

Adam noted that many of the homes in the area have gates, and it’s difficult to make contact. When Old Bethel people go out to hand out cookies, or gift baskets, they are met with mixed reactions. They are in the process of developing outreach material with information about the church.

A very significant aspect to the ministry of Pastor and Mrs. Key is to strongly promote the association in their church.

“We call ourselves a BMA church, but if you don’t get representatives here to regularly speak to the people, they tend to question why we give to it,” Adam said. “We regularly show video presentations from our work. One of our west Texas missionaries, Chris Driver, has represented their work to us.”

If Old Bethel cannot secure a visit from a department director or missionary, they try to secure an information video of the work and show it.

“On fourth Sunday, we take up an offering for the particular ministry we are highlighting,” Kristi said. “If someone is here representing their ministry personally, we will just give them

the offering. Our people seem to enjoy listening and learning about our work—and we raise \$700-\$1,000—or even more.”

They begin at the first of the year making a list and contacting people to come represent their work. Old Bethel has always been an avid participant in the Lifeword walk.

“We did something sort of out of character this year—we had five men to volunteer to raise money for Lifeword and the one who raised the least amount of money got a pie in the face,” Kristi said. “One of our younger women is in charge of it this year, and she’s thinking about having the loser in the fund raiser to kiss a pig or a cow.”

The church does a fellowship lunch every fourth Sunday, and that’s when they have the largest crowd and that’s when the offering for the particular denominational emphasis is taken. Effort is made to get a representative from the respective department to come for that Sunday.

Old Bethel participates in Operation Christmas Child each year and fills shoeboxes to be taken to underprivileged children.

Visit the Old Bethel Missionary Baptist Church to keep up with what is happening with the congregation as they seek to serve the Lord by reaching their community and supporting their denomination. Adam and Kristi Key



▲ Adam and Kristi Key



Letter from the BMA of Texas President To the Churches of the BMA of Texas:

It is a great honor and privilege to serve you in the presidential capacity. This is something I never dreamed or even considered in the realm of possibility for my life, but God knew. I only wish my late grandfather, Don Collins, were here to witness it! He so loved the BMA and the people and churches who represented the association.

As I considered the state meeting this year, choosing the theme and key passage was almost immediate. Undoubtedly, the Holy Spirit led this, and it seems for good and clear reason. There is so much turmoil and division in our nation, even more so than in recent years it seems. In times like these, the lost clamor for answers and hope, yet the Church stands firm, clinging to its hope in Christ and the Truth in His Word. When there is unrest, the nations should see the Church as a beacon of Gospel light.

Specifically, our nation seems more politically divided than ever before. The lines are clearly demarcated—Left versus Right, Liberal versus Conservative, Blue versus Red—and the list goes on. Unfortunately, this great divide over political and social issues has crept its way into many churches across the nation, and world, and has begun informing how the Church is to operate and respond to various cultural issues. Although Jesus prayed for unity among the brethren in John 17, it seems the Church has gradually become more divided over world problems. It seems many local churches, and individual Christians, have chosen to place their faith and hope in who sits on the throne of the White House rather than He who reigns on the Throne in Heaven. This is a major problem.

Thus, the theme for this year’s BMA of Texas Meeting became clear; *Thy Kingdom Come*, focusing on Psalm 2. Despite man’s best efforts to claim power in this world and to deny Jesus of His glory, God literally laughs in Heaven at these schemes. As the Divine Creator, everything and everyone are His. He reigns and rules for eternity, even now. Therefore, our faith should be in King Christ alone, not a man of flesh and blood in a position of earthly authority. His/her rule is imperfect and will end, while Christ is eternally perfect and will reign forever!

The call will be simple this year: Let us come together and be unified in our resolve to stand for Christ and worship Him as King! Let us truly recognize the sovereignty of God and fully trust in His plan, rather than placing our faith in whoever wins the next presidential and all subsequent elections. Our world, our country and our state, now more than ever, need to see the Church standing faithfully for Christ, filled with hope in our King! May His Kingdom come and may we of the BMA of Texas represent Him well!

Bro. Ryan Burchett
Baptist Missionary Association of Texas
President



▲ Ryan Burchett



2022 Annual BMA of Texas Meeting Theme: “Thy Kingdom Come” (Psalm 2)

Monday & Tuesday, November 7-8, 2022
First Baptist Church
106 Colt Road, Livingston, Texas

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7

11:00 a.m. Meeting & WMA Registration

First General Session

1:30 p.m. Congregational Singing
Welcome/Introduction of Officers
Welcome Petitioning Churches
Present Proposed Constitutional Changes
2:00 p.m. Concert by Jacksonville College Singers
2:30 p.m. President’s Message – Ryan Burchett
3:05 p.m. Break
3:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions
1. BMAT 101
Heith Mitchell, presenter
(Barger Room)
2. Engaging Your Community
Kevan Wood, presenter
(Children’s Room)
3. Pastoral Self-Care
Lee Poe, presenter
(Assembly Room)
4. Reflecting Christ Through Christian Ministries—For Not Only Pastors’ Wives but Every Lady Who is Willing to Serve Christ
Charlotte Johnson, presenter
(Youth Room)
5. Reaching Your Spanish-Speaking Neighbor
Elvis Garcia, presenter
(Sun Room)
6. Children, Youth and Worship Swap Meets
First, Livingston staff, presenters
(Exhibits Room)
4:30 p.m. Dinner Break

Second General Session

6:00 p.m. Concert by The Erwins
6:45 p.m. Message –
Todd West, BMAT Pastor
Connections Coordinator
7:30 p.m. Offering/Dismissal

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

8:00 a.m. Fellowship (Exhibits Room)
WMA Registration
9:00 a.m. WMA Meeting (Youth Room)
10:00 a.m. Leadership Conference
David Crain, speaker (Exhibits Room)
12:00 p.m. Lunch (Exhibits Room)

Third General Session
1:30 p.m. Congregational Singing
1:40 p.m. Coordinating Committee Report
Election of Coordinating Committee Members
1:50 p.m. Nominating Committee Report
2:00 p.m. Texas WMA Report
2:10 p.m. Election of BMA of Texas Officers
Election of 2022 Annual Speaker and Alternate
2:20 p.m. TBHC Report
2:30 p.m. Baptist Missionary Loan Association Report
2:40 p.m. Baptist Progress Report
2:50 p.m. Jacksonville College Report
3:00 p.m. Vote on Proposed Constitutional Changes
Miscellaneous Business
3:15 p.m. Offering
3:20 p.m. Break
3:45 p.m. BMA Texas Missions Report & Commissioning Service
4:15 p.m. Worship
Special Music
4:25p.m. Annual Message –
James Schoenrock, speaker
Robbie Caldwell, alternate speaker
5:00 p.m. Enrollment and Finance Report
Adjournment
Final Announcements

By JERRY FULTON

Baptist Progress Director/Editor

The 2022 BMA of Texas Meeting will take place at First Baptist Church in Livingston, Nov.7-8. Suggested hotels in which messengers and guests can stay during the meeting are

listed below. There is no headquarters hotel and there is not special pricing for the rooms, as the rooms are already priced affordably. Call now to make your reservations.

HOTELS

La Quinta Inn & Suites
402 Highway 59 Loop S
Livingston, TX 77351
(936) 328-5299

Hampton Inn
1510 US-59 S
Livingston, TX 77351
(936) 327-2300

Americas Best Value Inn
335 US-59 Loop S
Livingston, TX 77351
(936) 327-8500

Holiday Inn Express & Suites
120 Southpoint Ln
Livingston, TX 77351
(936) 327-9600

RV SITES

The city of Livingston is providing 30 RV sites free of charge during the meeting. To reserve a site, contact First, Livingston at 936-327-4417 to register.



Everybody, Everywhere Needs Jesus—Retreat Highlights

By **GLENDAM CHAMBERLAIN**

The annual fall Texas WMA Ladies Retreat was held in Brownsboro Aug. 26-27, 2022. The church house was full with ladies from across our great state. The host church, Union Hill, Brownsboro, provided the perfect location and enabled the ladies to immerse themselves in scripture, missions, delicious food, fun, fellowship and so much more.

Diana Morris, 2nd vice president, planned a glorious, spiritual retreat that blessed all in attendance. The keynote speaker, Judy Biggers, from Arkansas, had the crowd both laughing and crying as she shared God's Word and her personal testimony. She spoke about herself growing up in Girls Missionary Auxiliary and how she brought her own daughters up in the program.

She said, "GMA provides a firm biblical foundation for our young ladies". Mrs. Biggers quoted Matthew 28:19-20 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." She spoke of the need to have God's light in our heart, "If you don't own the light, you can't shine the light." We are to "go and tell" by sharing God with our family, neighbors, community, state, nation and world. Mrs. Biggers presented the ladies with a compass and journal. She emphasized God will direct our path, "Today is the day to get real with Jesus and follow Him, start making disciples today."

Wonderful breakout sessions included: *Total Surrender* by Christie Burton; *Children's Ministry* by Hanna Dingler; *BMMI Missions* by Shirley Ladd; *How to Study Your Bible* by Tiffani Shelby; *Painting Fun* by Brandi Gilpatrick; *Our Church & Community Impact* by Diana Morris; *Flower Arranging* by Whitney Johnson.

The ladies filled 250 BMA Everlasting Smiles Christmas Shoeboxes. The shoeboxes will be sent to Ukraine refugee centers across Europe.

A great silent auction was held to raise funds for the Texas WMA project, South Asia Missions. Between the silent auction, t-shirt and jewelry sales over \$2,000 was raised, bringing the year-to-date total to \$7,422, goal is \$15,000. Please send your donations to Jo Strong, TX WMA Treasurer, 413 Junell, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482.

The next ladies retreat is "Created to Worship" and will be at LakeRidge, Lubbock March 31 and April 1, 2023. Two-time Dove Award recipient, Babbie Mason, is slated to be the guest speaker. For more information contact springretreat2023@mylakeridgebaptist.org. Registration opens October 1.

NEW PROJECT NOMINATIONS

A new 2023 Texas WMA project will be selected in November at the state WMA meeting. If you would like to propose a new project to be voted on in November please contact the Project Selection Committee.

For a nomination to be considered it must be approved by your local WMA or ladies group. Deadline for project submission is October 10, 2022.

Your project selection committee consists of: Christi McDermott (mcdermotts.family@gmail.com), Lynelle Teas (lynellejteas@aol.com), Kerri Heuermann, (936-279-9864). Suggestions for the annual project may be sent to any of these ladies.

MINISTRY APPRECIATION

October is Pastor and Deacon Appreciation Month. Debbie Edmondson, 1st vice president, shares a few ideas to show love

and appreciation to those who unselfishly give of their time and talents for the Lord. 1—Have a progressive dinner for them. One family serves appetizers, the next a main course, the next desserts. 2—Have them over to your home for Sunday lunch. 3—If they have young children, offer to baby sit while they have a night out. 4—Discover their favorite meal and personally deliver to their home. 5—Send cards of appreciation. 6—Give gift cards to their favorite restaurant or store. 7—Handwritten notes and cards from the children at church.

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.



▲ Judy Biggers

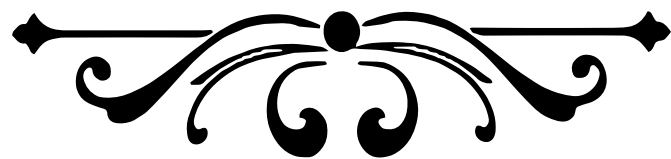


▲ WMA ladies filling Everlasting Smiles Christmas Shoeboxes



▲ WMA Retreat

In Loving Memory



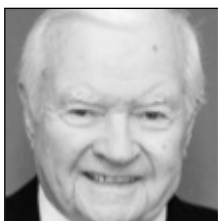
HEATHER POLK

On Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022, Heather Elizabeth Polk died in an automobile accident. She was 44. Born July 5, 1978, Heather met her husband, Jeff Polk, in the summer of 1993. They were married August 15, 1998. On their one-year anniversary Jeff surrendered to the ministry and began to pursue his pastorate. Heather never signed up to become a pastor's wife, but took the title in stride and made her mark on various churches in Texas, Arkansas and Missouri. In May of 2001, she graduated nursing school with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. In 2017, she began working on her Master of Nursing Degree and graduated as a family nurse practitioner in 2019. She loved her role as a mother. In addition to her children and others, she is survived by her husband, Jeff. Funeral services were September 10, 2022 at New Madrid Baptist Church in New Madrid, Missouri.



HARLEY GORDON

Harley Bryan Gordon, Jr, 94, of Hewitt, passed away on Aug. 9, 2022. Funeral services were Aug. 13, 2022 at Beacon Hill, Waco. Gordon was born on Aug. 1, 1928 in Dallas. He surrendered to the ministry on Easter Sunday, 1957. Gordon graduated from Jacksonville College, Baylor University and Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary. The churches he served as pastor are the following: Sanders Creek, Fair Oaks; Beacon Hill, Waco; Eastwood, Tyler; Bauman Road, Houston; Mt. Calvary, Chickasaw, Alabama; and then back to Beacon Hill, Waco where he served as pastor, senior pastor and pastor emeritus for over 40 years. His time in the ministry totaled over 60 years. Among other relatives, he is survived by his wife of 65 years, Bettye Gordon. Memorials may be made to the Gideons, and any Children's Hospital, in memory of Eddie, Bro. Gordon's great grandson.



CAROL SHINE

Carol Evelyn Porter Shine entered her heavenly rest on Aug. 14, 2022. She was born Dec. 19, 1946, in Harrisonville, Missouri. Shine dedicated her life to God's service when her husband surrendered to the gospel ministry. She served as a faithful pastor's wife, mother, grandmother, Sunday school teacher, GMA counselor, Bible study teacher and friend in multiple churches and communities in Missouri, Arkansas and Texas. Shine served for a number of years on staff at Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary. Among others, she is survived by her husband of 58 years, James (Jim) Shine, a longtime seminary professor and pastor. Funeral services were conducted in the Dorman Memorial Chapel at BMA Theological Seminary Aug. 20, 2022.



LUCILLE EDWARDS

A graveside service for Lucille "Ms. E." Edwards, 83, was Aug. 15, 2022. Edwards was born Feb. 9, 1939 and entered into eternal life Aug. 12, 2022. She was lovingly known as "Ms. E" during her 20+ years of teaching. She was preceded in death by her husband, Mart Edwards, longtime minister.



Volunteer Student Missions—Just say yes!

June 2022 VSM trip to Puerto Rico to work with Pastor Alfredo Didier

By MARGARET ANDERSON

Fourteen years ago, I went on my first short-term mission trip to the Philippines. I didn't feel like I was someone God could ever use, but during my junior year of college, I decided to give it a shot. Little did I know, God could and would use a young, inadequate college student to do his work among the nations. This was just the beginning, and it's been a wild ride ever since!

This feeling of inadequacy isn't uncommon among high school and college students. Many, if not the majority, feel as if there's no way God could possibly use them. All it takes is obedience. Is God asking you to step out, get uncomfortable, and go reach the nations for Him? What's stopping you? Just say yes and go!

Volunteer Student Missions (VSM) helps students take the message of Jesus Christ to the nations, allows students the opportunity to experience a new culture, and teaches students to have a Great Commission view of Christianity. Many who go on VSM trips end up staying involved by leading trips or even becoming full-time missionaries themselves.

VSM teams will serve alongside missionaries and local pastors in various modes of ministry, doing anything from teaching VBS to completing service projects to both serve the people and build relationships for the missionaries in the community.

It's never too soon to start thinking and praying about next summer. Our 2022 teams are all back on U.S. soil, and we are starting to put together teams for 2023. Trips for 2023

include Philippines, Puerto Rico, Ghana, Romania, Costa Rica, Colombia, Peru, and California.

Lydia Dunlap, a freshman at Central Baptist College, has served on VSM teams in the past and plans to continue to do so. She says, "VSM widens your perspective of the world and grows your love for people. For me, going on a VSM trip helped me understand missions and the value of outreach. These trips have helped me see people the way that God does—everyone everywhere needs the gospel."

To join a team, a student must simply have a relationship with Christ, a willingness to serve, and be at least fifteen years of age by the time of the trip. If you or a student you know is interested in serving through VSM, visit letsgovsm.com or email angela@bmaam.com. We look forward to helping you get connected and involved in taking the love of Jesus to the nations! God can use anyone; just say yes!



Religious Freedom Protection

Does your ministry's current insurance policy cover:

- More than just your attorney fees (legal judgments as well?)
- Claims based on emotional injury if no related bodily injury is alleged?
- Costs associated with defending your ministry's tax-exempt status?
- Defense of claims brought by a government agency, as opposed to a civil lawsuit filed by individuals?

Not sure? Let us come alongside and review your insurance needs.

Contact American Church Group of Texas today.

Call 844.400.2248 or visit AmericanChurchGroup-Texas.com.

Proudly serving the BMA of Texas



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Lifeword Sunday Packets Are On Their Way!



Lifeword Sunday - October 23, 2022

Churches, be on the lookout for your Lifeword Sunday packets! These will include important information for the Oct. 23 event and how you can best support Lifeword's media ministry. Visit www.lifeword.org/lifewordsunday to register your church, download the Lifeword Sunday video, and order your T-shirts.

Lifeword is reaching millions of people around the world every day. The gospel is currently being shared in 140 languages, with a goal of expanding to 200 languages by year 2025. Our mission is to share the love of Jesus to every tribe, every tongue, and every nation. God's Kingdom has no borders; therefore, the ministry of Lifeword has no borders!

We can't wait to see how God is going to use you to grow the reach of Lifeword around the world!

Liberty Association hosts rally for Lifeword

By **CHARLES JOHNSON**

Pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer

Liberty Baptist Association held a rally for Lifeword Media Ministries at Camille Acres, Longview Aug. 18. There were 10 churches represented, and 10 pastors present.

Liberty moderator Billy Byrd presided over the business session in which the association voted to assist the Hispanic mission in Gilmer with their remodeling project on their building and to increase the association's monthly support of the mission. Bro. Jaime Garcia is the missionary-church planter of this congregation.

Donny Parrish, executive director of Lifeword, presented an informative program outlining the work of this television, radio and Internet ministry of the BMA of America. He showed videos which demonstrated the work of missionaries establishing radio stations in the high altitudes Andes Mountains in South America.

Following the service, the host church provided a delicious buffet of various snacks and refreshments. The next meeting of Liberty BMA will be the annual associational meeting at Rosewood, Gilmer at 3 p.m. Oct. 9.

BMA Texas Missions cont.

procrastinating disciple, Our Master requires a courageous walk from His disciples. Just like His apostles and disciples did, reason they were able to take that step with courage is because they saw the 'victory' on the cross. They did not strive for victory. They started from victory. Courage is to be exercised like any other muscle in the body. The more we do, the better we get, in taking few steps for God everyday. Finally, Our God requires entire devotion, He requires priority in our everyday life. 'What is heaviest, must weigh heaviest'. And that's what we do in our everyday life as a church planting team/family. Put God first in everything we do, it is our value at Anchor Austin. Thought for everyone, Are you following Jesus in your terms T His will? Do you value your comfort or commitment to follow Him?

Prayer Needs:

Continue to pray for Anchor, Austin as we build our team and meeting new people in the communities for opportunity of being a witness unto God. Pray specifically for our fall and Christmas events that they bring glory to God and bring new people to the light of Christ.

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

Howdy from west Texas! The remodel adventure of our building continues and continues to meet unexpected issues and expenses but we are getting closer to the end. We are prepping for our first practice worship service in October. Our core group continues to grow and embrace the vision God has given us not only for Levelland but for all of west Texas. I am having conversations daily with people who have heard about what God is doing. God is definitely preparing the way! As always, thank you so much for joining us on this journey. We are so thankful to be a part of the BMA of Texas.

Prayer Needs:

Please pray that we will make new relationships with people in our surrounding communities.

KINGSLEY NDUKA / ADEREMI BADRU-

**RONNIE MILLS—KINGDOM CHAPEL IN FT. WORTH
MILLS.RONNIE84@GMAIL.COM**

As a church we've been making our way through The Gospel of John, and it has been so good. We've seen captives set free. Jesus is still at work doing what only He can; save souls.

Prayer Needs:

Please continue to pray for our efforts in the Kingdom. We know the Lord is with us. Pray that He would continue to grow us in all ways, and in opportunity for Him.

*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

2022 RE-CHARGE LEADERS OASIS

DATE: Sept. 27-29, 2022

PLACE: The Hotel Hot Springs, Hot Springs, Arkansas

WEB LINK: <https://bmaamerica.org/recharge/>

SAND FLAT, GRAND SALINE HOMECOMING

DATE: Sept. 31, 2022

PLACE: Sandflat Missionary Baptist Church, Grand Saline, Texas
The church is celebrating its 101st birthday. In celebration the church is having a homecoming with a covered dish lunch. Everyone is welcome.

PRAIRIE VALLEY, WHITNEY TO CELEBRATE 150 YEARS

DATE: Oct. 30, 2022

PLACE: Prairie Valley Baptist Church, Whitney, Texas

The church is celebrating 150 years of ministry. Former pastor Eddie Booth will be speaking. All are invited.

2022 BMA OF TEXAS MEETING

DATE: Nov. 7-8, 2022

PLACE: First Baptist Church, Livingston

2022 NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

DATE: Nov. 15-17, 2022

PLACE: Chateau on the Lake, Branson, Missouri

2023 BMA OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: April 17-19, 2023

PLACE: Antioch Baptist Church, Conway, Arkansas

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL: To be decided

2023 SOAR

DATE: July 3-5, 2023

PLACE: Gaylord Texan, Grapevine, Texas

personnel & positions

AVAILABLE MINISTRY POSITIONS

YOUTH MINISTER—Greenpond, Como is seeking a youth minister. Send resume to Pastor Terry Bolton at terrywbolton@yahoo.com or mail to Pastor Terry Bolton, c/o Greenpond Baptist Church, 1911 CR 2425, Como, Texas 75431. 10/22

PASTOR—Pine Brook, Tyler is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to Pine Brook Baptist Church, P.O. Box 7121, Tyler, Texas 75711 or pinebrookpastorsearch@gmail.com. 10/22

PASTOR—Immanuel, Nashville, Arkansas, is seeking for a full-time pastor. Send resume to Immanuel Baptist Church Search Committee, P.O. Box 212, Nashville, Arkansas 71852. 10/22

YOUTH/ASSOCIATE PASTOR—Southgate, Moore, Oklahoma is seeking a full-time youth/associate pastor. Send resume to 740 SW 4th Street, Moore, Oklahoma 73160 or southgatebaptistmoore@gmail.com. For more information, visit southgatebaptistmoore.com. 10/22

PASTOR—Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden (Alba) is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to jesmith_1956@yahoo.com. 10/22

YOUTH PASTOR/MINISTER—New Harmony, Tyler is seeking a fulltime youth director/minister. Send resume to the church at 10251 FM 724, Tyler, Texas 75704 or to Russ Jackson at rgjackson63@yahoo.com. COM. TFN

YOUTH/STUDENT MINISTRY—Afton Grove, Jacksonville is seeking a biblically qualified candidate. This is a bivocational position. We are looking for a minister with a heart for God, a heart for students and who is ready to plunge into the work. The candidate will love the Lord and love and lead our students in a growing relationship with Jesus. Please send your resume to Eddie Richardson at fasteddie999elr@gmail.com. TFN

pastor & staff changes

BRUCE COTTON is the new pastor of First Missionary, Morton.

2022

United Thanksgiving Offering



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2022

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