

Baptist Progress

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SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

to feature *Dallas Holm* **DiscipleGuide**
CHURCH RESOURCES

DiscipleGuide's annual Senior Adult Conference will take place at the Branson Convention Center in Branson, Missouri Nov. 7-9, 2016. Early registration is only \$150 per person by Oct. 14. Hotel rooms at the Branson Hilton are \$132 per night if booked before Oct. 14.

Dr. Allen Tilley, pastor of First, Carthage, will share a series of messages entitled "Heroes Reborn." Larry Wood, worship pastor at Farley Street, Waxahachie, will lead music.

In addition, a concert featuring Grammy-nominated and Dove Award-winning music artist Dallas Holm, will take place the evening of Nov. 7. The Harper Family will sing on the morning of Nov. 8. Each registration also includes admission to a special Christmas performance by The Haygoods, one of Branson's most exciting shows. For more information, or to register, visit discpleguide.org/nsa.



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It's almost here— first ever Ministry Connection Conference

By **JERRY FULTON**

The first ever Ministry Connection Conference, sponsored by *Baptist Progress* and the Ellis-Hill Baptist Association, will take place on the first day of the 116th Annual Session of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas at Farley Street, Waxahachie Nov. 14.

On the program are Jonathan Falwell, pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia; Dr. John Bisagno, former pastor of First Baptist Church in Houston; and Jerry Jolly, pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Also on the schedule is national recording group Brian Free & Assurance.

In addition to preaching and singing, there will be a question and answer session with our guest speakers and others. Those in attendance will be able to ask ministry questions of those serving on the panel. It should prove to be a great time. If you have a question concerning ministry you would like to pose to our guest speakers, you may ask it during the question and answer time or send it in advance to editor@baptistprogress.org.

TWO MORE WORKSHOPS IN 2016

Two more Ministry Connection Workshops are scheduled for 2016. The next workshop will be Transitioning to Small Groups, Thursday, Sept. 22, 2016, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the BMA of Texas Building in Waxahachie. Dr. Blanton Feaster will be the facilitator. The last workshop will be Understanding Generations, Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the BMA of Texas Building in Waxahachie. Bro. Jerry Burnaman, manager of the Baptist Missionary Loan Association, will be the facilitator. Let us know that you are coming by registering at baptistprogress.org or emailing me at editor@baptistprogress.org.



▲ Jerry Fulton

State Meeting HOTEL INFORMATION

The following hotels have rooms blocked for the 116th Annual Session of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas Nov. 14 and 15, and have guaranteed room rates as specified below. However, it is the decision of the church as to which hotel in Waxahachie that you choose to use.

When making reservations, please specify that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas in order to receive the group rate. You must bring a copy of your Texas hotel tax exempt certificate with you. The hotels will not be able to provide one.

LaQuinta Inn & Suites (\$69.00 per night)

311 Stadium Drive
Waxahachie, TX 75165
(972) 937-5525

Continental Breakfast Included

Comfort Suites (\$86.99 per night)

131 RVC Plaza
Waxahachie, TX 75165
469-517-1600

Continental Breakfast Included

Holiday Inn Express & Suites (89.99 per night)

984 US Hwy 287 Bypass West
Waxahachie, TX 75165
(972) 938-3300

Continental Breakfast Included



Church Health

Committed to discipleship

By LARRY BARKER

Are we truly committed to discipleship? What does that mean if we are? Has anybody really gotten this process of producing disciples figured out? Why are not more mature disciples being produced who help train and equip more disciples? How do we help people to grow up into mature reproducing disciples? We preach the Great Commission but do we practice it daily? If we are truly committed to discipleship then why are churches not producing more disciples who look like Jesus?

There are many different answers to the above questions, but let's be careful to not make excuses or rationalizations. All too often, there seems to be a disconnect between our plan for discipleship and the implementation of that plan. In *The Disciple Making Pastor*, Bill Hull says, "The crisis at the heart of the church is that we give disciple making lip service, but do not practice it." With such a whirlwind of frenetic church activity it is easy to lose sight of our primary purpose, making disciples!

Bill Hull gives three things a pastor must do to remain committed to discipleship: "First, the pastor must possess convictions concerning disciple making and declare it as top priority from the pulpit. Second, the philosophy and its goals should be published in church literature and placed into the constitution as the criteria for measuring success. Third, the disciple-making philosophy must be modeled at the church-leadership level. The pastor and leaders should be effective disciple makers themselves."

The observations above could be discussed and maybe even debated but the author is stressing the importance of an "all in" attitude when it comes to our commitment of making disciples. We cannot afford to be defensive or sensitive about such a vital biblical command. A commitment to discipleship means that we are not just theoreticians but, rather, practitioners.

Here are some things to consider in making this commitment and then following through on designing your discipleship process.

First, make sure you know where you are headed and what your goal is. What does a disciple of Christ look like? How do you define being mature in Christ? It is interesting to hear all the different answers you will get from people when you ask them to define a disciple and discipleship!

Second, develop visuals that will help people to see what the journey looks like. Of course, the first step is salvation. The new believer is an infant in Christ and needs extra special care. Then they grow into children as they continue maturing in Christ. In the next stage the disciple becomes a young adult as they learn to walk with Christ. The disciple then becomes a parent, reproducing disciples who make disciples.

Third, decide what a disciple needs in each stage. Whether you use 101 – 401 classes, new member classes,



small groups, or some other format, you must have a plan in place to provide what is needed at each level. As infants, new believers need to have someone who will help them develop the new habits necessary to ensure continued growth. Who will explain baptism, spiritual disciplines, and other necessary ingredients for spiritual growth to continue?

Fourth, decide on how you will implement discipleship and growth opportunities at all levels. The temptation is to focus on certain size groups when spiritual growth is important in all settings and for all sizes. Jesus refers to the 120, 70, 12, and the 3. We have worship gatherings that are important for the entire congregation to be together and for the word of God to be preached but we also need relational environments where more intimate discipleship can occur.

Fifth, realize that transparency, authenticity, and accountability occur easier in smaller groups. It is not enough to confess our sin and bring it out into the open without being cared for by other disciples we can trust. In *DiscipleShift* David Putman says, "Life-changing decisions are supported by accountability and discipline and inspiration that comes through continual relational togetherness." Plan out your process that fits your context that will make a Bible-based gospel-focused discipleship system available. Here are a couple more things to consider:

You need to train your disciplers. If we want more out of our team then we must invest more into our team. For the dream (vision) to work the team must work. You cannot expect it to just happen. It does require intentionality. Yes, we are totally dependent on the word of God and the Spirit of God but

the people of God play a crucial role in this also.

You need to look for those who are receptive. Do they have a desire to be discipled and are they willing to commit to the process? If you are not careful, you can waste a lot of time with those who are not quite ready for this level of commitment. There is always a risk and there are no guarantees that they will follow through but we must be careful to look for those who are teachable.

People are willing to open up more in smaller groups and this is how we can evaluate where they really are spiritually. This is not so we can judge them but rather so we can figure out how we can best minister to them and help them in their spiritual growth.

Celebrate growth at all levels and stages. We celebrate when someone is born-again, and we should, but we should also celebrate other spiritual victories. We celebrate when a child learns to walk, when they graduate a certain grade, when an adult achieves one of their goals, and when a parent has a baby.

Healthy churches are committed to planning and implementing a process that demonstrates their commitment to discipleship!

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



Annual Reports

Baptist Progress

Changes coming for *Baptist Progress*

By JERRY FULTON

PUBLISHING SCHEDULE CHANGE AND BUDGET CUTS

The newspaper industry has seen a lot of changes over the past 15 or so years with the advent of the Internet. The way people communicate has changed drastically with advances in technology—email, texts, websites and more. Newspapers across America have experienced large decreases in their amount of subscriptions, reduced the number of times they publish and some have even closed.

To add to the new way of communicating, paper and postage costs have continued to increase. With the changes in communication and the cost of paper and postage, adjustments have to be made. The old adage is true, “Money doesn’t grow on trees.”

For the past few years, *Baptist Progress* has continued with its current publishing scheduling due to funds received by churches that have closed, as well as funds received from the closure of the Baptist Book Center. Such extra income cannot and hopefully will not be depended upon in coming years. We would much rather see our churches thrive than to benefit from the closure of even one.

Therefore, because it is necessary to scale back our budget, *Baptist Progress* trustees will recommend that *Baptist Progress* cease printing two 12 page issues per month and begin printing one quality 16-page paper per month. Of course, those who subscribe by email will still receive news alerts, the Ministry Connection newsletter, e-News Updates and more news.

If you wish to receive up-to-date news, almost as it happens, your best option is to become an email subscriber. Email subscriptions deliver the paper digitally, as it appears in print.

Pastors are urged to lead their church plan subscribers to switch from print to email subscriptions now. Again, current print subscribers may also try the email version of Baptist Progress for free before switching to an email subscription.

Other changes will be made to our budget in order to save money in the 2016-2017 associational year. If approved, changes will become effective following the BMA of Texas Annual Session in November.

MINISTRY CONNECTION WORKSHOPS

Thank you to those who have attended our Ministry Connection Workshops in 2016. Thanks also to our presenters, Dr. Mike Smith, Dr. Blanton Feaster, Bro. Jerry Burnaman, Bro. Alan Rogers and Bro. Brandon Cox. Workshops on media, design and communication; overcoming hurts, habits and hang-ups; generations; small groups; handling conflict; and mobilizing people for ministry were well attended. More workshops are being planned for 2017.

MINISTRY CONNECTION CONFERENCE

Baptist Progress and the Ellis-Hill Baptist Association are partnering to bring you the first ever Ministry Connection Conference. The conference will be held on the first day of the 116th Annual Session of the BMA of Texas, Nov. 14, 2016. Speakers will include Pastor Jerry Jolly, Pastor Jonathan Falwell and Dr. John Bisagno. National recording group, Brian Free & Assurance, will present a concert.

During the conference, a ministry question and answer time will take place with the scheduled speakers and others.

Please make plans to attend.



Assets of the BMLA continue to grow

By JERRY BURNAMAN

Presently Baptist Missionary Loan Association assets total about \$10.6 million, an increase of \$500,000 in the past year. There are 252 investors with the BMLA: including individuals, churches, local associations and auxiliaries. We appreciate you, and give a big thanks for your faithful support.

Presently we provide loans for 24 projects and have money available to assist more churches with funds to help with their growing ministries. If your church plans to build or buy property, it would be a joy to talk with you about a loan.

I am very thankful for our faithful trustees who give their time and support to help the BMLA have an effective ministry in assisting our churches and missions. We have people on our trustee board with very good financial

expertise: bankers, businessmen and pastors. They are a great help to me and I appreciate their leadership.

There are three ways to support the Loan Association:

- A contribution from an individual or church.
- An interest free loan.
- Interest loans that compound quarterly. Currently we are paying 2% on share accounts and 2.5% on Investment Certificates. These rates may change during the year depending on the financial climate.

Your financial support and prayers are essential for the BMLA to have part in assisting the BMA to plant churches and provide funds for growing churches.



Want your *Baptist Progress* issues to arrive faster and save money at the same time?

To receive each issue of *Baptist Progress* approximately one week earlier, switch your mail subscription to an email subscription!

In addition to receiving each issue by email, you will get our e-News Update between issues. News alerts are also emailed periodically. The cost of an email subscription is \$18 (\$6 less per year than mail subscriptions).

So... faster delivery, more news, less cost...

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
Make the switch, email us today at editor@baptistprogress.org!

Annual Reports

Growing pains

By **DR. MIKE SMITH**

Jacksonville College President

When I was a lad of six, my legs would hurt. My mother's response as she rubbed them, "Those are growing pains."

I thought to myself, "It sure hurts to grow."

I have found it hurts to grow in all areas of life. Be it physically, institutionally, numerically in church growth, or spiritually, there usually are growing pains.

The Bible has numerous verses on pain and suffering associated with growth.

According to Acts 6, when the early church was growing—conflict arose.

Romans 8 records that Paul, who suffered immensely, said, "I consider the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory which shall be revealed."

James 1 says, "Count it all joy when you fall into trials ..."

GROWING

Jacksonville College is growing, praise the Lord. Look at the facts in the following areas:

Enrollment:

Year	Fall Semester
2010	402
2011	458
2012	560
2013	526
2014	560
2015	628

EVANGELISM

In the past, a large number of students at Jacksonville College were from BMA churches and Christian homes, but not so today. Many come from unchurched backgrounds. We had nineteen countries of the world represented on our campus this past semester. Jacksonville College is a mission field. This past year we had over 100 salvation decisions. We held weekly Bible studies and discipleship training, and we had a group of students who went on a mission trip to Costa Rica.



EXPANSION

We have added new courses in agriculture, art, criminal justice, and education.

We have added new staff. Janice Caldwell, wife of Pastor Robbie Caldwell of New Harmony Baptist church, is a JC speech and education instructor. Roy Stephens, former BMA and SBC pastor, is the new JC golf coach and agriculture and psychology instructor. George Cumby, All-American linebacker at Oklahoma, and All-Pro with Green Bay Packers, is a JC recruiter.

PAINS

We praise the Lord for all growth in all areas, but with growth, comes pain. We need more student housing, as well as classrooms and staff to keep pace with student growth. We need new facilities. Many of our buildings are over 50 years old, and plumbing and roof leaks are constant problems. All these needs require money.

DEBT FREE IN THREE

Jacksonville College is experiencing growing pains, but I would rather have growing pains than dying pains. The College has had to borrow against itself to make necessary repairs. We need to be debt free, and I know this is possible.

We are thankful for every church, association, and individual who supports Jacksonville College. Please continue. Jacksonville College is growing and lives are being changed every day as a result. Keep giving your present amount plus a little extra to help accomplish our goal. Over the next three years, if each of you would give one-third more than you are presently giving, we could be "Debt Free in Three."

God is blessing Jacksonville College, and our students have the amazing opportunity to attend a Christ-centered college that is committed to academic excellence. Please continue to pray for us as we continue to grow.

A bitter-sweet year for Texas Baptist Home for Children

By **EDDIE MARSH**

Texas Baptist Home for Children President



It is the goal of each public speaker to say something that will have a lasting impact on the listener. Over forty years ago, Rev. C.O. Strong preached at Temple Baptist Church in Marshall, Texas. The basis of his message was a passage in Exodus that relates a time in which Israel was in the wilderness, the people journeyed three days without finding water. They came to Marah, but they could not drink the water because it was bitter – "Marah" means bitter or bitterness. The people grumbled to Moses, "What are we going to drink?" So he cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he threw it into the water, the water became drinkable. Bro. Strong pointed out that in the Christian life we often have to take the bitter with the sweet. We also know that on occasion God will give us test to see if we really believe what we say. Statements such as, "If you can explain everything that is happening in your Christian life, God is not doing it."

In the last year our ministry has gone through a time of learning to take the bitter with the sweet. The first four months were times of rejoicing as we were impacting the lives of more children than any time in our history. November is recognized as National Adoption Month and we received a foretaste of what would prove to be the year that records would be set through our adoption ministry. Couples and individuals were responding well to accept the challenge to serve as foster or adoptive parents. Churches responded well to the Back-to-School and Christmas appeals. The response to the Change for Children Campaign proved to be another productive year.

On Dec. 17, 2015 a federal judge in Corpus Christi handed down a ruling that would change residential childcare, as we had known it, for many years. The ruling was to call for the closing of all residential group homes. Group homes are homes that

provide for more than six children. All six of the campus homes would fall under this regulation. Five of the cottages are equipped to house eight children and one has room for 12. Many of the community homes that contract with the Baptist Home were group homes. Children who were placed in residential care before the December date were allowed to remain in the placement; those who came after that date were moved, some to shelters. In the final eight months of the year the number of children under the care of this ministry went down from 160 to 112. While this was going on 25 to 30 children are sleeping in CPS offices or where ever space can be found. This affects almost everything concerning our ministry. That is the bitter.

As was mentioned earlier, this was a wonderful year for the Adoption Department as 46 children found a permanent home through adoption. One of the goals of Texas Baptist Home for Children is to see children come to Christ. This year 22 made that all important decision. The Lord has blessed this ministry with the finest staff to be found anywhere. There is a true team spirit. We are blessed to have a great group of loving and nurturing foster families and families who have opened their hearts and homes to make room for a child who desperately needs a home. Our Heavenly Father has answered the prayers of childless couples by placing a baby in their arms.

Many residential child-care agencies have not been able to survive through this crisis. One of the reasons is that they do not have the faithful support of the Southern Baptist of Texas Convention and the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas. Due to your partnership, Texas Baptist Home for Children continues to carry out the mission that the Lord has called it to do, caring for boys and girls who are displaced from their homes and families, and pointing them to Christ and a better future. That is the sweet!

BMA TEXAS

MISSIONS

Your Church's Mission Movement in Texas



A word from your missionaries

By HEITH MITCHELL

DARREN LEMONS – THE REFUGE MISSION, TERRELL

God has really blessed us this summer with three salvations and has added many new families. Pray as we get ready to serve the community in two different ways this next month. Sept. 11, we will have a first responders service to honor the first responders of our community with a special service, inflatables, and food. Also, on Sept. 24 our church will be in charge of the Kids Zone at the Flight of our Fathers Fly In and Air Show in Terrell. Pray God uses us to make an impact on our community. Last of all we are kicking off five new Bible study groups this fall. Pray for true discipleship and for the raising of new leaders in our church.



▲ Darren Lemons

BRANDON DURHAM – REDEEMER'S LOVE MISSION, HOUSTON

Serving as a missionary or church planter can be lonely, especially when pioneering at a new mission outpost. In the movie "Dances With Wolves," Kevin Costner employs two strategies while stationed at a remote military outpost: 1) He sends word and waits for more soldiers to arrive. 2) He reaches out to the natives. This twofold approach has served me well. I continue to pray for the Lord of the Harvest to send workers, and this month God sent a new housemate! Jabbar is a former gang member who was recently baptized and has a passion to reach our community for Christ. Together, we're reaching out to the natives. One particular night we drove to a sketchy apartment and Jabbar used his mechanic skills to repair a car engine for a drug dealer who is has a family of six. Our team is now preparing a "care package" for this family. Keep us in your prayers as we dance with wolves.



▲ Brandon Durham

ARNULFO MALDONADO – TEXAS HISPANIC MISSION COORDINATOR

I thank God that I was able to go to the national offices in Conway to meet with national Missions leaders and leaders from other states. We met to bring more awareness of the need to reach Hispanic people at all levels of our great association. Michael Hight and I then flew to El Paso to a training event. We learned some new ideas which will help flesh out our reproducible model that can be used all over.



▲ Arnulfo Maldonado

By the end of the month we should have two new church plants underway, one in Nacogdoches and the other in Houston. Next month we plan to be started in Lufkin and Spring, Lord willing.

Thank you God for the opportunity to work for you and the great team you are building in our Association to fulfill God's commission in Texas, the USA, and the rest of the world.

MATTHEW PRATHER – THE BRIDGE MISSION, MIDLOTHIAN

This month was a big month for The Bridge as we continue to move forward! God has really blessed. We have been able to continue to build relationships with those in our new community. As we have done this there are several things that we have noticed. First, there are many in our own neighborhood who do not know Christ. Please, pray for us as we build relationships with them and share the love of Christ. Second, we had our first Info Meeting. In our Info Meeting we invited those we have been getting to know to come hear more about The Bridge. We shared with them our heart for impacting our community, our vision, and our next steps along the way. God blessed us with 36 in attendance. Pray for us as we continue to build relationships and disciple those that were in attendance.



▲ Matthew Prather

GARY SOUTHARD – THE CHURCH AT VALLEY RANCH, PORTER

We are excited that school has started back. When the students go back the parents seem to stay home more on the weekends which allows us opportunities to reach out to them. It also allows us to serve in our Valley Ranch Elementary School making it possible to build relationships with the teachers, staff and parents.



▲ Gary Southard

We were asked to assist with a prayer walk Aug. 18 at 9 a.m. There were 11 teachers and staff that walked the halls with 4 of our Mission's members.

We now have a teacher at Valley Ranch Elementary School who attends our Mission. We host a Bible Club at the elementary and five of those students are attending the mission.



RICK SYDNOR – LIFE CHANGE FELLOWSHIP MISSION, LINDALE

This month we met two families starting a photography and event business in Lindale. They are young believers without a church home. They are renting a space in downtown Lindale which has a big room that we can rent. This is an ideal place for us to meet. The two families are very interested in our church plant.



▲ Rick Sydnor

Please pray for our vision meeting, upcoming outreach events, and the training of new people joining our core group.

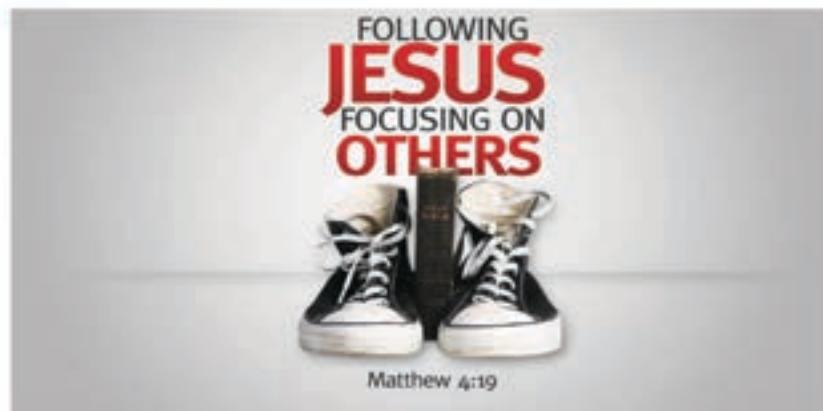
BMA TEXAS MISSIONS continued on p.7



Heith Mitchell is the director of BMA of Texas Missions. Contact him at hmitchell@bmatexas.org or 972-923-0757. Visit www.bmatexasmissions.org.



116th Annual Session of the
Baptist Missionary Association of Texas



November 14-15, 2016

Farley Street Baptist Church
1116 Brown Street
Waxahachie, Texas

Including the first ever Ministry Connection Conference with speakers
Jonathan Falwell, John Bisagno & Jerry Jolly

and performances by
Brain Free & Assurance

Workshops about
Social Media, Pastoral Health, Activate & Missional Churches

and a Leadership Conference about
Hispanic Ministries



A word from your Missionaries cont.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide me to lost people and families who are not in church. Pray Gods wisdom and strength for us.

God has placed this verse on my heart and I want to share it with you. This is my September verse. 2 Timothy 4:5 "But you, keep your head in all situations; endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry."

WILL HUTCHINSON – RESONATE COMMUNITY MISSION, HUTTO

Work on a mission is amazing. It is tiring, ever changing and always worth it. Being in a community with people from all over the world allows us glimpses into cultures and lets us see a new culture created. Pray that we seize every opportunity to share the gospel and build relationships that lead people to Jesus Christ.



▲ Will Hutchinson

CECIL LINKE – JOURNEY COMMUNITY MISSION, ALLEN

Journey, like most churches, struggles to empower and release individuals into the community. This month we sent a team of people to the home of a teacher in Allen whose family has been struggling. The home is a normal Allen home that has the appearances of a family doing well in life. Some would question why a team of people would volunteer to do some yard work at a home that appears to be well maintained. The wife of this home works with one of Journey's members. We discovered mounting pressures from a job that requires the husband to spend much of his time in California, a son with advanced Crohns Disease, who recently broke both arms in a bicycle accident, and a mom struggling to keep life moving. After our team completed some yard work for this family, the wife responded that this act was one of the most unexpected and loving acts she had ever experienced. We are learning to expect the unexpected and serve all people, regardless of the perceived need.



▲ Cecil Linke

Join us for a season of prayer
as we pray for all of our Texas Missionaries
the weeks of
September 18 and 25.

Prayer needs along with a video interview from each
missionary is available daily at
www.facebook.com/bmatexasmissions

If you need additional resources or more information contact
David at 972-923-0757 or david@bmatexas.org



An expression of everlasting love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from Aug. 1-31, 2016.

ENDOWMENTS

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

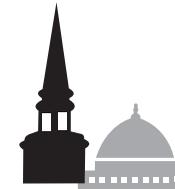
HONORARIUMS

RILEY BEASON-HAPPY BIRTHDAY!: Wayne & Linda Beason
CUSTER ROAD JR. HIGH TOUR: Brett Schuler
PASTOR DAVID & NELDA HARKINS: Roy & Elizabeth Talbot
HANNAH HESTER- HAPPY BIRTHDAY!: Wayne & Linda Beason
LADIES CLASS: Earlene Crenshaw
DR. ROY & LORETTA STEPHEN'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
PATTY WEBB'S BIRTHDAY: Robert & Dorothy Olchesky

MEMORIALS

AUNT BETH ALBRIGHT: Delores Albright Adams
FLORENCE A BAKER: Tommy Blackshear
WALTER BECKER: Dennis & Ilona Myrice
BETTY BISHOP: Rosewood Baptist Church; Charles & Charlotte Johnson; Stanley & Doris Allen
JEANETTE LANDERS BISHOP: Patsy Bishop
GERRY CAGLE: Stout Creek Farms
BOB CANTRELL: Charles & Patsy Harrell
F. MICHAEL COKE: LB & Freedia Coke
RICHINA COOPER: David & Nancy McClung
CECIL DOWNEY: Carlie Downey
PETE DUGGER: Royce & Joyce Johnson
TRACY FERREE: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
AUBREY & PAULINE GANDY: Jerry & Virginia Gandy
COY, RAY & BOB GASTA: Brenda Ray
JOYCE GRAHAM: Ardeena Wood
JOHNNY HAMPTON: Thomas & Mary Hunt
DOROTHY HASSELL: Sheppard Drive Baptist Church
GLORIA HAYWOOD: Duane & Charlotte Turner
HEATH: Jimmy Ray & Cynthia Green
EVELYN HOOTON: Joe & Linda Dodson
WILSON & INEZ HOWELL: GW & Bonnie Howell
BILLY KING: Margaret King
BILLY HAWARD KING: Margaret King
BOBBY JOE LANTRIP: Palmour & Bertha McCool; Myrtie Langford; Charles & Charlotte Johnson
ROY LEWIS: Linda Lewis
HALEY JOHNSON: David Johnson; Todd & Blair Davidson
MARY MANTOOTH: Red Springs Missionary Baptist Church
BOB MCDONALD: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
HOWARD "GENE" MCCLANE: Freda Haak
MIKE MILLER: Judy Lambert
ETTA MAE OAKS: Rose Moore
TERESA PALMER MOORE: First Baptist Church, Carthage
BRO. REX NOLAN: H.A. Coffman
GARY PATTON: David & Nancy McClung
RONALD PERRY SR.: Billy & Ida Keeling
ZACK PHILLIPS: Charles & Charlotte Johnson
JERRY PUGH: Tim & Frankie Harrell; Charles & Pat Harrell; Ricky & Rosemary Harrell; Charles & Charlotte Johnson
REV. AND MRS. L.H. RANEY: Cynthia Montgomery
MR. AND MRS. HOWARD RANEY: Cynthia Montgomery
HELEN ROGERS: First Baptist Church Senior Adult Class, Red Oak
JENNA RUSSELL: Royce & Joyce Johnson
THELMA SINGLETON: Leon & Linda Lee
LOY R SKINNER JR: Stanley & Elizabeth Stokes
BRUCE STANLEY: Charles & Valera Green
WANDA STANLEY: Charles & Valera Green
SCOTT STEWART: John & Rebecca Schriener
PAT MCNEELEY SWANSON: Sheppard Drive Baptist Church
DOROTHY SWIFT: Robert Swift
AVIS THOMPSON: Corinth WMA
RANDY THORNTON: Barbara Vetter
FRED TURNER: Amanda Turner
JIM ED UNDERWOOD: JB Lowry Jr
IRA & IDA WADDELL: Mike Tolon
NADINE WEATHERBY WALKER: Sheppard Drive Baptist Church
NELL WEEKS: Thomas & Mary Hunt
ROBERT WOOD: Ardeena Wood
DON WOODARD: Sheppard Drive Baptist Church

Happenings at Moral Action



By **DR. JOHN ADAMS**

Executive Director

Moral Action continues to stand with all our churches, pastors, and leaders through up-to-date articles in our state associational newspapers. We are in 17 publications/papers, and we distribute free literature on current moral issues. We give to our Association meetings and churches as we visit these magazines: American Family Association (AFA) Journal, Israel My Glory, The Judicial Watch-Verdict, One Voice United in Prayer, Family Research Council publications, and the Focus on the Family.

We continue to provide access to our Moral Action website (www.macbma.net). This site provides our churches tools for study and steps to contact our elected officials. On this web-page we provide Bible Gateway, Got Questions.org, What Can One Person Do?, Reconstructing American History, and the Directors monthly reports, articles and archives.

Moral Action continues to champion the moral and spiritual causes that are so much to Associational Baptists: (1) The battle to keep the words "In God We Trust" on our coins and paper money and (2) to keep "under God" in our National Pledge. Many seek to remove these words.

Our travels continue to Washington D.C. and include our activism in the long-term fight against abortion, gay/lesbian marriages, homosexual causes, and the ever-present casinos of America. Since my election in 2008, I have spoken to and interviewed these elected officials and pastors in your behalf as churches, pastors and deacons: Dr. Jack Graham of Dallas/Plano, Texas, Dr. Bert Harper of American Family Radio, U.S. House Chaplain Pat Conroy, the late U.S. Congressman Alan Nunnelee of MS, 1st District, U.S. Congressman Dr. Tom Rice of 7th District South Carolina, U.S. Congressman Mark Meadows of 11th District North Carolina, Historian David Barton, U.S. Congressman 4th District Robert Aderhold of Alabama, U.S. Congressman Joe Barton 6th District of Texas, U.S. Senator James Lankford of Oklahoma, U.S. Senators Roger Wicker and Thad Cochran of Mississippi, U.S. Congressman Jack Hensarling of 5th District Texas, U.S. Congressman Greg Harper of 3rd District, Mississippi (who gave Mrs. Adams and me a tour of the Congress Prayer Chapel), presidential candidate and U.S. Senator from Texas Ted Cruz (who we interviewed twice), U.S. Speaker of the House 8th District of Ohio, John Boehner, as we led in prayer before Congress, former U.S. Congress lady Michelle Bachmann of 6th District, Minnesota,

U. S. (Congressman) now Senator Tom Cotton of 4th District Arkansas, past U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas, past Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour, past Governor and recent Presidential candidate Mike Huckabee, and Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann. With these personal contacts, Moral Action has also mailed, texted, and telephoned many other political, religious, and influential leaders such as Donald Trump, Dr. Ben Carson, former President George W. Bush, Senator Bernie Sanders and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

You may ask what we discuss. Always with courtesy and respect, most topics centered around (1) the need of a godly, Christian nation, (2) to keep the pledge and coins as they are in recognizing God, (3) the concern over Islam and Muslim Sharia Law and its influence rising in America and (4) the desire to protect and support God's people, Israel. My joy is to speak the name of Jesus Christ before these political leaders.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

Homosexuality is out of the closet completely today and abortion is still heavily supported via liberals of America. These

two current debates that are ongoing will not go away. Our Holy Father detests these two "great abominations." Proverbs 6:16-17 gives Biblical voice regarding God's feelings about the "shedding of innocent blood." Leviticus 18:22 states plainly "Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind: it is abomination."

MAIN BATTLE

Our main battle is for our children and students. It is so true that whomever controls the children and teens controls the future of our nation. Our BMA New Testament churches have unlimited opportunity to engage our children, our teens, and our college students in teaching, training, and discipline with the Word of God. This can be accomplished through Sunday Schools, VBS, Galileans, GMA, AWANA, church camps, mission trips, SOAR, enlivened church youth and college groups and godly worship services.

Our curriculum must include the Bible teachings of morality. We must stand against sin and stand for Holy living. We can do it! We must not give up!

SPECIAL INVITATION

United States Congressman Trent Kelly of 1st District, Mississippi has invited Mrs. Adams and I to be the Kelly's guest at the February 2017 National Prayer Breakfast at the Washington Hilton in D.C.

THE SUPPORT

Our Moral Action recognized the support of our churches, pastors, and individual groups throughout the Association. We thank each one who has supported on either a monthly or annual basis. The July 4th Freedom Offering is a tremendous success. This is evidence of your understanding of the moral needs that our nation is facing.

Mrs. Adams and I count it an honor as we visit the Capitol in your behalf. We have shared our BMA resolutions in Washington, D.C. Your voice is being heard. We thank First Baptist Church of Mantachie, Mississippi for allowing us to travel and work this great agency.

Would you pray for us in this special ministry? Make your voice and concerns known to your elected officials and pray for them. Pray for a revival in America! Pray for God's will in the November election.

Online giving
to BMA of Texas now available

We have exciting news!

The BMA of Texas is now setup for easy online giving!
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www.bmatexas.org to get started.
If you have questions, just give us a call at 972-923-0757.

ONLINE GIVING
now available

Auxiliaries

Take my life, but...

By SHARON COLE

How many times have we made desperate promises to God if He will just grant us one wish in prayer. "Lord, I'll give you my time, my money, my talents, if you'll just..." Or, "Lord, I would go witness to my neighbor, but..." There are so many excuses that I'm sure, in our human thinking, the Lord just shakes his head and of course knows what the outcome will be. What if Christ had made excuses for going to the Cross? What if he had said, "Not today, or let someone else do it?" God has designed each of us to do a specific work for Him and has equipped us with the talent to do it. All it requires is our being willing to accept the challenge. The following is a 4-part program that can be expanded by each person as the Holy Spirit leads. It is taken from the song: "Take My Life and Let It Be." (The congregation sings the first verse.)

I. "TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE, CONSECRATED, LORD TO THEE."

Yes, I remember when I did that. I dedicated my life to God when I was young. Lately, I haven't thought much about that decision. It's hard to be really consecrated to the Lord with all the responsibilities I have. There are the kids and their daily schedules of soccer practice and piano lessons, grocery shopping, household cleaning chores, walking the dog, and working out at the gym. My Sunday school teacher said that if I put Christ first, He will help me with my priorities. She told me to look up these scriptures: Matt. 6:33; John 14:6; John 13:37; Acts 20:24; Matt. 16:25; and John 15:13. That's a lot of reading, but maybe it will help me. "Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love." My hands...they represent my ability to work and to serve others. If I let Him, Christ could love people through me. I must let the Lord take

my hands. He must be the driving force, because He is love. His love must flow through my hands to others. God has placed me where I am for a special purpose. I must be open to God's leadership for whatever it is that He would call me to do. (Esther 4:14; Psalm 16:8; Psalm 24:4; I Timothy 2:8; Ecc. 9:10; Isa. 59:1). (The congregation sings the second verse.)

II. "TAKE MY FEET AND LET THEM BE, SWIFT AND BEAUTIFUL FOR THEE."

These words remind me of how busy I am. I never have enough time or energy to do what I want to do for God. I must organize my time and priorities. I also must be careful where I go and with whom I associate. I take Jesus with me wherever I go. I must remember from where I came. I was a sinner with no direction. People are watching us for an example, especially children. (Psalm 40:2; Psalm 119:101-105; Proverbs 3:5-6; Romans 10:15b; Ephesians 6:15). "Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my king." It's easy enough to sing praises to God in a worship service. But, God wants to control my voice all the time. He wants to speak through me. God doesn't want our ability as much as He wants our availability. He wants our willingness to speak to the lost about Him. When our desire is to give honor to God, He will bless our efforts no matter what we think of our performance. I Corinthians 14:15,19; Psalm 100; Psalm 19:14; Matthew 12:36). (The congregation sings the third verse.)

III. "TAKE MY SILVER AND MY GOLD, NOT A MITE WOULD I WITHHOLD."

God is concerned that I give to my church, but His concern doesn't stop there. Will I let him control the way I

manage my money? God loves a cheerful giver. He doesn't need our gifts because all things belong to Him. (Malachi 3:8-10; Mark 13:42-44; I Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8). "Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise." Time...my busy schedule that squeezes God out. Perhaps if we gave God our best time in the early morning when we are the most refreshed, He would help us get our priorities in the right order. We usually find the time to do what we really want to do. The problem must be with our "want to." God gives each of us 24 hours in a day. What do we do with them? I'm afraid many of them are wasted. We always find time for entertainment. Do we find time to praise and worship God? (Psalm 25:5; Psalm 35:28; Romans 13:11; 2 Corinthians 6:2; Psalm 146:2). (The congregation sings the fourth verse).

IV. "TAKE MY WILL AND MAKE IT THINE, IT SHALL BE NO LONGER MINE."

Do we really mean those words? I use my will to make decisions. Every decision I make is important to God. I know I would really feel more at peace if I prayed about every decision, even those that appear insignificant. God has given us a will; the ability to choose. He doesn't force His will on us. We are not robots, but He wants our will to agree with His Will. (Luke 22:42; I John 2:17; John 5:30; Philippians 2:5). "Take my heart it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne." My heart, emotions...God loves me. I want to love Him back. After I express my love to Him in prayer, I feel more free to express love to other people. When we talk about giving God our heart, we mean our whole being, everything we believe and feel. Hiding God's Word in our heart is essential if we are to resist the devil and witness to those who do not know Him as Savior. Have you given God your heart? To help us glorify God by our lives and be effective witnesses, we need to know and obey the Scriptures. When you study the Scriptures you will discover the blessing of placing your full trust in God. God gave us His Word not only to increase our knowledge but to change our lives. Make it your habit to daily memorize and meditate on His Word. (Matt. 12:34; I Samuel 16:7; Psalm 119:10-11; Proverbs 3:5-6. God indwells us by His Spirit who will, if we allow Him to control our lives, give us a dynamic for living and make us more like Jesus each day. When God asks you to step out of your comfort zone and teach a class, sing a special song for worship, speak to your neighbor about Christ, do it, knowing that he will guide you and bless you.

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!

Sharon Cole is the editor for the Texas WMA. Contact her at S9Co@aol.com. For more information on the Texas WMA, visit www.texaswma.com.



EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

Homecoming, Celebrating 129 Years
 WHERE: First Baptist Church Omen (17912 CR 285), Arp
 WHEN: Sunday School at 10 a.m., Worship, 11 a.m. (Nursery provided)
 Lunch following worship

OCTOBER 16, 2016

Homecoming
 WHERE: Security Calvary Baptist Church, Cleveland
 WHAT: Celebrating 67 years of faithful worship, fellowship, food and Gospel music, featuring the Ducette Family.

OCTOBER 20, 2016

Baptist Progress
 Ministry Connection Workshop: Understanding Generations
 WHEN: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 WHERE: BMA of Texas Building, Waxahachie
 WHO: Jerry Burnaman, manager, Baptist Missionary Loan Association

OCTOBER 31, 2016

BMA of Smith County
 WHEN: Supper at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m.
 WHERE: First Baptist Church, Omen

NOVEMBER 14, 2016

Baptist Progress & Ellis-Hill Baptist Association
 Ministry Connection Conference
 WHEN: 2 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
 WHERE: Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie
 WHO: Pastor Jonathan Falwell, Dr. John Bisagno, Pastor Jerry Jolly, Brian Free & Assurance

NOVEMBER 15-16, 2016

Baptist Missionary Association
 116th Annual Session
 WHERE: Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas

NOVEMBER 29, 2016

Activate Orientation
 WHEN: 9 a.m. to noon
 WHERE: Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas
 WHO: Todd West, facilitator

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE MINISTER

EDDIE BALLARD is available for pulpit supply. Contact him in Waxahachie at 936-635-4195.

DR. BLANTON FEASTER is available for pulpit/worship supply, as well as educational training. Contact him at 972-935-2986 or blantonfeaster@yahoo.com.

ROGER MANNING is available for service as pulpit supply, interim, or permanent pastoral duties. His injuries suffered in a motorcycle accident on Dec. 7 are healed and he is now anxious to serve and preach God's Word. Roger was ordained in the Southern Baptist denomination and has over seven years preaching experience. He lives in Waxahachie and can be reached at roger@rogermanning.com or by calling 402-510-3019.

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

PASTOR—O'Quinn, Pollok is seeking a full time pastor. Send resume to MLArnold1860@yahoo.com or mail to Marilyn Arnold, 6630 FM 843, Pollok, Texas 75969. ^{9/21}

PASTOR—Union Hill, Brownsboro is seeking a pastor (full time or part time). For more information about UHBC, go to uhbconline.org. Send resume to PO Box 316, Brownsboro, Texas 75756 or email uhbc@embarqmail.com. ^{9/21}

YOUTH—New Harmony, Tyler is seeking a full time youth minister. Talents or abilities desired. Education and experience in Theology and Counseling. Bilingual plus, but not required. Remit resume to New Harmony Baptist Church, 10251 FM 724, Tyler, Texas 75704, fax 903-593-2500, email nhbc@nhbc.us. For questions or information, call our office 903-593-5811. ^{10/19}

YOUTH/STUDENTS—Farley Street, Waxahachie is seeking a student pastor. Send resume to resume@farleystreet.com.

PASTOR—Lost Prairie, Groesbeck is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to 514 FM 3371, Groesbeck, Texas 76642.

PASTOR—Bauman Road, Houston is seeking a pastor. Contact Danny Koonce at 281-652-7821 or dannykoonce@gmail.com.

PASTOR—Opelika Missionary, Brownsboro is seeking a pastor. For more information, call 903-469-3692 or 903-515-2288. ^{TFN}

PASTOR—Enon, Iola is seeking a bivocational pastor. Parsonage available. For information, call 281-731-7850. ^{TFN}

PASTOR—Myrtle Springs, Quitman is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Myrtle Springs Baptist Church, 2185 FM 2225, Quitman, Texas 75783. ^{TFN}

CHURCHES IN REVIEW

SEPTEMBER 4, 2016

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Antioch, Gilmer	40	92	2 by letter
Anthony Drive, Ennis	63	105	4 by letter
Calvary, Ennis	26	40	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	18	36	
Harvest, Lufkin	45	75	
Jackson, Joaquin	72	124	
Little Flock, Lufkin	5	5	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	38	77	1 by baptism
Nat, Cushing	13	20	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		54	1 by baptism, 2 by letter
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	34	42	
Piney Creek, Kennard	13	25	
Rosewood, Gilmer	129	275	5 by letter
Round Prairie, Fairfield	99	195	1 by baptism, 2 by statement
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	17	21	

SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	63	104	
Calvary, Ennis	28	47	
First, Blooming Grove	200		
Glade Creek, Gilmer	17	41	
Harvest, Lufkin	55	65	
Jackson, Joaquin	72	128	
Little Flock, Lufkin	12	12	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	40	53	
Nat, Cushing	14	23	
Olde Tyme, White Oak		48	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	41	45	
Piney Creek, Kennard	15	26	
Rosewood, Gilmer	133	250	2 by letter

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

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LOCAL ASSOCIATION CORRECTIONS

In the previous issues of Baptist Progress, some published dates and meeting places of local associations were incorrect. Please note corrections as follows:

The correct date of the Central Texas Association meeting is Oct. 15.

The correct meeting place of the Gulf Coast Association is Bethel, Orange Oct. 2.

The Houston-Anderson County Association will meet Oct. 16.

Sunday School Lessons

James—Practicality

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: October 9, 2016

TEXT: James 1:2, 3, 26, 27, 2:14-17; 3:13; 4:11, 12; 5:7, 15, 16

It was only after Christ's resurrection, that James, the half brother of Jesus, came to accept Him as the Messiah and as the Savior of the world as was demonstrated when James spoke during the Jerusalem council (Acts 15:13-31.) Neither he nor his brethren accepted Christ before He ascended (John 7:5).

James, who later became a pillar in the Jerusalem church, was obviously a great pastor — a practical pastor, as is demonstrated in his epistle. James put, into plain language, that which indicates that one is a true follower of Christ.

1. James explains the process of sanctification (James 1:2, 3, 26, 27). James explains how joy can come to a child of God who suffers temptations and trials. Because the spiritual man realizes God's agenda for producing maturity through hardships.

2. James explains two outward manifestations of a genuine faith: (verses 26, 27). a. self-control, especially in reference to the tongue; b. expressing compassion, love and ministry to those who can pay no recompense (widows and orphans)

3. James explains that good works are the outgrowth of saving faith: Not the reverse - (good works producing faith) (2:14-17)

4. James explains that a mature Christian is filled with wisdom (the God-given ability to make right decisions based upon the knowledge of the Word) a worthy lifestyle (conversation) and self-control (meekness.)

5. James explains that a mature Christian only judges himself (1 Corinthians 11:28-31). Therefore, he is a "doer of the law." Only God in Heaven has the authority and right to judge. (James 4:12)

6. James explains that a mature believer has a keen awareness of the conditions of the world around him, which give indication that the Lord's return is imminent (5:7). He has power in prayer (5:15) and he is aware of his besetting sins, and seeks to have his brethren to intercede in prayer for him.

Paul Gauntt is the pastor of First, Palmer. He served for a number of years as the BMA of Texas Department of Church Ministries director. He has served several churches as pastor, and is a correspondent and featured article writer for Baptist Progress. Contact him at pop.gauntt@gmail.com.



1 Peter—Suffering

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: October 16, 2016

TEXT: 1 Peter 1:6, 7; 2:19, 20; 3:8, 9; 4:12, 13; 5:8-10

Peter was writing to believing Jews who suffered persecution and martyrdom under the emperor of Rome, Nero.

1 Peter 1:6, 7 — Peter gives solace to persecuted saints saying they are "kept" by the power of God (verse 5). He reiterates what James said about the ability of a believer to rejoice during persecutions. (James 1:2-4) He comforts them in that the persecutions are:

- temporary (for a season)
- necessary (if need be) trials or persecution are never needless in the life of a believer, nor is it out of the realm of God's control;
- Temptations are "manifold" — meaning multi-faceted, or multi-colored. There are countless temptations and tribulations, just as there are innumerable shades of colors.

In 1 Peter 4:10 it speaks of the "manifold grace of God." For every shade of suffering and tribulation a believer may endure, there is a shade of God's grace to offset it and to meet the need.

1 Peter 2:19 — Peter notes that

suffering for doing God's bidding, is "thank worthy." God especially blesses the Christian who suffers for doing what is right — rather than one who suffers as a result of failures of the flesh.

1 Peter 3:8, 9 — Peter admonishes believers to demonstrate unity, compassion and love to one another. Our flesh is prone to render insult for insult, but God has called us to bless those that insult us. He promises a blessing.

1 Peter 4:12 — Peter encourages the saints to not be surprised when trials come. Jesus told His disciples what the attitude the world would have toward Christianity. There would be scoffers, revilers, and persecutors. The act of rejoicing in the midst of such (verse 13) is alien to what the world believes.

1 Peter 5:8-10 -- A warning is issued to the saints to be vigilant, to be watchful for, and to resist the adversary who seeks to destroy. The adversary comes at us through the lust of the flesh, through hatred, doubt, fear, jealousy, suspicion, and anything else in his arsenal which he intends to use to destroy our relationship with Christ and our very lives. A great promise is given us of growing into maturity, steadfastness, strength and rest (Hebrews 4:1-4).



What Happens To Your Gift to the BMA Foundation?

All gifts to the Foundation, except those designated for operating expenses, are placed in an endowment fund and invested for one or more of the BMA departments or agencies as specified by the donor. Income from the investments provides supplemental funding for those ministries until the Lord returns. Gifts of cash should be mailed to P.O. Box 1188, Conway, Arkansas 72033. Call the Foundation office at 501-329-6891 for more information on other ways to give.



upcoming events

QUILT DAY

Friday, September 23 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Mary S. Lewis Theater

AMPED EAST TEXAS YOUTH CONFERENCE

Saturday, September 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Buckner Chapel

SEE YOU AT THE POLE

Wednesday, September 28
Annual JC Golf Tournament
Saturday, October 1

MANLEY DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

Wednesday, October 12 at 11:00 a.m. in Buckner Chapel
Speaker: Dr. Rick Rigsby, former Chaplain for the Texas A&M football team

Accreditation

By **DR. MIKE SMITH**

Jacksonville College President

Jacksonville College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The College is accredited to award an Associate in Arts degree, an Associate in Science degree, and a Junior College Diploma.

The values of accreditation are numerous. One advantage is that any student who takes a course at Jacksonville College can transfer that course to other accredited colleges. Accreditation also ensures that the College maintains vigilance in what it claims to provide. This institutional effectiveness at Jacksonville College involves a systematic review of all areas of campus activity in light of the mission of the College. The Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, and staff are devoted to ongoing assessment with the intent to continuously improve the educational services rendered to the students of Jacksonville College.

The assessment process revolves around the following questions:

1. Is Jacksonville College operating within the scope of its mission?
2. Is Jacksonville College accomplishing what it intended to accomplish?
3. What can Jacksonville College do to improve the quality of education received by its students?
4. Have efforts to improve the College brought about successful changes within the institution?

The Jacksonville College community of students, faculty, administration, trustees, alumni, churches, associations, BMA, and SBTC all work together to ensure that Jacksonville College provides a quality education from a biblical worldview.

Golf equipment request

By **ROY STEPHENS**

Jacksonville College Golf Coach

This year is going to be a great year for Jaguar golf. We have 12 men and 1 woman to represent Jacksonville College, and they are not only great golfers but also wonderful Christians. We do, however, need a couple of items that would really help the team have a great year.

The needed items are as follows:

1. A 10-foot cargo trailer—With 13 golfers, we can still use our vans, the most economical way to travel, but we need this trailer to carry our golf clubs.
2. A used golf cart—This donation would be of great value as it is impossible for a coach to walk with all the golfers, and I do try to keep up with team members while they are practicing.

Of course, any donations will be tax deductible for you.

Praise the Lord for your support and prayers as we begin this great year of golf.

ANNUAL JC GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 29th Annual JC Scholarship Benefit Golf Tournament will take place on Saturday, Oct. 1 at the Cherokee Ranch Golf Club at 14881 US Hwy 79 E. in Jacksonville. Registration will be at 7 a.m., and the tournament will begin at 8 a.m. The cost is \$100 per player, with golf expenses and a meal included. For more information, visit www.jacksonville-college.edu. Reserve your spot as soon as possible by contacting Leasa Ailshie at lailshie@jacksonville-college.edu.



▲ JC Academic Dean and Chaplain Donny Saddler preached during the second Chapel of the fall semester, and 22 students came forward to make decisions for Christ.

JOB OPENINGS AT JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

DEAN OF STUDENTS

Job Description

Jacksonville College is seeking a full-time dean of students starting in the spring semester of 2017. Primary responsibilities include serving as a point of information for students in areas related to campus life and student responsibilities, responding to students' needs, and overseeing the student disciplinary process. The dean of students also promotes, participates, and works with student leaders in promoting student activities.

Qualifications

Required qualifications include a Master's or Doctorate Degree or 18 graduate hours in a relevant field and extensive job related experience. Must possess effective verbal and written communication skills, as well as strong organizational and interpersonal skills. Computer proficiency is also required.

MUSIC PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Job Description

Jacksonville College is seeking a full-time director for the Music Program starting in the spring semester of 2017. Primary responsibilities include developing, coordinating, and supervising vocal and instrumental groups. The director is also responsible for recruiting and training members of the Music Program, as well as overseeing productions.

Qualifications

Required qualifications include a Master's or Doctorate Degree in Music. Must possess effective verbal and written communication skills, as well as strong motivational, leadership, and interpersonal skills. Computer proficiency is also required.

Mission Statement

Jacksonville College exists to provide a quality education from a biblical worldview that challenges minds, transforms lives, and equips students for servant leadership and lifelong learning.

Statement of Faith

A deep faith in God is the foundation of Jacksonville College. The College believes that no education is complete until a student understands who God is and how to relate to Him through His Son Jesus Christ. Doctrinal beliefs influence all that the College does and teaches.

Download an application form online at www.jacksonville-college.edu/contact by clicking on the *Application Form* link under *Employment*. Mail the form to Dr. Mike Smith, Jacksonville College, 105 B.J. Albritton Drive, Jacksonville College, 75766. Applications may also be submitted via email to msmith@jacksonville-college.edu. Include your resume and certified copies of your academic transcripts with your submission.

